

Community Update Spring 2025



Spring has sprung

FROM THE MAYOR

Hello and welcome to the spring edition of our Community Update magazine.

Spring is a time of renewal, and it's certainly reflected in the many exciting updates we're sharing in this edition of Community Update.

From the return of the popular "Live it up" Senior Expo to the coming celebration of Energy Breakthrough, there's a real sense of momentum across the Shire. We've also launched a new online Community Directory to help connect residents with local services, groups, and events more easily than ever.

We're currently seeking community feedback on our Draft Council Plan, Financial Plan and Asset Plan – these are key documents that shape how we deliver services, invest in infrastructure and plan for the future. I encourage everyone to get involved and have their say. There will also be an opportunity to comment soon on the proposed Castlemaine-Maryborough Rail Trail.

We continue to advocate strongly on behalf of our communities, including on drought declaration and funding needs, and flood management planning in Carisbrook. I've also written to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety and other state representatives, seeking support to retain the full range of existing VicRoads services in Maryborough.

This season we also celebrate the dedication of long-serving staff, support for our youth through the work experience program, and call for volunteers for our iconic Energy Breakthrough event.

Finally, please join me in welcoming our newest Australian citizens.



Mayor Councillor Grace La Vella

Maryborough West Ward

✉ Grace.LaVella@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au

☎ 0429 048 112

📱 @centralgoldfieldsmayor

Tribute to Les Chapman

It is with great sadness that we remember Les Chapman – our valued volunteer and friend.

Les was a long-time supporter of Energy Breakthrough for over 20 years through his role with the Maryborough Harness Racing Club.

More recently, for the past six years, Les has contributed as a valued member of our Energy Breakthrough team here at Council.

Les played a key role in supporting sponsors and partners, managing logistics, and helping bring together the event.

Les would light up the office with his genuine care and commitment and has been instrumental in the success of our Shire's largest annual event.

He inspired everyone around him with his energy and enthusiasm. His warmth, dedication, and unwavering support left a lasting impression on all who knew him.

Les will be deeply missed by all of us here at Council.



CONNECT WITH OUR COUNCILLORS



FLYNN WARD

Cr Liesbeth Long

✉ Liesbeth.Long@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au

☎ 0429 108 007



MARYBOROUGH CENTRAL WARD

Cr Gerard Murphy

✉ Gerard.Murphy@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au

☎ 0428 923 546



MARYBOROUGH EAST WARD

Cr Jake Meyer

✉ Jake.Meyer@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au

☎ 0455 051 477



MARYBOROUGH NORTH WARD

Cr Geoff Bartlett

✉ Geoff.Bartlett@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au

☎ 0455 544 537



PADDYS RANGES WARD

Cr Ben Green

✉ Ben.Green@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au

☎ 0456 624 323



TULLAROOP WARD

Cr Anna de Villiers

✉ Anna.deVilliers@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au

☎ 0428 916 671

Pictured (right):

Our 2025 Central Goldfields Shire Australia Day award recipients



NOMINATE NOW FOR 2026 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

Every year we celebrate volunteers who go above and beyond to make our community a wonderful place to live. Now we need your help to recognise our next group of inspiring community members.

Nominations are now invited for the 2026 Central Goldfields Shire Australia Day Awards to be presented in the following categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Community Event or Project of the Year

Nominations can be submitted online at www.centralgoldfields.vic.gov.au/communityawards or collect a nomination form from our Customer Service Centre by Sunday 26 October, 2025.

Council seeks state support to retain VicRoads service

We are currently seeking the Victorian Government's support to keep a fully funded comprehensive VicRoads service in Maryborough.

Council has operated the VicRoads office in Maryborough on the Government's behalf for many years.

Until 1 July, VicRoads paid staff wages and on-costs, plus a contribution towards rent and overheads.

Under a new funding model which was to take effect on 1 July, 2025, VicRoads said they would only pay Council a fee for each transaction. This fee is much less than the actual cost to Council.

Mayor Councillor Grace La Vella said the new model would cost ratepayers a significant amount if it goes ahead.

"As a small rural Council we can't afford to subsidise a VicRoads responsibility. We don't want to see services reduced, but we can't absorb cost shifting.

"It's critical for our local community that the Government retain the full range of VicRoads services in Maryborough, which they have fully funded for many years."

Mayor La Vella said if VicRoads doesn't want to fully fund the Council to provide VicRoads services on its behalf, it should establish an office of its own in Maryborough and retain all of the current services.

Council is currently reviewing the service to determine all available options and the cost implications. No decision will be made until the review is complete.

At the August Council Meeting Council noted that there is a community petition and confirmed its advocacy to date.

BACKGROUND

The VicRoads service in Maryborough was historically regarded as a sub-office of the VicRoads Bendigo office.

Maryborough is the only office of its type in the state, representing a partnership between Council and VicRoads to deliver comprehensive VicRoads services through the Council office with Council staff who are 100 per cent employed on VicRoads business.

VicRoads downgraded the status of the office last year from a Rural Customer Service Centre to an agency.

None of the other VicRoads agencies provide driver-licence testing or full vehicle inspections.

The Maryborough office processes more than 2000 transactions per month, compared with 170 per month at a neighbouring Council's agency.

Changing to the fee-for-transaction model will cost the Council a significant amount in staff wages and operating costs.





Dear ratepayer,

By now you will have received your 2025-2026 Rate Notice.

This year, you will have noticed a new section on your rates notice. The new format aims to provide clarity by differentiating between Central Goldfields Shire rates and charges and State Government charges.

The Central Goldfields Shire section includes your rate payment amount which includes a 3% increase from last year – in line with inflation and the Victorian Government's rate cap.

The State Government charges section includes the **Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF)** and the **Landfill Levy**.

Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund: Introduced on 1 July, 2025 the ESVF replaces the Fire Services Property Levy, and is collected by Council on behalf of the State Government to fund and support Victoria's emergency services.

Landfill Levy: This Levy is a separate charge by the State Government paid on each tonne of rubbish disposed of at landfills. This charge has increased by 26% this year. The total Landfill Levy, including the increase, equates to \$43.18 per ratepayer.

We share the disappointment of all ratepayers that your notice this year includes these new State Government charges.

We have heard the suggestions to "just don't pay the new tax". Unfortunately, it's not that simple. Despite local government sector advocacy, the State Government has legislated that councils must collect the charges on its behalf.

Eligible volunteers from the CFA and VICSES will be able to claim a rebate for the ESVF payable on their Principal Place of Residence (PPR) or a farm they own, even if the farm is not their PPR.

If you believe you are entitled to the eligible volunteer rebate, please contact the Department of Government Services (DGS).

If you have questions or feedback on the ESVF please email:
esvf@dft.vic.gov.au or call the ESVF hotline on 1300 819 033
or alternatively please contact your State Government MP.

For additional information about your rate notice, including options for payment or financial assistance, visit www.centralgoldfields.vic.gov.au/rates

CALL OUT FOR FEEDBACK

Our Draft Council Plan (incorporating our Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan), Draft Financial Plan and Draft Asset Plan are now available for community feedback.

These documents are important because they guide our work, decision making and strategic direction over the next four years.

All documents have been informed by the feedback you shared with us between February and May.

To view the documents and provide feedback visit www.engage.cgoldshire.vic.gov.au or email mail@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au

The documents will also be available to view at:

- Customer Service Centre, 22 Nolan Street, Maryborough
- Maryborough Library

The documents have been open for community feedback since Thursday 28 August. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to provide feedback so far.

Feedback will remain open until 5pm, Sunday 21 September.

All feedback will be considered and a final draft will go to Council for consideration in October.

Thank you for taking the time to help shape these important plans.





Decades of dedication.

With more than 200 employees supporting the community across a broad range of services, we value the opportunity to recognise our team members who go above and beyond.

Over recent months, we've celebrated six dedicated team members who recently marked 35 and 25 years of service to our organisation and the wider community.

Congratulations and thank you to each of you for your incredible dedication and contribution:

35 YEARS

Andy McAdam

A mechanic by trade, Andy first joined the Depot team in a concrete finisher role. When the Shire's mechanic went on long service leave, Andy stepped up to run the workshop – a role he's returned to and led with expertise ever since!

From chainsaws to trucks, tractors, and everything in between, Andy loves the variety his role brings – and keeps our fleet running smoothly.

Pictured above (from left to right): Alisha Chadwick, Melissa Smith, Andy McAdam, Sharon Bond, Kerry Egan and Jane Humphrey.

25 YEARS

Sharon Bond

Sharon began her career as a casual assistant in the Records Department before assisting multiple teams and covering one day a week on the Customer Service desk.

When Council's main office moved to Nolan Street, Sharon took on a full-time role in Customer Service, becoming one of the most recognisable and welcoming faces for residents in our Shire.

Alisha Chadwick

As a student at secondary school in Maryborough, Alisha helped bring the Energy Breakthrough event to life by stitching colourful banners on the school's sewing machines.

Little did she know that her early creativity would lead to a career behind the very same event. She began as a junior in Council's Promotions and Marketing team, an evolving role which eventually led her into events – and she now plays a key role in the delivery of Energy Breakthrough.

Kerry Egan

A registered nurse, Kerry first joined the Shire in 1995 as an immunisation nurse.

Kerry supports our immunisation program, delivering services at Goldfields Children's Centre and to local secondary school students.

She does this – all while working full-time at Maryborough District Health Service – a true testament to her passion and dedication to health care.

Jane Humphrey

Jane has given local children the best start in life through her work at Goldfields Children's Centre and our Supported Playgroup program.

Having now retired from her Supported Playgroup role, Jane now works across all rooms at the Goldfields Children's Centre.

No two days are the same, and that's exactly what Jane loves about her work.

Melissa Smith

Melissa began as a casual educator at Goldfields Children's Centre, before stepping into a full-time role in 2000. Melissa has worked as an educator across every room – from babies to kindergarten. She is now a much-loved educator in the Koala Room, supporting our two and three-year-olds.

Even after 25 years, Melissa still loves coming to work each day. For her, the relationships and friendships she's built aren't just part of the job – they're family.

WHEN I GROW UP I WANT TO BE...

We were pleased to welcome 11 students from Highview College and Maryborough Education Centre as part of their work experience placements recently.

We loved the opportunity to give our local students the chance to learn more about our organisation and the services we provide to the community.

Students gained a first-hand look into the daily routines of our employees and an insight into the day-to-day operations of our various teams.

HERE'S WHAT SOME OF THEM GOT UP TO DURING THEIR TIME WITH US:



MEET THOMAS

Thomas spent the week outdoors with our Open Spaces team experiencing what it's like to maintain our local parks and gardens.



MEET JADE

When she finishes Year 12 Jade wants to join the Victoria Police Canine Unit. To help her gain experience she spent the week with our Compliance team learning how our animal pound operates and getting to know the animals.



MEET JOSH

Having grown up walking our local footpaths Josh spent the week with our Roads and Works crew learning how to build them.



MEET PEYTON

Keen to pursue a career in early education, Peyton spent the week at the Goldfields Children's Centre learning more about our childcare and kindergarten services.

MEET THOMAS

With a passion for mechanical engineering, Thomas spent the week with Andy, our resident mechanic based at the Depot, learning about machines including mowers and road graders.



KNOW SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN DOING WORK EXPERIENCE WITH US IN 2026?

We welcome work experience students across a broad range of council departments and services:

- Business and Finance
- Information and Technology
- Parks and Open Spaces
- Communications
- Facilities and Maintenance
- Roads and Works
- Depot
- Goldfields Children's Centre
- Library
- Customer Service
- Central Goldfields Art Gallery

To express interest, students are encouraged to chat to their school advisor.

Join our team

Have you ever considered joining our team? If you are passionate about delivering great customer service and making a difference in your local community – consider a career with us! For more information, including current job opportunities, visit: www.centralgoldfields.vic.gov.au/currentvacancies

2025 ENERGY BREAKTHROUGH

Get ready Maryborough! Our biggest event on the calendar – Energy Breakthrough – is just around the bend!

Our community will be buzzing when the five-day event rolls into Princes Park from Wednesday 19 to Sunday 23 November, 2025.

Energy Breakthrough started in Maryborough in 1991 and is a science, technology, engineering and maths program for primary school students right up to senior secondary students.

The event features three key components:

- Display and Presentation
- Design and Construction
- Track Competition



KEEN TO KNOW MORE?

Visit www.eb.org.au • Follow @ebmaryborough on Facebook

For our 33rd year we are excited to welcome:

- **3,500** participants + their families
- **250+** teams
- **15,000** visitors
- **100+** schools
- **\$3.6million** injected into the local economy

THANK YOU

There are so many groups and individuals in our community who help make the event possible.

A big shout out to our:

- Sponsors
- Local businesses
- Community groups and organisations
- Local schools and students
- Volunteers
- Tourism operators

And to our wider community for making visitors feel welcome!

WE NEED 700 OF YOU!

ONE AMAZING
VOLUNTEER

For the third year in a row our volunteer army will be proudly backed by the Community Bank Avoca, Maryborough and St Arnaud.

Since inception this partnership has boosted the volunteer experience making it one to remember.

Volunteering with Energy Breakthrough is a fantastic way of making a valuable contribution and real difference in your community.

We offer a wide range of volunteering roles and invite you to match your skills and experience with areas of interest to you.

Meet like-minded people, have fun and feel great about making a positive difference.

In return for your time our volunteers will enjoy:

- Free meals during shifts
- Free t-shirt
- Free lanyard
- Make new friends and connections

Proud supporters
Community Bank
Avoca, Maryborough and St Arnaud

Bendigo Bank



Scan here to sign up.

Even if you can only spare a few hours or half a day – we'd love to hear from you.

To register your interest, visit www.eb.org.au/volunteer or contact our Volunteer Coordinator on 0408 326 157 or email enquiries@eb.org.au

“GIVE IT A TRY — YOU’LL BE HOOKED”

Kodie Greenwood is a passionate long-time volunteer at Energy Breakthrough, whose journey with the event began as a wide-eyed participant in primary school.

Competing in Human Powered Vehicles for three years, including time as part of the pit crew, Kodie's dedication only grew stronger throughout high school, where she continued from Year 8 through to Year 12 – eventually becoming co-manager of a team.

For the past 10–15 years, Kodie has volunteered in many capacities – starting out by helping with wristbands, stickers and maps on weekends, before moving into more official administration roles, including team registration and stage crew.

For Kodie, Energy Breakthrough is more than a race; it's a vibrant, inspiring community where young people build skills in sustainability, teamwork, communication, fitness, and leadership.

“It's hard to sum up what this event does for your self-esteem and self-confidence,” she says, “but once you experience it, you'll understand.”

Kodie continues to volunteer to ensure that every participant feels valued and empowered – just as she once did. Her message to others? “Give it a try. There's something incredibly rewarding about giving back, supporting the next generation, and being part of something so amazing. I promise – you'll be hooked!”

ONE AMAZING
VOLUNTEER

ADVOCATING FOR DROUGHT SUPPORT

Maryborough received:

💧 **640mm** of rain
in the 19 months from
1 January 2024 to 31 July 2025.

⬇️ **21.5%** less
than the long-term mean for
the same period of **815mm**.

Council is calling on the State Government to provide additional drought relief assistance for local primary producers.

Council believes it is unfair that extra support is available for farmers in the neighbouring Pyrenees Shire, but not Central Goldfields.

A letter has been sent to the Minister for Agriculture, asking her to ensure equity and to provide the maximum possible assistance for drought-affected primary producers in the Central Goldfields Shire.

The Minister has also been invited to visit the Central Goldfields to meet with the Council, local farmers and agribusinesses.

Our Shire has been experiencing unseasonably dry conditions, adversely affecting primary production, the natural environment and rural businesses.

Local farmers have reported significant financial impacts, including reduced stocking rates, lower crop yields and higher fodder costs.

The Government’s drought-relief measures are appreciated but some are not available to primary producers in the Central Goldfields Shire.

Drought assistance not available to farmers in the Central Goldfields includes:

- Primary Producer Support Payments which provide eligible farmers with the equivalent of a 40 per cent reduction on their property rates.
- On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Grants of \$10,000, \$5000 more than elsewhere.
- The \$2 million Household Financial Relief Program, which provides up to \$1000 to eligible farming families to meet urgent household expenses.
- \$15 million towards extending the East Grampians Rural Pipeline.

Maryborough’s 19-month rainfall deficiency is similar to most of the designated “south-west” local government areas, and higher than Hamilton (19.1%) and Ararat (21.3%).



Digital connectivity

For years we’ve been advocating to the State Government for better digital connectivity.

In August, we welcomed the news a new nbn tower would be constructed in Maryborough East and Maryborough West.

This is in addition to the towers currently under construction in Daisy Hill and Talbot – with both expected to be complete in 2026.



Flood planning in Carisbrook

Whilst we can't prevent floods, we can as a community learn how to better live with them and take actions to limit their severity where possible.

As a Council, flood mitigation in Carisbrook continues to be a priority, with the development of the Carisbrook Flood Management Plan now underway.

Why do we need the Carisbrook Flood Management Plan?

A flood management plan identifies ways to prepare, respond, and recover, making the community safer and more ready for future floods.

It also provides detailed information to better understand what the flood risks are for the full range of flood events.

The current plan was developed in 2013 and is now out of date. The new Plan will use data from the 2011 and 2022 flood events and will consider climate change considerations, mitigation modelling, flood risk and emergency management.

How do I find out more?

Visit: www.engage.cgoldshire.vic.gov.au/carisbrookfloodplanning

Who's involved?

A Flood Study Advisory Reference Group was appointed by Council in early 2025 following an open public expression of interest process. The Advisory Reference Group includes three community members, Tullaroop Ward Councillor Anna de Villiers, relevant Council officers, State Government agency representatives, emergency services and the North Central Catchment Management Authority.

Who is undertaking the study?

Qualified engineering and environmental consulting firm – Water Technology – were appointed to undertake the study following a public tender process. You can read more about their skills and experience at www.watertech.com.au

How long will it take?

The project is expected to be completed by September 2026.

Who's funding the Plan?

In 2024, the North Central Catchment Authority secured \$300,000 through the Victorian Government’s Flood Study Reclamation funding program for Council to deliver and review the Plan.

How can I get involved?

Thanks to everyone who joined us for our first community session in August as we shared an overview of the project and timelines. Residents were also invited to share photos, videos and personal observations from the 2022 flood event.

The next community session will be held in October and will include a presentation on modelled calibration events and will discuss mitigation measures with the community.

Further sessions will be held in December and March.

If you are unable to attend any of the upcoming community information sessions, input is welcome via assets@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au

Once complete, what will the Plan do?

The Plan will provide more detailed flood modelling to show what could happen in different types of weather events.

This means we can take the steps that are needed to make Carisbrook better prepared for future floods.

Join the club

We are fortunate to have hundreds of not-for-profit community organisations in our Shire but often we hear it’s tricky to find them and know how to contact them. To help, we’ve created an Online Community Directory on the Council website – but we need your help to make it comprehensive.

The old Leisure Services Guide will be decommissioned in the future so we would love for all community groups to submit their directory listing.

Adding a listing is free and will support your group to announce upcoming events and become visible on the internet.

Plus, it’s easy to get started using our step-by-step guide.

For further information, and to submit a directory listing, visit: www.centralgoldfields.vic.gov.au/Directory



After the success of last years' event, Maryborough Library are once again hosting a Senior Expo to celebrate the 2025 Victorian Seniors Festival!

SENIOR EXPO

LIVE IT UP

IN THE CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS



2PM-6PM,
WEDNESDAY
29 OCTOBER
**MARYBOROUGH
LIBRARY**

FREE ADMISSION

- Gift bag for the first 50 attendees
- Stalls, giveaways, resources and displays
- Health checks/info and more...



Calling all Central Goldfields community groups/volunteer groups/not for profits
If you'd like to be involved and have not yet been contacted, please get in touch!

2.30PM
Tired, Retired But Not Yet Expired – Antique Comedy Roadshow with Mick Meredith



Mick Meredith is a stand-up comedy veteran – but don't go calling him a pensioner just yet. Think of him more as an apprentice pensioner... still learning the ropes of forgetting things, complaining about joint pain, and arguing with teenagers about what TikTok is.

3.30PM
John Bradshaw from LiveUp

LiveUp offers free and impartial information on a diverse range of healthy ageing topics to support you to stay physically active and socially connected.

4.30PM
Keynote Speaker Kevin Sheedy AO



As a player, coach and ambassador, Kevin Sheedy AO has had one of the most successful careers in Australian sporting history. But there's more to Kevin Sheedy than footy – he's an inspirational speaker, capable of talking about subjects way beyond the boundaries of sport. Kevin is the author/co-author of nine books, including his best-selling memoir, *Stand Your Ground*.

☎ 5461 9111 ✉ mrl@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au 📘 MBLibVIC



WHAT'S MAKING NEWS IN MARYBOROUGH

Preserving our Grandstand

Thank you to the user groups, and the many community members, who took the time to provide valuable feedback on the draft Princes Park Grandstand concept designs earlier this year.

The designs are important – we need them to seek funding from the Federal and State government to preserve the facility and bring it up to contemporary standards.

Based on community feedback, the following changes have been made to the designs:

- Separate storage areas have been provided for each of the stakeholder groups.
- A community gathering room (including a bar) has been included adjacent to the home team's changing room.
- A publicly accessible, DDA-compliant toilet with shower has been incorporated near the event storage area.
- A separate meeting room has been included, which would be bookable by user groups.
- The internal corridor has been removed to simplify the layout.

We are now in a position to commence our advocacy efforts to both levels of government.



Greening our streetscapes

Over 100 new trees have been planted across our Shire over the past few months.

In February we invited residents to share with us where they'd like new trees planted along with a list of species to choose from.

Now that the trees are in the ground, our work doesn't stop there. For the next 3 to 5 years, the new trees will need regular attention, especially during dry periods.

Thanks to our Open Spaces team for all their efforts.



Spring has sprung at Phillips Gardens



Councillor Gerard Murphy

MARYBOROUGH WEST WARD

Two exciting projects are set to revitalise Maryborough's Princes Park precinct over the coming months.

Three brand-new turf cricket pitches are being delivered at Princes Park which is welcome news for our local cricket community – including the Maryborough Cricket Club.

The project includes the removal of existing pitches, installing sub-surface drainage, upgrading irrigation, and construction of three new turf pitches.

The \$190,000 project is being funded thanks to \$50,000 from Council, \$100,000 from the State Government and \$40,000 from Cricket Australia. Local contractor Shay Excavations will deliver the project.

At the Maryborough Tennis Centre, a major court redevelopment will commence shortly. The project will deliver five new synthetic grass courts to replace the existing middle bank of grass courts.

This \$523,000 project is jointly funded thanks to \$400,000 from the Victorian Government, \$71,700 from Council, \$20,000 contribution from the Maryborough Tennis Centre and a \$31,300 National Court Rebate. The courts will be constructed by Tuff Turf and the fencing works will be delivered by RNCO.CO.

The new courts are set to be completed by early 2026.



Councillor Geoff Bartlett



Councillor Grace La Vella (Mayor)



Councillor Jake Meyer

CARISBROOK AND DISTRICT

Castlemaine-Maryborough Rail Trail

Progress is underway on the Castlemaine-Maryborough Rail Trail, with work recently commencing on the pre-construction phase of the project.

The proposed 61-kilometre trail will follow the disused rail corridor between Castlemaine and Maryborough. This phase includes detailed design work for the rail trail, environmental and cultural heritage investigations, and engineering design for road crossings and heritage bridges.

Following the completion of a Feasibility Study in 2023, which included initial community engagement, the current phase will bring the trail design closer to readiness for approval and to seek funding for construction. With this comes a new opportunity for the community to get involved.

Community and stakeholder consultation will begin in late October, with engagement activities running throughout November.

To find out more visit cmrailtrail.org.au/community-and-landholder-consultation or contact the project team at: railtrailfeedback@cmrailtrail.org.au

This pre-construction phase is led by Castlemaine-Maryborough Rail Trail Inc., with support from the Victorian Government, Central Goldfields Shire Council, and Mount Alexander Shire Council.



Councillor Anna de Villiers
TULLAROOP WARD

In flood-prone towns like Carisbrook, community resilience is more than a concept—it's a necessity. Developing resilience means strengthening the ability of residents to prepare for, respond to, and recover from flooding events. This involves not only infrastructure improvements and emergency planning, but also education and strong local networks that support swift adaptation and long-term recovery.

Over the past three months, Council has taken significant steps toward this goal. A new Flood Study Advisory Reference Group has been established, including local representation and expert input. The focus of the group

is developing an updated Flood and Drainage Management Plan, incorporating climate-change data and extended mapping.

Community members are invited to participate in shaping these plans through attending one of several drop-in sessions organised by Council over the next few months. These efforts demonstrate a commitment to safeguarding Carisbrook's future through collaboration, preparedness, and shared responsibility.

DUNOLLY AND DISTRICT



Councillor Liesbeth Long
FLYNN WARD

Recent rains and the weather finally offering up a few warmer days have seen optimistic crop and pasture growth for our farmers. The district is looking better with paddocks slowly improving after our dry autumn.

Being a Councillor is a 24/7 job; one I am grateful to fulfil. This means, however, that sometimes things drop to second place and unfortunately friends and family can be one of these 'casualties'. Some of you may have noticed that I took a 'leave of absence' in late July and August. This was for me to travel to Europe to visit my two sons who live there. I was unavailable during this time, and I apologise for this.

I have now returned with a clear head and a refreshed mindset after a fabulous break, ready to hit the ground running.

Since my return, I have listened to concerns regarding the VicRoads office closing. I will do anything in my powers to prevent this, especially as the proposed 30km radius will directly affect the northern part of Flynn.

As always, feel free to reach out if there are any Council concerns I can assist you with. Please contact me either by phone, text, email or on social media and coffee catch-ups are always welcome, my shout!

Congratulations

Happy Birthday to the Bealiba Country Women's Association who recently celebrated 90 years of service to the community.

The milestone was celebrated with a fashion parade showcasing clothing worn through the decades, cake cutting by the oldest and youngest members and afternoon tea.

Congratulations to everyone involved!



Deledio pavilion update

The Deledio Reserve pavilion project is progressing with JMA Architects on board and the design and construction tender to be advertised shortly.

The project will deliver new change rooms, kitchen facilities, undercover areas, first aid facilities, and will include sustainable rainwater harvesting and solar power.

The project is a partnership between Council, the Deledio Pavilion Reference Group and is jointly funded by the Federal Government, Victorian Government and Council.

TALBOT AND DISTRICT

Flood recovery works

The October 2022 floods caused \$9.8 million damage to infrastructure and property throughout our municipality.

Whilst most repairs have been carried out, the Victorian Government recently approved the sixth and final stage of our flood recovery upgrade program.

The next stage of upgrades, due for completion by late October, include construction of floodways, removal of flood debris, road rehabilitation and drainage structure erosion repairs.

Works will be carried out at various locations across the Shire, with Paddys Ranges Ward to benefit from upgrades along: Avoca Road, Bung Bong Longs Road, Gordon Road, Lillicur Road, Baker Road, Hickeys Road, Logan Road, Longs Road, Mullins Road, Norburys Road, Smalls Road, and Timor Dunluce Road.

For more information, including a list of locations scheduled for upgrades, visit: www.centralgoldfields.vic.gov.au/floodrecoveryworks



Councillor Ben Green
PADDYS RANGES WARD

As country people we are well used to hardships and challenges of the seasons and sometimes very poor conditions from drought to flood and everything in between. Currently such fluctuations are also coming at us from other directions – including poor to bad roads, bank closures, unwanted power towers, Telstra shop closing, VicRoads threatening to close and the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund. It is no mystery that cost-of-living pressures are felt harder in the country due to long distances and costs of transport in relation to fewer people (than cities).

Our current dreadful drought is a green drought – looks green but have a look at the creeks (they are dry) and we can infer that aquifers are also not refilling. The Goldfields Reservoir is also low and will be unless much needed rainfall comes in a spring break.

We have frankly had a tough winter and pray for a better spring. It is during times of hardship that it is more important than ever to be kind to each other and travel a mile in others' shoes – we need to stand together shoulder to shoulder to face difficult times with a cheerful readiness – the alternative is miserable.

S'day and welcome!

In July, eight proud Central Goldfields Shire residents took the pledge and officially became Australian Citizens. Congratulations to:

Nuntiya Johnston
from Thailand

Piyush Kumar Shah
from Nepal

Rammy JHA
from Nepal

Maria Laodenio
from Philippines

Deborah Stedwell
from United Kingdom

Sushmita Karki
from Nepal

Paul Bennett
from United Kingdom

Hellen John
from Kenya

A special day for all – welcome to our newest Aussies!

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Cover photo: Council Gardener Samantha Newberry maintaining the Phillips Gardens in Maryborough.

All information is correct at the time of going to print.



We acknowledge and extend our appreciation for the Dja Dja Wurrung People, the Traditional Owners of the land that we are on. We pay our respects to leaders and Elders past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes of all Dja Dja Wurrung People.