

A message from our Mayor

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



It's a pleasure and a privilege to be re-elected as Mayor of the Central Goldfields for a 12 month period to November this year.

This is my first column since the election of our new Council in November last year.

I'd like to welcome back our returning Councillors – Liesbeth Long, Anna de Villiers and Gerard Murphy and congratulate our new Councillors – Jake Meyer, Geoff Bartlett and Ben Green who were elected to Council for the first time.

The biggest and most important step for us as Councillors is to deliver the 2025-2029 Council Plan.

This is when we need to think about the future of our Shire together with you, our community.

The Council Plan sets out the key priorities that Council will focus on over the next four years.

For the first time it will also incorporate the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

This means that the health and wellbeing of our community is at the centre of everything we do.

Developing our Council Plan is a balancing act. As Councillors we must consider the diversity of interests and needs of all members of our community when deciding where to spend ratepayer money.

This is your invitation to share with us: what matters to you? We need your input so that we can deliver a four-year plan that reflects our community's wants and needs.

This edition of our Community Update magazine details how you can get involved.

I encourage you to take a few minutes today to share what matters to you, so that you can help influence the future of our magnificent Shire.

Councillor Grace La Vella (Mayor)

Maryborough West Ward

J 0429 048 112

Follow the Mayor on Facebook @centralgoldfieldsmayor

What does Council do? **The Community** Votes in Councillors Represent the community's needs and lead decision-making. Who **Appoint** Elect CEO **Mayor** Manages Council operations Leader and spokesperson for **Oversees** Council who helps Councillors and ensures services are delivered and decisions make fair and community are implemented. **Staff** focussed decisions. Deliver Council services and projects.





Parks and gardens

Energy Breakthrough

Waste and recycling

Graffiti removal

Environmental health

Playgroups

Visitor Centre

Central Goldfields Art Gallery



What is the Council Plan?

The Council Plan is our most important strategic document.

The Council Plan informs all our work, decision making and strategic direction over the next 4 years.

For the first time, our Council Plan will also incorporate the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan so that improving and promoting our community's health and wellbeing is at the centre of everything we do.

At the same time as we develop the Council Plan, community feedback will also help inform the draft 2025-2026 Council Budget and to make sure that our everyday work is aligned with realising the Central Goldfields Shire Community Vision 2031, the 10-Year Financial Plan and 10-Year Asset Plan.

Together, these documents shape how the organisation meets community needs and aspirations, and guide sustainable growth across the Shire, while continuing to provide critical services.

DID YOU KNOW? The Local Government Act 2020 requires that all councils produce a Council Plan within 12 months of a general election. Similarly, the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 requires that all councils develop a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan in the same timeframe.

What are the key Council documents?

Community Vision:

Developed in collaboration with our community in 2021, the Community Vision describes the community's aspirations for the future of the Shire until 2031.

The Vision feeds directly into the Council Plan and is reflected in its goals and actions that will enable us to achieve the Community Vision.

Our Community Vision:

In 2031, we are an inspiring, thriving and prosperous community of choice, we've taken bold steps towards growing our economy and our community is full of optimism and opportunities.

We are kind, connected and inclusive and we nurture creativity, leadership and innovation. We value and invest in our young people and our health and wellbeing is high.

We live sustainably, cherish and protect our environment and heritage and we have access to outstanding jobs, education, health, community services, infrastructure and housing.

10-year Financial Plan:

A financially sustainable projection that connects how the actions of the Council Plan may be funded to achieve the aspirations in the Community Vision

10-Year Asset Plan:

A roadmap to ensure we can effectively use our assets including Council buildings, transport assets, stormwater assets and open spaces.

What did our last Council Plan deliver for our community?

Our Council Plan 2021-2025 was developed by our last group of Councillors and was separated into four areas.

Over the last four years, we've been able to deliver on key promises to our community to progress these objectives. Some examples include:

Our Community's Wellbeing



Recognised our volunteers and worked strategically with Maryborough Volunteer Resource Group to build capacity



Through Go Goldfields supported local leaders to give every child, every chance and created The Nest - a safe and welcoming parenting space



Our Growing Economy



Increased tourism to our iconic Maryborough Railway Station through new look Visitor Centre



Successful advocacy for additional rail services



Redevelopment of Central Goldfields Art Gallery to attract high quality exhibitions for locals to enjoy and boost tourism

Our Spaces and Places



Implemented tree planting program



Construction of Maryborough Skate and Scooter Park



Renewal of pool facilities - including retiling of indoor 25-metre pool and equipment upgrades at **Dunolly and Talbot pools**

Leading Change



Establishment of our first Youth Council



Building relationships with our First Nations community through projects and programs



Development of our first Climate Action Plan in partnership with community





Our Community

If our community was 100 people*...



people would be female

49 people would be male

Note: Non-binary was not included as a 2021 Census output

Age

people aged 14 years and under

people aged 15 – 24 years

people aged 25 – 44 years

people aged 45 – 64 years

people aged 65 – 84 years

people aged 85 years and over

Background

people would be born overseas

people would speak another language at home

people would identify as Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander

Health & Wellbeing

people would have a mental health condition

people would have one or more long term health conditions

Families**

people would live by themselves

couples would be a family with children

couples would be a family without children

people would be a single parent family

Homes**

people would own a house or have a mortgage

people would be renters

6 people would not own a car

people would have an income of less than \$650 per week

Employment**

people would be working part time

people would be working full time

people would be volunteers

6 people would be unemployed

Education

people would not complete Year 12

people would have completed tertiary education

Get Involved

The reality is that as a Council – we can't do everything - but we want to ensure that what we do, matters.

By spending a few minutes today, you can influence the future of our Shire.

Whether you live, work, or spend time here – we want to know what matters to you?

Get involved via the following ways:

- **Complete our online survey** at www.engage.cgoldshire.vic.gov.au/whatmatters
- Attend one of our in-person community drop in sessions:

Community Session #1 When: Monday 24 March Where: Goldfields Shopping Complex (outside Coles/Kmart) Time: 3.30 to 5.30pm

Community Session #2 When: Tuesday 25 March Where: Dunolly Bakery **Time:** 3.30 to 5.30pm

Community Session #3 When: Thursday 27 March Where: Carisbrook Bakery **Time:** 3.30 to 5.30pm

Community Session #4 When: Friday 28 March Where: Talbot Post Office Time: 3.30 to 5.30pm

- **Complete the three questions on page 8**, tear out the page and return it to us.
- Ask your children to share what their favourite things to do are in our community via our activity sheet available at www.engage.cgoldshire.vic.gov.au/whatmatters
- **Join our Community Advisory Panel** see page 9 for full details.
- **Contact your Ward Councillor** and share your feedback contact details below.



FLYNN WARD Cr Liesbeth Lona Liesbeth.Long@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au **J** 0429 108 007



MARYBOROUGH CENTRAL WARD Cr Gerard Murphy **J** 0428 923 546



Cr Jake Meyer ✓ Jake.Meyer@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au **J** 0455 051 477

MARYBOROUGH EAST WARD



MARYBOROUGH NORTH WARD Cr Geoff Bartlett ✓ Geoff.Bartlett@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au

J 0455 544 537



MARYBOROUGH WEST WARD Cr Grace La Vella (Mayor) **J** 0429 048 112



PADDYS RANGES WARD Cr Ben Green ■ Ben.Green@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au **J** 0456 624 323



Cr Anna De Villiers Anna.DeVilliers@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au **J** 0428 916 671

TULLAROOP WARD



Community Survey

Simply answer the three questions below and return this page by Friday, 28 March via the following ways:

• Council's Customer Service Centre at 22 Nolan Street, Maryborough • Maryborough or Dunolly library • Hand it to your Ward Councillor

QUESTION 1:

Here's some examples of what was delivered as part of the last Council Plan. Which of these was most valuable to you?

Our Community's Wellbeing	Our Growing Economy	Our Spaces and Places	Leading Change
Recognised our volunteers and worked strategically with Maryborough Volunteer Resource Group	Increased tourism to our iconic Maryborough Railway Station through our new look Visitor Centre	retiling of indoor 25-metre pool and equipment upgrades at Dunolly and Talbot Development of our first Climate Action Plan in partnership with community Improved variety of communication to the community including seasonal Community Update magazine	
to build capacity Through Go Goldfields supported local leaders to give every child, every chance and created The Nest – a safe and welcoming parenting space	Successful advocacy for additional rail services Redevelopment of Central		through projects and programs Development of our first Climate Action Plan in partnership with community Improved variety of communication to the community including seasonal
	Goldfields Art Gallery to attract high quality exhibitions for locals to enjoy and to boost tourism ects, programs, services of		
Jouncil has done over th	e past four years that you	value?	
QUESTION 2: Which of the areas below on the health and wellbeinousehold? You can tick as ma	ng of you and your ny boxes as you like.	QUESTION 3: What do you think we de	o best as a community?
Access to healthy and nutriti Access to appropriate and af Feeling a part of the commu	ious food and clean water fordable housing options		
Access to early childhood lead Equitable access to services Access to affordable and qua			
Access to quality education in Employment opportunities and Getting to where you need to	and job security		
	rnet access and phone coverage		
And why?			

Community Panel Invitation

Are you passionate about the future of the Central Goldfields?

We are inviting 20 community members, aged 18 years and over, to put their hand up to help shape our priorities over the next four years.

The panel will be an opportunity to learn about what Council does, contribute ideas and help develop draft recommendations.

Expressions of interest are welcome from anyone who lives, works or owns a business in the Central Goldfields Shire.

No special skills are required, just having the willingness to consider others views and work collaboratively is enough.

We'll also need you to be available to attend three, in-person workshops in Maryborough.

- Tuesday 6 May: 5.30pm to 8.30pm
- Wednesday 7 May: 5.30pm to 8.30pm
- Thursday 8 May: 5.30pm to 8.30pm

Meals and refreshments will be provided with support for childcare and travel arrangements available by request.

Panel members will be selected to make sure we have community representation from all walks of life, across age, gender, employment status, cultural background and townships.

Each panel member that attends all three evenings will receive \$100 in recognition of their time and contribution.

To find out more, and to register your interest by Friday 4 April 2025. visit:

i) www.engage.cgoldshire.vic.gov.au/whatmatters

Where to from here?

There will be many opportunities for you to share with us what matters most from now until May.

The following timeline details when and how you can be involved:

• Chat with your Ward Councillor March: Pop-ups and survey Tell your Ward Councillor what matters at pop-ups in townships Survey – Council priorities March: Community Panel expressions of interest open • Community members 18+ can apply to be part of the Community Panel **April:** Focus Groups Discussions with key stakeholders and community groups May: Community Panel • 20 diverse community members join us for three workshops to establish what matters most to the whole community May-June: Draft Council Plan developed Information from all engagements is pulled together to form

July: Community feedback open for the Draft Council Plan Draft Council Plan is shared with the whole community for feedback

By October 2025: Council Plan adopted

February: Community Engagement opens

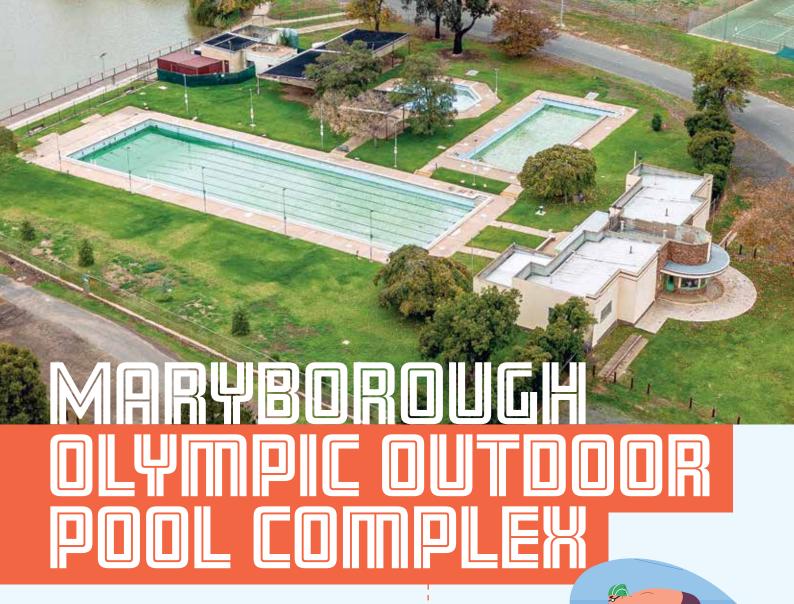
Council Plan explained

Short survey available

a Draft Council Plan

• Children's activity sheet available





It's been fantastic to see a groundswell of positive community support for the rebuilding of the Maryborough Olympic Outdoor Pool Complex.

The formation of an advocacy group to collaborate and advocate alongside Council is critical as we seek the funding needed to re-open this much-loved community asset.

We know our community is keen to better understand why the facility is closed and what it will take to see it re-opened. We've worked in partnership with The Friends of the Maryborough Outdoor Pool Precinct to provide answers to the most frequently asked questions.

Additional questions and information are available to read at:

i www.centralgoldfields.vic.gov.au/outdoorpool

When and why was the pool closed? Who made this decision and on what independent advice?

An independent, technical assessment of the pool was carried out by an experienced aquatic engineer in 2022. It determined that the 50-metre pool had reached 'end of life' stage and that it should not re-open until the 50-metre pool is demolished and rebuilt.

The decision to close the pool was made by the then Council in July 2022.

What makes the pool so special?

The Complex was built in 1940 and is registered on the Victorian Heritage Register as having architectural, aesthetic and historical significance. It is a much-loved facility that holds special meaning within our community which has been enjoyed by many generations.

What does heritage-listed mean? Also, why is it relevant to getting our pools up and running?

Because it is considered a significant part of Victoria's history and development – any changes or modifications to any part of the Complex require approval from the relevant heritage authorities.

Any changes or upgrades to the Complex must look the same as the original and be reconstructed using like for like materials. The only exception to this is where modifications are required to meet modern standards, such as compliance with current building regulations and the Disability Discrimination Act.

Why can't Council just repair the pool and re-open it?

To repair the pool would still be costly and would essentially be a 'patch job'. The reality is the pool is 85 years old so there's a high probability of further cracks and failures continuing to occur.

Why can't we put a liner in it?

Because there are heritage concerns. The failure of the shell allowing ingress of ground water also makes liners or membranes impractical, as the water pressure will likely delaminate them from the shell.

Why can't Council just pay to have the pool rebuilt?

Council is not in a financial position to fund the project alone. It is outside our financial capability to fund the project without Federal and State funding.

Is the Shire still under contract for and paying for the running of the outdoor pool? And if so, why? And why is this money not being set aside to fund future repair/ replacement?

Council has a contract in place for the management of all outdoor pools in the Shire. Any variations to that contract following the closure of the Complex are commercial in confidence.

Following the closure of the Complex in 2022, Council negotiated extended opening hours at the Maryborough Sports and Leisure Centre and free entry to the Dunolly and Talbot pools during the summer season.

Why was the octagonal pool upgraded, and the 50-metre pool not repaired?

In 2020, we received a \$2 million Victorian Government Living Heritage grant to restore the pool.

Following the independent, technical assessment that determined the 50-metre pool was at 'end of life' - a full demolish and rebuild was considered the best return on investment.

Because \$2 million wasn't enough to demolish and rebuild the 50-metre pool, it was decided that Council would use the funding to upgrade the other components of the Complex that also needed attention.

To meet the grant requirements, the funding had to be spent on the heritage listed elements of the Complex.

A Conservation Management Plan for the Complex was developed in 2018 and identified that the Octagonal Toddlers Pool and sections of the Pavilion required reconstruction.

These elements were prioritised as they were also feasible within the budget.

More information about what works were carried out is provided on the dedicated page on Council's website.



Why can't an interim solution be found where we use the octagonal and intermediate /learn to swim pools?

Whilst the octagonal pool is now fully operational the intermediate/learn to swim pool shares its filtration system with the 50-metre pool. This means one pool can't operate without the other. To do this, the filtration system would need to be separated, and this would come at a significant cost.

The intermediate/learn to swim is 52 years old and is also in need of upgrades. While the shell is currently structurally sound, it does require some maintenance along with a new filtration system and balance tank to separate it from the 50-metre pool. It also needs work to the hob and tiling to be safe and fit for purpose.

Why can't the State and Federal governments just give us the money we need?

Budgets are tight which makes the current funding market highly competitive.

To give us the best chance of being successful, the State Government have advised us any future funding application must include equal access upgrades and show strong community support.

They have also advised it is unlikely they would fund the project in its entirety and have suggested that the project be staged.

What is Council proactively doing to take us forward from here?

Based on State Government advice we are developing an extended project scope and a staged approach to the project.

Adding additional scope to the project such as the intermediate pool upgrades and improved equal access facilities, will increase the overall project cost - however it will deliver a more comprehensive upgrade of the Complex.

The staged approach would also allow Council to renegotiate with the contractor the opening of the octagonal and intermediate/learn to swim pools until such time as the 50-metre pool is rebuilt.

At the time of this publication going to print, the staged approach was scheduled to be considered by Council at a Special Council Meeting on 12 March, with the intention to submit a funding application to the Victorian Government's Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund - Round Two.

If endorsed by Council, more information will be provided via our dedicated page on the Council website at:

i www.centralgoldfields.vic.gov.au/ outdoorpool

We will also continue to lobby the Federal and State Government to show commitment for the project.

How can you support the effort to rebuild the pool?

If you have the opportunity, we encourage you to chat to our local State and Federal Ministers about why the project is important to you.

You can also join The Friends of the Maryborough Outdoor Pool Precinct by emailing swim@maryboroughswimmingclub.org.au



Across Victoria, waste bin collection is changing

The way you use your bins at home will change by July 2027.

This is because the Victorian Government is standardising household waste and recycling services across the state.

All Victorian council kerbside services will move to a 4-bin system. The 4-bin service will help reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill and improve the quality of recyclables in Victoria.

What system do we have now?

Currently, we offer kerbside collection of:

- Mixed Recycling (yellow lid bin) and
- General Waste (red lid bin) to both urban and rural residents.

We also offer an opt-in Food and Garden Organics (FOGO) service to urban residents.

What do the changes mean for me?

We don't need you to do anything until the changes are introduced in 2027.

There are no changes to what can go in each bin until the new standards are introduced.

Shortly, the Victorian Government will release their updated service standard. We need this before we can plan for and implement the four-bin system.

Once received, we'll review them and determine the most cost-effective approach for implementing the new system.

The items that can be placed in each of the four streams will be clearly defined for all Victorian households and there will be plenty of opportunities between now and 2027 for us to support and educate our community as we transition.

How can I find out more?

Since February, our Waste team have been talking to residents about waste at local markets.

This is an opportunity for our community to learn more about waste reduction and ask guestions around the 4-bin service.

We encourage you to come and chat to us at the following markets on the following dates:

Talbot Farmers Market

Sundays: May 18, and June 15, 2025

Dunolly Country Market

Sundays: March 23, April 27, and June 22, 2025

We'll also be hosting waste education workshops at local schools and sharing information through our communication channels.

Timeline for bin collection changes

Feb - lun 2025 Mar - lun 2025 May - Jul 2025 May - Jul 2025 Dec 2025 Ian - Dec 2026 Jan - Jul 2027 • • • • State standards Service options Council Transition phase Community Council workshop Pre-transition phase Implementation awareness / survey released reviewed Community engagement decision Preparation

General waste · Use this bin only for items that can't be reused or recycled. • Food waste no longer goes into your general waste bin.





What can I do now to help make an impact?

It might seem like a small thing to sort your waste - but it makes a big impact when we all do it correctly.

Recycling well and reducing waste helps keep valuable resources out of landfill, so they can be turned into new things like glass jars, mulch and compost.

Remember to:

- Only put non-reusable or non-recyclable items in your General Waste bin (red lid).
- Place recyclables loose in your Mixed Recycling bin (yellow lid).
- Never dispose of batteries or electronics in any of these bins.
- If you've opted into the Food and Garden Organics service, make sure to only place loose food scraps and garden clippings in this lime green lid bin - no plastic bags, no biodegradable or compostable bags, tennis balls or gardening gloves.







How can I share my feedback?

To help us prepare for the transition, we're inviting residents to share their feedback on waste.

This will help us roll-out the new 4-bin service that meets the needs of our community.

Feedback is invited by Sunday 27 April via the following ways:

- Online survey at www.engage.cgoldshire.vic.gov.au/waste or use the QR code
- Collect a hard copy of the survey from our Customer Service Centre, 22 Nolan Street or complete one in person at one of the market dates provided above.



Ella Govan

Ella is a courageous and inspiring young person, a considered leader and an engaging public speaker. She is an upstanding role model in sporting achievement, and a Youth Mental Health Ambassador amongst her peers at Highview College.

Ella volunteered to become a Live4Life Crew member to help raise awareness of mental health across our Shire. Using this platform, Ella led R U OK Day at Highview College, encouraging her whole school community to take care of their mental health.

Ella is a basketball referee, has a black belt in Taekwondo, is a triathlete, cricketer and has been involved in gymnastics, football, soccer and badminton.

She is recognised as an inspiration to our younger generation as both a current and future leader within our community, with an exciting future ahead.

Main image – back left to right:

Young Citizen of the Year Ella Govan, Mayor Cr Grace La Vella, Community Award of the Year - Live4Life (represented by Project Officer Shelley Feilding) and at front Citizen of the Year Janet Watts.

Janet Watts

A staunch advocate for local services, Janet has been a dedicated community volunteer her whole life.

A member of the CFA for 29 years, the SES for 10 years and Dunolly Hospital Auxiliary for 20 years, Janet also served on the Maryborough District Health Service Board for 11 years.

Janet was instrumental in establishing Dunolly's Neighbourhood Watch, Dunolly RSL's Women's Auxiliary, and securing the purchase of the building which enabled the re-establishment of local banking through the Rural Transaction Centre.

When Dunolly's Uniting Church was unable to find a regular ordained minister, Janet took up study to qualify - in addition to her many hours of volunteering at the Church Op Shop.

As a teacher for more than 40 years, Janet drew on her experience to start a local youth group, and for over 30 years offered free tutoring to local school students, free

Janet is a quiet achiever who has helped many, and her efforts will benefit everyone for many years to come.

Community Award of the Year **Live4Life Central Goldfields**

A mental health education and youth suicide prevention model Live4Life was designed specifically for rural communities.

Central Goldfields Shire was chosen as a Live4Life community in 2021, due to the collective efforts of Council, local schools and services that recognised the need for more support for our young people.

Since its inception, accredited teen and youth mental health first aid has been rolled out in schools and the broader

In 2024, Teen Mental Health training was delivered to 156 year 8 students and 88 year 10 students at Highview College and Maryborough Education Centre. 50 adult community members - including school teachers - also completed the training.

Live4Life's 'Crew' were also trained and are made up of year 9 and 10 students who volunteer to provide leadership and promote mental health to their peers.

Having set out to save young lives in our local community, Live4Life Central Goldfields is already having a real impact.

Township Australia Day award recipients

Australia Day events were also held in the townships of Bealiba, Carisbrook, Daisy Hill, Dunolly and Talbot.

At some of these community-run Australia Day events, additional community members were also acknowledged with awards.

We congratulate all of our Australia Day award recipients and thank them for their contribution to making our Shire a wonderful place to live.





WELCOME!

Congratulations to the six residents who became Australian citizens at the Citizenship Ceremony held on Australia Day:

- Lucia Farrugia Philippines
- Masoumeh Khademi Iran
- Letitia Jacobs Namibia
- Adi Jacobs South Africa
- Jacques Jacobs South Africa
- Janitha Herath Pathi Sri Lanka





Nationa 19-25 MAY 2025 Volunteer Connecting Communities Week

YOU'RE INVITED!

Volunteers are integral to our community.

They work in many settings and under a variety of conditions, they are there in disasters, they run events, they enable vital services, and often their work in our community goes unnoticed.

To celebrate National Volunteer Week, we'll be hosting a thank you evening to recognise and thank our wonderful volunteers for their dedication and contribution.

All volunteers in the Shire are invited to join us on:

Monday 19 May

5.30pm for a 5.45pm start Maryborough Harness Racing Club

To register email events@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au or call our Customer Service team on 5461 0610.





#NVW2025

Connect with us

Socials

@centralgoldfields



X @CG_Shire



in Central Goldfields Shire Council

Wehsite

Council website www.centralgoldfields.vic.gov.au **Engagement opportunities** engage.cgoldshire.vic.gov.au

mail@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au

Phone

03 5461 0610

Customer Service

22 Nolan Street, Maryborough Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm

Postal address

PO Box 194, Maryborough VIC 3465

NRS-Friendly Hearing or Speech Impaired?

Call via the National Relay Service on 133 677

Need translation services?

Call 131 450 or visit www.tisnational.gov.au

Cover photo

Sunrise at Lake Victoria in Maryborough.

Community Update magazine

Our Community Update magazine is designed to keep our community up-to-date with the latest Council news and information.

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.

