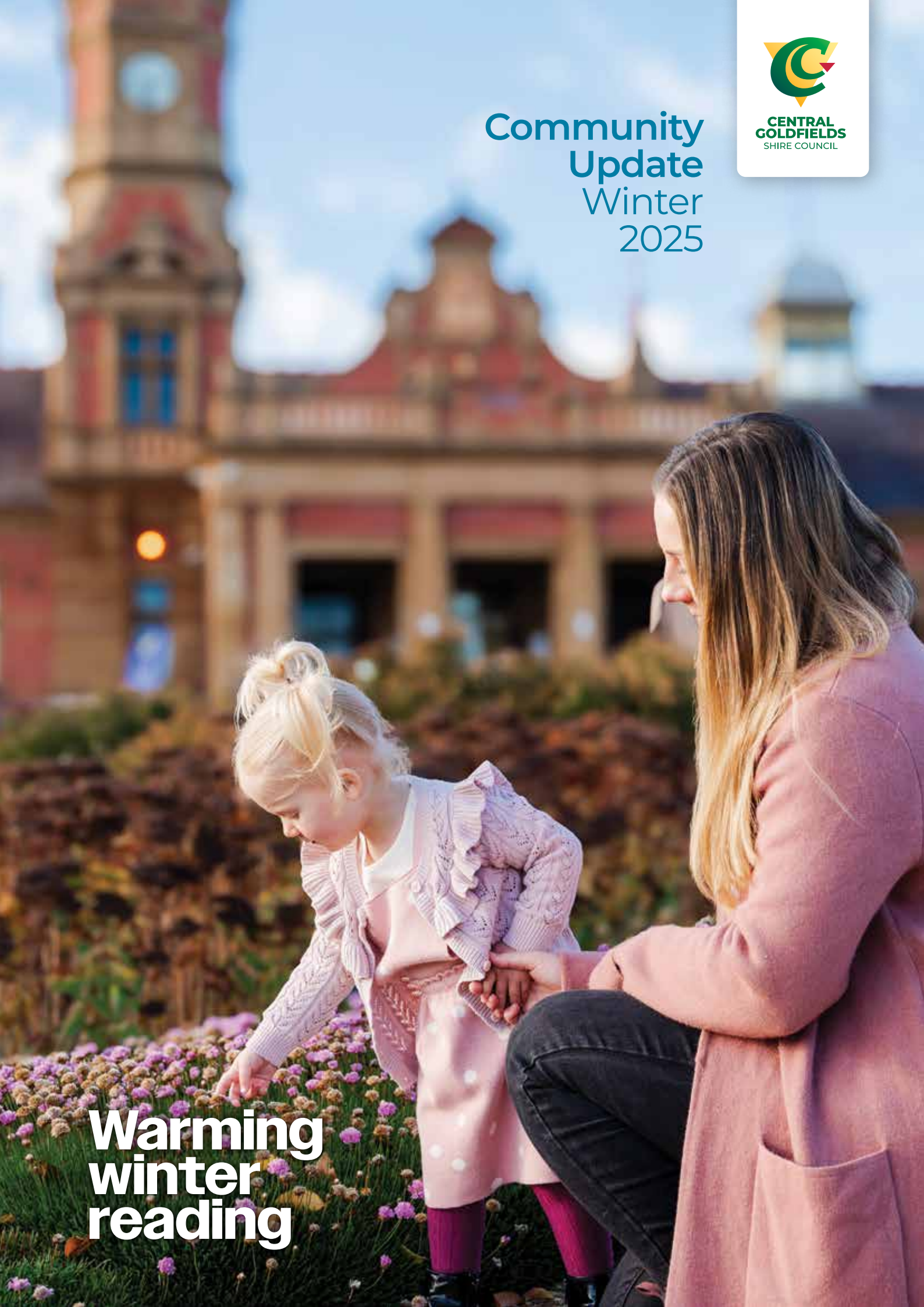


Community Update Winter 2025



**Warming
winter
reading**



FROM THE MAYOR

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

Whilst winter might bring darker days, it's a bright new chapter for us here at Central Goldfields with the appointment of Peter Harriott (pictured above right) as our new Chief Executive Officer.

Peter brings with him more than 30 years of leadership experience in local government, including previous long-term CEO roles.

His proven track record in economic development, tourism, and regional growth aligns strongly with our strategic direction.

As CEO, Peter will be responsible for driving the implementation of Council's long-term community vision, ensuring efficient service delivery, and fostering a culture of genuine community engagement. He will also play a critical role in connecting Council's professional staff with elected Councillors, ensuring a cohesive and accountable organisation.

Leading a \$40 million-plus organisation with significant community assets requires vision, experience, and a deep understanding of local government. Peter brings all of this and more.

Known for his approachable and community-minded leadership style, Peter is committed to relocating and residing within the Shire, reinforcing his connection to local life.

I warmly welcome Peter, and together with my Councillor colleagues, look forward to working together to achieve sustainable growth and positive outcomes.

Read on as we share updates on the release of our new Official Visitor Guide and the development of our integrated Council Plan.

We've also got the latest from our townships, tips to keep your house warm and details of our Community Grants Program.

Plus, we're talking all things green bins and giving you plenty of reasons to visit your local library.

So sit back with a cup of tea and warm yourself up!

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Councillor Grace La Vella
Maryborough West Ward

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EMERGENCY SERVICES AND VOLUNTEERS FUND

The Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) is a new Victorian Government levy (replacing the Fire Services Property Levy) due to be introduced on 1 July, 2025.

The farming sector was to be the hardest hit by the new tax with a proposed increase of 150%.

In response to significant backlash, on 30 May the Victorian Government announced a temporary backdown on the ESVF for the farming sector only and declared the entire state of Victoria in drought.

How will it impact us?

The drought declaration means the ESVF variable rate on primary production properties will remain at 28.7 – the same as it was in 2024-25 – for the duration of the 2025-26 financial year.

This reduced rate will be applied to rates notices for primary production properties automatically.

Whilst we welcome the reprieve for farmers, the concern for the hike in the levy for residential and commercial property owners remains.

The new tax will also have a significant impact on Council. The cost alone to administer this extra tax collection is significant, and this ultimately impacts the services we deliver to the community.

“Just don't pay” – it's not that simple

The local government sector has been advocating for the levy to be collected by the State Revenue Office, not Council.

These efforts have been unsuccessful and unfortunately, you will see the levy itemised on your rates bill, even though it is not a Council charge.

We have heard the suggestions to “just don't pay the new tax”. Unfortunately, it's not that simple.

Councils are obligated to collect the levy and cannot use a separate invoice to collect the levy.

Also, Council must proportionally allocate rates revenue towards the levy if ratepayers choose not to pay the levy element on their rates notice. For example, if your rates are \$3,000, and the levy is \$500 and if the property owner pays only the \$3,000 rate component, Council collects \$2,550 (roughly 85% of payment in this example) and the \$450 balance goes off to the Government for the ESVF. We know that will be significantly more for many ratepayers. Plus your rates notice will still be in arrears.

Unfortunately, ratepayers who refuse to pay the levy may cause financial strain on councils across the state. It may also be subject to Council's debt collecting processes – something we agree is unfair.

You will hear more from us about the levy prior to receiving your 2025/26 rates notice.

What next?

Alongside the local government sector, we will continue to advocate for the ESVF to be scrapped. Emergency services should be properly funded through the State's general revenue – just like other essential public services.

If you are a farmer, commercial business owner, or have vacant land, talk to your accountant or financial advisor about how you may be able to minimise the impact of the levy.

If you are a CFA or SES volunteer, investigate with the emergency services organisation you represent how you can get the volunteer rebate on your principal place of residence or farm. This rebate is not administered by Council.

If you are experiencing any difficulty in paying your rates, please talk to us as soon as possible. We're here to help.

We also encourage farmers to access drought relief funding and support. For details visit: www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons

Helplines:

- Rural Financial Counselling Service Victoria **1300 735 578**
- National Centre for Farmer Health **5551 8533**
- Lifeline **13 11 14**
- Beyondblue **1300 224 636**

Funding for Community Groups

Did you know every year we provide financial support for community groups to deliver projects that benefit our community?

Our 2025-2026 Community Grants Program will open on Tuesday 1 July with \$46,250 up for grabs.

If you are involved in a not-for-profit community group that needs funding to deliver a project, activity or event we encourage you to apply.

To find out more, and to apply online by Sunday 29 July, visit: www.centralgoldfields.vic.gov.au/communitygrants



Dunolly Gilbert and Sullivan Society

“Our \$2,000 Community Grant enabled us to engage the award-winning Melbourne based cabaret artist Adore Handel to host our Swinging Sixties Trivia Night at the Dunolly Town Hall.

The event was appreciated by our local community with locals grateful to enjoy an evening’s entertainment without having to travel out of town.

We would not have been in a position to host this event without the grant – we are grateful to the Shire for making this fun event possible!”

— Rachel Buckley



Maryborough Soccer Club

“Funding obtained through the Community Grants Program enabled us to maximise the experience for participants in our Futsal Championships.

“Thanks to this incredible support we were able to reduce costs for our stakeholders, whilst delivering a vibrant community project that helped our club attract new players, and engage existing members with a quality competition.”

— Garry George



Robyn’s Nest & All the Best Animal Rescue Inc.

“We are incredibly grateful to Central Goldfields Shire for the support provided through the Community Grants Program. The funding allowed us to secure cat enclosures, enabling us to save more cats whose future were uncertain. These enclosures have made a significant difference in helping shy or previously mistreated animals feel safe, socialise, and prepare for adoption into loving homes.”

— Robyn Hunter

Uncovering our hidden gems

Discovering what to see and do in the Central Goldfields just got a whole lot easier with the launch of our new Official Visitor Guide.

The Guide is a key marketing tool that showcases our region to potential visitors – enticing them to visit and discover our hidden gems.

It’s full to the brim with experiences, suggestions on what to see and do, along with places to eat, drink, visit and rest.

Whilst the Guide is targeted at tourists, it’s ideal for locals too. If you are keen to explore places to go locally, or you have friends or family visiting, pick up a copy to discover new places to explore here in our own backyard.

The Official Visitors Guide is also complemented by *The Maryborough District Advertiser’s* quarterly ‘Goldfields Getaway’ publication.

The Official Visitors Guide will be available at the Central Goldfields Visitor Centre at the iconic Maryborough Railway Station or from your local tourism operator.

You’ll also be able to pick up a copy when you travel – copies will be distributed at Visitor Information Centres across Victoria including Melbourne.

You can also read it online via our dedicated tourism website at www.visitmaryborough.com.au



Thanks for sharing what matters to you

Following a period of community feedback, our Draft Council Plan is currently being developed.

It's important because it will guide our work, decision making and strategic direction over the next four years.

This year, for the first time, our Council Plan will 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.

What goes into the Draft Council Plan has been based on the feedback provided by you – our community.

Thank you!

In our last edition we invited our community to share “what matters to you?”

We received feedback from community members, groups and organisations across our Shire throughout March, April and May.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to contribute via surveys, community conversation events and focus groups.

We also heard from 240 young people via class activities and drawing activities – some of which are featured on the opposite page. This is in addition to our consultation with our local secondary schools – Maryborough Education Centre and Highview College. Around 40 students contributed to in-person workshops across both schools in addition to 212 written submissions.



Our community panel

In May, 14 members of our community came together over three workshops as part of our Community Panel. Under the Local Government Act we are required to bring together a diverse group of community members to help shape the draft Plan.

We sincerely thank the members of the Community Panel for their time, thoughtfulness, passion and commitment. Their willingness to listen, learn, and work together to shape meaningful recommendations has made a valuable contribution to this process and to the future of our community.



Next steps

Taking all your feedback on board, along with the insights from our Community Panel, our Draft Council Plan will soon be available for our community to review.

We'll be inviting you to share with us – Did we get it right? Anything we missed?

Community feedback on the Draft Council Plan will be invited in August.

The final Council Plan will go to Council for adoption in September.



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

What matters most?

Community members shared what they found to be most valuable that was delivered by the last Council Plan, the top five being:

1. Renewal of pool facilities at Dunolly, Talbot and 25m indoor pool (59%)
2. Street tree planting program (52%)
3. Advocacy for additional rail services (50%)
4. Go-Goldfields – The Nest (45%)
5. Volunteer capacity building (44%)

What do you think we do best as a community?

Many people said we're at our best when we support each other – especially in times of crisis or hardship. There's also strong appreciation for the volunteers, shared spaces, and the sense of connection that exists across Central Goldfields.

What could we do better? What would you like to see?

Many people want to see more action and follow-through from Council, and more focus on the basics. There's also a call to listen to all voices, not just the loudest, and to invest fairly across the whole Shire – not just in a few projects or places.

Community members wanted Council to:

- Fix roads and footpaths and manage trees
- Maintain and improve infrastructure and assets: 50m pool, Carisbrook Creek, Goldfields Reservoir
- Strengthen tourism and economic development focus
- Attract more industry and jobs
- Provide opportunity for businesses to network and innovate
- Focus less on niche projects and more on the whole community's needs
- Provide more activities and support for families, older adults, and young people
- Improve healthcare and childcare access and transport between towns
- Reduce delays and communicate clearly on plans and progress
- Make the most of local skills, especially from retirees and volunteers
- Keep successful programs like The Nest going with funding and support
- Listen to more of the community
- Transportation/evacuation in emergency situations
- Strengthen financial and project management

What matters most to children?

Children shared that their favourites activities to do were:

- Swimming at the pool
- Energy Breakthrough
- Playgrounds
- Shopping
- Parks
- Cinema
- Walking and playing with dogs
- Lake visits
- Library

Community members shared the areas that have had the biggest impact on them and their households health and wellbeing with the top five being:

1. Access to affordable and quality health services (72%)
2. Access to healthy and nutritious food and clean water (56%)
3. Reliable and affordable internet access and phone coverage (56%)
4. Feeling a part of the community (54%)
5. Nature and healthy spaces (53%)

Lake / Ducks



Gardens



Skate Park



Library



Dunolly Pool



WHAT'S MAKING NEWS IN MARYBOROUGH

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

To improve community safety and encourage healthy exercise into the winter months, Princes Park, Princes Park netball court and Jubilee Oval are lit up every Friday night between 5pm and 8pm until the end of July.

It's all thanks to the Victorian Government's Healthy Loddon Campaspe initiative.



A round of a-paws

Many residents have shared with us the need for a dog park in Maryborough and the good news is we have one on the way.

Our grant application to the Victorian Government for funding to establish a dog park in Maryborough at Jack Pascoe Reserve (next to the athletics track – just off Cadle Street) was successful.

Once created, the Dog Park will provide residents with a safe, active space for dogs of all sizes and ages to exercise and play off leash.



Take a StoryWalk

Phillips Gardens is now home to a StoryWalk!

StoryWalks are a fantastic way to nurture a love of reading – and get active at the same time!

Starting at the entrance to the Maryborough Library (91 Nolan Street) kids can read the first page of the book then walk to the next stop to read the next page... and so on around the gardens!

At the end of each term, a new book will be installed in time for the school holidays.

The StoryWalk is thanks to funding through the Victorian Government's Healthy Loddon Campaspe initiative.



Walking Basketball

Walking basketball is a new fun and social way for over 55's to be active in the winter months.

Come along and join in with this low-impact, slower paced game of pass-and-chat, followed by morning tea.

Walking basketball is held every Tuesday at 10.30am (during school terms) at the Maryborough Sports and Leisure Centre.

No bookings are needed and there's no charge.

Walking Basketball is a partnership between Healthy Loddon Campaspe, Maryborough Sports and Leisure Centre, Maryborough Basketball Association, Basketball Victoria and Council.



New BBQ

The new shelter, seating, lighting and free access electric BBQ at the Goldfields Reservoir in Maryborough is now open for the community to enjoy.

The project was made possible thanks to the Community Bank Avoca, Maryborough and St Arnaud and the Maryborough Lions Club – with Council providing project management support and ongoing maintenance.

Golden Textures exhibition

One of the cultural highlights of the Central Goldfields Art Gallery exhibition calendar is the nationally celebrated Golden Textures Contemporary Art Quilt Award.

This year 19 art quilts from across Australia have been selected as finalists in this prestigious national award which will be on display at the Gallery until 12 October, 2025.

The Central Goldfields Art Gallery is located in the Old Fire Station, 1 Neill Street, Maryborough.

The Gallery is open from Thursday to Sunday from 10am to 4pm, and entry is free.

For more information, visit:

www.centralgoldfieldsartgallery.com.au



Anna Brown, Canopy 26, 2023. Wool crepe and a wool/ acrylic thread and wool batting. Raw edge reverse appliqué, machine pieced and hand quilted. 134 x 120cm.

OUTDOOR POOL WHAT'S NEXT?

\$4.5 million has been secured for the Outdoor Pool by the Federal Labor Government (announced as an election commitment in April).

We now await the outcome of our \$3 million funding application to the Victorian Government's Regional Community Sports and Infrastructure Fund.

For more information visit: www.centralgoldfields.vic.gov.au/outdoorpool

If successful, Council will co-contribute a further \$1.5 million (\$150,000 in the 2025-26 Annual Budget and \$1.35 million in future borrowings in the 2026-27 Annual Budget) to the project.

An outcome of the Victorian Government grant application is expected in July.



Councillor Grace La Vella (Mayor)

MARYBOROUGH WEST WARD

We were extremely proud and honoured to recently be named a winner at the LGPro's Awards for Excellence.

In partnership with DJAARA, we took out the award for the "Truth Telling, Healing and Creating for Community on Djaara Country" project in the First Nations Community Partnership category.



The Award acknowledges the significant partnership between Council and DJAARA in the delivery of the Indigenous Interpretive Garden garingilang gatjin wii at the Central Goldfields Art Gallery and the Welcome Stranger Digital Animation at the Central Goldfields Visitor Centre.

The Welcome Stranger animation has been recognised as an outstanding example of truth telling, revealing the obvious devastation of our early history, while the Indigenous Interpretive Garden brings a healing presence to the middle of town, right opposite our newly developed Maryborough Hospital.

The garden and animation were jointly funded by Council and the Victorian Government over the past two years.



Councillor Jake Meyer



Councillor Gerard Murphy



Councillor Geoff Bartlett

Winter Holiday Program

Looking for ways to keep your young people entertained during the July school holidays? Our Library, Gallery, and Visitor Centre teams have put together a great program of free and low-cost events and activities. Full details at: www.centralgoldfields.vic.gov.au/winterfun2025



WARM UP AT THE LIBRARY!

MEMBERSHIP IS FREE!

Library membership is free and gives you access to over 200 libraries across Victoria.

Not a member yet? No worries! Come and see us or sign up online anytime.



NOT JUST BOOKS!

A new addition to the Maryborough Library is the Skateboard and Scooter equipment library.

Thanks to the Healthy Loddon Campaspe initiative you can loan skateboards, scooters and safety equipment in a range of sizes.

The Library also has tablets and powerbanks available for loan and for our younger visitors there's even a Nintendo Switch you can use in the library.

BOOKS AND SO MUCH MORE

With thousands of titles across fiction and non-fiction, large print, picture books, young adult and junior fiction, graphic novels, audiobooks, magazines, and DVDs — there's something for everyone.

Prefer digital? Our online collection includes eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, and movies, all easily accessible through free platforms including Libby, BorrowBox, and Kanopy.

We've also got newspapers and local publications, free WiFi, public computers, printing, scanning, photocopying and faxing services — including wireless printing from your own device.

Library membership gives you access to more than **3 million items**

HOME DELIVERY

Not able to get to one of our libraries? If you are experiencing illness, injury or transport issues, you can access our free, monthly housebound delivery service.

The service also visits residents at Wattle Rise, Raglan House, Havilah Hostel and The Terrace on a monthly basis.



TECH HELP & TABLET LENDING

Our tech help program offers free one-on-one, tailored sessions for those not feeling confident in their internet or device abilities. The sessions assist in developing skills in navigating the internet and digital devices (tablets, computers, smartphone etc.).

Our tablet lending service is available for anyone who does not yet own a digital device and is keen to learn or browse before investing.

We have both apple and android tablets available along with a generous eight week borrowing period with everything you need — data and support included at no cost.



UPCOMING EVENTS

SHUT UP & READ!

Tuesday 22 July, 6 to 7.30pm

Join us at the Maryborough Library for silent reading followed by Book Chat. Free, all welcome 16+. Supper provided.

IN CONVERSATION WITH SARAH BAILEY

Wednesday 6 August, 3.30pm

Join us for a special author talk featuring Melbourne-based crime writer Sarah Bailey at the Maryborough Library.



CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK

16 to 23 August

Visit our libraries for extra special storytime sessions, Stuffed Animal Sleepover and to see our team dressed up as book characters.

WARM WINTER READ

Until 31 August

Track your reading habits and review the books to enter the state and local prize draws. Register and participate online at:

📄 readbooks.com.au/www or pick up a paper log from the Library.

SENIORS EXPO

Wednesday 29 October, 2 to 6pm

Building on the success of last year, community groups interested in holding a stall are encouraged to contact the Library team.



FOR FAMILIES

Families with young children can enjoy our free weekly programming throughout school terms:

Maryborough:

- Tuesdays 10am: Playtime (2–5 years)
- Wednesdays and Fridays 10am: Storytime (3–6 years)
- Thursdays 10am: Rhyme Time (0–18 months)

Dunolly:

- Tuesdays 11am: Storytime (2–5 years)



VISIT US

Maryborough Library

Maryborough Resource Centre, corner of Alma and Nolan streets.
Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm, Saturdays 9am–midday.
Phone: 03 5461 9111

Dunolly Library

42 Market Street, Dunolly
Opening hours: Tuesdays 9am–1pm, Thursdays 1pm–5pm
Phone: 03 5461 0679

Talbot Outreach Library

11 Camp Street, Talbot
Opening Hours: Tuesdays 2pm–4pm

✉ mrl@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au
 📱 @MBLibVic
 📺 @MBLibVic
 🌐 centralhighlandlibraries.org.au or centralgoldfields.vic.gov.au

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

FARM THEMED CRAFT SESSION

Tuesday 8 July, 10 to 11.30am

at Maryborough & Dunolly Libraries

Free craft session best suited for ages 3–10yrs. Booking not required.

MISTER MIKE THE MAGICIAN

Tuesday 15 July, 10am Dunolly Library

and 2pm Maryborough Library.

Free session best suited for ages 4–12 years. Bookings required.

SCRABBLE CLUB

Scrabble Club at the Library runs from 10am–12pm on the first Saturday of each month. All skill levels welcome, game boards provided. There is no cost to attend.



The Green Bin.

In the Autumn edition, we shared the news that the way you use your bins at home will change by July 2027.

This is because the Victorian Government is standardising kerbside services across all councils in Victoria.

This will see us move to a four-stream waste collection service which will help reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill and improve the quality of recyclables.

As part of the changes, every urban household will be required to place their food and garden organics into a lime green lid bin by 2027.

What is a food and garden organics bin?

In Victoria, about 50% of household waste is organic. Using a dedicated food and garden organics bin keeps food and garden waste out of landfill, cuts emissions, and turns it into compost for local use.

Here in our Shire, we've had a twice monthly, optional food and garden organics collection service in place since 2013.

What can I put in the food and garden organics bin?

Almost any food and garden material can go into the food and garden organics bin. Basically – if it grows – it can go in!

- ✓ Fruit and vegetable scraps
- ✓ Cooked and uncooked food
- ✓ Meat, poultry and small bones
- ✓ Bread, rice pasta and cereal
- ✓ Eggs and egg shells
- ✓ Fish and other seafood
- ✓ Food wrapped in newspaper
- ✓ Tea leaves and coffee grounds
- ✓ Dairy products including cheese, yoghurt and cream
- ✓ Shredded paper, soiled paper and raw cardboard (pizza boxes, fish and chip wrapping)
- ✓ Bark, prunings and small branches (no bigger than 100mm diameter and no longer than your bin)
- ✓ Weeds, lawn clippings, leaves and small plants
- ✓ Paper towel and tissues

FOGO

You'll start to hear the acronym FOGO more regularly from here. FOGO is short for Food and Garden Organics.

What do we do with your organics?

It takes around 16 weeks to convert your organics from the time it is collected at your house to becoming bagged compost:



State-wide waste collection changes – what next?

We are committed to rolling-out the new four-waste stream service in a way that best meets the needs of our community.

To do this we will be guided by the Victorian Government's Service Standards along with community input and service costs.

Since February, our Waste team have been talking to residents about waste at local markets, schools, shopping centres, and every household received the Waste Management Survey 2025 by mail.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their feedback to us either in person, online or by mail.

A decision on what our four-stream waste service will look like in 2027 will be made by late 2025/early 2026 and our community will be kept informed at every step of the transition.

CARISBROOK AND DISTRICT



Local investment

Upgrades are now complete at the Tullaroop Leisure Centre (pictured above) and a new perimeter fence has been installed at the Majorca Cemetery thanks to funding from the Victorian Government's Tiny Towns Fund and Council.

Rail trail milestone

Castlemaine Maryborough Rail Trail Inc., with support from the Mount Alexander Shire, Central Goldfields Shire and the State and Federal Government is leading a project to develop a 55km rail trail between Maryborough and Castlemaine.

Following the development of a feasibility study in 2023, a landscape architect was recently appointed to progress the pre-construction phase of the project. Stage two is being funded by the State Government and is expected to be complete in May 2026.

For more information about the project visit:
www.cmrailtrail.org.au



Councillor Anna de Villiers

TULLAROOP WARD

Winter has arrived in the Tullaroop Ward and with it the hope and need for rain for our local farming community.

It has been a busy quarter on many different levels with grassroots community events still being organised and well supported.

Thank you to the organisers of successful ANZAC Day services held in both Carisbrook and Majorca. The Carisbrook Open Mic Night is still going strong after 25 years. Plus, the Tullaroop Creek Advisory Group is going from strength to strength, with amazing support from Council officers.

We recently celebrated our volunteers as part of a National Volunteer Week thank you event at the Maryborough Harness Racing Track hosted by Council in partnership with the Maryborough Volunteer Resource Group. This event was well attended with almost 100 people coming along, representing many different community groups. Our volunteers continue to contribute so much to our community.

Lastly, a shout out to the volunteers involved with the Majorca Cemetery Trust whose advocacy resulted in funding for their fence upgrade and the many volunteers who support the Carisbrook Football Netball Club each week.

DUNOLLY AND DISTRICT



Councillor Liesbeth Long

FLYNN WARD

Since my last feature, I was re-elected for a second term and so with much gratitude, I would like to thank everyone for allowing me to be your voice at Council for the next four years.

Speaking of voices – I, along with many others, have been advocating strongly against the new Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF).

Thankfully, in late May, it was announced that the ESVF levy will be capped at the 2024–25 rates for all Primary Producers and the Victorian Government's Drought Support Package will be made available to all Victorian farmers, not just those in drought declared shires. A most welcome reprieve.

Dry conditions have also meant that kangaroos are prevalent on roadsides as they are searching for green pick growing on run-off moisture. Not a day goes by that I don't see vehicles with significant damage.

So please be careful out there and slow down during dusk and dawn. If you do strike an animal, please call Central Goldfields Wildlife Rescue on 0499 654 950 to assist.

Funding for community assets

Thanks to Council investment, and funding through the Victorian Government's Tiny Towns program, electrical upgrades have been delivered at the Dunolly Senior Citizens Hall and Bealiba's historic horse trough has been relocated (pictured right).



Deledio pavilion update

The Deledio Reserve pavilion project is progressing with JMA Architects recently appointed and the design tender to be advertised shortly.

In partnership with the Deledio Pavilion Reference Group, we've been successful in securing \$1 million from the Victorian Government and a further \$1.5 million in Federal Government funding for the project. Council will also contribute \$500,000 to the project.

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

TALBOT AND DISTRICT

Facility upgrades

Community assets in Talbot, Adelaide Lead and Bowenvale have been upgraded thanks to funding from the Victorian Government's Tiny Towns Funding and Council.

Plumbing upgrades at Adelaide Lead Hall (pictured) means it now has a year-round reliable supply of water. Plumbing repairs have been delivered at the Talbot ANA Hall and the Bowenvale playground has been relocated and refurbished along with landscape works.

Wareek Hall is next to receive an upgrade along with the kitchen at the Daisy Hill Community Centre. Watch this space!



Councillor Ben Green

PADDYS RANGES WARD

Winter has arrived, and we pray for some real rain for our farmers. As a rural Shire we are substantially dependent on our farmers doing well not just for our businesses and employment but also in broad terms for food and fibre as a society.

It is therefore critical that our Council supports them. That's why we joined local farmers, emergency services, the Local Government sector and industry bodies to advocate against the introduction of the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund.

Whilst it was great to see the Victorian Government announce a temporary backdown, we will continue to advocate for the Levy to be scrapped.

The Shire (including founding efforts by former Mayor Cr Chris Meddows-Taylor) has also been involved with the UNESCO rating for our area to be included in the World Heritage List recognising the world's most well-kept and original gold mining sites.

As we know there is still plenty of gold in the hills and we welcome our prospecting locals and visitors. We are indebted too to Neville Perry who passed not too long ago for his unceasing efforts to promote gold mining in the district to Australia and the world.

Keep your home warm

Keen to save money on your energy bills? Want to know how you can improve the comfort and energy efficiency of your home?

You can learn how as part of our upcoming Home Energy Empowerment Program events:



Date	Event	Location
Monday 7 July	Online lunch and learn 12.30pm - 1.15pm	Insulate for home comfort
Tuesday 22 July		Intro to hot water heat pumps
Monday 4 August		Solar and batteries 101
Tuesday 19 August		Windows and blinds for comfort and efficiency
Tuesday 2 September		Electric vehicles/bikes and novated leasing
		Online & Talbot Town Hall
		Online & Mill House Neighbourhood House
		Online & Dunolly Neighbourhood Centre
		Online & Carisbrook Senior Citizens
		Online & Talbot Town Hall

All events are free but registrations are encouraged by visiting www.centralgoldfields.vic.gov.au/empower or by contacting our Customer Service team on 5461 0610.



Are you ready?

Research shows that you can handle any emergency better if you are prepared – including the first 72 hours. That's why it's important for us to help ensure our community is ready – should an emergency happen.

With funding from the Victorian Government, we have partnered with local agencies to support the First 72 hours campaign.

Be prepared by following these four simple steps:



1

Know your risks

Ask yourself does my property flood, is it in a fire risk area, how can I cope with extreme heat or power cuts

2

Have a plan

Prepare an Emergency Evacuation Kit to support you and your family



3

Be connected

Get to know your neighbours and local emergency services agencies and keep phone numbers handy.

4

Safety and wellbeing

Having a plan means that you can think clearly, have a greater sense of control and make better decisions

For more information visit www.centralgoldfields.vic.gov.au/emergencies

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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.