



MAYORS COLUMN

Small rural shires such as ours face a number of challenges. One of the major ones is continued financial sustainability in the light of declining population and ageing infrastructure. The current Victorian Auditor-General's Office report highlighted this, predicting that councils such as ours will move into a high-risk category by 2020-21. Over 90% of council's income comes from rates and government grants.

There are limited opportunities available for our council to generate extra income to provide services and maintain facilities. We were all very aware of this situation when began discussions regarding the preparation of the 2019-20 council budget. However there are some positive signs emerging.

I attended a meeting at Sailors Home Hall on 6 February to meet the buyer's group that is sourcing power from the 61 turbines at Murra Warra wind farm. All were very happy with the project and looking forward to supporting Stage 2 of the development which would construct a further 55 turbines. All of these turbines would be located in our shire, attracting payments in lieu of rates from the company.

The Silo Art Trail has greatly boosted visitor numbers into Yarriambiack Shire and a Tourism Destination Management Plan, commissioned by Wimmera Development Association, has acknowledged this. It has recommended that a tourist officer be employed to promote the attractions available in the Wimmera-Southern Mallee region. Hopefully this will lead to longer stays and additional spending in our region.



DOG AND CAT REGISTRATIONS AND PERMITS

Residents are reminded that with the upcoming Renewal of Animal Registrations in April; they must abide by the Limit to the Number of Animals to be kept in town. A detailed list of all animals can be found on our website at www.yarriambiack.vic.gov.au.

The maximum number of dogs to be kept in a town is 2 dogs and for cats it is 3 cats. If you want to keep more than this you are required to apply for a Permit.

Permits are available at our Warracknabeal Office and at Gateway BEET in Hopetoun. The permits need to be approved by Council.

It is a requirement for all dogs and cats aged 3 months and over to be registered. Microchip registration is not the same as Pet registration. For those that continue to not register their dogs and cats; there are penalties that will apply.

See attached link: <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/pets/registration-legislation-and-permits/dog-and-cat-registration>.

For more information please contact Council's Ranger, Craig Byron on 0428 591 980 or 5398 0136.



For all Children of Yarriambiack Shire Council
Thursday 11 April to Wednesday 17 April 2019

The Yarriambiack Shire Council is offering a fun filled seaside holiday for all children of the Shire between the ages of 9 to 12 years. The Shire Council has provided the opportunity for children to attend this camp for many years. The children who attended have totally enjoyed themselves and many wish to return the following year.

The Portsea Camp has been running since 1946 and has a well deserved reputation for providing, safe holidays and entertainment. Entertainment includes: snorkelling, swimming, high ropes, flying fox, giant swing, canoeing, arts & craft activities, strolls on the beach, movies, plus many more other fun things to do. A HOLIDAY NOT TO BE MISSED!!!

Total cost for each child to attend The Portsea Camp is \$243.00. Yarriambiack Shire subsidise \$100.00 per child for up to 30 children. If these spaces are filled the opportunity for more children to attend is available at full cost of \$343.00.

All applications and payment must be handed into the Yarriambiack Shire Office by Thursday 14, March 2019. Application forms are available at the Shire Office (Warracknabeal). Please phone 5398 0100 if you require an application form to be posted.

Any volunteers interested in attending the camp willing to assist with children, or any other queries please contact Alannah Lehmann on 5398 0107.

IN THE KNOW...

Hopetoun Aerodrome

The Hopetoun Aerodrome has seen much activity during the last month as major resurfacing and upgrade of the facility has been undertaken. The total cost of works being \$530,000 with \$250,000 being sourced from the Federal Government via the Regional Aviation Access Program.

Council tendered the works and the successful contractor was Centre State Asphaltting who worked closely with Council to achieve the best possible finish. This is the second part of the upgrade with the lighting system being replaced a couple of years ago at a cost of \$250,000.

The surface finish of the aerodrome is now superb and will be a tremendous facility for years to come, enabling air ambulance, crop sprayers, commuter aircraft and hobbyists to utilise a quality facility. The nearly 50-year-old landing strip was showing its age with surface deformation, some roughness and held water after rain in places, which was not ideal.

Council staff will be making improvements to the shoulders of the main runway over the coming weeks and then the aerodrome will reopen for aircraft.

Stage 3 of the project will include resealing the taxi way and the apron in front of the hanga which will occur later in the financial year.

Collaborative Procurement

Council's of the Wimmera Southern Mallee region including Yarriambiack Shire Council are currently deciding whether to undertake a combined tender for bituminous sealing works. A previous contract on the same basis will terminate in September 2019. The new contract period would ideally be 3-5 years.

Warracknabeal Flood Levee

Stages 3 and 4 being the elevation in road level of two sections of Craig Avenue was completed in January and is an excellent result.

Landholder agreements for those with sections of earth levee on private land are currently being developed.

FIXING OUR ROADS...

Rural Roads:

- Minyip Dimboola Rd – Widen shoulders 10.6km from Stawell Warracknabeal Rd. 30% complete.
- Coorong Swamp Rd – Started construction on 1.59km from Donald Murtoa Rd. 20% complete.

Gravel Re-sheets:

- Delavedovas Rd – 2.4km starting Donald Murtoa Rd. 40% complete.

Construction Works Commenced:

- Bells Rd – commenced in February
- Coorong Swamp Rd – commenced in February

Other Works:

- Roadside spraying, 2nd time where required
- Council chipping bindii
- Checking fire tanks – Continuous
- Shoulder grading currently
- Mowing and spraying of the aerodromes – Complete
- Road sweeping/patching Council wide

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

Join the Community Services & Development Team during a series of information sessions throughout March and April 2019. The sessions will cover a range of topics that will assist community groups. Sessions will be held at the following locations:

- Hopetoun** – 7 March at Gateway BEET
- Beulah** – 14 March at the Business Centre
- Minyip** – 21 March at the Minyip Senior Citizens
- Warracknabeal** – 28 March at Council Offices
- Murtoa** – 4 April at the Neighbourhood House

Sessions will run from 5pm to 6pm

For further information please contact Andrea Stepney – Project Officer at Yarriambiack Shire Council on 5398 0126 or astepney@yarriambiack.vic.gov.au.

TENDER OPPORTUNITIES

Yarriambiack Shire Council invites tenders from competent and experienced Contractors for:

Tender Contract No. C241/2019 Construction of Hard Waste Disposal Shed at the Warracknabeal Transfer Station. Tender closing at 2pm Friday 8 March.

Tender documents and specifications for the above contracts can be obtained by contacting the Council Office on 5398 0100.

Tenders must be submitted to Council via mail addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Yarriambiack Shire Council, PO Box 243, Warracknabeal, 3393.

Late tenders and those received by email or facsimile will not be considered. The lowest or any tender may not necessarily be accepted. Further information can be found on Council's website by visiting www.yarriambiack.vic.gov.au.

SHARE COMMUNITY GRANTS APPLICATIONS

ROUND 2 - 2019

Funding Categories:

- Event and Sponsorship – up to \$1,000 with no matching funding required.
- Business and Streetscape – up to \$2,000 with 1:1 funding demonstrating local content.
- Community Building Grants – up to \$3,000 with no matching funding required.

Eligibility:

All recreation, service, community, volunteer and fundraising groups which are formally constituted organisations and businesses located within the Yarriambiack Shire Council municipal boundaries are eligible to apply.

Please Note: Organisations who received funding in the previous round are ineligible. Total funding pool: \$30,000

Applications open 22 February, 2019 and close at 5pm on 5 April 2019. Application forms available at www.yarriambiack.vic.gov.au/services-programs/grants

CELEBRATE YARRIAMBIACK YOUTH

The third annual Yarriambiack Young Achiever Awards (YYAA) will take place at Hopetoun's Lake Lascelles on the evening of 4 April, 2019.

These prestigious Awards are now open for nomination over the next 3 weeks, with winners receiving a certificate and a prize voucher to the value of \$150 to be spent within the Yarriambiack Shire. If you know of someone who deserves to be nominated for their great work in our Shire, please complete a nomination form and not only have their efforts acknowledged, but they may win and receive a great prize that recognises the value they have to our community. Nomination forms are available on the Yarriambiack Shire Council website: <https://yarriambiack.vic.gov.au/community-services/>

The Yarriambiack Young Achiever Awards proceedings will get underway at 7pm after the Colour Rally in the Mallee Colour Run around the Lake (beginning at 5.15pm) and a 6pm BBQ Tea.

The Endoreic Short Film Festival will begin from 7.30pm.

Film Festival workshops have started across our Shire and the neighbouring Northern Grampians area. If you would like more information on how to put together a film for the Festival please contact the Yarriambiack Shire Council on 5398 0106.

This will be the fourth year Hannah French, a young filmmaker from the Wimmera, has worked to assist the young people in the Shire to come up with their short films. Films range from action to animated and cultural, all telling stories of interest about people or places in the Wimmera. There is no cost to attend the workshops or submit the films. Hannah is going to make herself available on a Thursday evening from 5-6.30pm for anyone 12-25 who would be keen to make it to Warracknabeal's Neighbourhood House on the following dates: 14, 21 and 28 March.

If you would like any further information please contact Council's Community Engagement Officer, Murray McKenzie on 5398 0106 or 0407 585 097.

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

Beulah Cabins

Installation of two new cabins at the Caravan Park. Commenced November 2018 and is currently at fit out stage. Project cost \$120k and is 90% complete.

Warracknabeal Town Hall

Full refurbishment of kitchen facility and upstairs toilets. Currently obtaining quotes. Project cost \$115k and is 25% complete.

Warracknabeal Leisure Centre

New court surfaces. Application submitted to SPORTAUS which was successful. Currently awaiting funding agreement. Project value \$284k.

E-Rup Retail Development

Development of Rupanyup retail precinct. Funding agreement RDV - executed (\$500k) and DCP agreement executed (\$100k). Currently at initiation for final stages of design and finance. 75% complete.

HIP! HAT! HOORAY!

Yarriambiack early childhood programs celebrate perfect SunSmart score.



Yarriambiack Shire Council is leading the way in sun protection for young children, with Council reaching 100% membership of the SunSmart Early Childhood Program.

The program encourages early childhood services to take SunSmart steps to reduce the harms of ultraviolet (UV) radiation.

All eight of Yarriambiack's early childhood services, including its six Council-managed services, are now recognised as members of the SunSmart Early Childhood Program.

SunSmart Early Childhood Program Co-ordinator Justine Osborne congratulated Yarriambiack Shire Council on its commitment to sun protection, which began with Murtoa Kindergarten in 1996.

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:
27 MARCH 2019 AT 9.30AM**

Municipal Office:

34 Lyle Street, PO Box 243, Warracknabeal VIC 3393

Telephone (03) 5398 0100 | Free Call 1800 065 647 | Facsimile 03 5398 2502

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