

ShireLife

Macedon Ranges Shire Council Newsletter | Issue 50 | Autumn 2025

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**Macedon
Ranges**
Shire Council




From the CEO

Following a short break in editions due to Council Elections late last year, your ShireLife service resumes as normal with this Autumn 2025 edition, jam-packed as always with some great updates of Council services and initiatives being delivered across the shire.

From the award-winning Autumn Festival and all the tailored trails that showcase our region so well, through to the new Lancefield Children's Centre opening to provide a modern space for kindergarten and Maternal and Child Health, there is much to celebrate as we carry momentum into this calendar year and towards the end of another financial year.

In 2024, we facilitated close to 60 different community consultations or targeted surveys through our dedicated 'Your Say' online engagement hub. I look forward to continuing that invaluable two-way communication this year. Each consultation will be important for different reasons, but none likely more so than the review of some of our key Council documents such as the Community Vision and Council Plan – I encourage you all to register via

 yoursay.mrsc.vic.gov.au to stay informed on the latest consultations as they emerge.

I hope you enjoy this edition and all that our wonderful shire has to offer in autumn.

Bernie O'Sullivan



From the Mayor

I'm pleased to pen this brief ShireLife message to you all as valued residents of the Macedon Ranges – my first as Mayor, and the first on behalf of our recently elected Councillor group.

I'm grateful to have been elected to the Councillor role for a second successive term, among a group of nine Councillors which includes a combination of experience – three fellow returning Councillors – but also some fresh perspectives and ideas, in welcoming five new Councillors to the group.

Following a comprehensive induction program late last year, we've all well and truly hit the ground running for our four-year term, being briefed on a range of in-progress initiatives by Council staff and endorsing important items at Council Meetings. There is a strong sense of purpose within this new Councillor group, and I am excited to see what we can achieve in 2025 and beyond on behalf of our community.

You elected us as Councillors to represent you, so please don't hesitate to reach out to myself as Mayor and/or your respective Ward Councillors (contact details on the back page) with any matters that are important to you.

Finally, I encourage you to take advantage of the vouchers embedded on the back page of this edition, relating to Hanging Rock and green waste drop-off.

Cr Dom Bonanno

Cover photo: The outdoor space of the new Lancefield Children's Centre.



Introducing your new Councillors

Council would like to thank all ratepayers and eligible voters for participating in the 2024 Council Elections for the Macedon Ranges Shire Council.

Comprising three geographically divided wards of three Councillors per ward, those elected to the role of Councillor were:

East Ward	South Ward	West Ward
Cr Cassy Borthwick	Cr Dom Bonanno	Cr Jennifer Anderson
Cr Andrew Scanlon	Cr Alison Joseph	Cr Kate Kendall
Cr Daniel Young	Cr Christine Walker	Cr Janet Pearce

At an Unscheduled Council Meeting on 22 November 2024, Councillors elected Cr Dom Bonanno as Mayor and Cr Kate Kendall as Deputy Mayor for the first year of the new four-year Councillor term. Get to know your new Councillors a little better by reading their bios on Council's website: [mrsc.vic.gov.au/Councillors](https://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/Councillors)

Get ready for 2025-26 grants

The next round of applications for the Events and Festivals Grant Program and Community Funding Scheme are expected to open soon.

Whether you have a project that will benefit the community in the Macedon Ranges, or an event that will attract visitors and benefit local businesses, we would love to hear from you.

Information sessions and workshops

To assist you with your application, we will hold information sessions for both grant streams.

Small Project Grants

Small Project Grants support community programs and initiatives that benefit residents of the Macedon Ranges and help achieve Council Plan goals.

These grants of up to \$3,000 are open to community groups throughout the year (subject to overall program allocation) and aim to support local needs; projects that are unlikely to be funded by other Council funding programs; and Council Plan priorities.

Enviro/Climate grant recipients

At its December 2024 Council Meeting, Council endorsed funding recommendations for successful recipients for the Environment Group Support Grant Program and Community Climate Action Grants 2024-2025.

The 2024-2025 Environment Group Support Grants enable just under \$70,000 to flow through to the shire's Landcare and Friends groups across three grant categories: Group Support, Strategic Weed Partnership Program and Biolink Boost. The new Community Climate Action Grant stream is funding an additional \$33,000 in grassroots climate action projects.

The new Community Climate Action grants and the Biolink Boost grant stream of the Environment Group Support Grants are co-funded in partnership with Macedon Ranges Community Enterprises (MRCE) and Community Bank Gisborne and District. MRCE will match Council's funding to the amount of \$40,000.

To find out more about all Council-offered grant streams, visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/grants](https://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/grants)

Projects and works



Kids win with new kinder and MCH

Families and children across Lancefield and surrounds now have access to a brand new modular children's centre, with three kindergarten rooms and a Maternal and Child Health consulting room.

The new Lancefield Children's Centre, delivered by the Victorian Government's Victorian School Building Authority through a Building Blocks Capacity Grant, offers weekday kindergarten to up to 99 children at a time.

Additional grant funding from the Victorian Government provided state-of-the-art equipment and educational tools, while Council funding has contributed towards the building's furnishing as well as improved environmental and sustainable design elements.

Council's Maternal and Child Health service will also operate from the new Lancefield site on Mondays.

You can find out more about enrolment by contacting our enrolments team on ☎ 5422 0239 or email 🌐 kinderenrolment@mrsc.vic.gov.au

To book an appointment with a Maternal and Child Health nurse, you can contact the team on ☎ 5422 0281 or email 🌐 mchadmin@mrsc.vic.gov.au

Sports Precinct's next stage

Planning for the next stage of the Macedon Ranges Sports Precinct in New Gisborne is progressing. The Western site (Sports Hub) is scheduled to deliver three additional sports courts, four gender-neutral amenities, and expanded parking. The Eastern site (Pavilion) is planned to include a new AFL/cricket oval, two outdoor netball courts, and additional car parking.

Funded with \$15 million under the Australian Government's Priority Community Infrastructure Program, in addition to a \$2 million Council contribution, detailed designs for the second stage are currently being finalised with the aim to award a works contract later this year.

Council is continuing to advocate for external funding sources to fund a third stage of the project, expected to cost \$15.5 million and include other upgrades to more fully realise the precinct's master plan.

For updates, visit 🌐 mrsc.vic.gov.au/MRSP

New netball facilities underway

Work to deliver new netball upgrades at both Woodend and Kyneton are now underway, providing fit-for-purpose facilities and supporting growing participation in the sport.

To replace the existing deteriorating netball court at Gilbert Gordon Oval in Woodend, two new netball courts are being constructed adjacent to the social room building, making them more visible and accessible from existing reserve facilities.

The works have been funded through the Victorian Government's Local Sports Infrastructure Fund, a budget allocation from Council and a contribution from the Woodend Heskett Football Netball Club.

At Kyneton Showgrounds, works are also underway on a new pavilion to kick off a multi-staged process, with these works to continue this year and followed by a second stage that will enable the construction of two new courts prior to the start of next year's netball season.

Temporary facilities will be in place during construction of the new pavilion, which will feature modern amenities including change rooms, accessible toilets, a first aid room and storage areas.

The Victorian Government has committed \$1.5 million towards construction of the new netball facilities in Kyneton through a Community Sport and Recreation Grant, with Council committing ~\$1.4 million.

Both projects align with Council's Fair Access Policy and Council Plan priorities to provide fit-for-use infrastructure and encourage active lifestyles.

For more information, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/projects

Building back better in 2024-25

A number of road and bridge projects outlined in Council's Budget 2024-25 have already been completed, including:

Five Mile Creek footbridge, Romsey

Refurbished an ageing footbridge on the east side of Main Street, just north of Murphy Street, including replacement of the timber decking with a high-strength, slip-resistant, fibre-reinforced polymer material; and new steel balustrade to meet current standards.

Pedestrian safety improvements, Riddells Creek

Delivering three new raised wombat crossings around the main shopping precinct, and road changes to prioritise through-traffic along Sutherlands Road.

Viewing platform, Kyneton

Work to rebuild the flood-damaged viewing platform located along the Campaspe River and just off Campaspe Place, including incorporating seats and adding a new shared path connection to connect to an existing nearby path.

Lauriston Road, Kyneton

1.2km of road reconstructed between Youngs Road and Sebastopol Road, funded through the Australian Government's Road to Recovery Program.

On the works radar for the remainder of the year include:

Jacksons Creek footbridge, Gisborne

Replacing a key pedestrian connection between Dixon Field and the Gisborne Botanic Gardens, closed for public safety following the October 2022 flood event.

Fersfield Road, Gisborne

About 600m of road reconstruction from east of Morrison Road to Bloomfield Road, including the completion of missing shared path link between Sheedy Road and Morrison Road, funded through the Australian Government's Infrastructure Investment Program.

Mount Gisborne Road, Gisborne

1.3km of road rehabilitation from Runnymede Lane towards Couangalt Road, funded through the Australian Government's Local Road and Community Infrastructure Program (Phase 4).

For more information, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/works



MACEDON RANGES AUTUMN FESTIVAL

• 1 APRIL - 30 APRIL 2025 •

Embrace the beauty of autumn with the Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival: a month-long celebration of seasonal delights, family fun, and local treasures.

Discover Autumn Adventures with the Festival Map!

Your Festival Map is the ultimate guide to seasonal delights and perfect picnic spots this Autumn Festival.

- **Family Fun:** Embark on the Autumn Treasure Trail – an exciting quest to uncover the top-secret Festival Pie recipe, generously provided by Piper Street Food Co.
- **Savour the Flavours:** Follow the popular Pie & Tart Trail, Tipple Trail, or Edgy Veg Trail for a taste of local culinary gems.
- **Autumn Charm:** Explore inviting parks, golden foliage, and family-friendly picnic locations.

Grab your Festival Map at the Woodend or Kyneton Visitor Information Centre, or any participating venue, to start your autumn adventure.

Capture Your Perfect Picnic

Rediscover your backyard and unlock a hidden autumn experience only available in the digital realm! Visit one of the charming picnic locations listed on the Festival Map, find and scan the QR code, and capture your moment. Share your autumn picnic with #MacedonRangesAutumnFestival

Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival Colouring Competition

Thanks to Community Bank Lancefield & Romsey, colour in the colouring sheet on the adjacent page and drop it off at the Woodend Visitor Information Centre, or the Lancefield or Romsey Community Bendigo Bank.

A4 sheets are also available at these locations or can be printed from the festival website.

Looking for more? Discover what's on during the Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival – including a range of events, including workshops and tours – at www.visitmacedonranges.com/autumn-festival

AUTUMN FESTIVAL

Colouring Competition

with thanks to

Community Bank
Lancefield and Romsey

 Bendigo Bank

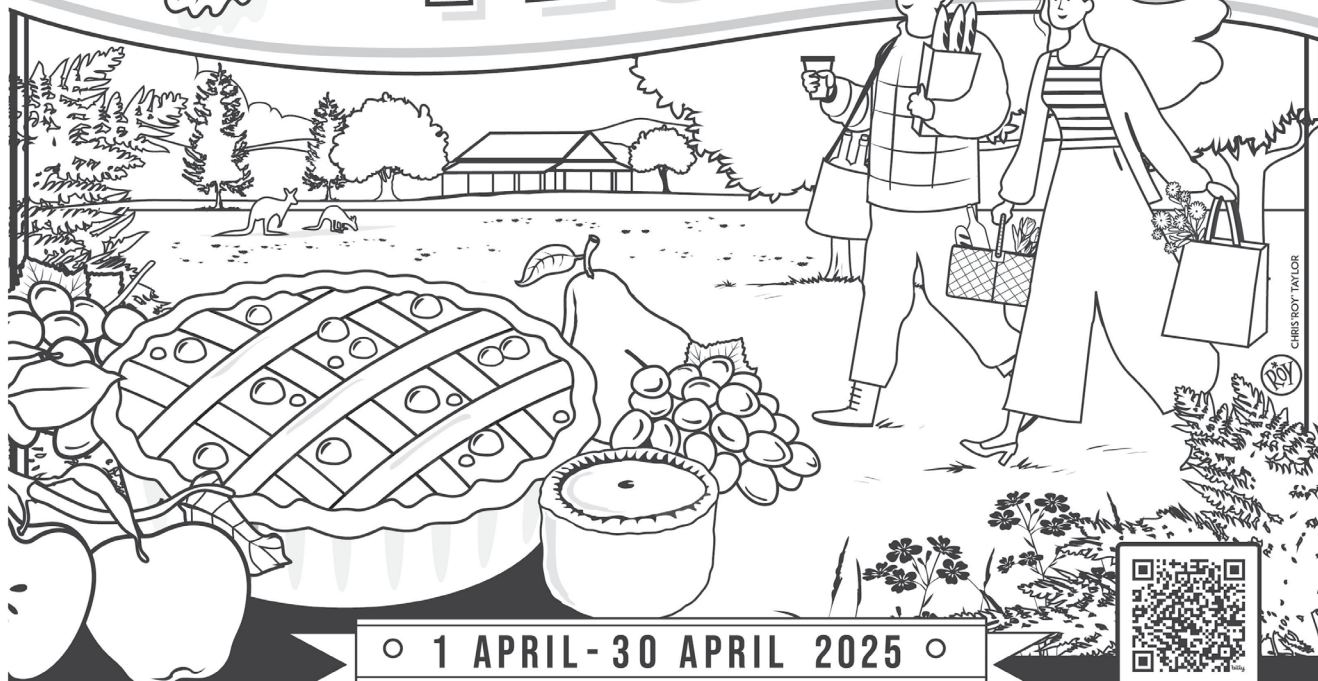
MACEDON RANGES
NATURALLY COOL



Macedon
Ranges
Shire Council

MACEDON RANGES

AUTUMN FESTIVAL



◦ 1 APRIL - 30 APRIL 2025 ◦

How to Enter:

Submit your completed hardcopy entry to Community Bank Lancefield, Community Bank Romsey, or the Woodend Visitor Information Centre by 4pm, 30 April 2025. Entries will be placed on public display. Each entry should have written on the back, child's first name, child's age, town/suburb, plus parent/guardian's first name and contact number. See 'Competitions' at [visitmacedonranges.com/autumn-festival](https://www.visitmacedonranges.com/autumn-festival) for terms and conditions.

Resource recovery

Register for orange bags

Heading to one of Council's customer service, fitness or aquatic centres? Don't forget to pick up your **FREE** soft plastic orange collection bags from the front desk and start recycling soft plastic from home!

How do I register?

As this is part of a national trial, you will need to register to participate. You can use your smart phone to scan a QR code and complete a short survey at the facility, then you will receive your starter pack (including letter and 20 collection bags). If you don't have a smart phone, you can register and pick up the orange collection bags from Council's customer service centres.

The soft plastic recycling program is available to everyone in the shire!

How do I use the bags?

All soft and 'scrunchable' plastic can be recycled. Collect it in the orange bag, and when the bag is filled tight like a basketball, tie it up and place it in your yellow-lidded recycling bin for collection. The rest of your recyclables should remain loose in the bin.

How do I know if it is soft plastic?

Do the scrunch test! Does the plastic item scrunch easily into the palm of your hand and not bounce back into shape? Then it's soft plastic and can go in your orange collection bag. If the plastic item is rigid (like a milk bottle, biscuit or meat tray) and bounces back into shape once you un-scrunch, then it's not soft plastic and cannot go in the orange bag. There is also a list of accepted items on our website for reference.

Remember, you don't need a special bin for your orange bag, just place it straight into your recycling bin at home. For more information,

visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/soft-plastics-trial

Waste audit results

Council recently initiated an independent shire-wide kerbside waste audit. A total of four tonnes/50,000 litres of incoming organics, recycling, and landfill materials were analysed for weight and contamination (items in the incorrect bin).

The audit included 125 properties for each stream (total of 375 bins) randomly selected from regional towns and areas within the Macedon Ranges.

The audit found:

- Each household produced an average of 5.97kg (55.05L) of rubbish/general waste (red lid bins) per week. The contamination rate was 17.2 per cent by weight (31.5 per cent by volume), with recyclable and FOGO items found to be the main contaminants in bins.
- Each household produced an average of 3.1kg (80.4L) of recycling per week (yellow lid bins). The contamination rate was 25 per cent by weight (13.8 per cent by volume), with landfill items found to be the main contaminant in recycling bins.
- Each household produced an average of 13.9kg (126.4L) of mixed organics per week (green lid bins). The contamination rate was 2.5 per cent by weight (4 per cent by volume). Food waste in non-compostable packaging was found to be the main contaminant.

Preventing reusable materials from going to landfill is the central focus of Council's Waste and Resource Recovery Management Strategy 2021-2026. When items are put in the wrong bin, it often results in more items being sent to landfill that could have otherwise been recycled.

For more information about which items belong in which bin, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/your-bins and check out our NEW education videos.

Don't forget to save and use the voucher on the back of this ShireLife edition, to drop off one standard trailer-load of green waste for free at one of our resource recovery facilities.

Aquatics and Fitness

That's the sport!

Looking to get active and involved in sports across the Macedon Ranges? From local leagues and community clubs to fitness programs and swimming, there's something for everyone!

Whether you're new to sports or a seasoned athlete, the Macedon Ranges offers a wide range of opportunities to stay fit, have fun, and meet new people. Join a team, participate in fitness classes, or enjoy the local swimming pools.

Explore all the options available to you today by visiting our website at [mrsc.vic.gov.au/sports](https://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/sports)

Get active and be part of your community!

Ready, Set, Autumn – ShireLife special

Get ahead of the winter chill - start training indoors now at our aquatic and fitness centres in Kyneton and Gisborne.

With the days getting shorter and temperatures lowering, there's no better time to bring your fitness journey indoors.

With this ShireLife exclusive offer, enjoy 25 per cent off all three-month memberships by using Promo Code "Autumn25".

Terms and conditions apply.

Visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/AF-promo](https://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/AF-promo) for further details.



Council-run competitions

Looking for a way to stay active and socialise? Sign up for our social sports competitions in netball, basketball, and futsal!

Whether you're a beginner or experienced player, we offer a welcoming environment for all skill levels. Games are held locally at Romsey Recreation Centre (futsal), Riddells Creek Leisure Centre (mixed basketball), Macedon Ranges Sports Precinct (women's basketball) and Buffalo Sports Stadium (women's netball), providing fun and friendly competition.

Gather your team or sign up individually and get ready to enjoy sports, community, and fitness. Don't miss out – register now for the start of the next season and be part of the action!

For more details, visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/AandF](https://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/AandF) or email leisure@mrsc.vic.gov.au

Gisborne Aquatic Centre turns 20!

We're celebrating 20 amazing years of the Gisborne Aquatic Centre! Were you there on opening day? We'd love to hear your stories.

Stay tuned for exciting anniversary events and join us in marking this milestone! Share your memories with us at gac@mrsc.vic.gov.au

Kyneton Town Hall program

Council is pleased to have lined up another jam-packed program of events at the Kyneton Town Hall in 2025, with upcoming shows including:



Ash Grunwald

Friday 11 April, 7:30pm

Renowned for his electrifying live shows, Ash Grunwald has inspired a generation to hit the road in an old van to 'surf by day, jam by night'. The festival favourite brings a high energy, vibrant live show with stacks of guitars and foot-stomping blues.



Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow

Thursday 1 May, 7.30pm

Australia's most iconic comedy tour is hitting the road for a huge 27th year! Bringing together the brightest stars from the 2025 Melbourne

International Comedy Festival, we're delivering top-tier humour straight to your town!



The Grigoryan Brothers - Amistad

Friday 16 May, 7:30pm

'Amistad' is the new album from acclaimed guitar duo, the Grigoryan Brothers.

With a repertoire spanning centuries, continents, and genres, displaying amazing

telepathy and the ability to evoke emotion from every note, Slava & Leonard Grigoryan are justifiably regarded as Australia's finest classical guitarists.

Community Choice Awards

Macedon Ranges has many outstanding businesses committed to delivering excellent customer experiences. In recognition of this, we're inviting residents and visitors to vote for their favourite business/businesses in the 2025 Telstra Macedon Ranges Community Choice Awards.

An extension of Council's Business Excellence Awards program, the Telstra Macedon Ranges Community Choice Awards seek to recognise and celebrate those who go above and beyond in their day-to-day delivery of goods and services. Businesses have been nominated in the following five categories:


- Excellence in Customer Service – Agribusiness and Primary Production
- Excellence in Customer Service – Health and Wellbeing
- Excellence in Customer Service – Hospitality and Accommodation
- Excellence in Customer Service – Professional Retail and Service
- Excellence in Customer Service – Trades and Manufacturing

More info: mrsc.vic.gov.au/community-choice

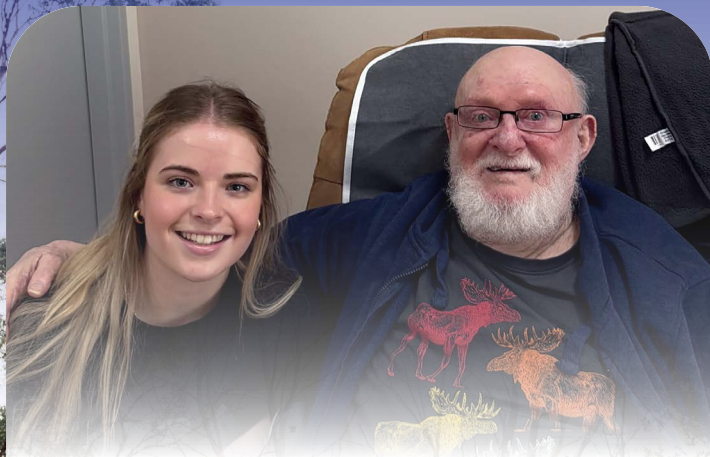
Buy tickets

These event details were current at the time of printing. Purchase tickets to Kyneton Town Hall events:

 [visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/buytickets](https://mrsc.vic.gov.au/buytickets)

 **1300 888 802**
(10am-4pm, weekdays.)

Volunteer and Village Connect



Volunteering is for all ages

Maddie is an inspirational young person who decided to volunteer during her final years of high school to improve her skills and give back to her community.

Her interest in speech pathology and experience working in aged care during a school placement led her to discover the Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme (ACVVS) – an Australian Government-funded program delivered by Council.

Leon, a resident at BUPA Aged Care Service in Kyneton, has been matched with Maddie for regular weekly visits.

Maddie found the volunteering experience with ACVVS to be flexible and supportive, making it easier for her to complete her final years of high school feeling proud and accomplished. “I think [Council is] really supportive and flexible,” Maddie said.

When asked what he enjoys most about their visits, Leon says: “We talk and look through photographs. Talk about what she was doing at school.”

Fancy a cuppa?

Are you aged over 55 and keen on some company?

Join a group of friendly coffee lovers for a social cuppa and a chat, with meet-ups at 10:30am at various towns across the shire.

Visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/village-connect for more information.

Volunteering opportunities

Are you passionate about the Macedon Ranges? Do you enjoy meeting people and sharing our local wonders with others? Join us as a volunteer at the Woodend and Kyneton Visitor Information Centres, where you can be a welcoming face to our beautiful region.

Woodend welcomes visitors seven days a week, from 10am to 4pm, offering you a variety of options to fit your schedule. Kyneton is open Friday through Sunday, from 10am to 4pm, providing the perfect weekend opportunity to share your love for our community.

We offer comprehensive in-house training to make you feel prepared and confident in your role. From familiarisation tours to information sessions, and even social outings and events, you'll have the knowledge and expertise needed to guide and inform our visitors.

Volunteering opportunities are also available at the historic Kyneton Museum. Through their wide range of skills, expertise, knowledge and their dedication to preserving and sharing history, the Museum's volunteers contribute significantly to the Museum's reputation and worth.

To learn more about becoming an aged care volunteer or explore other volunteering opportunities, including supporting our environment or Resource Recovery Resale Shops, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/volunteer

Environment

Roadside conservation guideposts



Did you know that roadsides play an important role in supporting our local native plants and animals? Council is excited to be enacting an action within the Roadside Conservation Management Plan 2021 by installing conservation guideposts along roadsides with significant native vegetation throughout the shire.

Roadside reserves are essential habitat corridors which protect vegetation and provide local wildlife with food, shelter, and protection from predators. Many of these native plant and animal species are protected by state and federal laws, highlighting the need for conservation.

If you've noticed these new guideposts installed around the shire or near your property, it means you are in a significant environmental area. These markers serve as an indication of a heightened level of conservation efforts rolling out within the area, which could include tighter controls of identified noxious weeds and ensuring essential fire mitigation in these sensitive areas.

You can play an active role in helping to protect these areas by reporting any guideposts that appear to be removed or damaged.

For more info, visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/roadsides](https://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/roadsides)

Restoration funding secured

Council is thrilled to have successfully secured \$838,295 over the next three years to improve a range of riparian grasslands, woodlands and forests plant communities in and around Gisborne and Macedon townships.

With the funding focusing on the upper Maribyrnong catchment, this project aims to improve the environmental health of the catchment's headwaters.

Funded by the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust under the Urban Rivers and Catchments Program with the in-kind support of Council, this project will actively benefit native animals including the Gang-gang Cockatoo and platypus, whilst strengthening various native plant communities by enabling wide-spread revegetation, weed and pest management and establishing an innovative monitoring program.

The project will build on past works, whilst securing further investment into the conservation and regeneration of Jacksons Creek, Howey Creek and Bunjil Creek in Gisborne, Djirri Djirri Waterway Reserve in Gisborne South and Nursery Road Reserve in Macedon.

If you wish to learn more about the project and follow its progress, visit

[mrsc.vic.gov.au/environment](https://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/environment)

Backyard Biodiversity pilot

Are you a Kyneton resident that is keen to support local biodiversity but not quite sure where to start? Council is piloting a new Backyard Biodiversity program in Kyneton and is keen for participants. The program aims to help urban residents plant native species and create wildlife-friendly habitats in their own backyard.

Including a consultation with a garden expert and free native plants, this program aims to show you how simple changes in your backyard can make a big difference to local biodiversity.

To learn more about the program and submit an EOI, visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/Backyard-Biodiversity](https://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/Backyard-Biodiversity)

Youth and Early Years

Indigenous art brought to life at kindergartens

Aboriginal artist and Traditional Owner of Victoria's Woi-Wurrung Wurundjeri and Yorta-Yorta language groups, Simone Thomson has created new artwork for the children and families at Manna Gum Family and Children's Centre and Swinburne Children's Centre in Gisborne.

'Gathering Circle' has been painted in the playground at Manna Gum Family and Children's Centre to represent the children of Manna Gum gathering in their place of learning and knowledge. Connected circles represent the journey of the children coming to their place of learning, with mounds around the central circle symbolising the community. Cross hatching lines represent the mountains of the Macedon Ranges, Wurundjeri Country.

The artwork for Swinburne Avenue was created with inspiration from Geboor, Macedon Ranges. The mountains are depicted by the arced mounds along the flowing water that symbolises the surrounding creeks and rivers.

From the bird's eye view, a person is represented by the 'U' or 'n' symbol. This is the shape a person makes whilst sitting on the ground, with their knees crossed. Gathering circles represent the meeting place of Swinburne Avenue Children's Centre, and its community of children and families.

Gum leaves from Country represent the traditional custodians of the lands and waterways in which Swinburne Avenue Children's Centre sits, and symbolise caring for country and our environment, and the growth of children in their education journey tracks. With all Council kindergartens now offering 15 hours for both three and four year old kindergarten, our early years community have been exploring ways to celebrate indigenous culture with respect to the Reconciliation Action Plan. We will continue to discover how artwork and storytelling can be integrated into the learning experience.

Youth Climate Group

In partnership with VicHealth, Council is launching a Youth Climate Group in 2025 and we're inviting keen young people to register their interest to be involved.

Young people in Victoria continue to show leadership, skills, knowledge and the desire to engage in grassroots climate action and Council wants to help. The Youth Climate Group will create a safe, inclusive space for young people to take practical and youth-led action against climate change in the Macedon Ranges. This group will be provided upskilling opportunities on effectively running community groups and workshops on implementing projects that create real difference.

EOIs are expected to close by mid-April. To learn more about the Youth Climate Group and register your interest to participate, visit [yoursay.mrsc.vic.gov.au/youth-climate-group-eois](https://www.yoursay.mrsc.vic.gov.au/youth-climate-group-eois)

Libraries and Local Laws

Automatic renewals arrive!

Enjoy your library items for longer with automatic renewals! Eligible borrowed library items will now automatically renew, giving you extra time to enjoy them without the hassle of manual renewals or keeping track of due dates.

Items will automatically renew unless:

- someone else has reserved them
- you've reached your renewal limit
- you have replacement fees on your account.

Learn more at ncgrl.vic.gov.au/autorenewals or ask library staff.

Pet registration renewals

Pet registration renewals are due by 10 April 2025. Dogs and cats must be registered annually with Council. This is a legal requirement, and more importantly, keeping your pet registration current is the best way to ensure our rangers can return lost pets quickly to their rightful owner.

Registration fees help fund animal services that help protect pets, people and our environment. There are a number of ways you can renew your registration including in person at Council service centre, by mail, BPay or online.

For information, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/pet-registration or call ☎ 5422 0333.

Library App

Looking for an easier way to manage your library account and access the catalogue? Download the free Spydus Mobile app on your phone or tablet for fast, easy access!

The Spydus Mobile app allows you to:

- Log in once and stay logged in.
- Reserve items in seconds – scan the barcode of an item outside the library to check its availability and reserve instantly.
- Access your digital library card - no need to carry a physical card.
- Manage your account - see your current loans, check reservations and more.

To get started:

1. Download the Spydus Mobile app from Google Play (Android) or the App Store (Apple).
2. Select Goldfields Libraries as your library.
3. Log in with your library card number and PIN (usually your birth year).

Need help? Visit your local library and our friendly staff will guide you through the process.

Find out more at ncgrl.vic.gov.au/app

We would like to correct an error in the previous edition of ShireLife in relation to the Macedon Ranges Seed Savers seed libraries – while grateful for the support of Goldfields Libraries, Macedon Ranges Seed Savers volunteers play a larger role than previously incited in running the seed libraries including growing, collecting, cleaning and packaging the seed.

Subscribe to eNews



Receive updates on Council projects and services direct to your inbox. Subscribe to one or more of the following eNewsletters:

Aquatics and Fitness: get the latest on fitness classes, sports programs, swimming and more.

Arts and Culture: find out about festivals, exhibitions, arts events and opportunities.

Business: discover events, support and other opportunities for local business.

Disability and Inclusion: find out about events, opportunities and information for people with a disability, carers and families.

Environment: find out more about local environmental projects and events.

Family: information for local families with children aged up to eight years.

Healthy Landscapes: information and events about sustainable land management and regenerative agriculture.

Over-55s: regular updates about local events and opportunities for over-55s.

ShireLife: seasonal newsletter featuring Council projects, activities, opportunities and more.

mrsc.vic.gov.au/newsletters

Find us on social media

Get regular updates about our services, projects, events and activities via our social media channels.



Macedon Ranges Shire Council
Gisborne Fitness & Aquatic Centres
Kyneton Toyota Sports & Aquatic Centre
Macedon Ranges Over 55s Connect
Macedon Ranges Arts & Culture
Macedon Ranges Naturally Cool
Macedon Ranges Youth



@MacedonRangesSC



@MacedonRangessc and
@VisitMacedonRanges
@macedonrangesyouthservices



Macedon-Ranges-Shire-Council

Rates instalments

Rates and charges can be paid in four instalments by no later than the due date, or for the 2024-25 financial year as a single payment by 30 September 2024. Instalment reminder notices will be sent prior to each instalment date.

The remaining instalment date for 2025 is:
31 May 2025

You can pay your rates via BPay View®, online with Visa or Mastercard at mrsc.vic.gov.au/payments, direct debit, Australia Post, mail, Centrepay or in person at a Council customer service centre during opening hours.

If you have any questions about rates payment methods, or if you have difficulty paying your rates on time, call customer service on 5422 0333. Council has a Financial Hardship Policy that outlines options for ratepayers who are experiencing genuine financial hardship, while there may also be rate exemptions available under the Local Government Act (i.e. land used exclusively for charitable purposes).

Contact Council

☎ 5422 0333

✉ mrsc@mrsc.vic.gov.au

🌐 mrsc.vic.gov.au

✉ PO Box 151, Kyneton VIC 3444

Visit one of our service centres

🏠 40 Robertson Street, Gisborne

🏠 129 Mollison Street, Kyneton

🏠 96–100 Main Street, Romsey

🏠 Cnr High and Forest streets, Woodend

Residents who are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment can contact us through the National Relay Service:

- TTY users phone 133 677 then ask for 03 5422 0333.
- Speak and Listen (speech-to-speech relay) users phone 1300 555 727 then ask for 03 5422 0333.
- Internet relay users connect to the NRS (relayservice.com.au for details) and then ask for 03 5422 0333.
- Translating and Interpreting Service: call TIS National on 131 450.

If you or someone you know may benefit from receiving a large print version of this newsletter: ☎ 5422 0333

✉ comms@mrsc.vic.gov.au

Hanging Rock

Complete and present this coupon at the Hanging Rock Café to receive your exit ticket.

Name:

Address:

Offer valid until 30 June 2025. Not valid on event days and not to be used for commercial purposes. Limit one coupon per household per annum.

Green waste drop-off

Present this coupon at a resource recovery facility to drop off a free 6x4x1 trailer-load of green waste.

Offer valid until 30 June 2025. Limit one coupon per household. Green waste only, no weeds. Must show proof of residency. T&Cs apply – visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/RRF-voucher



Cr Cassy Borthwick

Mobile: 0498 806 488
cborthwick@mrsc.vic.gov.au



Cr Andrew Scanlon

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ascanlon@mrsc.vic.gov.au



Cr Daniel Young

Mobile: 0499 943 101
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South Ward



Cr Dom Bonanno

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Cr Alison Joseph

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Cr Christine Walker

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West Ward



Cr Jennifer Anderson

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Cr Kate Kendall

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Cr Janet Pearce

Mobile: 0437 282 096
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Your Councillors

Macedon Ranges Shire Council acknowledges the Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land and waterways. Council recognises their living cultures and ongoing connection to Country and pays respect to their Elders past, and present.

Council also acknowledges local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander residents of Macedon Ranges for their ongoing contribution to the diverse culture of our community.