Tennis Club Annual General Meeting

Monday 12th August—7:30pm

The Annual General Meeting of the Darraweit Guim Tennis Club will be held on MONDAY 12TH AUGUST 2013 at 7.30 P.M. at the tennis club rooms.

If you are interested in keeping our club alive and going come to the meeting as we are always looking for new members and new ideas. We look forward to seeing some new faces.

If you have any questions please ring Henriette 57891217, Helen 57891305 or Heather 57891338.

Bookclub 20th August

This month’s book is Light Between the Oceans by ML Stedman. Come along to the tennis clubrooms at 7:30pm if you are would like to be involved.

For September our book will be The Moon is a Harsh Mistress by Robert Heinlein.

If you have a book you want to share with the group, then come along and suggest it!

I have been thinking I might need to get out some more so I went and got my licence.

Hey does anyone need a truck driver?
Bicycle Safety in the Macedon Ranges

Macedon Ranges Shire Council is committed to bicycle safety in the Macedon Ranges and welcomes suggestions on new safety signage, which can be covered through our operational budget. We will assess requests for signage to ensure they are both safe and effective for cyclists and motorists.

Council received a submission to the draft 2013/14 budget calling for cycling safety initiatives, including signage. It was not necessary to make a new budget allocation specifically for this because sufficient budget already exists for the installation of these signs.

We look forward to working with cycling groups in the shire to establish where appropriate signage may be required. Many of the roads raised in the budget submission are VicRoads roads and Council will work with community groups to advocate for VicRoads to provide the appropriate signage.

Council has also started work on a Walking and Cycling Strategy, which will involve extensive community consultation and input. For more information, please contact us on (03) 5422 0333 or mrsc@mrsc.vic.gov.au

Bringing up great kids program

Macedon Ranges Shire Council, in partnership with Cobaw Community Health are delivering a 6-week program which supports parents to improve communication and develop respectful interactions with their children. It also provides parents with the skills to encourage the development of their child’s positive self-identity.

Commencing on Wednesday 7 August, sessions will be held from 10am–12noon at the Romsey Community Hub, 96-100 Main Street, Romsey. Morning tea will be provided and bookings are essential as places are limited.

To register your place, contact Janet Nicola on 5422 0281 by Wednesday 31 July.

Changes to contact details

Guim Tales—if you wish to have an article included in the September edition of the Tales please contact Helen Callahan (5789 1305)

Hall Bookings—if you wish to make a hall booking please contact Lorreine Dalton (5789 1367) or Christine Craik (5789 1373).

Old blankets, towels and old pillow cases wanted

If you have any old blankets, towels (even with holes) and pillow cases (without holes) that you are not using or throwing in the bin or taking to the op shop Helen Callahan is collecting them for a shelter. If you have any please ring Helen 5789 1305 and she will pick them up from you.

Craft Group

At the hall at 12noon for lunch or 12:30 for craft on Saturday 10th August.
You are very welcome to join us.
I take this opportunity to highlight a few of the most recent happenings around the Shire to keep our community informed.

**Community Satisfaction Survey**
The independent Community Satisfaction Survey results for 2013 were recently released. The results reflect higher levels of community satisfaction with Council’s overall performance and direction than previous years.

While we maintain a focus on continuous improvement and take on board the community’s feedback, it is very pleasing that in all five core performance areas (and in comparison to similar councils) the community has noted good overall performance in our collective works and services, and in our partnership with the community.

**2013/14 Budget**
At the Council meeting on 12 June Council adopted its 2013/14 budget with amendment that will reduce the rate revenue by $723,000 and lower the average rate increase from the proposed 6.9% to an actual 4.9%. This is the sixth year in a row that the average rate increase has remained below 5%.

The $723,000 saving was achieved by removing the purchase of new land for a proposed early years hub in Gisborne from the budget. Council will instead explore the option of building the hub on a small portion (10%) of the Council owned original proposed site of Daly Reserve.

Council also upheld its proposal to sell four pieces of vacant land in Gisborne to fund the construction of a $1.5 million netball complex, to which Council has allocated $800,000. An adjustment to the draft budget was also made to provide $90,000 for refurbishments to the Bluestone Theatre in Kyneton, which will require the support of a $290,000 state government grant.

Council took on board community feedback and adjusted the budget to better meet community expectations. As these are economically challenging times, we have sought to keep rates as low as possible while maintaining all our services and allowing for some much needed capital works due to a growing population.

**Walking and cycling strategy**
Council is currently developing a comprehensive walking and cycling strategy for the shire.

During the budget process, Council received some submissions in relation to cycle safety. Although some of these requests were well beyond the capacity of council to provide an immediate solution, they will be considered as part of the development of the new walking and cycling strategy. Many of the roads in recent requests/submissions are the responsibility of VicRoads.

Council is committed to walking and cycling safety in the shire and for the benefit and enjoyment of our community, and I look forward to the outcomes of the strategy.

**Community Funding Scheme**
Council’s annual Community Funding Scheme has this year awarded $164,000 to 52 local community groups for projects with a total combined value of $375,000.

I praise the standard and range of applications we received. Of the 70 applications received this year 74% were recommended for finding. Many applicants are contributing to their projects in other ways such as fundraising, sponsorship and in kind support, bringing the total value of projects happening on the ground to over $375,000.

A high percentage of applications were for community projects, followed by sporting activities, arts and tourism events, and initiatives relating to family and children’s services in the shire.

Mayor, Cr. Roger Jukes
Council advocates for NBN in the Macedon Ranges

Macedon Ranges Shire Council welcomed the opportunity to participate in a round table meeting with the new Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Mr Anthony Albanese, in Bendigo last week.

The meeting was facilitated by the Loddon Mallee Working Group, of which Council is a member. It provided the opportunity for Council to continue their involvement in the advocacy campaign for high-speed broadband across the region.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council Mayor, Roger Jukes, said Council’s involvement in these discussions is essential.

“We are fortunate to have the support of the Loddon Mallee Working Group and to have the Macedon Ranges included in their advocacy campaign.

“We will also continue to advocate directly with NBN Co, whenever possible, to ensure that more communities within the Macedon Ranges receive high-speed broadband,” he said.

For more information, call the NBN Co Contact Centre on 1800 816 818 or visit www.nbnco.com.au

Equine industry network established in the Macedon Ranges

A new equine industry network, named “R.E.I.N”, has been established by Macedon Ranges Shire Council in partnership with members of the equine community.

The network, which stands for Ranges Equine Industry Network, was developed as part of the Macedon Ranges Equine Industry Strategy 2011-16.

Council’s Manager of Economic Development and Tourism, Kylie Lethbridge, said that it will be an action-based network that will assist Council to implement the actions outlined in the Equine Strategy.

“We are in the process of forming task groups to work with us to deliver some of the actions in the strategy such as communications, the equine centre feasibility and emergency management.

“We have representatives from a broad cross-section of the local equine industry on board, including large and small businesses, clubs and riders, and we would encourage anyone with an interest in horses to join the network,” she said.

Network members will have a chance to provide input into the implementation of the five year equine strategy and will also receive regular updates about equine-related news and events happening throughout the shire.

To find out more about the Equine Strategy, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/business/strategies

To join the network or a task group, contact Leanne Davey on 5421 9617 or email ldavey@mrsc.vic.gov.au