

Major projects and road fixes progressing during fine weather

The summer months gave us the opportunity to get stuck into major projects and roads upgrades, with great results throughout the shire.

Ballan Splash Park is nearing completion – a continuation of the Mill Park upgrade project. Works include installing approximately 40 pieces of equipment, additional shade structures, paving and a new public amenities block.



Gordon Public Park has also received an upgrade, and is looking fantastic with its new skate park, basketball half court, park and landscaping.

Work will begin soon on construction of the Ballan Library and Community Hub, with the tender awarded recently. This project will include a state-of-the-art library, community spaces, maternal and child health services, art spaces and an outdoor courtyard.

Work at Bacchus Marsh Racecourse Recreation Reserve continue, with the all-abilities playground very close to finished and looking fantastic, and the sports ovals and netball courts nearly completed. The ongoing works at the reserve have created an expansive top-class sports precinct, with multiple ovals, BMX track, courts, the playground and pavilions. A big thank you to the Victorian Government for its significant investment in this site.

A new basketball/netball half-court has been built at Jonathan Drive, in Darley and is open for the community to enjoy.

The following areas have benefited from recent road upgrades:

- Hogan Road and Densley St, Ballan – extended underground drainage network, kerb and channel upgrades and widening the road pavement. Completed in March.
- Ingliston Road, Ingliston - the reconstruction, widening and sealing of 2.3km of existing road; widening and sealing of almost 1km of existing



road; and the reconstruction, widening and sealing of approximately 500m of existing road. Completed in March.

- Ballan-Egerton Road - the reconstruction and sealing of 4.3km of road between Geelong-Ballan Road and the bridge over the Moorabool River. Completed in March.
- Ballan-Meredith Road - the reconstruction and sealing of 1.9km of road starting from Geelong-Ballan Road. Completed in March.
- Links Road, Darley - the construction of new footpath between Robertson Road and Fairway Court, Darley (approximately 700m) - completed in April.

Visit our website for updates on major projects.



Autumn Plant Giveaway a big success

In a display of community engagement and environmental stewardship, the Environment and Waste Team at Council have wrapped up their plant giveaway events which took place over autumn, leaving a trail of green thumbs in its wake. Over the course of five events, 5,500 native tube stock plants were distributed to eager residents across the shire, bringing a burst of biodiversity to gardens in Moorabool.

The initiative aimed to promote native flora, enhance local biodiversity, and foster a deeper connection between residents and their natural environment. Each event saw a considerable turnout as residents from all corners of the shire claimed their share of the free native plants for their gardens.

The turnout at each event reflects a commitment to the natural environment and a desire to enhance the biodiversity and ecological resilience of the region. Indigenous plants not only beautify gardens, but contribute to the preservation of local wildlife habitats. Residents can now expect to see more birds and butterflies in their garden as plants mature.

Available native flora spanned a diverse range of species, catering to various gardens and environmental conditions across Moorabool. From striking river red gums, robust kangaroo grasses, and radiant goodenias, each plant offered unique benefits in terms of maintenance, water conservation, habitat supply, and aesthetic appeal.

For more information and links to environment groups, go to moorabool.vic.gov.au/environment



Community Corner

Victorian Seniors Festival in October- mark your calendars

Did you know the Victorian Seniors Festival (VSF) celebrates people over 55 every year during the month of October?

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Do you have ideas, suggestions or recommendations for an event or activity? Perhaps you are an organised group or club who'd like to host an event? We'd love to hear from you.

Let's encourage as many seniors to participate and explore social opportunities in the shire.

To help us all make Moorabool's VSF celebrations better than ever in 2024, please contact Council's community development team on 5366 7100 or email info@moorabool.vic.gov.au to start the conversation.



Moorabool Shire Community Grants open August 2024

Council’s Community Grants Program is open for applications between 1-30 August 2024. The program offers over \$270,000 annually, to assist non-profit organisations and community groups deliver projects benefiting the Moorabool community.

Grants are available for projects that align with the following categories:

- Community Strengthening (Community Programs Activities and Initiatives and small Capital Improvement Projects)
- Community Arts & Culture
- Community Events
- Community Development Fund
- Sustainability and Environmental Engagement

For more information on the funding streams available, eligibility requirements and to find out when grant writing workshops and drop-in sessions to discuss your project idea and eligibility will be taking place, visit moorabool.vic.gov.au/communitygrants.

Council’s Community Development Team can also be contacted via 5366 7100 to answer queries and provide advice on grant applications.



Moorabool Community Resilience Project

A new project is underway to support the communities impacted by the 2022 floods.

The Moorabool Community Resilience Project has commenced in the communities of Myrniong, Gordon/Mount Egerton, and Morrisons/Lal Lal/Elaine and their surrounding areas to support them to become better prepared for, and resilient to, future emergency events.

The anticipated outcomes of the project will aim to improve the preparedness, confidence and recovery in response to any unplanned event that has potential to impact the towns involved.

Funded by Emergency Recovery Victoria, the project will be led by each community to ensure the initiatives, resources and activities developed reflect their character, experiences and local knowledge.

Conversations and activities have already been held in some of the communities with more planned over the next few months.

To join in the conversation, or have someone from the project team attend a meeting or event, please contact the Emergency Management team on 53667100 or visit moorabool.vic.gov.au/resilienceproject for updates.



Energy Assistance Program

Council is encouraging the community to check out the Victorian Government’s Energy Assistance Program - a free service to support Victorian households who are having trouble paying their energy bills. The program assists participants to apply for energy concessions and debt relief grants, find and switch to the best energy offer for their household, understand energy bills and how to save energy at home, and can speak to participant’s retailers on their behalf. To date, with the support of Anglicare Victoria, and Community Information Support Victoria (CISVic), the program has reached more than 8000 Victorian energy consumers.

To be eligible to access the Energy Assistance Program, Victorians will need to:

- Hold a Commonwealth Government Concession card; or
- Be struggling or expecting to struggle to pay an energy bill.

More information: energy.vic.gov.au

Engaging our Community

Community engagement is an important process that allows our community to have their say on decisions that affect their lives. Council regularly engages with our community on a broad range of projects and decision making.

To view current opportunities, and share your ideas and feedback on issues and projects that matter to you, visit Council’s ‘Have Your Say’ portal - haveyoursay.moorabool.vic.gov.au



Avenue of Honour Trees preserved for future generations

Work began late last month to replace several ageing or poor condition trees in The Avenue of Honour, as part of the adopted Bacchus Marsh Avenue of Honour Management Strategy and Preservation Plan.

This work is being undertaken as part of Council's ongoing commitment to preserving the future of the Avenue of Honour as a living memorial.

Following significant consultation with a range of stakeholders last year, Council adopted the two key documents (BMAOH Management Strategy and BMAOH Preservation Plan) to guide the ongoing management of the Bacchus Marsh Avenue of Honour (BMAOH) into the future.

Recognising the decline in health of the existing aging trees, and considering ongoing management, risk, heritage significance and aesthetics, it was determined that an infill/staged approach should be taken to renewing the avenue trees over time, ensuring that there remains an avenue for future generations.

The Preservation Plan provides for the replacement of 255 trees in poor condition and/or for strategic reasons (incorrect species, location and/or to stage loss in canopy) over a 20-year period, with 30 trees proposed for the first 2.5 years.

To commence the implementation of the plan, the following nine trees are proposed for replacement in 2023/24, in addition to a tenth tree recently damaged during a storm event. The remaining 21 trees will be

spread over the 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years.

You can read more about the stories behind each of the trees on a website managed by the Bacchus Marsh branch of the RSL: bacchusmarsh.avenueofhonour.org.au

N003- proactive replacement: John William Allan

S030 - proactive replacement, not true to type: William Brennan

S032 - proactive replacement: Isaac Brunt

S036 - proactive replacement: William Buckley

N041- proactive replacement: John Henderson Campbell

N043 - recent storm damage: John Robert Calderwood

N047- proactive replacement: Harold Heathcote Hayes Chambers

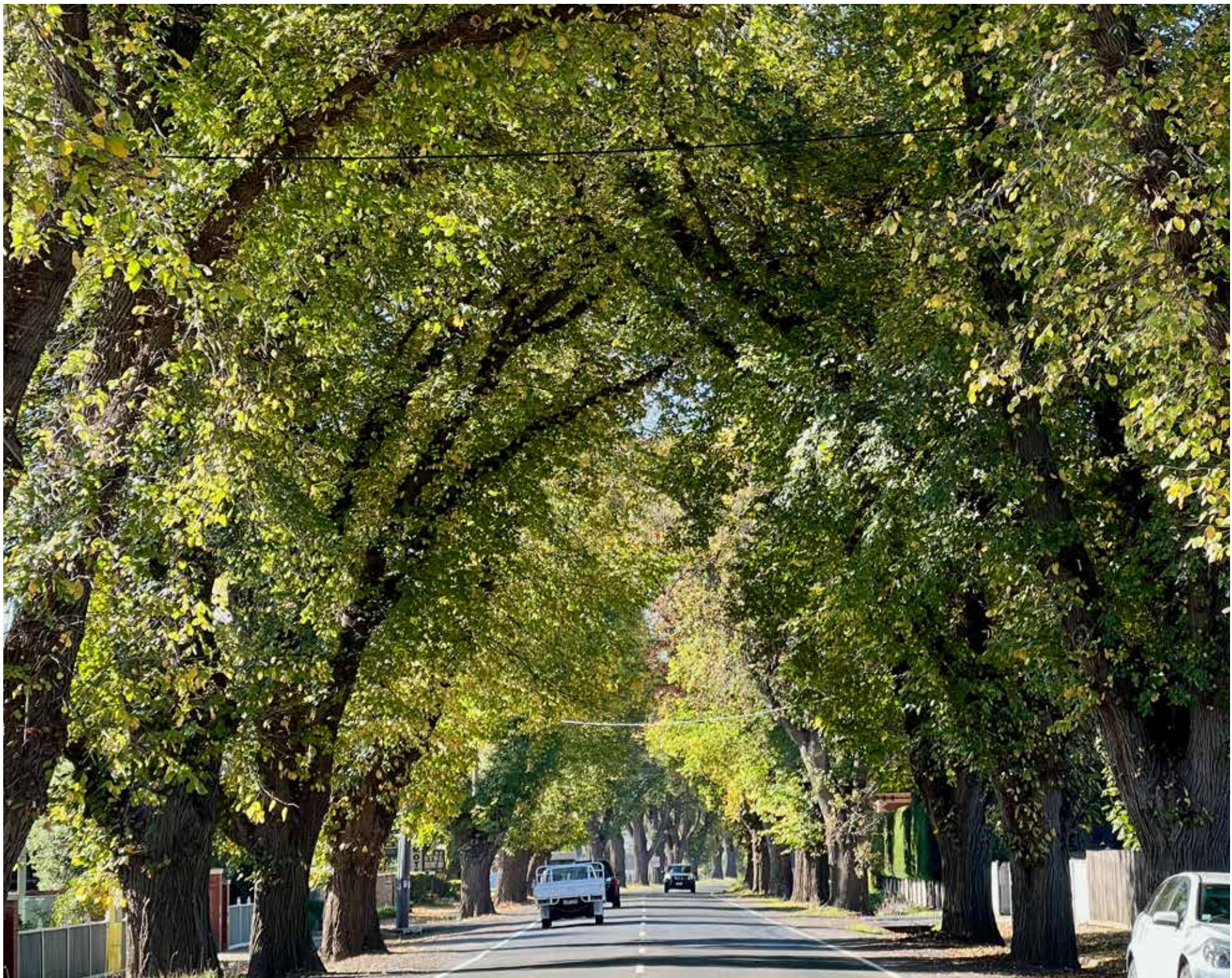
S090 - proactive replacement: Thomas Joseph Dodemaide

N101- proactive replacement: Reginald Robert Evans

N105- proactive replacement: Roy Meade Emmett

Preserving the health and integrity of the Avenue of Honour is of great importance to Council.

The BMAOH Management Strategy and the BMAOH Preservation Plan are both available on Council's website: moorabool.vic.gov.au





Enjoy a coffee and connect with fellow business people



Council has reintroduced its monthly Coffee Connect business networking series to reignite collaboration, knowledge sharing, and community engagement among local businesses.

This monthly event aims to provide a networking platform for business owners to meet and exchange ideas, and promote their ventures while exploring the diverse hospitality offerings within Moorabool Shire.

The first one in the new series was earlier in May in Bacchus Marsh. Further events are planned for Ballan, Blackwood and another Bacchus Marsh event.

The coffee mornings go from 9-10am with venues to be determined. They're open to all business owners within the shire, and bookings are required. Please keep an eye on the events pages on our website for details and to book: moorabool.vic.gov.au or email business@moorabool.vic.gov.au

EmpowerHER: Women in Business Networking Event Returns in 2024



There is still time to register for our acclaimed networking event for Women in business, but get in quick!

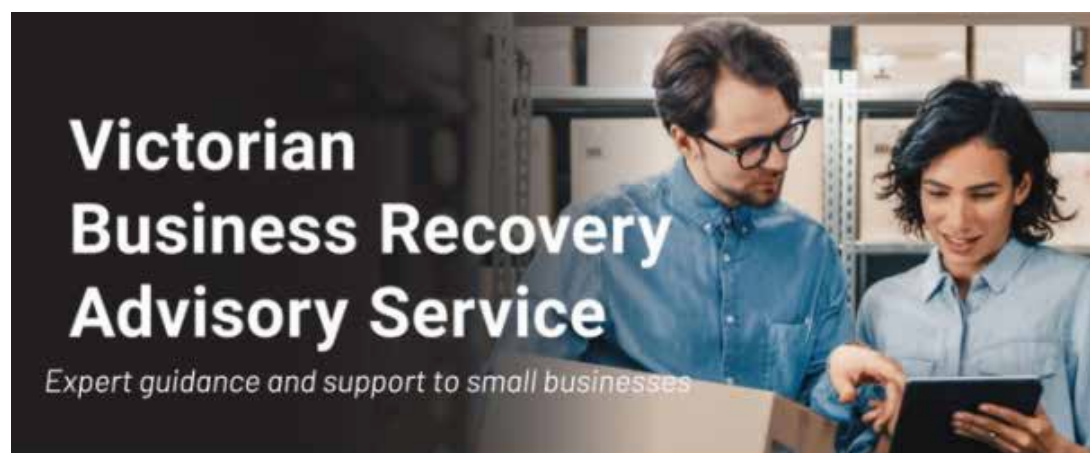
The event, in Ballan next week, will focus on empowering women entrepreneurs through targeted networking opportunities and interactive breakout sessions centered on digital marketing and personal branding.

Building on the success of previous years, attendees can expect to delve into real-life business solutions and advice, learn the art of leveraging social media for business benefit and engage in facilitating more local business connections. The breakout sessions will be tailored to marketing strategies for all types of women business owners, ensuring a comprehensive learning experience for all.

The highlight of the event will be the keynote address by Nina Christian, founder and proprietor of Agency Bravada, which was honored as the "Best Marketing Agency" at the prestigious Australian Marketing Excellence Awards.

The event will be held on Thursday 30 May from 9am–3pm at the Ballan Mechanics Institute. Morning tea and a light lunch will be provided.

For more information and to register for the event, please visit the events section of Council's website.



Build up business resilience through a FREE resource, offering tailored support and expert guidance to small businesses in Moorabool Shire.



Thurs, 20 June, 8.30am – 10.30am
Bacchus Marsh Public Hall
207 Main St, Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340

Light breakfast provided.

Presented by:



Keys to Success for Small Business Owners

This workshop aims to equip small business owners with essential business fundamentals, providing insights to optimise marketing efforts and conduct simple analysis to enhance business resilience.



Introduction to Wellbeing

This interactive session focuses on fostering business resilience through comprehensive wellness strategies. Attendees will gain tips on maintaining health, effectively managing stress.

SCAN or click on link to REGISTER

<https://www.moorabool.vic.gov.au/Events/Entrepreneurial-Resilience-Online-Series-Breakfast-Program>



The program is jointly funded by the Australian and Victorian Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements for the Victorian Floods which commenced in October 2022 (AGRN 1027) (the "Victorian Floods").

Brought to you by



Council elections - voting and standing for Council

Council elections are on later this year, so make sure you’re enrolled to vote!

The current Council finishes its 4-year term this year, and Moorabool Shire residents will vote for a new Council at an election in October.

Major changes to the make-up of Moorabool Shire Council will come into effect at this upcoming election. Instead of the current seven Councillors and ward boundaries, there will be nine Councillors and no ward structure.

Every property owner over 18 is required to vote in the election. Ensure your details are up to date with the Victorian Electoral Commission: vec.vic.gov.au/enrolment/enrol-to-vote/enrolling-for-local-council-elections.

Thinking of standing for Council?

Anyone who is considering standing for Council is being encouraged to attend a candidate information session. Moorabool Shire Council’s allocated session is being hosted by Ballarat City Council on Thursday 8 August 2024. More details and information about what being a Councillor entails is available on the Municipal Association of Victoria’s website: www.mav.asn.au/stand-for-council-2024



Celebrating International Nurses Day



Council was proud to celebrate International Nurses Day on 12 May, as we recognise the amazing work our nurses do to provide care and support to all our families in the community.

We are so lucky to have such amazing nurses with the biggest hearts

and the strongest minds. Caring for one is love but caring for everyone is nursing.

If you use our maternal and child health services, and come across our lovely nurses, join us in thanking them.



Keep up to date with our exciting youth activities

2024 Youth Art Awards

The Youth Art Awards and Exhibition is an exciting event designed to celebrate the creativity, talent and unique perspectives of young Moorabool residents aged between 11-25. The exhibition and awards night aims to provide a platform for budding artists and photographers to showcase their skills, express themselves artistically and engage with the community. From paintings to sculptures, digital art to mixed media, the Youth Art Awards promises to be an exceptional showcase. Entries are open now until 1 June, with artwork exhibited at Lerderderg Library between 11-19 June. The exhibition will be followed by a fully catered and fun filled awards night on 20 June.

More information can be found at moorabool.vic.gov.au/youth or on our Moorabool Youth Services Facebook page.

Autumn Holiday Program

The Autumn Holiday Program was action-packed and filled with laughter, friendship and unforgettable memories. Our young people were involved in many fun and engaging activities. They experienced the fun of leaps and flips at Xtreme Bounce, engaged in arts and crafts including tie dye at Studio 22 and danced to the music at our Just Dance Party – just to name a few. With a dynamic mix of activities fully supervised by our experienced and enthusiastic youth team, join us in the July holidays for a program filled with something for everyone – particularly if you are creative or adventurous!



Guitar Lessons

Each week at our youth drop in spaces, Studio 22 (Darley) and Ballan Youth Zone, our resident guitar teacher Andy unlocks the power of music and ignites musical passions with guitar lessons tailored for young people aged 11-25. Whether beginner or an intermediate player, our experienced instructor Andy is there to guide young people on their



musical journey. From mastering chords to developing a unique style, Andy's lessons are engaging, interactive and fun. With decades of guitar mastery and a passion for performing with his own band, Andy is a seasoned musician who brings both expertise and enthusiasm to his teaching of young aspiring guitarists. He finds immense joy in sharing his love for music and nurturing the talents of the next generation through guitar lessons.

"I started playing guitar at the age of 12. I started out as lead guitarist when joining the band scene, playing in many bands by the time I was 30. Being in many different bands helped me become a versatile player, playing lead, rhythm and acoustic and slide in any genre, blues, soul and rock. Ballads being my favourite." - Andy Borg

Sessions run fortnightly at each of our drop-in sessions and include group and individual instruction. Guitars are available to loan or bring your own. Sign up for our guitar lessons today using the link and let the music begin!

Darley Guitar Lessons - <https://www.trybooking.com/CQXMN>

Ballan Guitar Lessons - <https://www.trybooking.com/CQXMH>



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Refer to Council’s website for a full list of 2024 Council meeting dates and times:
moorabool.vic.gov.au

Ordinary Meetings of Council to be held at Ballan Council Chambers: (commencing at 6 pm)

DATES	
5 June 2024	18 September 2024
3 July 2024	4 December 2024
7 August 2024	18 December 2024
4 September 2024	

Important emergency contact information

Police / CFA / Ambulance	000
SES	132500
Flood and Storm Info Line	1300 842 737
Victorian Bushfire Information Line	1800 240 667
Bacchus Marsh Hospital	5367 2000
Moorabool Shire Council	5366 7100
Emergency after hours animal control	5366 7100 <i>(option 1)</i>
Aged and Disability Services	0409 138 201
For all other emergencies	0419 887 065



IMPORTANT NOTES TO READERS

Moorabool Matters is Moorabool Shire Council’s official community newsletter, promoting events, activities, projects and issues in our Shire. This publication is part of Council’s ongoing commitment to improve communication and consultation with residents. It is published four times a year and delivered to residents through The Moorabool News newspaper. Every effort is made to ensure information included in Moorabool Matters is accurate at the time of publishing but may be subject to change. Readers are encouraged to contact Council or organisations listed in the newsletter for specific information. If you have any questions or comments about Moorabool Matters, please contact the Media and Marketing Officer at Moorabool Shire Council on **5366 7100** or email info@moorabool.vic.gov.au