Party Time!

Florence Collins Child Care Centre turns 40
A safer intersection

Works to make the Howard Street / Nelson Street intersection in central Warrnambool safer for all road users are under way.

The works include new traffic islands and pedestrian refuges, green bike lanes, a new footpath and lighting upgrades as well as kerb narrowing on each corner and the removal of trees.

The $187,000 upgrade is entirely funded by the Federal Government’s Black Spot Program.

Three accidents have happened at the site over the past five years, with one involving a cyclist.

Warrnambool City Council Director City Infrastructure Scott Cavanagh said that an analysis of the site’s crash history suggested that improvements were required.

“All of the recent accidents at the intersection involved a vehicle on Nelson Street failing to give way, two of which were in dark and wet conditions” he said.

“The lighting and traffic island upgrades will make it more obvious to drivers travelling along Nelson Street that they are approaching an intersection.

“The aim of the green bike lane is to make drivers more aware of cyclists travelling on Howard Street.

“Once complete, this upgrade will reduce the likelihood of accidents at the intersection for vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians.”

The upgrade is expected to be completed by the end of April.

Fund provides key to new home

More than 40 people have bought new homes in Warrnambool with the help of a unique grant available through Warrnambool City Council.

When launched in 2013 Council’s North Dennington Housing Affordability Program provided the assistance many people needed to help crack the challenging housing market.

The program, which will finish at the end of June 30 this year, aims to help Warrnambool residents realise the dream of owning their own home.

“This initiative, made possible with support from the Australian Government’s Building Better Regional Cities program, really hit the mark in terms of being the final piece of the puzzle for getting people into their own homes,” Manager Economic Development and Investment Shaun Miller said.

“It’s enabled people from a broad demographic range to enter the housing market.

“About 25 per cent of applicants were aged 18 to 24 years, 40 per cent were aged 25 to 34 years, 30 per cent were aged 35 to 44 while five per cent of applicants were older than 44.

“And there was also a relatively even spread of people with or without partners and with or without children.

“And it’s that kind of diverse mix that helps build a neighbourhood and sense of community.”

Along with providing grants of up to $20,000 to eligible applicants the program included the $2.5 million construction in 2014 of Coghlans Rd, a key east-west link to the city’s residential growth areas in North Dennington.

For more information on the housing affordability program including details on eligibility and an application form go to: www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au/north-dennington-housing-affordability-program
Flexible tickets, hours and a pirate theme!

Early evening entertainment, a pirate theme and more flexible ticketing options will be features of this year’s Fun4Kids Festival.

The dates for the 19th Fun4Kids Festival were officially announced on March 22 by Warrnambool Mayor Cr Kylie Gaston.

“Fun4Kids will run from Wednesday, July 5 to Sunday, July 9, which is the first week of the school holidays,” Cr Gaston said.

“And on each of those days the festival will stay open to 7pm, giving parents who are still working greater opportunity to enjoy the festival with their kids.

“It’s a more family-friendly program and so too are the ticketing options. People can choose either one, two or five-day passes which will also provide access or discounts to other family-friendly venues within the Warrnambool region.

“And we are confident that kids will really embrace the pirate theme.” Further details on the program including key performers and entertainment zones will be announced in coming weeks, with tickets going on sale in April.

The festival will continue to highlight Warrnambool and the Great South Coast as a great year-round venue.

Rolling out the red carpet for CBD shoppers

The Red Carpet Traders initiative was launched in March, providing shoppers with another incentive to continue shopping in the city centre.

Red carpets have been laid in front of businesses directly impacted by the $15 million City Centre Renewal project as a clear indicator that they are still accessible and open for business.

As part of the initiative, Red Carpet Traders are offering special deals in-store. Traders are also allocated prizes which they are able to use to further promote their businesses.

“Step out in style and stroll the red carpet in Liebig Street,” Warrnambool Mayor Cr Kylie Gaston said.

“During the renovations the red carpet will indicate that it is business as usual, even while work is under way on the renewal.

“These businesses are open and accessible and continuing to look after and serve their customers.

“You will see red carpet outside Liebig Street shops between Raglan Parade and Koroit Street.

“A number of businesses will be offering specials and a chance to win a prize.

Council has provided free 90-minute parking in Parkers Car Park along with making grants available to eligible retailers and property owners within the project area to help improve shop facades and access into their buildings. The City Centre Renewal is being delivered in a way that minimises the disruption to businesses.

This includes a commitment from Council to, wherever possible, maintain access to businesses within the construction zone during trading hours.

To follow the latest Red Carpet promotions, visit www.facebook.com/warrnambool/cbd.

Building a 21st century city centre

The $15 million City Centre Renewal is continuing with work focused on the west side of Liebig Street between Lava and Liebig streets, including the roundabouts.

In this work zone over the past month drainage work has been largely completed, underground electrical and communications work is also nearly completed.

Above-ground concrete structures will become sheltered seating clad in stone while work replacing ageing water mains was also carried out.

Concrete slabs are being poured which will serve as foundations for bluestone footpaths and the cooler, wetter weather will provide an opportunity to prepare for tree replacement which will include the installation of planter cells to contain the roots and help prevent them from entering drains and other underground infrastructure.

For updates on construction progress and the incentives offered for shopping in the city centre go to www.cbd.warrnambool.vic.gov.au
The pipes, the pipes are calling!

The South West Coast Piper Drummer Dancer (SWCPDD) is on this month and promises three days of piping, drumming and dancing for students and fans of Celtic music.

The Warrnambool Pipe Band is tuning up for its major annual event, which will be held from April 21-23.

Budding pipers, drummers, drum majors and highland dancers will have the opportunity to hone their skills under the guidance of expert tutors.

Internationally renowned pipers Xavier Boderiou and Stuart Easton will perform as part of the Celtic Showcase on April 21 at Kings College from 7.30pm.

The pair will be joined by multiple World Pipe Band Championship winning snare drummer J Reid Maxwell.

Also on the bill are the Ardlair Dance School and the Warrnambool and King’s College pipe bands.

Another key SWCPDD event is the Massed Band on the Civic Green from 5.30pm on April 22. This free event will be a spectacular display of Celtic music on a grand scale.

For more information on the SWCPDD visit www.wadpadi.org.au.

Warrnambool 2040

What is your wish for Warrnambool?

That will be the big question on everyone’s lips next month. Look out for more information in the coming weeks.

We’ll have more to say about this in the May edition of C2C.

Having your say

Thank you to those who last month provided feedback on the Council Plan discussion document.

Council is now developing a Draft Council Plan which will go out to the community for comment.

Thank you also to those who took part in the recent survey of Council’s communication and engagement effort. The results are being collated and the winner of the Lighthouse Theatre tickets will be notified shortly.
The Warrnambool City Council is making it even easier to protect yourself and your family from influenza.

Council will be running a flu vaccine service every Friday until June 30, with no appointment necessary. The service will operate from the Children’s Service Centre at 550-600 Raglan Parade. Sessions will run from 8.30am until 2.30pm, with the injections to be administered by a fully qualified registered nurse immuniser. A quadrivalent flu vaccine is being offered, which will help prevent four strains of influenza.

The initiative aims to increase the uptake of flu vaccinations in the general community. This service costs $25.

People aged 65 years and over, Aboriginal and Torres Strait people aged six months to less than five years and 15 years and over, pregnant women and people aged six months and over with certain medical conditions may be eligible for a free flu vaccine under the National Immunisation Program, however they will need to contact their doctor or community health service provider to obtain this. The flu increases rates of sick leave and decreases productivity at workplaces, and Council’s nurse immunisers are also available to conduct immunisations sessions at workplaces.

Please contact Health and Local Laws Operations Officer Bianca Uwland on 5559 4855 for more information.

The Warrnambool Railway Station

More parking, better lighting at the station

The Victorian Government announced recently that it would fund the addition of at least 100 new car parking spaces at the eastern end of the railway station precinct, along with a lighting upgrade.

New bus shelters and seating will also be installed at the Koroit Street bus interchange and at the Deakin University bus stop as part of the project.

“This is great news for our city,” Warrnambool Mayor Cr Kylie Gaston said.

“The experience for rail and bus passengers will be improved as a result of the upgrades.

“The additional car parking is also a fantastic boost for our city centre commuters and others visiting the CBD.

Council has welcomed the Victorian Government’s commitment to improve parking and lighting at the Warrnambool Railway Station.

“This is an outcome Council has been working towards for some time and we are thrilled with the support for the project from the Victorian Government.”

The Victorian Government anticipates awarding contracts for the work by the end of April with construction expected to start later this year.

The Victorian Government has also begun work on the $10 million upgrade of 20 high-risk rail crossings between Waurn Ponds and Warrnambool.

This project will allow rail speed restrictions to be lifted which in recent months have resulted in longer travel times.

Crossings at Gnotuk, Pirron Yallock, Tragowel and Larpent have already been upgraded.

Please contact Health and Local Laws Operations Officer Bianca Uwland on 5559 4855 for more information.
A clean death for weeds

Weeds at Surfside Holiday Parks will meet a steamy end, thanks to a newly acquired machine.

The SW800, invented by Australian company Weedtechnics, utilises steam to kill weeds and unwanted grass without the need to use potentially harmful chemicals.

Water in the machine is heated to 120°C, which is only possible due to the pressurised environment.

It is then pumped to the trigger-action nozzle, and saturated steam is sprayed onto weeds at about 100°C.

The machine is trailer mounted for mobility.

By using the Weedtechnics machine, Surfside is able to cut down on its use of herbicides, which is great for the environment.

Staff can now carry out weed killing even if rain or wind is expected without fear of chemical run-off or overspray.

The steam gun can also be used closer to tents, caravans and desirable plant life than would be possible if using a chemical spray.

The $10,000 machine was partially funded by an internal Warrnambool City Council grant, which supports Council departments to implement environmentally-friendly initiatives.

Weedtechnics machines are already in operation at local councils in Melbourne, Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia.

Nurturing happy, healthy children since 1977

First opening its doors in 1977 in Koroit Street, Florence Collins Child Care Centre has been offering quality childcare ever since.

The centre eventually outgrew this site, with a move to a more spacious building in Kepler Street completed in 1999 in partnership with SWTAFE.

Today, Florence Collins provides a nurturing environment for up to 103 children each day, spread across seven rooms.

Warrnambool City Council Manager Early Years Learning and Development Ebony Grieve said that quality early years services were vital to ensuring that children become lifelong learners.

“Research has supported the importance of quality early years services in ensuring that happy and confident children grow up to become capable adults,” she said.

“Children’s early experiences lay a foundation for learning and development in years to come.

“Florence Collins has been the first step in the educational pathway of more than 10,000 people in our community.

“We have had two generations of families through the service over the 40 years.”

Ms Grieve said that while the service has evolved over the past 40 years, some things will never change.

“Florence Collins has been the first step in the educational pathway of more than 10,000 people in our community.”

Specialised programs include participation in the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation Project, the Healthy Together Victoria Achievement Program and Smiles 4 Miles.

For more information, visit www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au.
It is so exciting to see the city centre undergoing its transformation.

The City Centre Renewal is all about making our city a more accessible and enjoyable space.

And while the changes at street level will be significant, shoppers and city centre workers will have observed there is an immense amount of below-ground work taking place. Although this won’t be visible in the “final product” it is just as important to update the underground infrastructure as it is improve the space above-ground.

Traffic is being managed around the work and we are extremely appreciative of the patience and understanding shown by traders, shoppers and visitors to the city centre. Please keep supporting your favourite city centre businesses – our City Renewal team is rolling out the work to ensure that wherever possible businesses remain accessible to customers. They have put a great deal of thought into the rollout of the work and have scheduled the more disruptive work outside business hours.

We had wonderful news recently with the Victorian Government committing funding towards improving the railway precinct and two important city bus stops. Part of this project includes the creation of additional car parking at the railway precinct. This is great news not only for those using the rail service but will also provide another parking option for city centre visitors and workers. Making better use of the railway precinct – including creating additional parking – is an issue on which Council has advocated for some time.

Council is in the process of working through a Draft Council Plan. This is a really important document that helps guide Council over a four-year period. The community will have the opportunity to provide further input into this document over coming weeks. If you are passionate about Warrnambool, please look out for opportunities to have your say which will be advertised over coming weeks.

Cr Kylie Gaston, Mayor  
p. 0437 623 715  
e. kgaston@warrnambool.vic.gov.au

Active Autumn is back!  
A series of Active Hubs will be running across Warrnambool from mid-April through May. Free fun for everyone will be coming to a neighbourhood near you!

Dates and locations will be released shortly - LIKE Connect Warrnambool on Facebook and keep an eye on the events calendar at www.connectwarrnambool.com.au/events for more information.

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Cr Robert Anderson  
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Cr Tony Herbert  
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Cr Peter Hulin  
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Cr David Owen  
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e. dowen@warrnambool.vic.gov.au
**Storytime**

Every Wednesday, 11am – 11.30am
Warraambool Library
Storytime is a short program with stories specially selected for 3-5 year olds. Books are read by experienced and enthusiastic staff. Storytime is followed by a simple craft activity.
www.crlc.vic.gov.au

**Rhyme Time**

Every Wednesday, 2.30pm – 3pm and every Friday, 10.30am – 11am
Warraambool Library
Come along to Rhyme Time ready to wiggle your fingers, clap your hands and have a fun time. Ideal for those aged 0-3.
www.crlc.vic.gov.au

**Senior Victorian Motocross Titles**

Saturday April 8 – Sunday April 9, 8am – 4pm
Lake Gillear, Buckleys Road, Allansford
Two days of motocross action featuring some of the best riders in the state.
Contact Tracy on 0409 568 007.

**Sprintcars, Super Rods and Fireworks**

Sunday April 16, 4pm
Premier Speedway
A massive day of racing, culminating in a spectacular fireworks display. Open pit from 3-4pm, racing from 5pm.
Tickets: Adult $30, Children 10-15 $10, Children 9 and Under Free
www.premierspeedway.com.au

**Celtic Showcase**

Friday April 21, 7.30pm
King’s College Auditorium
This showcase will feature some of the world’s finest Celtic musicians including Xavier Boderiou, Stuart Easton and J Reid Maxwell.
Tickets: Adult $20, Family $40 (two adults and four children).
For bookings call Michelle on 0409 131 113.
www.wadpadi.org.au

**South West Coast Piper Drummer Dancer Massed Band**

Saturday April 22, 5.30pm
Warraambool Civic Green
This free event will be a spectacular display of Celtic music on a grand scale.
www.wadpadi.org.au

**Zest for Life Supper Dance**

Friday April 28, 7pm – 10pm
Wannon Club
Music by Nite Moves. Gold coin entry with supper provided.
RSVP by April 24. Contact Carol on 0417 566 336.

**Snake Sessions**

Branch Nebula
Saturday April 1, 5pm
An improvised parkour, BMX skate and dance performance.

**Rule of Thirds**

Chunky Moves
Thursday April 6, 8pm
Be mesmerised by this daring, virtuosic performance, which celebrates perseverance, audacity and our common desire for reinvention.

**It Ain’t Easy Being Elvis**

INEBE Productions
Saturday April 8, 8pm
The story of one man’s journey across the globe as an Elvis Presley tribute artist.

**Torte e Mort**

Anya Anastasia
Wednesday April 12, 8pm
A fast-paced, all-original visually decadent cabaret full of recognisable characters.

**Raise the Barre**

Masters of Choreography
Saturday April 22, 7pm
An extravaganza of ballet, jazz and commercial dance.

**Coranderrk**

Thursday April 27, 7.30pm
Honest, raw and poignant, Coranderrk recreates an 1881 Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry where the people of Coranderrk Aboriginal Reserve went head-to-head with the Aboriginal Protection Board.

**What the World Needs Now**

Morning Music
Wednesday May 3, 11am
This Burt Bacharach tribute performance will feature over twenty popular hits.

**An intimate evening with David Hobson**

Wednesday May 3, 7.30pm
David will highlight a collection of arias and songs from his diverse career which spans the genres of opera, musical theatre and contemporary repertoire.