

my strath bogie

Winter Bulletin



Council responds to VAGO Audit Report

What happened?

Strathbogieshire Council was one of four Victorian councils randomly selected to participate in the Victorian Auditor General's Office Audit (VAGO) on fraud and corruption control in Local Government.

The report concluded there was no fraud or corruption detected at Strathbogieshire, but it did identify expenditure where it was unclear how residents and ratepayers benefited, practices that may not meet public expectations and non-compliance with legislative requirements aimed at ensuring transparency over council practices to their communities and regulators.

We understand the community's concern and disappointment. Council is also disappointed by the breadth of improper actions highlighted in the VAGO report and the organisation's failure to meet the expectations of our community. Our primary goal now is to implement an action plan that will improve our governance and auditing practices and the culture of the organisation to adhere to them.

Significant resources have been allocated to address the recommendations in the VAGO report and improve our policies and practices.

What are we doing about it?

Since we received the first draft of the VAGO Audit report, Council started a process to address issues outlined in the report. For example, we immediately stopped the process of selling cars to staff. In addition to the short-term actions, we have developed an action plan, through input from VAGO, Council and Council's audit committee, which will systematically review and improve all our systems and processes.

Strathbogieshire Council has clear policies regarding expenditure. The first step is reviewing these to ensure they are rigorous. The second step is to change the culture of the organisation to ensure these are understood and adhered to.

However, it is important to note that VAGO found the behaviour of a few 'may not have met community expectations' and we believe the majority of our employees adhere to the policies and procedures that are already in place.

Our commitment to the community

We are committed to open and transparent engagement as we implement the action plan. To fulfil this commitment, we will:

- Provide regular updates via the bulletin, website and other channels.
- Answer community questions. However, we will not disclose personal details of our staff.
- Provide opportunities for the community to meet with us directly to be updated on the progress and to ask any questions.

How can you keep informed on our progress?

Visit the **VAGO Audit button** on our homepage www.strathbogieshire.vic.gov.au.



Here you can access the report, view minutes from relevant Council Meetings, find out how we're progressing on our action plan and view frequently asked questions.

Freecall
1800 065 993

Email info@strathbogieshire.vic.gov.au
www.strathbogieshire.vic.gov.au

Follow us





Investing in the Future of our Pools

The 2019/20 pool season will see a number of changes which are aimed at reinvigorating Strathbogie Shire's pools, increasing patronage and injecting vibrancy into these important community facilities.

These changes will see **free seasonal passes** extended to all residents living within the Strathbogie Shire for the 2019/20 season at the Avenel, Euroa, Nagambie and Violet Town pools.

After extensive feedback from our community, research and infrastructure reviews, Council recently adopted the *Strathbogie Community Pools Strategy 2019-2029* which details a 10 year vision for the four pools. You can view the strategy at www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au.

Council would like to congratulate and thank the community representatives on our Community Pools Working Group who have given their time, effort and patience to this project. We will continue to work closely with the Working Group, which is to be made a Council Advisory Group as we work to deliver the objectives set in the strategy. An expression of interest process for the Advisory Group will commence in late August.

The *Strathbogie Community Pools Strategy 2019-2029* provides key recommendations to help lift the profile and appeal of each pool and will assist Council in sourcing external funding needed to proceed with significant infrastructure upgrades outlined in the strategy.

Council's 2019/2020 budget includes an allocation of \$382,000 to our pools over the next 12 months, while Council's Long Term Financial Plan has been extended to cover a ten year period and includes the earmarking of \$9 million to undertake future improvements.

The management of the pools for the upcoming season is currently being reviewed following a number of changes to 2018/2019 season which saw Council directly manage three of the four pools.

Locals will again have the opportunity to undertake **free lifeguard training** and be employed as a lifeguard at one of the four pools, with the lifeguard application process expected to open during August / September 2019.

There will be a renewed focus on offering a range of activities and events this season, with work underway to develop and implement a Marketing and Events Plan to guide these activities.

Council will work with the Friends of the Pools groups and a range of local community, sporting and service groups in the lead up to the pool season to identify opportunities to utilise the pool venues for community events and programs.

Our vision is for our community pools to become a hub of activity as we recognise the important role they play in providing social connection, opportunities to improve health and wellbeing and promoting water safety.

We will continue to keep our community informed in the lead up to the pool season. If you have any questions or ideas for our pools, please contact Council Offices on **1800 065 993** or email info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au.

Dispose of your Unwanted E-Waste

E-waste – or electronic waste- refers to unwanted and discarded electronic products with batteries, a cord or plug, and is the fastest-growing category of waste worldwide.

It is estimated that one in five Australians have a stash of unwanted electrical goods in their home or office and that the amount of e-waste generated in Australia will increase by more than 60 percent by 2024, for televisions and computers alone.

The Strathbogie Shire have facilities available for residents to drop off e-waste items free of charge. You can drop off e-waste to our Transfer Stations:

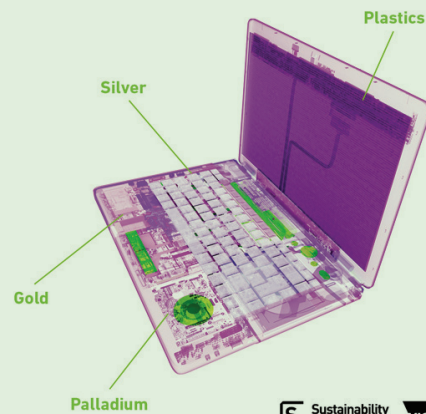
- ✓ 145 Monea Road, **Avenel**
- ✓ 46 Euroa Tip Road, **Euroa**
- ✓ 854 McDonalds Road, **Nagambie**
- ✓ 85 Maxfield Street, **Longwood**
- ✓ 2 Redgate Lane, **Ruffy**
- ✓ 190 McDiarmids Road, **Violet Town**
- ✓ 1487 South Costerfield-Graytown Road, **Graytown**
- ✓ 14 Spring Creek Road, **Strathbogie**



Transfer Station Hours

Click the **Transfer Station hours** button on our website www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au

for more information about our transfer stations and what is accepted at each of them.



As many of these items contain hazardous materials, disposing of them in our regular rubbish or even storing them inappropriately can pose serious environmental and health problems.

For example, if left in landfill sites the chemicals inside have the potential to leach into groundwater and soil, or be released into the air, creating long-term contamination and human health concerns.

To help tackle this issue, we are working with Sustainability Victoria to raise awareness around what e-waste is and why it needs to be recycled.

As well as these hazardous materials, many of our waste electronics also contain a range of non-renewable materials, such as copper, silver, gold, plastic, and glass. All of which can actually be recovered and reused, as long as they're not lost to landfill.

To learn more about e-waste recycling and find details of your nearest recycling centre go to ewaste.vic.gov.au or contact Council Offices.

Climate Proof Your Home

Here are our top tips for residents desiring a more sustainable lifestyle. There might be some cost-savings too!

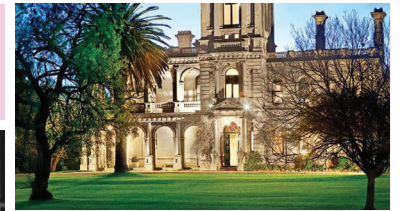
- **IF YOU'RE IN THE BUYER'S OR RENTER'S MARKET** look for a north-facing building or one with good sunlight to living areas for winter warming. Orientation is important because external modifications, like awnings, may not be allowed by your landlord if you rent, and your energy use will be highly dependent on shading northern windows in summer, and letting the sun stream in, in winter. Head to www.yourhome.gov.au for one of Australia's best information sources on the sustainable Australian home.
- **DO A DIY ENERGY AUDIT** audit your home's 'energy fitness' including lighting, insulation, window coverings, heating, cooling, ventilation, hot water and appliances. Recent extensive studies by Sustainability Victoria of Victoria's older housing stock showed buying efficient appliances had the greatest bang for buck for householders – over and above difficult and sometimes expensive retrofits of solar, insulation etc. This suits renters and those of us with a little less 'disposable' income very well indeed! Look for the energy rating at www.energyrating.gov.au where you can see the energy credentials of appliances.
- **ASSESS YOUR CURTAIN SITUATION** windows can be one of the biggest drains of warmth and coolth in the home with heat generally twice as able to pass through glazing as it can through insulated walls. You can vastly improve your energy use by prioritising windows of rooms where you do most of your living, and putting up thick curtains with a floating 'pelmet' to keep the cold/hot air behind it and out of your living space. Congratulations – you now have 'double glazing'!
- **STOP THOSE DRAUGHTS** people in all types of houses throughout history have had to deal with pesky draughts. These days you can buy simple and stylish products like door snakes, or adhesive door and window strips to seal up the air gaps. Draught proofing can improve your comfort and energy usage enormously, especially if you live in an older property. To find sneaky draughts, close all the windows and doors in a room, light an incense stick, slowly walk around, and watch the smoke to see if it gets dragged toward an air gap. Then plug it up!



What's on in Winter

Follow @WatsonStrathbogie on Facebook or download the latest monthly flyer on strathbogie.vic.gov.au to keep up to date with events, markets and activities happening in the Strathbogie Shire.

Events



NOORILIM ESTATE OPEN DAY
Sunday 25 August 10:30am to 2:30pm. 205 Warring-Murchison Road, Warring.
Tickets \$7-25 on the day, or via www.noorilimestate.com.au



MIDNIGHT ECHOES LIVE MUSIC
Friday 30 August, 8:30pm
The Royal Mail Hotel
350 High Street, Nagambie
Free event, all welcome

MASQUERADE BALL AT HARVEST HOME
Saturday 31 August 6.30 to 11.30pm. Harvest Home Avenel
1 Bank Street, Avenel
Tickets \$120. Call (03) 5741 9121 or on Eventbrite

WINTER BLUES, BREWS & BRAISED FOOD
Saturday 17 August, 5:30pm
Harvest Home Avenel
1 Bank Street, Avenel
Tickets \$60pp via Eventbrite or call (03) 5741 9121

RUFFARTZ PRESENTS CANYON
Saturday 17 August, 7.30pm for 8pm start
Ruffy Hall, 3 Nolans Road Ruffy
Acoustic driven band who presents a flashback to 70's radio sound. \$25 entry.
Bookings Essential. Call Christine 0419 561 386 or email ruffartztickets@gmail.com



CRANKSTERS CRUISE NAGAMBIE
Friday 20 September, 3pm
Nagambie Lakes Regatta Centre
66 Loddings Lane, Nagambie
More information www.cranksterscruise.org.au

DISCOVER THE HERITAGE & HISTORY OF THE REGION
Sunday 18 August, 1:30pm
Hosted by The Strathbogie Tableland History Group
Strathbogie Memorial Hall, 29 Main Street, Strathbogie
Light afternoon tea provided
RSVP strathbogiehistory@gmail.com or 0438 005 622

VIOLET TOWN ROCK & ROLL COUNTRY MUSIC SHOW
Sunday 25 August, 12 to 5pm
Violet Town Community Complex, 35 Cowslip Street
Special Guest Artist Callum Gleeson, featuring the Night Owls. Entry \$10. Table bookings essential contact Jim Davidson 0412 723 356 or Tickets available at the door



Cinema

Tickets: \$10.00 NO EFTPOS (Pre-school children FREE)
1B Bury Street, Euroa

NEVER LOOK AWAY [M]
Foreign film (subtitles)
Saturday 17 August, 4pm
Sunday 18 August, 4pm

The Lion King [PG]
Sensory Friendly Screening on **Friday 23rd August at 10.30am**
Family fun night on **Friday 23 August at 6:30pm**
BYO dinner, doors open at 6pm
Saturday 24 August, 4pm
Sunday 25 August, 4pm

SPIDERMAN: FAR FROM HOME [M] Action
Saturday 31 August, 4pm
Sunday 1 September, 4pm

FAST & FURIOUS PRESENTS: HOBBS & SHAW [M] Action
Saturday 7 September, 8pm
Sunday 8 September, 4pm

STAN AND OLLIE [PG]
Biography/ Comedy
Red Cross Fundraiser
Tickets \$15 per person including afternoon tea
Friday 13 September, 1:30pm

THE PUBLIC [M] Drama
Saturday 14 September, 8pm
Sunday 15 September, 4pm

EASY RIDER [MA15+]
Adventure
Saturday 5th October at 8pm
Euroa Show and Shine Movie Event \$5 tickets



Markets

EUROA VILLAGE FARMERS MARKET
Saturday 17 August 9am-1pm
Rotary Park, Kirkland Avenue

NAGAMBIE FARMERS MARKET
Sunday 25 August 10am-2pm
Tabilk Winery, 254 O'Neils Road, Tabilk

NAGAMBIE LAKES COMMUNITY MARKET
Saturday 7 September, 9am-1pm
Centre median strip High Street, Nagambie

AVENEL MARKET
Sunday 8 September, 9am-1pm
Jubilee Park, Avenel

VIOLET TOWN MARKET
Saturday 14 September, 8:30am-1pm
Violet Town Recreation Reserve

