



SHIRE OF MELTON MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

I would like to thank all the wonderful volunteers who assisted with Clean Up Australia Day on the weekend. As in previous years, the volunteers worked extremely hard to help remove rubbish and recycling from our environment.

The excitement is building for the Festival of Flight next week and I encourage everyone to come along and join in the celebrations. The event marks 100 years since Harry Houdini performed Australia's first powered, controlled, sustained flight at Diggers Rest. A full list of activities is included on this page and I hope to see you all there.

The events are the result of 18 months planning by a large number of individuals and groups within the Diggers Rest community. On behalf of Council I would like to thank them for their commitment to this event.

At Council's 1 March meeting, I moved a motion that Council give notice of its intention to apply to the Minister for Local Government to constitute the Shire as a City, the name of which would be determined following a public consultation process. A report will be presented at the next Council meeting outlining a recommended consultation process and timelines. The Shire has changed dramatically over the past 10 to 12 years and it is my view that it is important that the community should be consulted on its future status.

Council is pleased with the community's response to the 'at call' trial hard waste collection. Since the service began last month, there have already been more than 300 collections booked and undertaken. For more information on the service, please contact Council's waste services on 9747 7200 or visit www.melton.vic.gov.au

With Council's Budget deliberations about to commence for the 2010/2011 Budget, I encourage all residents to contact their Ward Councillor with any projects they might like to be considered during the Budget process.

Cr Justin Mammarella JP

CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF AUSTRALIAN AVIATION

Festival of Flight - 18-21 March 2010

A significant milestone in the history of Australian aviation will be celebrated this month with the Festival of Flight between 18 and 21 March 2010.

The Festival of Flight marks the 100th anniversary of Harry Houdini's first powered, controlled, sustained flight at Diggers Rest.

Commemoration Ceremony - Thursday 18 March 2010 Stan Payne Reserve, Diggers Rest, 11am - 12noon

Come and join the community to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Houdini's flight.

The ceremony will include speeches, the official launch of a legacy project, flyovers and Houdini magic displays.

Houdini Centenary Air Show - Saturday 20 March 2010 Melton Airfield, Coburns Road, 9am-5pm

The Air Show will include a flying display between 11am and 3pm, aeroplane displays, joy flights and kids activities. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children (12-18 years), family passes are also available.

Festival of Flight - Sunday 21 March 2010 Diggers Rest Recreation Reserve, 11am - 4pm

This free event will offer something for everyone including carnival rides, live entertainment, kids activities, an auto and aircraft show, swap meet, historical displays and more.

Entertainment features a circus performance at 12noon, local band the Red Jane Show at 12.45pm, master illusionist Cosentino at 2pm and Australian rock legend Daryl Braithwaite at 2.45pm.

Come along and enter the draw for your chance to win a Top Gun Adrenalin Adventure package.

Free Shuttle Buses

A free shuttle bus will operate at regular intervals between



Melton, Caroline Springs, Hillside and surrounding areas to Diggers Rest and the Melton Airfield on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. For timetables, bookings and information contact the Melton Visitor Information Centre.

For more information on the Festival of Flight contact the Melton Visitor Information Centre on 9747 7300 or visit www.melton.vic.gov.au/houdini

The Festival is organised by the Diggers Rest community in partnership with the Lions Club of Diggers Rest, special interest groups and Melton Shire Council.



COBURN WARD WITH CR SOPHIE RAMSEY

Recently Council held a briefing for developers interested in entering into an agreement to develop 381 hectares of Council owned land in the Toolern area. The 2,400 hectare growth area incorporates the land owned by Council which will be developed primarily as residential neighbourhoods with supporting community

infrastructure, retail and commercial areas. The Toolern area is a unique opportunity for Council and will be the start of an exciting chapter for the Shire.

I recently attended the Community Road Safety Forum and it was pleasing to see more than 160 young people, parents and community members attend this wonderful night. The guest speakers were inspiring and provided the audience with information to help them make better choices as safer drivers. I also had the pleasure of opening the launch of the Zonta Against Drink Spiking campaign which also reinforced the message that it is important to keep our young people safe.

I am looking forward the Festival of Flight in Diggers Rest next week. This exciting series of events celebrates our Shire's place in the history of Australian aviation. For more details visit www.melton.vic.gov.au/houdini

Discussions for Council's 2010/2011 Budget are about to commence and I urge everyone to contact their local Councillor if they wish to discuss any aspect of the process.

Cr Sophie Ramsey

REMINDER ON FIRE DANGER PERIOD

Residents are reminded that the Fire Danger Period is still in force and burning off is not permitted unless accompanied by a Council permit.

Past experience has shown that the hot weather can continue well into March, and residents need to be fire aware and abide by the fire restriction rules.

The Fire Danger Period, introduced on 30 November 2009 for the Shire of Melton will remain in force until 1 May 2010.

Residents are also reminded that fire restrictions are being actively enforced and that the CFA is taking a zero-tolerance approach to illegally lit fires—any such fires will be reported to Victoria Police.

The Fire Danger Period and Total Fire Ban is explained in detail with the Can I or Can't I? factsheet available from CFA's website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au For bushfire information, call the Victorian Bushfire Information line on 1800 240 667 or visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au

COMMUNITY TO HELP DECIDE FUTURE OF CLOCK TOWER

Melton Shire Council is consulting with the community on the refurbishment and reinstatement of the Melton clock tower.

The clock tower was removed from its location in High Street, Melton, in August 2009 to be assessed for structural integrity.

After being assessed, it is estimated that refurbishment and reinstatement will cost up to \$94,500.

The clock tower was installed at the Courthouse Plaza behind the old courthouse on the corner of High and Palmerston Streets, Melton, in 1999.

Surveys are available on Council's website at www.melton.vic.gov.au/clocktower

If you don't have a computer, you can use the computers at the libraries in Melton and Caroline Springs at no cost.

You can submit the survey online or print it, fill it out and mail it to PO Box 21, Melton, fax it to 9743 9970 or hand it to Customer Service, or at the Melton Visitor Information Centre.



ROAD 2 ZERO

With the Easter break coming up, remember to take care on the roads. If you are driving to visit family or friends please take regular breaks, drive to the conditions and observe speed limits.



KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS

Applications are now being accepted for 2011 four-year-old Kindergarten enrolments.

Enrolment packages are available at Melton and Caroline Springs Civic Centres, Kindergartens, Maternal and Child Health Centres, Occasional Care centres, Toy Libraries and

Rusden Early Intervention.

Applications close 30 June 2010.

For more information on Kindergarten enrolments contact Melton Shire Council's Children's Services Unit on 9747 7200.