

Community Matters

ISSUE 46 | March 2021

Getting back to business

The last 12 months have been challenging, but many locals like Bryony Cox of Mildura's Studio De Vin (pictured) are pursuing their dreams and opening new businesses. Learn about supporting our local business community on page 4.

IMAGINE 2040

Your Vision. Our Future.

Help shape a new vision for our region and your community

Learn more on page 3

Road safety upgrades underway

Improved safety for all road users is the driving force behind Mildura's Safe Travel in Local Streets (STILS) project.

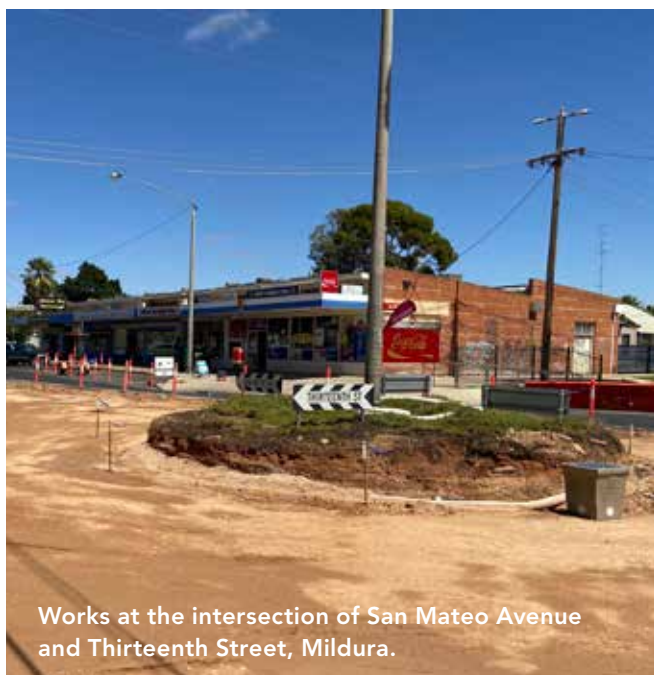
Forming part of the Victorian Government, TAC and Towards Zero's \$20 million program, the project, which got underway in February, includes major safety upgrades for San Mateo Avenue and neighbouring residential areas.

It will include:

- changing the speed limit from 60km/h to 50km/h between Seventh and Fourteenth Streets
- installation of a traffic island in the centre median of San Mateo Avenue between Brown Street and Thirteenth Street to prevent U-turns, reducing the risk of head-on crashes
- three raised pedestrian crossing points between Thirteenth and Fourteenth Streets, providing safe crossing for pedestrians and people using mobility scooters
- realigning the intersection of Eaglesham Street and Windsor Street, reducing the number of possible conflict points. This will also significantly increase the size of the Windsor Playground
- painted bicycle lanes
- establishing angle parking on San Mateo Avenue in the Thirteenth Street shopping precinct
- raised safety platform in Hawthorn Grove to reduce vehicle speeds near Wade Avenue
- reconstruction of the Thirteenth Street and San Mateo Avenue roundabout (this is separate to the STILS program, and funded by Council).

Road closures and detours will be in place for the majority of works – follow us on Facebook or check out our website for regular updates.

For more information visit www.mildura.vic.gov.au/STILS



Works at the intersection of San Mateo Avenue and Thirteenth Street, Mildura.



Off Leash Dog Park upgrades all about improved user experience

Ensuring a fun and safe experience for local dog owners and their furry friends is at the heart of important upgrades at the Rio Vista Off Leash Dog Park.

The site has become a popular venue for dog owners, allowing both owners and their pets to get active and connect with others.

The \$192,900 suite of works (which are supported through the Victorian Government's Suburban Parks Program) is set to provide an even greater experience for hundreds of regular users, and includes:

- full perimeter fencing to make the park more secure for dogs and their owners
- a dividing fence to provide separate areas for small and large dogs
- upgraded gates and a new transition area where dogs can be safely led in and have their leash removed before entering the main area
- irrigation upgrade
- more trees to provide natural shade
- additional drinking water fountains for both dogs and their owners
- play spaces, including a sand section
- seating and tables
- steps from the off leash dog park to the Rio Vista steps
- new signage

Works are expected to be completed by December 2021.

IMAGINE 2040

Your Vision. Our Future.

Share your ideas for our new Community Vision

It's an exciting time for our region and everyone who lives, works and plays in the Mildura Rural City Council area.

Together, we're creating a new Community Vision to outline our long-term goals and how we want our region to grow and develop over the next two decades.

Over the coming six months we're inviting everyone to Imagine 2040. Your feedback will help us develop a 20-year Community Vision, four-year Council Plan, a Financial Plan, Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and an Asset Plan.

We want to hear from as many people as possible.

This is your chance to imagine a future that has everything you, your family, friends and community need to succeed, be well and happy.

Your input will help shape the future of our region and your community.

The first round of community engagement is open now until 25 April. We've posted a survey to every household and business in the region and encourage you to return it with your ideas. We'll also be out and about at local events and holding conversations and workshops with different community groups to gather your input.

To learn more and share your ideas online go to www.yoursay.mildura.vic.gov.au/imagine



Bonnie Seymour and Luke Kiel with
Billie the blue heeler.

Don't forget to register your pet!

We know you love your animals and now is the time to either renew their registration or register them, with pet registrations due Saturday 10 April.

All cats and dogs over three months of age must be registered and any new pets must also be microchipped.

Pet registration fees vary depending on whether or not your animal has been desexed, its age and other factors, with pensioner discounts available.

Let us know if your contact details have changed or you have a new furry friend.

Head to www.mildura.vic.gov.au/pets or call us on (03) 5018 8100 to learn more.

Backing local business



Local businesses play a vital part in supporting the 22,368 jobs in our municipality, which generates more than \$6.6 billion in economic output.

Keeping it local

Hundreds of local companies help deliver the many different services, facilities and infrastructure that Council is responsible for.

Everything from the vehicles our staff drive and the trucks that empty your bins each week to cleaning products, safety clothing and major roadworks projects are supplied by locals.

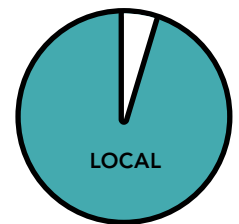
We're fortunate to have quality products and expertise available in our own backyard and most of the work we outsource goes to local contractors and consultants. This helps inject millions of dollars in to the local economy every year.

Vehicle purchases

2020-21 FINANCIAL YEAR

93% local

7% non-local



Contracts

2020-21 FINANCIAL YEAR

71% Local

29% Non-local



Starting your new business has never been simpler

Obtaining the permits and approvals needed to start your own small business is now simpler and quicker than ever thanks to a new streamlined application process we started in September last year.

Instead of working through different Council departments, processes and application forms, we've established a central online application form, and a single point of contact.

The online form allows people to apply for various permits and registrations in one simple process, while a single point of contact provides guidance and help along the way.

We've received more than 50 enquiries about business permits since September last year, and already 30 new businesses have started trading, including Studio De Vin (pictured) in Mildura's Langtree Mall.

Our new streamlined business start-up process is made possible through the Victorian Government's Better Approvals Project.

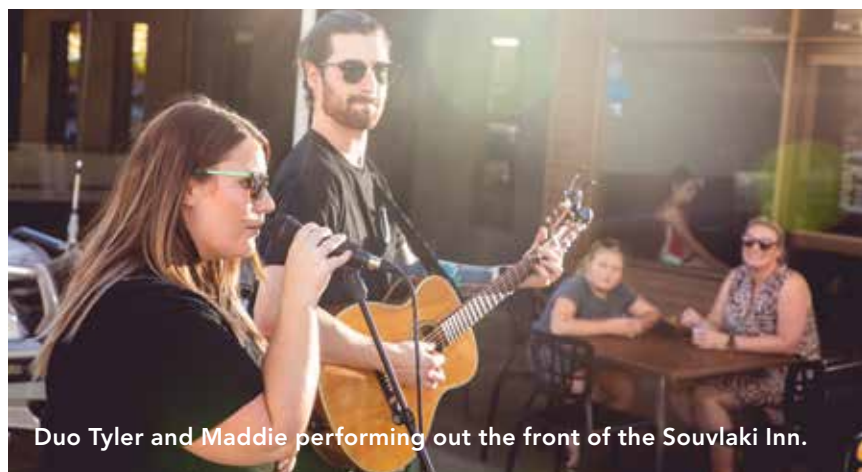


Studio De Vin has recently opened in Mildura's Langtree Mall.

Supporting local business through tough times

Since the early months of the pandemic last year, we've introduced a broad range of measures to support our local business community.

- 203 businesses had their 2021 Footpath Trading Permit renewal fees waived
- 786 food, beauty and accommodation establishments had their 2021 Public Health and Wellbeing registration renewal fees waived
- Up to 23 eligible commercial tenants with arrangements with Council had their 2020/21 lease and licence fees waived
- A dedicated marketing campaign was conducted to encourage spending and investment in local business
- Grants program for businesses to either apply for up to \$5,000 to invest back into their business, or a once-off Council Rates Credit of up to \$2,000.
- Roving Performers initiative in partnership with Mildura City Heart to create more opportunities for artists to perform while promoting outdoor dining in the Mildura CBD and riverfront precincts.



Duo Tyler and Maddie performing out the front of the Souvlaki Inn.

be kind

TO BUSINESS

6 WAYS TO SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

Write a positive review	\$0.00
Tell your friends and family	\$0.00
Follow them on social media	\$0.00
Engage with their posts	\$0.00
Give them a shout out	\$0.00
Sign up for their newsletter	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$0.00



Thank you for shopping local!



Merbein's G & T Schnitzel Bar made the most of the free umbrella sleeve initiative.

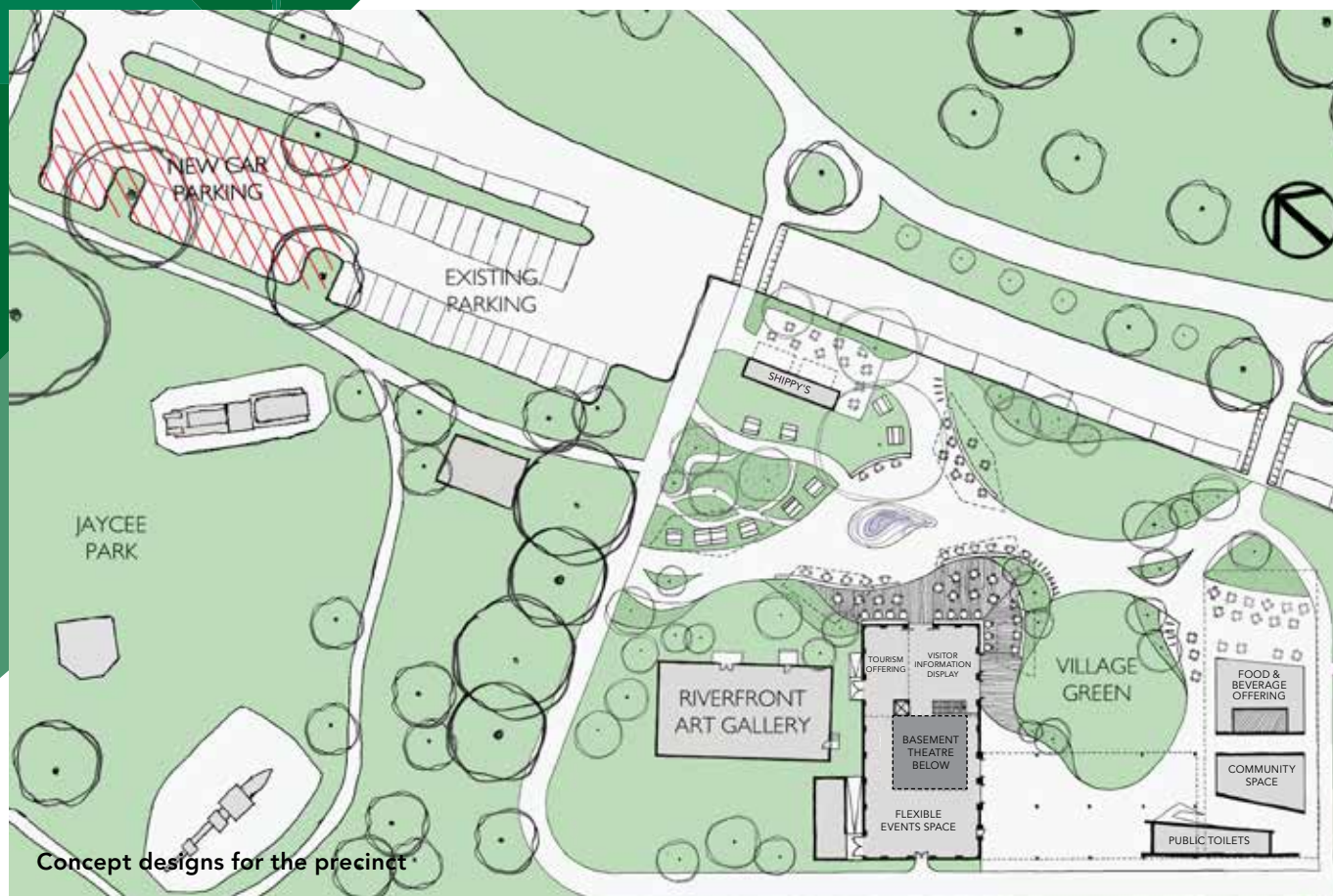
Making shade while the sun shines

If you're planning to dine out, you now have more areas than ever to eat outside in the shade.

We've installed 40 umbrella sleeves at nine locally-operated cafes and restaurants in Mildura, Merbein and Red Cliffs, including G & T Schnitzel Bar (pictured) in Merbein, to help provide more outdoor dining spaces.

It's our way of increasing outdoor dining opportunities, which will help local restaurants, bars and cafes given there are limits on indoor dining numbers due to COVID-19 restrictions.

We've also just installed drop-in alfresco dining spaces in front of three businesses in Mildura's CBD, all of which was made possible through a \$500,000 Victorian Government grant.



Community feedback helps shape Powerhouse precinct

The eagerly awaited \$6 million Powerhouse precinct redevelopment has moved another step forward with the finalisation of concept designs in February.

The plans incorporate feedback from more than 1,000 residents and businesses who were asked to provide their thoughts on what they'd like to see in the precinct.

Our Councillors have endorsed the plans, paving the way for further work to finalise more detailed designs.

While this design phase is underway early works will begin in late April/early May on a new car park area. This will include an additional 28 car parking spaces, as well as some minor

changes along Hugh King Drive to accommodate 30 spaces. This part of the project is expected to be completed by the end of June.

It will be followed by upgrades to the inside of the Powerhouse building in late April to July, before the main program of works start.

The project is jointly-funded through the Victorian Government's Crisis Committee of Cabinet infrastructure Stimulus Fund (\$5 million), Council (\$500,000) and the Victorian Government's Regional Infrastructure Fund (\$500,000).

Connecting with Council

We're committed to making it simple for you to contact us and get the news and information you need about Council services and programs. There are plenty of ways you can keep up-to-date, connect with us and learn about the projects we're working on. Call us or visit www.mildura.vic.gov.au for more details.



Council Meetings

Tune in to the live stream on the third Wednesday of each month



Social media

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for the latest news



eNews

Sign up to receive regular updates straight to your inbox



Have Your Say

Share your ideas and provide feedback on plans and projects in our region



Australia Day marked a return to organised events in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, with locals enjoying a COVID-Safe day out.

2021 Australia Day Award winners revealed...

Bryce Pritchard and Luka Morzer-Bruyns were the talk of Murrayville recently after taking out Mildura Rural City Council's 2021 Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year Awards.

The pair were honoured during annual Australia Day events, joining fellow award-winner the Mallee Living Histories Group, which won the Community Event or Project of the Year Award for the Mallee Living Histories Project.

Mildura Mayor Jason Modica presented the awards at Murrayville's Australia Day celebrations, while Cr Jodi Reynolds announced all three recipients at Council's official event – held at Mildura Station Homestead.

Bryce has contributed to the Murrayville community in a range of areas, including the performing arts, organising community events, his participation in local emergency services and his involvement in the Mallee's health and community services.

Luka, meanwhile, has been a strong and leading voice for young people in the Mallee, involved in a range of school and sporting groups, as well as volunteering to help older people in the region.

The Mallee Living Histories project captured stories of 30 Princes Court Home residents, whose experiences and reflections were documented by 21 volunteer writers in the Mallee Living Histories publication.

Two publications have been produced, the most recent on 12 November 2020.

Congratulations to our award winners!



Citizen of the Year Bryce Pritchard with Mayor Cr Jason Modica



Cr Jodi Reynolds with members of the Mallee Living Histories project – winner of the Community Event or Project of the Year.

Grants available to help our community re-connect

If there's one thing we all crave, it's human connection.

Whether it's attending family gatherings, community events, or just heading out for a meal with friends – social connection plays a major role in our overall health and wellbeing.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our ability to connect with family, friends, and our community. It's why Mildura Rural City Council has launched Community Activation Funding program to help not-for-profit and community groups create projects that promote social connections and networks through involvement in local projects or activities.

The program has been made possible through the Victorian Government's Community Activation and Social Isolation



(CASI) program, with local not-for-profit and/or incorporated community organisations able to apply for between \$500 and \$3,000 in funding up to 31 May this year.

Whether it's a group exercise or wellness program like Thai Chi, or an out-of-the-box idea that will help people connect with your group and re-engage with the community after COVID-19, we want to hear about it!

Learn more or apply online at www.mildura.vic.gov.au/CommunityActivation



THE BROTHERS BACH
MELBOURNE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
7.30pm, Friday 30 April

The extraordinary music of three of Bach's sons, including piano concerto performances by fearless pianist Aura Go.



MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL ROADSHOW
8pm, Friday 21 May

It will be a night of stand-up, sketch, satire, silliness and song to satisfy all your comedy cravings!



ANIMAL FARM
BY GEORGE ORWELL
7.30pm, Friday 28 May

George Orwell's intensely powerful novel – live on stage in a critically-acclaimed production by shake & stir.

shake&stir | apac | ARTOUR | Mildura Rural City Council | Mildura Arts Centre | Creative Victoria



**LIVE PERFORMANCES
ARE BACK AT MILDURA
ARTS CENTRE**



03 5018 8330 milduraartscentre.com.au



If you need an interpreter we can help. To access an interpreter, call TIS National on 131 450 and ask them to call Mildura Rural City Council on (03) 5018 8100. You can also ask for an interpreter when you use any of our services.

T (03) 5018 8100
E mrcc@mildura.vic.gov.au
www.mildura.vic.gov.au

Call or email us from 8am to 5pm weekdays.
Deakin Avenue Service Centre 76 Deakin Avenue, Mildura
Madden Avenue Service Centre 108 Madden Avenue, Mildura
Ouyen Service Centre 79 Oke Street, Ouyen

DISCLAIMER

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of event information published in Community Matters. All details were correct at the time of printing.