



## International Women's Day 2022 - Break The Bias

**Tuesday 8 March is International Women's Day and this year, the theme is Break The Bias.**



Mayor Kate Hanson said it's important to have diversity on council and encouraged other women to consider being a part of local government. "I believe there should be more diversity in local government and that includes a greater representation from women in decision-making roles," Cr Hanson said. "It's very important to me and was a driving force behind my wanting to be on Council.

"I'd encourage other women to step forward, and if you're nervous about taking that step, seek information from other women - especially those in the roles you aspire to. "There are many great female leaders in our region who are a fantastic resource. If you're interested in local government, I'd encourage you to speak to female councillors and get a few different perspectives - together we can Break the Bias."



Councillor Marg White was motivated to run for Council after considering the culture change

required to 'break the bias' and achieve true gender equality, which she saw as a major challenge for all levels of government and the community at large. "Reflecting on the notion of 'unconscious bias', I realised I had spent a lot of my working life in meetings and forums where I became increasingly aware of the struggle to have women's voices heard," Cr White said.

"International Women's Day is an opportunity to celebrate women's achievements and be inspired by women who have tackled the challenges of breaking down the bias. It's also a chance to galvanise our energy and be inspired for future challenges." Thank you Mayor Kate Hanson and Cr Marg White for Breaking the Bias in the work you do on behalf of Council.



## Planning Committee meeting

The next meeting of the Colac Otway Shire Council Planning Committee is scheduled for:

**Date:** Wednesday 9 March 2022

**Time:** 4pm

**Venue:** COPACC (95 - 97 Gellibrand Street, Colac)

In response to current COVID-19 requirements all attendees over the age of 12 must be fully vaccinated and show their vaccination status as a condition of entry to COPACC. Patrons will be required to enter COPACC via the main entrance (all abilities access from Gellibrand Street), where they will be required to register and show proof of vaccination.

The Planning Committee meeting will be livestreamed to the public via Council's YouTube channel (search Colac Otway Shire Council at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com))

Copies of the agenda will be available today, Friday 4 March at [www.colacotway.vic.gov.au](http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au)



## Clean Up Australia Day 2022

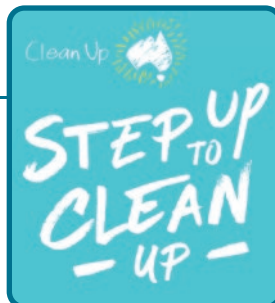
**Disposable face-masks don't belong in the environment and we're calling on volunteers to help us remove and tally them on Clean Up Australia Day!**

Colac Otway Shire Council is hosting a community Clean Up, and we encourage you to sign up and come along.

**When:** Sunday 6 March, 10.30am - 12pm

**Where:** Apollo Bay Harbour and foreshore area

To register to attend, please visit Council's website at [www.colacotway.vic.gov.au](http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au) and click on the Upcoming Events page.



## Have Your Say

### Draft 2022 - 25 Rating Strategy

Council has adopted the current rating categories and differentials for inclusion in its Draft 2022 - 25 Rating Strategy, which is exhibited now for the community to provide feedback.

Submissions regarding the Draft 2022 - 25 Rating Strategy must be made in writing and received no later than close of business Friday 25 March 2022.

### Revised Community Engagement Policy

At the Council meeting on 23 February 2022, Colac Otway Shire Council resolved to approve the revised Community Engagement policy for the purpose of public consultation.

Submissions regarding the revised Community Engagement Policy must be made in writing and received no later than close of business Friday 8 April 2022.

All items currently open for community feedback are available online at [www.colacotway.vic.gov.au](http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au)

Hard copies are also available for viewing at Council's Rae Street office between 8.30am and 5pm (Monday to Friday) and at Apollo Bay Customer Service Centre (GORVIC) between 9am and 5pm.



## Presentation of the 2022 Colac Otway Community Awards

**For the first time, presentation of the Colac Otway Community Awards will be a part of the Colac Kana Festival in Colac.**

Join in the festival fun on the day, and come and celebrate Colac Otway's Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Community Service of the Year.

**When:** Saturday 19 March, award presentation at 11am

**Where:** Colac Kana Festival stage in Memorial Square

Colac Otway Shire Council thanks the organisers of the Colac Kana Festival for including the awards in their program and look forward to celebrating at the festival.



## Keep up to date with Council News

**Subscribe to the Latest News page on Council's website to stay up to date with all the news from Colac Otway Shire Council.**

Visit [www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/News-media](http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/News-media) and click on the 'Subscribe to this page' button at the bottom of the page.



## Council funding opportunities 2022 - 23 - Applications now open

Colac Otway Shire's Grants Program provides an opportunity for a wide range of organisations and small businesses to share in funding for a variety of projects and events that benefit the wider community and help in achieving goals and outcomes consistent with Council's objectives.

All categories require a matching contribution via cash or in-kind from the applicant on a dollar for dollar basis.

**A total pool of \$311,500 is available for the 2022 - 23 Grants Program from five funding categories:**

- Community Grants Program
- Community Events & Support Program
- Small Grants Program
- Building Façade Improvement Program (Business)
- Small Business Environmental Sustainability Program

### How to apply

Guidelines, FAQs, help sheets and the online application form is available at [www.colacotway.vic.gov.au](http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au) under 'Apply for a Grant, Colac Otway Shire Grants Program 2022 - 23.

Applications are now open and close 5pm on Friday 8 April 2022.

Funding announcements are expected to be made at the end of June.

Please contact Council's Grants Officer on (03) 5232 9400 or [grants@colacotway.vic.gov.au](mailto:grants@colacotway.vic.gov.au) for assistance and further information.



## Planned Burning - stay informed

**Planned burning is happening in our region this autumn.**

To find out when and where planned burns are happening near you, sign up to: <https://plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au/>

You can also download the VicEmergency App or call 1800 226 226.

For information on why planned burns are important visit: [www.vic.gov.au/plannedburns](http://www.vic.gov.au/plannedburns)