



## Message from newly elected Mayor Marg White



I am very proud to have been elected Mayor and I look forward to serving our Colac Otway communities in the role for the next 12 months. I sincerely thank Cr Potter for his commitment to our community and the strong leadership he's shown as Mayor.

It's been a busy year with two new Councillors joining us earlier in 2023 and some significant work completed including the Local Law Review, the adoption of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy and Climate Change Action Plan and progressing strategic land use projects to name a few.

My focus as Mayor will be on engaging with the community and promoting inclusive participation reaching right across the shire to hear views and listen to community needs.

As we head into an election year in 2024, we will assess where Council is at with the Council Plan and be clear on our priorities and the opportunities that may arise.

I look forward to working with my fellow Councillors, our communities and Council officers as Mayor of Colac Otway Shire.



## Donaldson Street, Colac - Playspace Upgrade

Council has allocated \$100,000 towards an upgrade of the Donaldson Street, Colac Playspace and we invite the community to come and have a chat to Council officers to tell us your thoughts and ideas about what works at the playspace and what could be changed to ensure the space is a place where local children, young people, families and visitors want to spend time.

**Where:** Donaldson Street Park  
**When:** Friday 17 November between 5pm and 7pm

There'll also be a free sausage sizzle and kids activities on the day.

Please register to attend via Council's Facebook events page.

If you can't make it to the in-person drop-in session, please complete the online survey with your thoughts and ideas, visit Council's website and click Have Your Say from the homepage.



## Message from outgoing Mayor Cr Chris Potter



It has been an honour to serve as your Mayor of Colac Otway Shire for the past 12 months and I want to thank my fellow Councillors and the community for your support.

I'd also like to express my appreciation for the support from community groups and partners across the shire, business leaders, Indigenous leaders and the multicultural community.

I also appreciate the support and engagement with representatives from other levels of government, with a particular mention to Dan Tehan, Richard Riordan and Gayle Tierney.

The community of Colac Otway are the heart and soul of the shire, it has been my very great privilege to represent you and hear from residents from all walks of life. I have great admiration for the dedication shown by people throughout our communities to improve the lives of others, whether that's supporting young people in sport, providing services and assistance to immigrants who are new to the region or staging events that bring vibrancy and economic benefit to Colac Otway.

I'm really proud of my working relationship with staff in the organisation, who work hard to serve their community. It's been a privilege to represent Council and community as Mayor and I'm very proud of Councillors and staff for their dedication and commitment to Colac Otway, I'm looking forward to continuing our good work with the new Mayor and fellow Councillors.



## Birregurra Playspace Upgrade

Council has also allocated \$275,000 towards an upgrade of the Birregurra Playspace. Council officers will be at the Birregurra Sunday Market, come along to tell us your thoughts and ideas about what you'd like to see improved at the Birregurra Playspace.

**Where:** Birregurra Sunday Market in the park  
**When:** This Sunday, 12 November between 10am and 12pm

Please register to attend via Council's Facebook events page.

If you can't make it to the in-person drop-in session, please complete the online survey with your thoughts and ideas, visit Council's website and click Have Your Say from the homepage.



## Fair Access Information Sessions for sporting clubs

Colac Otway Shire Council, in partnership with Leisure Networks, is hosting Fair Access (Gender Equity) information sessions for Colac Otway Shire sporting clubs and organisations to help the community to provide local sporting opportunities that are accessible to everyone.

Under the Victorian Government's Fair Access Policy Roadmap, Councils are required to develop a Fair Access Policy including developing actions that implement the policy for delivering equitable access to publicly owned community sports infrastructure. The information sessions will support local sporting clubs to understand the Fair Access principles and assist Council in developing a localised action plan for implementing the Fair Access Policy Roadmap.

Venues, dates and times of information sessions are:

### COLAC

**Venue:** Colac Central Reserve  
**Date:** Monday 13 November  
**Time:** 6pm - 7.30pm

### APOLLO BAY

**Venue:** Apollo Bay Bowling Club  
**Date:** Wednesday 15 November  
**Time:** 6pm - 7.30pm

People are asked to register their attendance at an information session via the Leisure Networks ticketing system: [www.leisurenetworks.org/event/colac-otway-shire-fair-access-sessions](http://www.leisurenetworks.org/event/colac-otway-shire-fair-access-sessions)  
For more information, contact Council on [inq@colacotway.vic.gov.au](mailto:inq@colacotway.vic.gov.au) or call 5232 9400.



## Council meeting

The November Council meeting will be held on:

**Date:** Wednesday 22 November 2023  
**Time:** 4pm  
**Venue:** COPACC, 95 - 97 Gellibrand Street, Colac

The meeting will be livestreamed to the public via Council's You Tube channel (search Colac Otway Shire Council at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)). Council meetings are open to the public and interested people are welcome to attend. Copies of the agenda will be available on Friday 17 November at [www.colacotway.vic.gov.au](http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au)



## Have Your Say

Council has the following projects and initiatives open for community feedback:

### Community ideas for 69 McLachlan Street, Apollo Bay

At its October meeting in Apollo Bay, Council decided to pause the sale of 69 McLachlan St, Apollo Bay. Council is providing the community with a further opportunity to put forward ideas about how the former kindergarten site may be used if it is not sold. All written submissions must be received before 5pm, Monday 27 November 2023.

### Colac Otway Visitor Servicing Review

Council is seeking feedback from local business operators and the broader community about visitor servicing in Colac Otway. We're interested in hearing from the Colac Otway community on how to deliver a service that best caters to visitor needs.

**The survey closes at 5pm today Friday 10 November 2023.**

### Youth Survey

Council is calling on young people aged 12 - 25 who live, work and/or study in Colac Otway to provide feedback on youth matters, engagement and activities in the shire. Feedback provided will assist Council in planning future opportunities, activities, workshops and events as we develop our Youth Program. The survey closes at 5pm Friday 1 December 2023.

For further information and to provide your feedback, visit Council's website and click Have Your Say from the homepage.



## Prepare for upcoming fire season

The Country Fire Authority has declared this year's Fire Danger Period for Colac Otway Shire will commence at 1am Monday 20 November 2023. To find out what you can and can't do during the Fire Danger Period, visit [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)

Council's fire inspections are currently underway. To help residents prepare, Council is offering additional green waste collections and free green waste drop-off during November.

### Weekly Kerbside Green Waste Collection

Council's weekly kerbside collection of green waste is taking place now through to 24 November. For collection information, visit Council's website or download the Good Sort App.

### Free Green Waste Drop-off at Alvie and Apollo Bay Transfer Stations

A free green waste drop-off service is being offered through all of November. The free service is available for residents to dispose of one 6 x 4 trailer load of green waste.

### Skips for Green Waste at Wye River, Kennett River and Forrest

Wye River and Kennett River communities will see green waste skips once again placed in town from Friday 3 November to Monday 27 November 2023 to assist with property clean-up.

- 1A The Boulevard, Wye River (opposite the CFA shed)  
- 15A Great Ocean Road, Kennett River (carpark area)  
- 47 Grant Street, Forrest

### Bark Collection in Wye and Kennett River and Separation Creek

To help our coastal communities prepare for fire season, Wye, Kennett and Separation Creek will receive a free bark and leaf collection again this year. Wye and Kennett River and Separation Creek residents - please start having bark and leaf piles ready for collection. Collections will take place at:

- Wye River and Separation Creek on Monday 13 until Wednesday 15 November.  
- Kennett River Thursday 16 and Friday 17 November.

The collection is for bark and leaves only, not tree branches. If you have larger tree branches, please place them directly in the green waste skips.

If you have questions or need further information, please contact Council.