

Colac Otway

# COMMUNITY Matters



Colac Otway  
SHIRE

## The DEFENCE of VACCINES

COLAC 2050  
*growing our future*

COLAC CBD  
REVITALISATION  
*transforming our city*

Historical  
EURACK





# COLAC 2050 growth plan

**The Colac 2050 Growth Plan is a visionary project that aspires to grow Colac's population to 20,000 by 2050.**

In one of the longest range planning projects ever attempted by Council, 2050 aims to put Colac in the box seat for growth as a population explosion in Melbourne encourages more people to look to settle in regional Victoria.

With a current population of 12,000 in Colac, 2050 sets out to establish the future location of new housing, associated servicing infrastructure and open space.

Key to this project will be the

appointment of a citizen's jury to explore options for growth in detail then make recommendations to Council on how and where that growth can be supported and accommodated.

Mayor Chris Potter said 2050 aimed to achieve development in a positive way, consistent with community aspirations and the capacity of land to accommodate future residents.

"Decentralisation from Melbourne has already started to occur due to over population and high density development impacting on livability," Cr Potter said.

"Colac has jobs, is increasingly better

connected to larger regional centres via rail and road, and easily accessible to our coastline. It's a great place to live and work and 2050 is going to build on this."

Community workshops were held in July and early August for anyone interested in the plan to get involved in shaping the vision of our city.

There's still time to contribute. Visit [www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/](http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/) community-consultations to find out about the project, how to register your interest for the Citizens' Jury, or how to make a submission; or contact Council's customer service centre on 5232 9400.

An aspiration to grow  
Colac's population to  
20,000 by 2050

## Your Councillors



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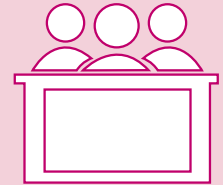


Cr Terry Woodcroft

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## CITIZENS' Jury



**Are you committed to the future of Colac?  
What do you think the future of Colac looks like?  
How should our city grow?  
Where should growth happen?  
If you are interested in helping Council plan for the future of our city, then we encourage you to nominate for the Colac 2050 Citizens' Jury.**

The jury will be made up of a representative sample of Colac Otway citizens. From those who nominate, up to 60 people will be randomly selected and then stratified so that the final jury reflects the demographic profile of the community in relation to age, gender and place of residence.

The selected jury will be briefed in detail on the background and potential of the Colac 2050 Growth Plan. Across three Saturdays in October and November 2017, the jury will be asked to discuss possible approaches and solutions to growth and ultimately make recommendations to Council.

Stay tuned for further details in the coming months.

### KEEP IN TOUCH

- @ColacOtwayShireCouncil
- Email [inquiry@colacotway.vic.gov.au](mailto:inquiry@colacotway.vic.gov.au)
- Visit [www.colacotway.vic.gov.au](http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au)
- Call customer service 5232 9400

**SNAPSHOT  
2.5**  
average number  
of people per  
household in  
Colac

# COLAC'S CBD PROJECT

## ready to break ground

## COLAC CBD REVITALISATION PROJECT

Colac Otway Shire Council expects to break ground on the \$1.95 million Colac CBD Revitalisation Project in August with major streetscape enhancements along Murray Street set to make our CBD a more attractive place to stop, shop and socialise.

Mayor Chris Potter said discussion with the community on the wider CBD and Entrances Project had been occurring since 2011, and this consultation would continue throughout the duration of the works.

"It's such a significant project for our shire and Council is committed to ensuring the community and particularly businesses in the upgrade area are minimally impacted and have the opportunity to be up-to-date on the schedule of works," he said.

"We intend to continue our interaction with the community until the final piece of concrete is dry.

"A site office on Murray Street will be open to the public during the works, and will be a one-stop shop for information on the project throughout its duration. In addition, we're offering an opportunity for people to register their interest to be included on a project update database."

The project which was funded by a partnership between Council, the state and federal governments, is due for completion in December 2017.

BELOW: An artist's impression of Telstra park, on the corner of Murray and Queen streets.

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Creation of a pocket park on part of the Telstra site delivering a beautiful entrance to the CBD.
- Complete upgrade of the centre median including exposed aggregate concrete and installation of up lighting from Corangamite Street through to Queen Street.
- New footpaths between Corangamite Street and Queen Street.
- Smart irrigation system installation in garden beds and centre median to ensure plant and tree health all year round.
- Installation of new updated street furniture including seating, bins, bike racks etc.



BEFORE



AFTER

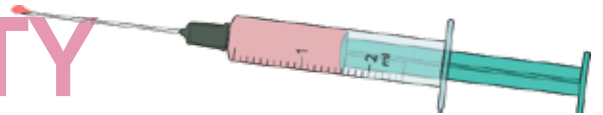


## REGISTER & CONTACT

To be kept up-to-date with project highlights, dates for sections of work to commence and other activities register your interest at: [www.colacotway.vic.gov.au](http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au) search works & projects.  
Or email the project office: [cbdcolac@colacotway.vic.gov.au](mailto:cbdcolac@colacotway.vic.gov.au)



# A DOSE OF REALITY



**Only last century polio (poliomyelitis) was endemic in the Australian community. Everyone knew of someone who had died from polio or was crippled by it.**

Australia's polio epidemic left an estimated 40,000 people with the impacts of paralytic polio - a strain of the virus that exists in about one percent of polio cases. When you calculate those numbers it means polio potentially infected four million Australians before a safe and effective vaccine was created to inoculate against it in the 1950s.

Until then, polio was every parent's greatest fear. Thousands of children spent months in special isolation wards, unable to breathe outside the 'iron lungs' that kept them alive.

At its peak in the 1940s and 1950s, the indefensible, invisible monster that was polio would paralyse or kill 500,000 people worldwide every year. It's difficult now to imagine the terror that swept Australia each time there was another outbreak.

Alarmingly, if Australian children and adults are not immunised, vaccine preventable illnesses such as polio could again become a problem in this country. Numerous outbreaks in Victoria earlier this year of the vaccine-preventable measles virus remind us of how easily such an illness can be contracted.

It's also a cue to acknowledge just how fortunate we are to live in a developed country which has all but eradicated deadly illnesses such as polio.

Rates of childhood vaccinations in Colac Otway Shire suggest our community is aware of the overwhelming evidence that supports vaccines; however this doesn't mean we can allow ourselves to become complacent.

'Community immunity' relies on a significant portion of a population being vaccinated as a measure of protection for individuals who have not developed immunity. For example, if someone with measles is surrounded by people who are vaccinated against measles, the disease cannot easily be passed on to anyone, and it will quickly disappear again.

*Scientific evidence shows that vaccination is one of the most successful health interventions known to humanity.*

Yet, Council was on the receiving end of an online anti-vax tirade a few months ago, and was persistently and voraciously trolled by people claiming to have evidence to the contrary.

While science delivers evidence and modern medicine delivers results, Google offers the anti-vaxxers theories, and lots of them.

You wouldn't self-diagnose cancer after a visit to Dr Google. How do you know the information you are getting online about vaccination is accurate? Basically, you don't. In reality if you search Google for 'vaccination' many of the results may be misleading. It's important to be confident in where you are getting your information from.



Kate, Tom and Tessa

## A LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

Colac Otway mother, dietitian and nutritionist Laura Alston is vaccinated and so are her two daughters. Laura strongly believes that the anti-vaccine movement often struggles to interpret complex scientific studies that can take years of tertiary education to understand.



"Online search engines don't provide unbiased, rigorous, peer reviewed research studies to the general public. So while people think they've done their research they have often only accessed someone's opinion and not the vast amount of high quality scientific evidence supporting vaccinations," she said.

Laura, who is currently undertaking a doctorate in population health, acknowledges that some people have concerns about vaccination, but argues that vaccines are among the safest of all medicine products.

"In terms of vaccinations, there seems to be misinformation regarding the level of risk they pose to an individual. In fact vaccines are rigorously tested in progressively larger clinical trials before they are made available in Australia. It can take up to 10 years for a vaccine to be approved for use."

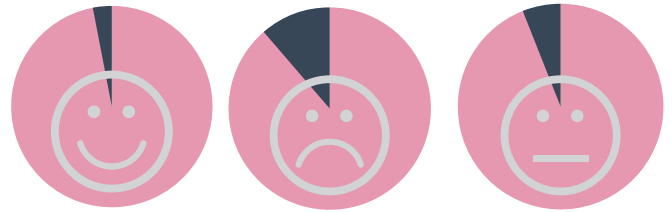
Laura is not alone in her opinion. The national aspirational immunisation coverage target has been set at 95 per cent, and Colac Otway Shire has almost reached that level. This target provides sufficient community immunity to prevent transmission of other vaccine preventable diseases.

Council's Health Protection Coordinator Jonathan Brett said the Colac Otway Shire was above the state average for our little babies (12 months). "This places us nicely above the level required for excellent community protection," he said.

**"Unfortunately we need to improve our immunisation rates for our toddlers (24 months) and increase our rates for our four year olds. We're currently not meeting the required targets to achieve coverage from highly infectious diseases such as measles.**

**"The key message is we need to do better. Vaccination is a free service offered by your GP or at bi-monthly sessions run by Council. There's no excuse for not immunising your child."**

## Colac Otway Shire immunisation rates



12 months  
96.97%

24 months  
88.68%

4 years  
93.94%

*"Our decision to vaccinate will not be just about us and our soon to be born baby, but also the health of the wider community." - Griff, Effiminyt*

*"My husband had mumps as a child and permanently lost his hearing in one ear as a result. We've made an educated choice to vaccinate our children as a preventative measure".  
- Emily, Birregurra*

*"Madison was very sick with pneumonia when he was 5 months old. We've seen exactly what a sick baby looks like and would do anything to prevent seeing that again."  
- Perri, Colac*

## A SCIENTIFIC PERSPECTIVE

A comprehensive booklet 'The Science of Immunisation: Questions and Answers' written by the nation's top immunologists and published by the Australian Academy of Science challenges the common myths about immunisation.

President of the Australian Academy of Science Professor Andrew Holmes is heading the charge in addressing concerns that people may choose not to immunise as a result of misinformation in the public domain.

"We hope that by promoting better understanding of the science behind immunisation, we are enabling people to make well informed choices about their health, the health of their children and the health of the broader community," Professor Holmes said.

"An ungrounded fear of immunising children against disease still exists in parts the community, which can be addressed by better education and understanding.

"With this booklet, all of the latest science is presented in a simple and impartial manner and gives anyone the ability to learn more and access the most up-to-date information from some of Australia's leading researchers in immunology."

If parents have concerns about vaccinations talk to your GP or Maternal Child Health Centre – rather than relying on claims from the internet that could put our kids' lives at risk.

A free copy of 'The Science of Immunisation' can be obtained from the Australian Academy of Science by visiting their website [science.org.au](http://science.org.au)

# Get ready for a garden Spring CLEAN!

Following a successful trial in 2016 Council has thrown its support behind additional organics collections (and a drop off) to help the community prepare for the upcoming fire danger period.

This initiative offers people the opportunity to easily dispose of extra garden waste that has accumulated over winter.

Mayor Chris Potter said that in response to feedback following last year's pilot, the program was being extended to include a free drop off option for non-kerbside residents.

"Anywhere that has kerbside collection will receive additional organics waste collection during October and November," he said.

"Those who don't have kerbside collection can take up to one cubic metre of organic material to their closest transfer station.

"This free service allows all residents across the shire the opportunity to better prepare for the upcoming fire season. Simple activities like clearing and disposing of organic waste from around your property can have a significant impact in your preparedness for the upcoming summer."

So grab your gardening gloves and get ready for a garden makeover.



**SNAPSHOT**  
**2427t**  
of organic waste  
collected in Colac  
Otway during  
2016/17

Colac's Shirley Pitman is a keen gardener and looks forward to using the free additional organics collections.



## EXTRA ORGANICS KERBSIDE COLLECTIONS

From Monday 23 October until Friday 1 December anytime you are scheduled to put out your red general waste bin you can also put out your green organic waste bin.

**It's that simple! Red bin = green bin**



## FREE ORGANICS DROP OFF

**Sunday 19 November**

Residents who don't receive kerbside collection can drop off one cubic metre of organic waste to a transfer station. Call Council on 5232 9400 to register.

Alvie 10am to 3pm  
Apollo Bay 10am to 2pm  
Birregurra 10am to 4pm

## WHAT WASTE WHERE?

**If you attempted 'Plastic Free July' you might have come to the realisation that in this modern day it's almost impossible to be plastic free, regardless of how conscientious you are.**

Fortunately, residents of Colac Otway Shire have plenty of opportunities to reduce their impact through various recycling or specialised waste deposit services offered by Council.

### Domestic recycling

Fortnightly kerbside recycling or free disposal at any of Council's transfer stations.

### Mattresses, scrap steel, oil and tyres

These items can be dropped off at Council's transfer stations for recycling. These items all get collected by recycling companies (small fees may apply to some items listed above).

### Mobile phones, DVDs, CDs, household batteries and household printer cartridges

These items can be dropped off at Council's customer service centres in Apollo Bay and Colac.

### Alternative waste items

Items such as paint and fluorescent light globes can be disposed of at Western Waste Management, Marriner St Colac.

Recycling is something that we can all do. The goal is to stop tossing out items that we can use again and again. If you are taking part in some recycling efforts then you should applaud yourself for doing what is good for the environment and for your hip pocket. The more we recycle the more we reduce the cost of waste to ratepayers.

Recycling isn't that big of a deal to do, but it's definitely worth it.



## DETOX YOUR HOME

Dispose of toxic household chemicals such as solvents, poisons, cleaning products, fertiliser and car care products for free.

This year Council's free household chemical 'Detox your home' collection is:

**Saturday 21 October**  
**10am to midday**  
**Colac Saleyards**  
**Colac Ballarat Road Irrewarra**

Collected items are recycled for recovery and diverted from landfill.

# WHAT'S ON

**16 - 17 SEPTEMBER**

## WIGGLE AMY'S GRAN FONDO

LORNE - FORREST - SKENES CREEK -  
GREAT OCEAN ROAD road closures  
[amysgranfondo.org.au](http://amysgranfondo.org.au)



**16 SEPTEMBER -  
1 OCTOBER**

## HUNT FOR THE GOLDEN GUMBOOT

OLD BEECHY RAIL TRAIL  
@GoldenGumboot



**21 OCTOBER**

## SHAKESPEARE IN THE OTWAYS

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM  
Otway Fly, Weeaprounah  
[visitotways.com](http://visitotways.com)  
The Tempest and Romeo & Juliet  
at other locations in November.



**14 - 15 OCTOBER**

## BIRREGURRA FESTIVAL & ART SHOW

[birregurrafestival.com.au](http://birregurrafestival.com.au)



## GARDEN LOVERS

**23 SEPTEMBER**

## COLAC GARDEN & LIFESTYLE EXPO

COLAC SHOWGROUNDS  
@StMarysColacGardenLifestyleExpo

**7 - 8 OCTOBER**

## COLAC ORCHID CLUB ANNUAL SHOW

COLAC SHOWGROUNDS

**25 OCTOBER**

## WARRION FLOWER SHOW

WARRION PUBLIC HALL  
@WarrionFC

## MEETINGS

### ORDINARY COUNCIL

WEDNESDAYS | 4PM

23 AUGUST & 25 OCTOBER  
COPACC

27 SEPTEMBER  
FORREST HALL

### PLANNING COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAYS | 4PM

13 SEPTEMBER & 11 OCTOBER  
COPACC



**14 OCTOBER**

## ANZ COLAC OTWAY 2018 BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

COPACC  
[colacchamber.com.au](http://colacchamber.com.au)

**20 - 22 OCTOBER**

## FAMILY HISTORY WEEKEND

COLAC HISTORY CENTRE,  
COPACC  
[colacfamilyhistory.org.au](http://colacfamilyhistory.org.au)

## WANT MORE?

For an up-to-date  
calendar of events, plus details on  
regular markets, immunisation  
sessions & livestock sales visit:

[colacotway.vic.gov.au](http://colacotway.vic.gov.au)

**26 OCTOBER**

## CHILDREN'S WEEK PICNIC IT'S PARTY TIME!

COLAC BOTANIC GARDENS



# Your town in Focus

## HONOURING EURACK

*Still around the corner  
there may wait, a new  
road or a secret gate.*

*J.R.R. Tolkien*

**On a narrow country road north-east of Beec the Eurack Avenue of Honour stands among rolling pastures and clay-bottomed lakes.**

For the uninitiated it's an unexpected discovery in the middle of sheep, dairy and cropping country, but for locals it's a living, breathing monument to our local and national history.

The Eurack Avenue of Honour is the earliest of its kind in Victoria, and is especially unique because it acknowledges local people who enlisted for the war, unlike most other avenues that commemorate soldiers who fell in battle.

The 100 metre line of Dutch Elm trees was planted in 1916 as an Arbor Day project initiated by head teacher George Pentreath. Each tree is marked with a painted concrete cross and bears the name of the soldier, or soldiers it commemorates.

The avenue is a precious place for the likes of Alan Carew, who grew up at Eurack and attended the local school in its heyday when there were up to 50 pupils.

"Kids used to walk, ride their bikes or ride ponies to school – there was a paddock for the ponies to graze in," Alan said.

If the Eurack Avenue of Honour is tied to the town's spirit, almost certainly the Eurack Hall is its heart.

The hall's modest cinder block exterior belies a veritable treasure trove of relics within, which include memorial boards honouring servicemen from both world wars.

The former Eurack State School sign features proudly alongside a photograph of our Monarch, while a photo of the Eurack footy team hangs above original goal umpire flags from the 1920s.

The community's loving touches are everywhere to be seen, including a new memorial garden for four soldiers who served in the First World War but enlisted after the avenue was planted.

Eurack's Shirley Carew said many locals had strong connections to Eurack.

"Whenever we have major events out here we get in excess of 200 people attending, which speaks volumes about how much people value the place," she said.

Next project on the list is the sealing of the hall's external brickwork with the support of a \$5000 grant from Council, and the purchase of blinds, urns and a microwave for the kitchen to serve regular users, also with a grant from Council.

As far as towns in Colac Otway Shire go, Eurack might be small in size, but it's big on the things that matter.



*Alan and Mary Carew*

