



Nominations now open for 2022 Colac Otway Shire Community Awards

Entries are now open for the 2022 Colac Otway Shire Community Awards with residents encouraged to nominate their local heroes.

Council is asking for nominations across three categories, Community Service Award (individual or group), Young Citizen of the Year and Citizen of the Year to recognise the commitment of community-minded residents who have made a significant contribution to the shire.

Mayor Kate Hanson said the awards are an opportunity to acknowledge those who work hard for the benefit of our towns and small communities.

"In my role as Mayor, I'm lucky to meet a diverse range of wonderful and dedicated people from all across the shire who make valuable

contributions toward this being a great region in which to live.

"There are many inspiring individuals and groups in our community who go above and beyond to provide opportunities or support to people of the Colac Otway community. Sometimes this goes unnoticed and this is the community's opportunity to shine a light on their achievements.

"These awards are a chance to say thank you to those who have a positive impact to improve the lives and wellbeing of others.

"Making a difference in your community may take many forms, so take the time to think about those people you know who might be quietly going about their day to day making a difference in our region.

"This year, for the first time, the awards ceremony will be a part of the Colac Kana Festival in March. We're looking forward to an inclusive community event with many people able to come along and celebrate local award winners," Cr Hanson said.

Nominations open Friday 14 January with online forms (and guidelines) available via Council's website at www.colacotway.vic.gov.au

Hard copies of nomination forms are also available to collect from Council's Customer Service Centres in Colac and Apollo Bay. For further information please contact Colac Otway Shire Council on 5232 9400.

Nominations close 5pm Tuesday 8 February.



COVID-19 Checklist

Following an increase of COVID-19 in the Colac Otway Shire, and around the state, it's time to think about your COVID-19 checklist in preparation for when you or a loved one needs to isolate.

Head to this link: www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/checklist for tips on what to do to prepare, including:

- Understanding changes to Victoria's isolation rules
- What to do if you test positive to COVID-19
- What to do if you've been told you're a contact of someone with COVID-19
- When and how to use rapid antigen tests
- Managing COVID-19 at home
- Preparing for COVID-19 for families and individuals

Here's another helpful link on managing isolation and tips on staying calm and healthy, as well as who to call for help if you're feeling anxious or uncertain: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/tips-managing-isolation>



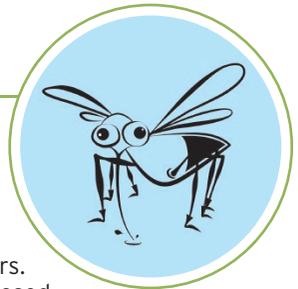
Protect Children from Mosquitoes

Mosquitoes can carry diseases that could make them sick, so it's up to us to help kids beat the bite.

To protect children from mosquitoes:

- Limit their outdoor activity when mosquito numbers are high.
- Make sure they wear long, loose-fitting clothing outdoors.
- Apply a thin, even layer of mosquito repellent to all exposed skin, avoiding hands, eyes and mouth.
- Choose a lower strength repellent for young children and babies (no more than 20% picaridin or DEET).
- If your child has sensitive skin (or is bothered by the smell of DEET) use picaridin or apply repellent to their clothes instead.
- Drape a mosquito net over the pram, stroller or infant carrier (make sure there are no gaps).

More tips to beat the bite: www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/campaigns/beat-bite



Changes to COVID-19 testing requirements are now in effect

Changes to testing requirements came into effect from 11:59pm 6 January.

People who test positive on a Rapid Antigen Test will need to isolate for seven days and notify their contacts - just as they would if they tested positive on a PCR.

You now also need to report a positive result to the Victorian Department of Health.

Report by visiting www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/report or calling 1800 675 398.

Further changes are scheduled to come into effect on 11.59pm on Tuesday January 18, which will affect an expanded list of workers eligible for isolation exemptions, such as those in the food production sector. Please keep up to date on restrictions at www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au

We're recruiting

Colac Otway Shire Council is an exciting place to work. If you are passionate about delivering great customer service, working for a progressive and innovative council, and making a difference to your local community, we would love to hear from you!

- Local Laws - Ranger
- Community Care Worker

For a position description and to apply online, visit www.colacotway.vic.gov.au or contact Human Resources on 5232 9529.

Council's Online Services

Connect with Council from wherever you are - there's a range of ways to contact us or conduct your Council business online through our website. For example, you can:

- Register your new cat or dog through our online e-Services portal
- Access our library of building and planning forms and checklists
- Report a missed bin collection
- Pay your Council rates, invoice or infringement
- Submit a request to Council

Visit www.colacotway.vic.gov.au or call us on 5232 9400 for assistance.



Stay up to date on Council Services and Operations

Should there be any impact to Council Services and Operations due to COVID-19, stay informed by checking Council's website, follow the Colac Otway Shire Council social media pages (Facebook and Instagram), contact us via email on inq@colacotway.vic.gov.au or give us a call on 5232 9400.

OPASS clients are encouraged to contact Council on 5232 9420 to advise if you are self-isolating.

As we all continue to do our best to keep one another safe, please continue to:

Test - Get tested if you have been exposed to COVID-19 or have symptoms, however mild - even if you're vaccinated.

Good hygiene - Wash your hands and cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow.

Distance - stay 1.5 metres away from people where you can.

Face mask - Wear a fitted face mask indoors.

Thanks Colac Otway - we're all in this together.

