



Council Meeting

The March 2021 Council meeting will be held on:

Wednesday 24 March 2021, 4pm at COPACC, Gellibrand Street, Colac.

Copies of the agenda will be available at www.colacotway.vic.gov.au on Friday 19 March.

A registration system will be in place to allow members of the public to attend the March Council meeting (subject to current COVID-19 restrictions). Please see next week's edition of the Colac Herald for details or contact Colac Otway Shire Council on 5232 9400.

Council meetings are livestreamed on Council's YouTube channel (search Colac Otway Shire Council at www.youtube.com) and written questions may be submitted by 5pm on the Monday prior to the meeting.



Colac Otway Arts Trail 2021

This year's trail has attracted more than 150 local artists and creatives and includes nine local artist studios and five galleries opening, more than 100 artists' work at the Apollo Bay Art Show, ten group venues, and more than 25 artists at the Colac art expo and nine outdoor displays involving community and local schools. Colac Otway Arts Trail is on from 2-18 April 2021.

Dates and locations: 2 - 4 April 2021 at Apollo Bay, 10 - 11 April 2021 at Colac and Birregurra, 17 - 18 April 2021 at Gellibrand and Lavers Hill.

Full details on the Colac Otway Arts Trail website <https://www.colacotwayartstrail.com/>



Pet Registrations

Annual pet registrations are being mailed out to Colac Otway Shire pet owners, if you haven't received yours yet, one should be arriving in your letterbox soon. Registering your furry family members with Council helps us to reunite you quickly if your pets wander away from home. Call Council on 5232 9400 or visit the website at www.colacotway.vic.gov.au for pet renewal and registration or to make a payment.



Colac Otway Community Vision - 2050

Colac Otway Shire Council invites the community to provide their thoughts and ideas to help develop a community vision for the future of Colac Otway Shire.

Online - complete the 2050 Colac Otway Community Vision survey online at Council's website, visit www.colacotway.vic.gov.au and search '2050 consultations'.

Hard copies of the 2050 Colac Otway Community Vision survey can also be collected from Council's Customer Service Centres in Colac and Apollo Bay.



Council Grants Program - Now Open

Colac Otway Shire Council Grants 2021-22 Program provides grants to assist in funding projects that benefit the wider community and help in achieving goals and outcomes consistent with Council's objectives.

Local businesses can apply for the Building Façade Improvement Program or Small Business Environmental Sustainability Program.

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 from the Colac Otway Shire Grants Program from five funding categories:

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

An online information session for applicants to obtain information on the Grants Program and discuss proposals will take place on Tuesday 16 March at 5.30pm to 6.30pm - visit Council's website for more information.

How to apply

Guidelines are available at www.colacotway.vic.gov.au (search 'Grants 2021'). An online form is available on Council's website and applications close **5pm on Friday 9 April 2021**.

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 for further information.



Disability Parking Permits are changing

From 22 March 2021, we will be moving our disability parking permit system to a new online platform - the Accessible Parking Permit (APP) Scheme and new online service.

Existing Colac Otway Shire Council permits will remain valid up to 30 June 2023 (unless permits expire prior to this date).

The new APP Scheme and online service will provide significant improvements in the administration and enforcement of disability parking.

What's changing?

The new APP Scheme aligns with the national Australian Disability Permit Scheme (ADPS) and provides for a consistent process and permit across Victoria.

Many improvements have been made, including:

- making sure the eligibility criteria for a permit is consistent across the state,
- allowing occupational therapists to complete assessments, in addition to GPs,
- introducing a permanent disability classification, so many will no longer have to return for reassessment,
- increasing the permit length from three years to five years for individuals,
- providing temporary permits for 6, 12 or 24 months, and
- a new single permit design to be used across the state.

Centralisation and digitisation of the scheme will reduce the subjectivity of the functional assessment and enable greater ability for councils to enforce the scheme.

A reduction in duplicate and misused permits will occur through system-wide crosschecks and visibility across council boundaries. Councils will now also have state-wide visibility on permits at the parking bay to assist with enforcement.

For more information on the coming changes to disability parking visit vicroads.vic.gov.au/app or call VicRoads on 1300 965 677. Additional information will also be available on Council's website from next week.

