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Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council Retreat

Over the weekend of Friday 16 – Sunday 18 March 2018, this years' Hindmarsh Shire Youth Councillors gathered at the Little Desert Nature Lodge to participate in their annual leadership retreat. The weekend sets the Youth Councillors up with the foundations to work collaboratively as a team and build on the individual strengths of each member.

Youth leadership workshop facilitation experts, YLead, travelled to Nhill to facilitate the weekend's activities and teach participants required skills. YLead specialises in providing leadership programs that build confidence, create united cohorts and motivate students to be active leaders in their school and broader communities. Across three days Youth Councillors learnt how to:

- Develop positive group dynamics through a series of team based activities that challenge participants to work cooperatively
- Encourage participants to reflect on their personal strengths and gain confidence in their ability to lead
- Challenge students with the notion of creating a legacy by positively influencing others
- Explore the importance of setting goals and identify the keys to achieving them
- Empower participants to lead themselves and take responsibility for their own choices and actions

The Hindmarsh Shire Youth Councillors for 2018 are:

2018 Youth of the Year- Tha Blay Sher

West Ward - Brodie Kennedy, Elena James, Ruby James & Nan Da San Bleh Dah

North Ward - Bridie O'Halloran, Nicholas Roll, Aidan Gelligen & Jordy Leach

East Ward - Kynan Clarke, Danni Haebich & Teo Haines



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Pictured: Hindmarsh Shire Youth Councillors do training activities together to work on communication and team work.

Women's Fashion and Wellbeing Market

The inaugural Women's Fashion and Wellbeing Market in celebration of International Women's Day has been hailed as a huge success thanks to the many people who supported and attended the event. Members of Council's Community Development team worked with dedicated community members to create an event for women to relax, enjoy some retail therapy and to celebrate a great day.

The event was held at the Nhill Memorial Community Centre on Saturday 3 March 2018 and raised \$1,331 for the Breast Cancer Research Foundation through selling raffle tickets, donations, door entry and tea/coffee and scone sales.

The event had a fantastic turnout with many community members travelling from all across the shire to celebrate International Women's Day. The day would not have been possible without all of the private stall holders including the Nhill Cancer Volunteer Group and West Wimmera Health Service who volunteered their time to be at the event.





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Rainbow Skate Park Completion.

Construction of the Rainbow Skate Park was completed mid-March. Local residents of all ages are already making use of the new attraction. An official opening will be held on Monday 9 April 2018.



Dimboola and Rainbow Skate Park- Official Openings

Hindmarsh Shire Council has announced that the new skate parks will be officially opened in early April to coincide with school holidays and the lead up to 2018 Youth Week.

The Rainbow skate park will be officially opened on Monday 9

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April at 12:00noon while the Dimboola skate park will be officially opened at 12:00noon on Tuesday 10 April.

As both skate parks have been supported and included in the 2016-2020 Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council Strategy, the openings will be a fun filled day with plenty of entertainment for our youth rather than just a formal opening.

With the assistance of funding through the State Government FreeZa program and Victorian Youth Week funding, both events will include a BBQ lunch, music by a local DJ, skate board demonstrations followed by a workshop and competition that will provide giveaways and prizes at the conclusion of official proceedings.





Active April

Hindmarsh Shire Council is excited to be involved with Premiers Active April program throughout the month of April to promote an active lifestyle for families and individuals. This program aims to encourage all Victorians to undertake 30 minutes of physical activity each day during April. It's free, it's fun and it's part of the Victorian Government's commitment to get more people active and healthy.

This year we have gathered information about the fitness/physical services that are currently available to members of our community and created a calendar of events which includes activities that families can get involved in over Easter and the school holidays. All of the activities available will appear on the Active April app/website and on Councils Facebook page.

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Nhill Skate Park Funding Success/ Community Consultation

Following recent reports that Hindmarsh Shire Council has received funding for the construction of a new skate park in Nhill, there has been considerable discussion within the community in relation to the proposed location and design.

Council held community consultations during the preparation of the grant funding application. Council will now hold further consultations prior to detailed plans being established.

These consultations will allow residents to ask questions and to gain an understanding of the processes already taken in developing the concept designs and site selection of the skate park.

The community consultation will occur at the Nhill Memorial Community Centre on Wednesday 4 April 2018 commencing at 7.00pm.

Council received advice from the Hon John Eren, MP Minister for Sport that funding of \$100,000 has been provided through the Victorian Government's 2018 – 2019 Community Sports Infrastructure Fund for this project. Council will contribute the balance of funds for the project.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategies evening with Michael Donehue

On Wednesday 21 March 2018, Michael Donehue visited Nhill as a part of the Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council's Bright Futures for Young Victorians program, funded by VicHealth. Michael works for Alcohol and Drug education specialists and also promotes wellbeing, by sharing his own personal story relating to mental health and strategies to assist with maintaining good mental health. There were 22 attendees present and each took away their own piece of advice

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encouraging them to work towards good mental health each day. Topics discussed were: Outlining triggers, symptoms to look out for, the importance of positive relationships, appropriate and positive language, diet and exercise, where to go for help and further support services.



Pictured L to R: Ebony Rintoule with Hindmarsh Shire Youth Councillors Nan Da San Bleh Dah, Ruby James & Teo Haines with guest speaker Michael Donehue.

Community Conversations

During March council held eight Community Conversation meetings throughout the Shire. Meetings were well attended and gave our community members an opportunity hear highlights from our 17/18 budget, an overview of our 18/19 budget including proposed initiatives and capital works projects, and round table discussions. The round table discussions were very well received and attendees discussed issues important to them and their community.



Hindmarsh Tourism Update

Wimmera Mallee Tourism has taken up the invitation from Grampians Tourism CEO Marc Sleeman to have a semi-permanent display at the Halls Gap Visitor Information Centre. This follows a move of the Halls Gap VIC to a larger area adjacent to their former location, allowing for larger display area.

A display desk, pull-up banners and brochures will give Wimmera Mallee Tourism, and the Shire's it represents, significant visitor exposure in the busy information centre.

Wimmera Mallee Tourism has also developed an advocacy document for the proposed Stage 2 of the Silo Art Trail project. This follows extensive and on-going project planning that was initiated by invitation from Yarriambiack Shire Council in July 2017. The project plans to

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build the initial Silo Art Trail into a stronger regional tourism product by extending it across LGA borders. A detailed project plan and business case is being prepared for Stage 2 which will see artworks on an extra 12 silos across the Wimmera Mallee region, strategically feeding major highways and tourist routes into the original six silos completed in Stage 1 of the project.



Street & Reserve Tree Strategy

Urban Forest Consulting has been engaged to prepare a Street & Reserve Tree Strategy. Current tree coverage & management practices will be reviewed and a 10 year plan for tree planting opportunities established. An important component of the process will be consultation with the community. Any submissions received will be considered before the draft Strategy is presented to Council for adoption.

Municipal Strategic Statement

In accordance with Section 12 of the Planning and Environment Act, Council must review its planning scheme on a regular basis. Council has recently engaged the services of 'Red Ink Planning' to undertake this statutory review and to bring the Municipal Strategic Statement within the Planning Scheme up to current 'best practice' as set out by DELWP. The Community will be consulted and given an opportunity to contribute submissions during this review.

Western Hwy Safety Improvements, Nhill

Council has received quotations and is currently working with contractors to install a pedestrian crossing connecting the West Wimmera Health Service Centre with the median carpark, including provision of all abilities car spaces. Works also include installation of an electronic warning sign and bollards on Nelson Street (Adelaide bound) at the Victoria Street approach.

Flood Recovery

The tender period for Package 1 of the flood recovery program has closed. There was a positive response with several tenders received.

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Works	This is the first of three main packages that will be tendered as part of the flood recovery program, which is now expected will exceed \$5 M in total.
Commercial Lane, Nhill	Asphalt works to improve the surface of Commercial Lane has been completed, resulting in improved comfort for road users while increasing functionality for businesses receiving and dispatching goods and using forklifts etc.
Shoulder sheeting	Council has commenced its shoulder re-sheeting program. Winiam East Rd is complete with Winiam and Katyil Wail Roads set to follow. The shoulder re-sheets improves safety by providing a safe area to move onto when leaving the seal to pass or overtake another vehicles.
Block 40 Rd Drainage	Drainage on the Block 40 Rd has been improved with the installation of new culverts at the Eldorado Rd intersection. The improved drainage will ensure Block 40 Rd will reach the end of its useful life.