

GANNAWARRA *CONNECT*



May - June 2022

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FROM THE MAYOR

The next few months will be a busy time for Council as we seek community feedback on a number of key strategic documents, including the 2022/2023 Proposed Budget and the *Draft Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy*.

All feedback received during the community engagement period is valuable, as it helps with the development of the future approved versions of these documents.

To learn more about these strategic documents and how to have your say, please read the stories featured in this edition of *Gannawarra Connect* and keep an eye on other major Council communication content, such as our website, Facebook page and *Gannawarra News*.

Regards,

Mayor Charlie Gillingham



2022/2023 PROPOSED BUDGET - HAVE YOUR SAY

Residents are encouraged to have their say on Council's 2022/2023 Proposed Council Budget, with feedback to be sought via a community engagement process scheduled to begin in mid-May.

One of Council's major documents, the Proposed Budget outlines how Council will maintain current services, support projects and invest in initiatives that will continue to make the Gannawarra a great place to live.

For more information regarding the 2022/2023 Proposed Council Budget and how to have your say, please follow Council on Facebook, read our fortnightly newsletter, *Gannawarra News*, or visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/budget



COMMUNITY NEWS

WHAT'S ON

7 MAY

Murrabit Country Market

14 MAY

Jazz High Tea, Lake Charm

22 MAY

Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market

4 JUNE

Murrabit Country Market

17 JUNE

Circling Time by Kutcha Edwards, Kerang

26 JUNE

Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market

2 JULY

Murrabit Country Market

24 JULY

Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market

29 JULY

Rolling on the Floor Laughing by The Listies, Cohuna

6 AUGUST

Murrabit Country Market

19 AUGUST

Sound of Your Town by Mama Kin Spender, Kerang

28 AUGUST

Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market

EVERY SATURDAY

Kerang and Cohuna parkruns

Event details can be found at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events

To add your event to Council's calendar of events, visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events

CREATIVE GANNAWARRA PROGRAM CONTINUES

The 2022 Creative Gannawarra program of events continues this May and June.

The Lake Charm Hall will host *Jazz High Tea* on Saturday, 14 May from 4pm. Join divine melody maker Tamara Kuldin (above) in an elegant, relaxing and fun environment to indulge in some freshly brewed tea and a selection of delicious savory and sweet treats.



Meanwhile, renowned indigenous singer and storyteller, Kutcha Edwards (below) will bring his latest show, *Circling Time* to the Kerang Turf Club on Friday, 17 June.

For more information regarding both performances and how to purchase tickets, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/CreativeGannawarra or follow Creative Gannawarra on Facebook.



IMMUNISATION SESSIONS BY APPOINTMENT

MAY 2022

Wednesday, 4 May
Kerang
(10.30am – 12 noon)

Wednesday, 18 May
Cohuna
(10.30am – 12 noon)
Kerang
(4pm – 5.30pm)

JUNE 2022

Wednesday, 1 June
Kerang
(10.30am – 12 noon)

Wednesday, 15 June
Cohuna
(10.30am – 12 noon)
Kerang
(4pm – 5.30pm)

NOTE: Bookings must be made prior to attending any of Council's immunisation sessions, which can be done by phoning (03) 5450 9333.

It is encouraged that only one parent/guardian attend with the child to be vaccinated. Anyone showing any of the symptoms of COVID-19, or those who are in isolation, should not attend.

Gannawarra Shire Council acknowledges the Barapa Barapa, Yorta Yorta and Wamba Wamba people as the traditional Owners of the land now known as Gannawarra.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and acknowledge their rich culture and connection to Country.



DRAFT GANNAWARRA AQUATIC STRATEGY ENGAGEMENT UNDERWAY

Council is currently undertaking an extensive community engagement process regarding its *Draft Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy*.

Developed following feedback from residents and key stakeholders via surveys and on-site meetings held in late 2020, technical assessments of all Council and community-managed facilities in the municipality and the development of a strategic directions options analysis report, the draft document proposes a bold change to the provision of aquatics within the Gannawarra, with a focus more on modern and contemporary use.

Residents will be able to provide feedback on the *Draft Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy* in a number of ways:

Stakeholder interviews: Councillors, Council staff and the *Draft Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy* consultants are currently meeting with swimming pool management committees, Progress Associations/Development Committees, schools, health providers and local advisory groups.

Community pop-up sessions: Drop-in sessions will be held at the Cohuna, Kerang, Koondrook, Leitchville and Quambatook swimming pools during June. Dates, times and how to book will be announced soon.

Survey: Residents will be able to provide feedback via a survey. Details regarding how to access this survey will be announced at a later date.

To view the *Draft Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy* or to learn more regarding the development of this document, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/aquatic



GLASS BOTTLE RECYCLING NOW AVAILABLE

Did you know you can now recycle your household glass bottles for free at any of Council's transfer stations.

Glass only drop-off skip bins have recently arrived at the Cohuna, Kerang, Lalbert and Quambatook transfer stations, with all materials collected to be recycled and turned into new products.

For more information regarding Council's transfer stations, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/transfer_stations





LIBRARY CELEBRATIONS

The Gannawarra Library Service will be holding a number of special events this May and June.

Mother's Day-themed Story Time sessions will be held at the Cohuna Library on Tuesday, 3 May and at its Kerang branch on Thursday, 5 May,

The service's Cohuna and Kerang branches will also be marking Victorian Law Week between 16-22 May. Displays relating to key legal messages and support will be available at both branches, with the service in the process of developing a flyer outlining how to get documents certified locally. Other events linked to Victorian Law Week are also being planned, and will be promoted via *Gannawarra News* and the Gannawarra Library Service Facebook page.

Meanwhile, exhibitions are returning to Kerang's Sir John Gorton Library, with planning occurring for exhibits throughout 2022. Community groups are able to request to exhibit in this space by completing a form at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/CreativeGannawarra

For more information about the Gannawarra Library Service, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/libraries



SOCIAL MEALS PROGRAM TO RESUME IN 2022

Planning is underway for the resumption of Council's popular Social Meals program.

Held at Cohuna, Kerang, Koondrook, Lake Charm, Lalbert, Leitchville, Macorna, Murrabit and Quambatook, attendees are able to socialise and enjoy a home-cooked two-course meal.

Details regarding venues and dates will be announced at a later date and published in a future issue of *Gannawarra Connect*.

DRAFTING OUR CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

Council is in the process of creating a Draft Climate Change Strategy which will help Council achieve the objectives outlined in its recently adopted *Climate Change* policy.

Some of these objectives include transitioning to 100 per cent renewable energy and corporate net zero emissions by 2025. Other actions include helping lead the community in achieving a 50 per cent reduction in emissions by 2030 and achieving net zero emissions by 2040, as well as assisting the community to be more resilient to the effects of climate change.

Various key stakeholders and community groups are being engaged to help guide this process in drafting the strategy.

For more information regarding the development of the Draft Climate Change Strategy, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/climate

PROJECTS UPDATE



KERANG ALL ABILITIES ADVENTURE PLAY SPACE

Construction of the Kerang All Abilities Play Space, to be located adjacent to the fire brigade training track and soundshell within Atkinson Park, is continuing.

Earthwork and drainage work is occurring, as well as the installation of the space's main features - including in-ground trampolines, a log scramble area, water play areas and a fully accessible sway fun swing.

Meanwhile, work to construct the region's first Changing Places facility, which is to feature in an expanded public toilet facility next to the Atkinson Park car park, has started. Featuring a height-adjustable adult-sized change table, ceiling track hoist system and a peninsular-structured toilet, the space will provide suitable facilities for people who cannot use standard accessible toilets.

This project, supported by a \$1 million contribution from the State Government's Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program, builds on all abilities play space developments completed at Koondrook and Cohuna.

To see a detailed version of the project's plans, please click on the projects tab at www.gsc.vic.gov.au

COHUNA WATERFRONT PROJECT UPDATE

Residents and visitors are benefiting from complete sections of the Cohuna Waterfront Project.



Sections completed include the installation of a new seating area at the intersection of King George and Sampson streets (main photo), the creation of dedicated outdoor dining area either side of the pedestrian crossing connecting King George Street to Garden Park (above) and the installation of a jetty on the banks of Gunbower Creek. Landscaping work and lighting installation will be completed by mid-May.

Stage 2 of the Cohuna Waterfront Development formed part of the \$3.4 million Cohuna CBD and Waterfront Connections Project, supported by the State Government's \$2.7 billion Building Works package. Improvements to the intersection of King George and Sampson streets were funded by the Federal Government's Murray-Darling Basin Economic Development Program.

TRANSFORMATIONAL MURRABIT STORMWATER PROJECT CONTINUES

Work associated with Stages 5 and 6 of the Murrabit Stormwater Project is underway, which will connect Church, Laursen and Whiter streets, as well as the Murrabit Market site, to the town's rejuvenated stormwater network.

The project, supported by the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, is converting the town's stormwater network from an open drain system to an underground drainage infrastructure network.

Following feedback from the community, Council will also plant trees along areas where stormwater works have occurred to beautify the township.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

RELOCATE TO THE GANNAWARRA

The Gannawarra is a popular destination for those seeking relocation to regional Victoria. The migration of people from Australia's urban areas to regional destinations over the past two years has been substantial, and the Gannawarra has also benefited from this trend.

The Victorian and Federal Governments have shown great support for regional relocation through the Relocation Assistance program, AgMove program and promotion through the Make the Move campaign.

To leverage these government programs, we have been promoting relocation opportunities in the Gannawarra, highlighting the Gannawarra as a viable destination with great opportunities in employment and lifestyle.

We will also be promoting the Gannawarra at the launch of the Push for the Bush campaign at the upcoming Melbourne Home Show.



RENEWABLE ENERGY INTEREST REMAINS STRONG

Interest from developers in renewable energy projects continues to be strong since the announcement of the KerangLink project (pictured, highlighted in pink).

KerangLink will connect Victoria and New South Wales' electricity network via infrastructure that passes through the municipality, with the upgrading of current infrastructure and development of new transmission lines enabling local renewable energy facilities to feed into the national grid.



KerangLink will increase network capacity allowing construction of further renewable energy projects in the Gannawarra, similar to the Gannawarra Solar Farm (below). KerangLink will require 800 staff during construction, and it is estimated that another 800-plus staff will be required to construct the wind, solar and battery projects.



With at least six large scale solar farms awaiting the upgrade to the power grid before starting construction, KerangLink is the key to unlocking these projects. Upgrades to the Kerang-Mildura transmission line could commence as early as 2023.

Several developers are also looking at wind farm projects within the Gannawarra. A testing station has been set up locally to measure wind velocity and other factors critical to wind turbine function. Wind farm projects are great ways for local farmers to offset their farming income and provide them with financial security.

A large workforce will be required during construction of each of the individual projects and will provide great employment opportunities for locals. Renewable energy projects also have a flow-on effect to our local retail, hospitality, accommodation, and service sectors who will need to provide goods and services to these workforces.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



BUSINESS OUTDOOR ACTIVATION FUNDING REAPING BENEFITS

Hospitality businesses across the Gannawarra Shire have benefited from the State Government's Outdoor Eating and Entertainment Package. Outdoor dining projects have occurred for eligible businesses across the Gannawarra and have provided a boost during these difficult times, including at Leitchville (above, left) and Cohuna (above, right).

The project works, undertaken by council staff and local contractors, have been designed to fit with the branding used in the Gannawarra and provide consistency across our streetscapes.

The new outdoor dining areas allowed businesses to trade through the COVID-19 restrictions. These projects provide ongoing benefits and provide business owners the opportunities to host events and functions that take advantage of our terrific climate.

"The joint project with Gannawarra Shire saw the implementation of the extensive outdoor lawn dining area which has been significantly successful to our business. It has brought tourists and locals alike together to dine out, enjoy family time that is a pet friendly area and takes advantage of our weather. The communication and engagement of the shire's project officers was exceptional," Royal Hotel Kerang owner, Rob Fisher said.

"The outdoor dining activation projects has been fantastic for the Bower Tavern. The upgrades have freshened up our outdoor dining and made it more accommodating and appealing to visitors and locals. It's also great to see the current works to connect the creek to the main street, I commend the Gannawarra Shire staff's foresight and I believe the development will showcase the town," Jamie Williams, owner of Bower Tavern, Cohuna said.

"Council was very proactive with the outdoor seating project, which has been invaluable due to the limited in-door seating requirements during the COVID-restricted times. The project will continue to be an asset to our business and the shire for many years to come," Leitchville Hotel owner, Ryan O'Mahony said.

FACILITATING LOCAL RESIDENTIAL PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

With the residential market so tight and for the Gannawarra to continue to be a relocation destination, available housing and land options are required.

To assist with this, Council continues to work closely with residential developers who can provide these options, as well as identify suitable sites for future development.



COUNCIL INFORMATION

YOUR COUNCILLORS AVOCA WARD



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COUNCIL MEETING DETAILS

The **May 2022 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 18 May at 6.30pm. The **June 2022 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 15 June at 6.30pm.

Meetings are livestreamed via Council's website www.gsc.vic.gov.au/livestream. Changes to meeting details and times will be promoted via *Gannawarra News* and Council's Facebook page.

Agendas for Meetings of Council are available online at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/meetings two days prior to each meeting.

If you have any questions about Council or would like to lodge a request, please refer to the *Contacting Council* section of this newsletter.

CONTACTING COUNCIL

IN PERSON

Cohuna Customer Service Centre
21-23 King Edward Street
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BY PHONE

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BY MAIL

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ONLINE

Lodge a request at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/request

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook – www.facebook.com/gannawarra

Twitter – www.twitter.com/GannawarraShire