

GANNAWARRA CONNECT



November-December 2020

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NEW COUNCIL ELECTED

Six Councillors and one returning Councillor make up the Gannawarra Shire Council for 2020-2024 following Local Government elections, held in October.

The results of the 2020 Gannawarra Shire Council election were confirmed in mid-November, with the new Councillors sworn in on 16 November.

Charlie Gillingham was the only candidate to nominate in the Avoca Ward, with Keith Link and Garner Smith (Yarran Ward), Ross Stanton (Murray Ward) and Kelvin Burt, Travis Collier and Jane Ogden (Patchell Ward) elected.

Former Mayors, Brian Gibson and Lorraine Learmonth, as well as Jodie Basile and Andrew Gibbs did not seek re-election. Jenny Fawcett and Steve Tasker were unsuccessful in seeking re-election

To learn more about your new Councillors, please read their profiles inside this edition of *Gannawarra Connect*.



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL
RETAILERS THIS CHRISTMAS

LOVE
Your
LOCAL

Shop the Gannawarra



KNOW YOUR LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

The **Quambatook Community Resource Centre**, located in Guthrie Street, is open 9am-5.30pm Mondays and Wednesdays, as well as 9am-5pm Fridays.



Whether you need something photocopied or scanned, some help filling in forms or looking up information, the Resource Centre and its coordinator, Annie Meadows (above) is here for you.

If you're not sure about where to go to get assistance with anything at all, we can point you in the right direction or give you a hand.

The Centre's services include:

- IT help, photocopying, scanning, laminating and secretarial services;
- Free computer and wi-fi use;
- Courses, including First Aid, basic computer and many more;
- Library;
- Centrelink; and
- Production of the *Mallee Root News*.

The Centre would love to hear from you if there is something you would like to try, whether it is art for beginners, home brewing, beekeeping, family history or taxidermy!

New volunteers are always welcome, just pop in and chat to Annie or phone (03) 5457 1220. You needn't be available every week or even every month as the tasks are many and varied.

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH LIBRARY NEWS, EVENTS

Gannawarra Library Service patrons can now keep up to date with the latest news and events via their email inbox.

To sign up for the Gannawarra Library Service e-newsletter, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/libraries



NOTE: Picture taken at event held prior to implementation of COVIDsafe measures

VISIT YOUR LOCAL POOL THIS SUMMER

The Cohuna and Kerang swimming pools will be open this summer with COVIDsafe measures in place.

Both venues will be open daily between 10am to 8pm daily from Tuesday, 1 December, with these hours in place until Sunday, 28 February 2021.

Operating hours may also be extended on days of extreme heat, with changes promoted via Council's Facebook page — www.facebook.com/gannawarra

Please note that Council's outdoor pools will be closed on days the Bureau of Meteorology website's forecast temperature for either town is 23 degrees Celsius or lower.

For more information, visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/pools

IMMUNISATION SESSIONS

DECEMBER 2020

Wednesday, 2 December
Kerang
(10.30am – 12 noon)

Wednesday, 16 December
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.

For more details, visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/immunisation

YOUR NEW COUNCILLORS

YARRAN WARD

The Yarran Ward, which covers Cohuna and Leitchville, will be represented by two first-term representatives.



Rural supply store owner, **Garner Smith** (left) was the first successful candidate. A father of two, Mr Smith also has experience as a beef farmer.

Joining Mr Smith as a Yarran Ward representative is Leitchville resident, **Keith Link** (right). A Justice of the Peace, Mr Link has held leadership roles with many community groups.



Mr Smith and Mr Link replace former Mayor, Lorraine Learmonth and Andrew Gibbs, who both did not seek re-election.

Koroop accountant, Andrea Otto and former Mayor, Neville Goulding also contested the ward's election.

PATCHELL WARD

Three new Councillors were elected to represent the Patchell Ward, which covers Kerang, Macorna and Tragowel.



Current Kerang Progress Association President, **Kelvin Burt** was the first successful candidate.

Victoria Police Community Engagement Officer, **Travis Collier** was also elected, receiving the second highest number of votes.



MURRAY WARD



Goulburn-Murray Water Torrumbarry Irrigation Area manager, **Ross Stanton** was elected to represent the

Murray Ward, which covers Koondrook and Murrabit.

A member of the Central Rivers Board—which manages the Central Murray and Golden Rivers football/netball leagues, Mr Stanton is a life member of the Murrabit Football Netball Club.

Mr Stanton replaces former representative Steve Tasker, who was unsuccessful in seeking re-election.

Murrabit resident, Yvette Myhill also stood for election in this ward.

AVOCA WARD



First elected to Council in October 2016, **Charlie Gillingham** stood uncontested in the Avoca Ward, which covers the western half of Gannawarra Shire and Benjeroop.

A current Board member of Northern District Community Health and the North Central Catchment Management Authority, Charlie has lived in the area for more than 50 years and currently operates a family farm at Lake Charm.

Charlie also has an interest in the local environment, the irrigation industry and local sporting groups.



Former Gannawarra Shire Council staff member, **Jane Ogden** was also elected.

Mr Burt, Mr Collier and Ms Ogden replace former Mayor Brian Gibson and Jodie Basile, who both did not seek re-election, and Jenny Fawcett, who was unsuccessful in seeking re-election.

Kerang business owner, Rodney Hibbet; schoolteacher, Paul Donovan; and former Avoca Ward representative, Neil Gannon also stood for election in this ward.

HOLIDAY SERVICES

Gannawarra Shire Councillors and staff wish you and your family a happy and safe festive season.

Please note the following operating hours for Council service centres and facilities throughout the holidays:



COUNCIL OFFICES

The Kerang Customer Service Centre will close at 5.00pm on Thursday, 24 December 2020 and reopen at 8.30am Monday, 4 January 2021.

The Cohuna Customer Service Centre will close at 4.00pm Thursday, 24 December 2019 and reopen 10.00am Monday, 4 January 2021.

For Council emergencies only please call 0409 022 920.

GATEWAY TO GANNAWARRA VISITOR CENTRE

The Gateway to Gannawarra Visitor Centre will be closed Friday, 25 December 2020 and Saturday, 26 December 2020.

Operating hours for other dates are as follows:

Thursday, 24 December 2020: 9.00am - 12.00pm.

Monday, 27 December 2020 to Friday, 1 January 2021: 10.00am - 2.00pm.

The Centre will return to normal trading hours on Monday, 4 January 2021.

LOCAL LAWS/ANIMAL CONTROL

For local laws and animal control emergencies only, please phone 0428 500 212.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The Gannawarra Shire Children's Services Office will close at 5.00pm on Thursday, 24 December 2020 and re-open at 8.30am on Monday, 4 January 2021.

GANNAWARRA CHILDREN'S CENTRE

The Gannawarra Shire Children's Centre will close at 6.00pm Wednesday, 23 December 2020 and will reopen at 8.00am Tuesday, 12 January 2020.

FAMILY DAY CARE

For urgent queries over the holiday period, please telephone 0427 372 488.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Maternal and Child Health Centres will be closed from 5.00pm Thursday, 24 December 2020 and will reopen as normal on Monday, 4 January 2021.

For information, advice or support contact:

Maternal & Child Health Line 24-hour - 13 22 29

Parent Line - 13 22 89

Breastfeeding Helpline - 1800 686 268

Nurse on Call - 1300 60 60 24

For urgent matters please contact your local GP or Hospital.



LIBRARIES

The Sir John Gorton Library, Kerang closes at 5.00pm on Thursday, 24 December 2020 and reopens at 10.00am Monday, 4 January 2021.

The Cohuna Library closes at 5.00pm on Thursday, 24 December 2020 and reopens at 10.00am Monday, 4 January 2021.

The Leitchville Library closes at 5.30pm on Thursday, 24 December 2020 and reopens at 1.30pm Tuesday, 5 January 2021.

The Quambatook Library closes 4.00pm on Wednesday, 23 December 2020 and reopens at 9.30am Monday, 4 January 2021.

HOLIDAY SERVICES



COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES

If you are not going to be home for the Christmas holiday period please let office staff know as soon as possible for administration purposes on (03) 5450 9333. For NDIS, Personal Care and Meals on Wheels alterations/emergencies/cancellations during the Council office closure period, please telephone (03) 5450 9601.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE AND HOME CARE

There will be no Home Care or Property Maintenance offered from 5.00pm Thursday, 24 December 2020 until 7.30am Monday, 4 January 2021. Veteran Home Care clients can call (03) 5450 9333 if they would like to re-arrange their times.

PERSONAL CARE

Personal Care will continue as usual except on Christmas Day, when no services will be offered.

COMMUNITY ACCESS/RESPITE CARE

Community Access/Respite Care services will take place by prior arrangement only. If you require Community Access/Respite Care over this period, please discuss your needs with our Administration Officers on (03) 5450 9333 before Thursday, 24 December 2020.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels will continue as usual except for Christmas Day. If you require a meal on Christmas Day please discuss your needs with our administration staff on (03) 5450 9333 before Thursday, 24 December 2020.

GNETS

At the time of publication, the Gannawarra Non-Emergency Transport Service was postponed as part of efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19.

WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION

All collections that would normally occur on Friday, 25 December 2020 and Friday, 1 January 2021 will take place on the Sundays following, being Sunday, 27 December 2020 and Sunday, 3 January 2021. All other collections remain the same.

TRANSFER STATIONS

The Cohuna and Kerang Transfer Stations will be closed on Friday, 25 December 2020 and Friday, 1 January 2021. Normal operating hours apply on all other days.

DENYER LANDFILL

The Denyer Landfill will be closed on Friday, 25 December 2020 and Friday, 1 January 2021. Normal operating hours apply on all other



OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOLS

The Cohuna and Kerang swimming pools will be closed on Friday, 25 December 2020 and will operate during the hours of 12.00pm - 7.00pm on Saturday, 26 December 2020 and Friday, 1 January 2021.

KERANG EXERCISE POOL

The Kerang Exercise Pool in Patchell Plaza will close from 2.00pm Thursday, 24 December 2020 and will reopen 10.00am Monday, 4 January 2021.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

5 WAYS to WELLBEING

CONNECT...
With others: your family,
your friends,
your community.

BE ACTIVE...
Exercise, dance, play.
Go for a walk or run.

TAKE NOTICE...
Be curious. Be aware
of what is going on
around you.

GIVE...
Your time.
Your presence.
Your appreciation.

KEEP LEARNING...
Try something new.
Set a challenge you
will enjoy. Read a book.

COVID-19 COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS SUPPORT

For the latest and most up to date information regarding Coronavirus, visit www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

For all Council-related information, including changes to services, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

Council has funded two leadership programs through the Federal Government's Drought Communities Funding - Extension.

More than 25 local residents recently participated in *the Gannawarra Conversation*, meeting online twice to brainstorm some big picture ideas for the Gannawarra, which included:

- A self-drive tour of Gannawarra using augmented reality so that stories come to life (eg. parks and gardens, heritage, art);
- Promoting our assets – Agriculture, Lifestyle and Nature-based tourism;
- Creating a dedicated youth space; and
- Encouraging entrepreneurship and creative business development – such as online platform for promotion of local producers and creatives.

The Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee, which consists of 28 agencies, looks forward to continuing to work with the community to explore these ideas further.

Council is also a partner in the Make a Change Australia's Let's Pivot Leadership Program. Participation is free for Gannawarra residents with the program delivered fully online through to 31 March 2021. All are invited to participate in any way that suits—info-mailers, zoom discussions, online community, resource toolkit and more.

To join simply subscribe now at <https://bit.ly/join-lets-pivot>



GANNAWARRA SAY NO TO FAMILY VIOLENCE

Council and local agencies have worked in partnership for a number of years on an annual Gannawarra Goes Orange campaign to raise awareness of family violence.

This year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, activities led by the Gannawarra Free from Violence Working Group will focus on a media campaign and include the development of a localised video clip, radio and print advertising and banner and flag displays in prominent locations.

The key messages will be 'Gannawarra Says No to Family Violence' and 'Respect Women – Call It Out'.



In addition, banners will be displayed in prominent public locations and the Kerang Council Chambers will be lit up orange.

The Gannawarra Goes Orange campaign will take place between 25 November and 10 December and forms part of a statewide campaign as part of the 16 Days of Activism against Family Violence.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



KOONDROOK RETREAT SET TO OPEN

Work on the Koondrook Retreat is close to completion, with several small outdoor jobs to be completed prior to the facility being officially opened.

The facility comprises six self-contained safari tents set along Gunbower Creek, and are able to sleep five people.



Koondrook Retreat will be managed by industry professionals who have expertise in tourism, marketing and product development, with Council awarding the successful team a two-year contract following an Expression of Interest process.

Once confirmed, the opening will be a public event. Details will be promoted via Council's website and Facebook pages.

MAJOR PROJECTS CONTINUING

Council plays a key role in diversifying the local economy. At present, there are a range of projects proposed that will generate significant employment during the next four years:

VHM Mineral Sands—The VHM mineral sands project at Lalbert is hoping to commence in 2021. A wide range of regulatory work has been undertaken behind the scenes and VHM is working with Council on a range of infrastructure options. The project is likely to create around 250 jobs over a 30-year period and have a huge impact on the local economy.

New Irrigation Project—While many people are experiencing the impacts of a tight water market, some opportunists are investing in new projects aimed at increasing the capacity of irrigated agriculture in the Gannawarra. Calum Peace has a 6,000-acre project with 40 centre pivots and a 1000-acre vineyard south west of Kangaroo Lake. This type of investment will create up to 40 jobs, especially around harvest times, and showcase the area for further investment in agriculture.

OTHER WORKS

Below is a list of projects underway or under consideration:

- Development of a new piggery at Kerang East is underway.
- Several new poultry projects are in the process of securing property.
- A new \$40 million medicinal cannabis facility in Tate Drive, Kerang is under consideration.
- Cohuna Waterfront development works are underway.
- The renovation of the Koondrook Railway Goods Shed continues.
- Staff are working with a developer regarding an accommodation project in Cohuna.
- Stage 9 of the Tate Drive Industrial Estate, Kerang will commence in early 2021, with several new business development opportunities.
- A 17-lot unit development at Murray Sound, Cohuna is being considered.
- A 5MW micro grid for Kerang is proposed.
- A company seeking land for the construction of three 5MW solar farms.
- Council has received interest in a large wind energy project.
- There is interest in developing a large truck stop and transport facility on the Murray Valley Highway in Kerang
- Several new retail businesses in Kerang have opened in the past two months.

COUNCIL INFORMATION

MAJOR PROJECT FUND

Applications are now open for Council's Major Community Project Fund.

A total of \$250,000, allocated in Council's 2020/21 Budget, is available for community groups, organisations and clubs to apply for infrastructure projects on non-Council owned or controlled land. Examples of such land may include recreation reserves, sporting facilities, community halls and playgrounds on crown land or land managed by other agencies or community groups.

Applications will be considered for community, sport and recreation infrastructure projects, with funding of between \$10,000 and \$125,000 per project available.

Funding preference will be given to projects that have confirmed funding from external grants, or other sources, and/or an in-kind contribution.

Applications close at 5pm on Tuesday, 19 January 2021.

For further information and to access the online application portal, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/grants



COUNCIL MEETING

The **December Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 16 December at 6.30pm. You can watch this meeting from the comfort of home via Council's website—www.gsc.vic.gov.au/livestream.

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

Kerang Customer Service Centre

47 Victoria Street

BY PHONE

(03) 5450 9333 during business hours

BY EMAIL

council@gannawarra.vic.gov.au

BY MAIL

PO Box 287

Kerang VIC 3579

ONLINE

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

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook – www.facebook.com/gannawarra

Twitter – www.twitter.com/GannawarraShire

WHAT'S ON

5 DECEMBER

Murrabit Country Market

26 DECEMBER

Autopro Kerang Boxing Day Races, Kerang

Event details can be found at

www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events

SUBMIT YOUR EVENT

Want to see your event featured here?

Submit your event details to

www.gsc.vic.gov.au/add_your_event