

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

## FLOOD SUPPORT

Issue 14: 17 January 2024

Council continues to work with local, state and commonwealth partners to support the recovery of Gannawarra communities.

This newsletter outlines support available and efforts Council and partner agencies are undertaking.

### Support Contacts

Mallee Family Care: 03 5032 4479

Rural Financial Counselling Service:  
1300 735 578

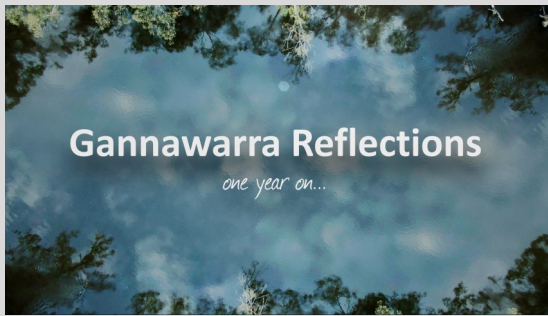
Flood Recovery Hotline: 1800 560 760

Northern District Community Health:  
03 5451 0200

Lifeline: 13 11 14

Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636

Council: 03 5450 9333



### Gannawarra Reflections

one year on...

#### GANNAWARRA REFLECTIONS—One Year On video

To acknowledge 12 months on from the October-December 2022 floods, Council and Northern District Community Health produced a video featuring residents who helped develop the original seven-video Gannawarra Reflections series. The new video provides an update on recovery one year on from the flood event.

The video was launched on December 21, 2023, and can be viewed on Council's website via the **Storm, flood assistance** link on the home page:

[www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods)

#### DECEMBER 2023 AND JANUARY 2024 STORMS AND FLASH FLOODING EVENTS

Gannawarra, like many other areas across the state, has been significantly impacted by three storm events between Christmas Eve 2023 and 7-8 January 2024. Over this two week period 200 and 300mm of rainfall was received. By comparison, the average annual rainfall for Gannawarra is approximately 375mm.

These three significant rainfall events, and subsequent flash-flooding, have caused widespread damage across our municipality.

If your dwelling or business has been impacted by the storm and flash flooding events, please phone Council's Flood Recovery Team on 03 5450 9333 or complete the form available under the "Have you been impacted by the floods/storms" heading at [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods)

If you are an agricultural business, you can report agricultural losses and damage to Agriculture Victoria via the online Impact Assessment Form at: [www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/floods](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/floods). Farmers can also contact AgVic on 0427 694 185 or [recovery@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:recovery@agriculture.vic.gov.au) for agriculture recovery assistance or advice, including technical support.

Emergency management authorities are monitoring increased flows into Ghow (Kow) Swamp following flooding that impacted Central Victoria on 7-8 January 2024. Council encourages the community to stay informed, and to reach out for accurate information and assistance from the relevant authorities as required.

Residents can stay up to date with emergency warnings and road closures by relying on these trusted sources:

- The VicEmergency website ([www.emergency.vic.gov.au](http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au)) and app;
- The Bureau of Meteorology website ([www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)) and app;
- The Victoria State Emergency Service website ([www.ses.vic.gov.au](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au)); and
- The VicTraffic website ([www.traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://www.traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au)), which details the latest road closures.

Should residents be seeking assistance, sandbags or other resources in relation to flood protection, residents are encouraged to contact VICSES on 132 500 as the lead agency for floods and storms. If you are in immediate danger phone Triple Zero (000).



*Photos: Flooding outside the Murrabit Hall (top), Kerang Swimming Pool (middle) and the intersection of Brolga and Marne streets, Kerang (bottom) following rain on Christmas Day 2023.*

**UPCOMING EVENTS** - Council, Northern District Community Health and other agencies are partnering on three events in February. For further information and booking details see flyers on pages 2, 3 and 4 within this newsletter. To view Council's Events calendar and/or to add your event, please visit: [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events) A reminder that submissions close on Sunday, 21 January for the One Year On Gannawarra Flood Reflections Exhibition. See page 5 for further details.

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**FEB  
07  
2024**

## AROUND THE Paddock DAIRY FARMER DINNER

**WARREN DAVIES,  
THE UNBREAKABLE  
FARMER**



**MATT HAWKEN,  
AGRICULTURE  
VIC**

### What else?

Official launch -  
Ag Vic "After the  
Flood" podcast series

Live acoustic music  
with Elise Drake

### Lucky Door Giveaways

Chance to  
win an  
'Akubra' &  
other prizes

### Win

An afternoon  
tea for your  
favourite local  
community  
group!

### Dinner Provided

Drinks at bar  
prices



Warren Davies - known  
as 'The Unbreakable Farmer'  
provides an authentic  
presentation focused on  
creating positive community  
connections and supporting  
mental health and wellbeing.

**6.30PM FOR  
7.30PM START**

**07**

**FEBRUARY**

**JEN'S ON  
GEORGE**

105 KING GEORGE ST.  
COHUNA VIC 3568



No cost,  
but bookings  
essential  
Limit of  
100 tickets

<https://www.trybooking.com/COCCM>

**Contact Us**  
(03) 5450 9333



Supported by Gannawarra Shire Flood Recovery Funding through the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee



# COMMUNITY UPDATE FLOOD SUPPORT



## Gannawarra *Sporting Club* Dinner

**Thursday 15 February, 2024**

**6.30pm for 7pm dinner**



Hosted by:  
**Brad McEwan**

Former sport presenter, 10 News  
First and host of Network 10's  
Sports Tonight, and resilience  
and leadership trainer

**Venue:**

Kbar Function Room  
77 Wellington St Kerang

**Dinner Provided:**

Drinks at bar prices

**Win:**

A \$250 sports equipment  
voucher for your club



**No cost, but  
bookings  
essential**  
Limit of  
100 tickets

<https://www.trybooking.com/CODBH>

An evening  
focused on the  
role of volunteers  
in communities  
during times of  
crisis and the  
importance of  
sport and  
recreation clubs  
as the fabric  
of small  
communities

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**FEB 15,  
2024**



Supported by Gannawarra Shire Flood Recovery Funding through the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee



# COMMUNITY UPDATE FLOOD SUPPORT



COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT  
EVENT

**FEB 16,  
2024**

## GANNAWARRA TINY TOWNS *Showcase*

Hosted by  
**Brad McEwan**

Former sports presenter, journalist,  
resilience and leadership trainer and  
passionate small towns advocate



**FRI. 16  
FEB 2024**



**10:00 AM-  
2.00PM**



**NDCH MEETING ROOM  
24 FITZROY ST KERANG**



**MORNING TEA &  
LUNCH PROVIDED**



**NO COST, BUT  
REGISTRATION IS  
ESSENTIAL THROUGH:  
TRYBOOKING VIA QR CODE  
PHONE: 03 5450 9333 OR**

Email: [communityrecovery@gsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:communityrecovery@gsc.vic.gov.au)

<https://www.trybooking.com/CODJV>

**Fuel voucher available to assist residents  
with travel costs.**



Australian Government



GANNAWARRA  
Shire Council



Community Recovery  
Gannawarra



VICTORIA  
State Government

Supported by Gannawarra Shire Flood Recovery Funding through the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee



Includes official launch of  
Connecting Gannawarra  
Community Plans for six  
small towns and a chance  
for small communities to  
showcase their  
achievements, unique  
challenges, and be inspired  
to thrive into the future.

# COMMUNITY UPDATE FLOOD SUPPORT



## TWO LOCAL SPORTING CLUBS ANNOUNCED TO BENEFIT FROM FLOOD RECOVERY DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Cohuna Golf Bowls Club and Kerang Football Netball Club will spend the next 12 months working with Sports Focus to help identify issues and determine future priorities.

The clubs were successful in applying for the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee-supported opportunity as part of Gannawarra's recovery from the October-December 2022 floods.

The Cohuna Golf Bowls Club will use the support to increase volunteer and membership numbers.

The Kerang Football Netball Club will use its participation in the program to progress the club and improve knowledge regarding strategies that will help to strengthen its volunteer numbers.

Funding for this opportunity is supported by the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments under the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) as part of the Gannawarra Community Flood Recovery Program.

As part of the ongoing commitment to acknowledge the role which sport and recreation clubs and organisations played during response and recovery efforts, the Gannawarra Sporting Club Dinner will be held on Thursday, 15 February 2024. See flyer on page 3 for details.



## PRIMARY PRODUCER FLOOD RECOVERY GRANTS FINAL CLAIM DATE EXTENDED

The final claim date for applicants who successfully applied for a Primary Producer Flood Recovery grant for the October 2022 floods and storms has been extended from 13 January 2024 to 31 May 2024.

This date extension applies to successful applicants of the:

- Primary Producer Flood Recovery Grant.
- Rural Landholder Grant.
- Transport Support Program.

This extension provides primary producers and rural landholders additional time to undertake their recovery activities and finalise their claims for Tier 2 payments.

While an extension has been provided, grant recipients are encouraged to make their reimbursement claims as soon as possible.

Rural Finance administer these programs on behalf of the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments.

For more information visit the Rural Finance website or call 1800 260 425.

If you applied to Rural Finance for financial support for the October 2022 to January 2023 floods and storms and have a question contact on the above number or email: [admin@ruralfinance.com.au](mailto:admin@ruralfinance.com.au)



## One Year On

### CONTRIBUTE TO THE GANNAWARRA FLOOD REFLECTIONS EXHIBITION

Photographs, drone footage, digital media, art, poetry and stories inspired by the October-December 2022 floods are being sought to develop the Gannawarra Flood Reflections Exhibition.

Residents are invited to submit up to 10 items for consideration before **5pm Sunday, 21 January 2024**, which can be done by completing a submission form available online under the Gannawarra Flood Reflections Exhibition heading at [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods). Hard copies of this form are also available for completion at Council's Customer Service Centres in Cohuna or Kerang.

Local schools are also invited to submit items created individually or collaboratively, such as a piece of art, poetry, or a storybook by Friday 23 February 2024.

Items selected will feature in an exhibition at the Sir John Gorton Library in March 2024, before touring other towns across Gannawarra. Photographs will be professionally presented and returned to the contributor following the completion of the exhibition's tour throughout the Gannawarra. For more information regarding the Gannawarra Flood Reflections Exhibition, visit [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods), phone Council's Flood Recovery Team on (03) 5450 9333, or email [communityrecovery@gsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:communityrecovery@gsc.vic.gov.au).



# COMMUNITY UPDATE FLOOD SUPPORT



*Events in Gannawarra* Events are supported by funding from the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments under the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) as part of the Gannawarra Community Flood Recovery Program. For list of upcoming events, visit: [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events)



Come and Try Day on 13 December 2023 at Murrabit Hum N Strum

There were many workshops and community events held across the Gannawarra leading up to Christmas and into the New Year, bringing residents together to connect. Events were held at Murrabit, the Kerang Lakes District, Cohuna, Kerang and Koondrook.



Kerang Lakes Community Christmas party at Lake Charm



Cohuna Community Christmas Day lunch





# COMMUNITY UPDATE FLOOD SUPPORT



## *Flood Recovery Events in Gannawarra*



New Year's Eve celebrations in Cohuna



Water colour & pastel techniques workshop with artist, Caroline Ellis



Kerang Community Christmas Carols



New Year's Eve celebrations in Kerang, above and below





# COMMUNITY UPDATE FLOOD SUPPORT



FEB 10 | BARABA BARABA LAND  
ATKINSON PARK, KERANG

## HEVENSHE

MASKETTA FALL DALLAS WOODS BESTIES

FOREVER ON HIGH | RIDZYRAY  
ONE MORE WEEKEND | IVY BLACK  
KITTY RAE | LILI-VIOLET | GRACE FROST  
CONNOR BULGER | RYAN MCPARTLANE  
& MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED

GET YOUR TICKETS AT  
SUMMERWAVE.COM.AU



## "A Little Piece of Italy"



Featuring -

Classical Italian Guitarist-

**Massimo Scattolin**

& Mezzo-Soprano Opera Singer

**Sally-Anne Russell**



**Friday 23rd February 8pm.**

**At St Mary's Church Cohuna**

King George St

*Join us on lawns for nibbles from 7.30pm.*

Tickets \$35. book with Trybooking.

<https://www.trybooking.com/CNMEL>

Tickets available Cohuna Neighbourhood House.

Limited tickets at Door.



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## PROTECT YOURSELF FROM MOSQUITOES

Significant flood waters can remain for days and stagnant water is where mosquitoes can breed. Mosquitoes can carry diseases that may pass on to people through mosquito bites.

To help to control mosquitoes around your home, follow these tips:

- Remove stagnant water from around the home so mosquitoes can't breed.
- Check and seal rainwater tanks.
- Empty flowerpot dishes, tyres, buckets and children's toys that hold water.
- Mosquitoes can bite through tight clothing. Wear long, loose-fitting clothing.
- Use repellents that contain Picaridin or DEET on all exposed skin.
- Keep mosquitoes out of your house or accommodation by using mosquito netting or insect screens.

Find more ways to beat the bite at:

[www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/protect-yourself-mosquito-borne-disease](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/protect-yourself-mosquito-borne-disease)



## Mosquitoes can spread serious diseases



Apply mosquito repellent evenly to exposed skin. Pack repellent when going for walks, camping, fishing, or travelling



Wear long, loose-fitting, light-coloured clothing, and closed shoes



Empty buckets of water around home to stop mosquitoes breeding