

GANNAWARRA *CONNECT*



January-February 2023

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FROM THE MAYOR

Recovery efforts from the October -November 2022 floods continue across the Gannawarra.

Initial estimates have revealed that around \$50 million of repairs will need to occur to our road network to return it to a pre-flood standard.

This work will take up to three years to complete, but we will continue to keep you informed regarding how these works are progressing.

Many of our residents affected by these floods are still recovering from this significant event. This process will take time, and Council is here to support you. Our floods website - www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods - has some great resources and contacts.

Regards,

Mayor Charlie Gillingham



CONGRATULATING OUR TOP CITIZENS

Council congratulates the winners of its Australia Day Awards, announced during a Civic Reception on 18 January.

The 2023 Gannawarra Shire Council Citizen of the Year, Ramon Steel (top right) has served not only his own community but the broader State and beyond our borders as a volunteer firefighter for almost 39 years, the majority of them in leadership positions.

Five other local residents were nominated for this honour - Judy Cameron, Christine Dartnell, Bryan Goble, Georgia McKerrow and Rob Shanahan.

The 2023 Gannawarra Shire Council Young Citizen of the Year, Deaken Fawcett (bottom right) has been a member of the Summerwave Music Festival organising committee for the past two years, which have led to the Gannawarra hosting musicians locally that are commonplace in regional and metropolitan areas.

To learn more about all of the 2023 Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year nominees, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/Australia_Day_Awards



COMMUNITY NEWS

WHAT'S ON

4 FEBRUARY

Murrabit Country Market

25 FEBRUARY

Kerang Community Market

26 FEBRUARY

Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market

4 MARCH

Murrabit Country Market

17-18 MARCH

Cohuna A.P. & H. Society Show

25 MARCH

Kerang Community Market

26 MARCH

Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market

EVERY SATURDAY

Kerang and Cohuna parkruns

EVERY SATURDAY

Grow Collective Community Garden, Kerang

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

NOTE: Event details were correct at time of publishing

EXPERIENCE YOUR OUTDOOR POOL THIS SUMMER

The Cohuna and Kerang swimming pools are open for another six weeks, with the 2022/23 season ending at 7pm Sunday, 12 March.

Both venues are open daily between 10am and 8pm until Tuesday, 28 February, before reverting to 3pm-7pm from Wednesday, 1 March until the end of the season.

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 below.

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



IMMUNISATION SESSIONS BY APPOINTMENT

FEBRUARY 2023

Wednesday, 1 February

Kerang
(10.30am – 12 noon)

Wednesday, 15 February

Cohuna
(10.30am – 12 noon)
Kerang
(4pm – 5.30pm)

MARCH 2023

Wednesday, 1 March

Kerang
(10.30am – 12 noon)

Wednesday, 15 March

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.



KEEP RECYCLING YOUR HOUSEHOLD GLASS BOTTLES

Residents are encouraged to continue playing a role in improving the recycling of household glass bottles.



As part of the State Government's Kerbside Reform program, residents are encouraged to take their household glass bottles to any of Council's transfer stations at Cohuna, Kerang, Lalbert and Quambatook for recycling.

This process will not only increase the amount of glass recycled and turned into new products such as roads and construction material, it will reduce instances where contents from yellow household recycling bins are redirected to landfill due to broken glass materials.

For more information regarding Council's waste services, including transfer station locations and how to sign up for green waste services for households in Cohuna, Kerang and Koondrook, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/waste

COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY

Residents are encouraged to provide feedback on Council's performance by participating in the annual Community Satisfaction Survey.



Independent market research agency National Field Services will interview 400 residents over the age of 18 by telephone, asking participants to assess Council's overall performance. This includes how Council engages with the community, how it communicates news and events to residents, and its decision making performance.

Anyone who has any queries about the Community Satisfaction Survey is encouraged to contact Council on (03) 5450 9333.

ENJOY STORY TIME AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY



The Gannawarra Library Service's popular Story Time program will return to weekly sessions from Tuesday, 7 February.

Held at the Cohuna Library from 10.30am Tuesdays and Kerang's Sir John Gorton Library from 10.30am Wednesdays during Victorian school terms, Story Time is a fun and special sharing time where children and caregivers can establish a love of books and reading.

For more information, click on the Children and early years heading at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/libraries or phone (03) 5452 1546.

Gannawarra for All



NDIS – It's your choice!

Dedicated to providing locals with a quality service by certified and experienced staff.

Let us help you to achieve your goals, we can support you with:

- Personal Care
- Home Care
- Property Maintenance
- Community Access and more...



CONTACT DETAILS:

Community Care Department: 5450 9333
E: communitycare@gannawarra.vic.gov.au



BRINGING PEOPLE BACK TO THE GANNAWARRA

Council has developed a new marketing campaign which focuses on bringing people back to the Gannawarra following the October-November 2022 floods, which significantly impacted our tourism sector.

Whilst many of our nature-based tourism locations need to dry out following the floods before visitors can return, it is important the area is promoted to those planning future visits.

To assist this, this marketing campaign will include radio and television advertising, dedicated media in regional publications and direct marketing campaigns to specific groups.

This campaign will also assist with attracting people to relocate to the Gannawarra, especially with significant jobs growth proposed thanks to future minerals sands mining, energy, industrial and agricultural projects.

MEET KOONDROOK RETREAT'S NEW MANAGERS

Council has appointed new managers to Koondrook Retreat.

Following an Expression of Interest process designed to test the market and ensure the council facility maintains a high standard of service, Peter Woolman and Paul Stuart-Higgs will oversee the award-winning accommodation venue.

Based in Echuca, Peter and Paul are also directors of Holiday Park Management Australia, a consultancy business specialising in strategic planning, marketing and business development for the accommodation sectors.

Peter and Paul are already working on ways to develop Koondrook Retreat into a special nature based destination, undertaking significant changes to improve the on-site experience, and marketing the site into new market sectors nationally.

"HPM believes the Retreat is destined to become a must do destination along the Murray," Peter and Paul said.

"We aim to reinvent the retreat and work with council and community to bring more people into the area"

Holiday Park Management Australia is working with Council to ensure Koondrook Retreat will be operational after October-November 2022 floods, which impacted Gunbower Creek, including undertaking resurfacing, landscaping and cleaning. It will take some time for Gunbower Forest to dry out but visitors will have plenty of activities to keep them occupied as the weather warms up.

Council's Executive Officer Economic Development, Roger Griffiths believes Koondrook Retreat has enormous potential.

"Following the COVID-19 pandemic and the October-November 2022 floods, now is the ideal time to re-launch Koondrook Retreat and kick start some serious visitation," he said.

"Koondrook Retreat is still in its infancy and we aim to grow the experience into something special that links in with the nature based experiences of the region."

PROPOSED CHANGES

- New online and direct marketing communication systems for booking and enquiries
- A new marketing campaign to attract more visitors from metropolitan and regional areas of New South Wales and Victoria
- Establishing Koondrook Retreat as a premier destination for weekends away, family functions, weddings and special occasions
- Working closely with local businesses to provide a range of services to the retreat
- Hosting intimate music events
- Linking with established nature-based activities and the indigenous community to showcase the local environment

POPULAR SOCIAL MEALS PROGRAM RETURNS

Council's popular Social Meals programs - which was postponed during the October-November 2022 floods - will resume this February.

Held once a month at Cohuna, Kerang, Koondrook, Lalbert, Lake Charm, Leitchville, Macorna, Murrabit and Quambatook from 12 noon, attendees are able to socialise and enjoy a home-cooked two-course meal for just \$11.

Dates for events planned for February-June 2023 feature on this page.

Bookings are essential, which can be done by phoning Council's Community Service team on (03) 5450 9333.



Bar-rook Senior Citizens Rooms (2 Station Street, Koondrook)

Friday, 3 February
Friday, 3 March
Friday, 14 April
Friday, 5 May
Friday, 2 June

Cohuna Memorial Hall (21 King Edward Street)

Friday, 17 February
Friday, 17 March
Friday, 21 April
Friday, 19 May
Friday, 16 June

Kerang Senior Citizens Centre (169 Boundary Street)

Thursday, 23 February
Thursday, 23 March
Thursday, 27 April
Thursday, 25 May
Thursday, 22 June

Lake Charm Hall (Hall Road)

Tuesday, 14 February
Tuesday, 14 March
Tuesday, 11 April
Tuesday, 9 May
Tuesday, 13 June

Lalbert Recreation Reserve (Evelyn Street)

Tuesday, 28 February
Tuesday, 28 March
Tuesday, 18 April
Tuesday, 23 May
Tuesday, 27 June

Leitchville Memorial Hall (Hawken Street)

Thursday, 9 February
Thursday, 9 March
Thursday, 13 April
Thursday, 11 May
Thursday, 8 June

Macorna Recreation Reserve (Macorna South Road)

Friday, 24 February
Friday, 24 March
Friday, 28 April
Friday, 16 May
Friday, 23 June

Murrabit Hall (Danson Street)

Wednesday, 22 February
Wednesday, 22 March
Wednesday, 26 April
Wednesday, 24 May
Wednesday, 28 June

Quambatook Bowling Club (River Street)

Tuesday, 7 February
Tuesday, 7 March
Tuesday, 4 April
Tuesday, 2 May
Tuesday, 6 June

FLOOD SUPPORT

The Gannawarra community has been impacted by the floods in different ways, and each community and its individual members will need different support in the coming days, weeks and months. For the latest information, including road closures and support available, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods

Thank you

Thank you to community members, volunteers, emergency services, local businesses and organisations, and Council staff for their continuing hard work and efforts during the current flood events. It has been heartwarming to see communities unite as we endure the flood emergency impacting the Gannawarra.

Our thoughts are with those who have suffered losses during these devastating floods.

Flood Recovery Hotline

Call the Victorian Government Flood Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760 for the latest information on help or assistance with:

- Navigating available supports
- Clean-up
- Temporary accommodation
- Mental health and wellbeing support

The recovery hotline is open from 7.30am - 7.30pm every day. Need an interpreter? Call the hotline on 1800 560 760 and press 9.

The list of help available is at www.vic.gov.au/2022-flood-recovery

Stay informed

- VicEmergency App and website www.emergency.vic.gov.au
- VicEmergency Hotline: 1800 226 226
- www.ses.vic.gov.au
- www.facebook.com/gannawarra
- www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods
- Local radio and newspapers

Impacted by the Floods?

- Water has gone through your residence or property
- Water is or has surrounded your property, leading to isolation
- Needed to evacuate, or have chosen to evacuate
- Your business has closed
- Your agricultural business has been impacted

If you have been impacted by one of the ways listed above or require assistance from Council for a similar situation, please register your details by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or call Council on (03) 5450 9333.



Personal Health and Wellbeing

It is normal to have strong emotional or physical reactions following a distressing event. There is always help available through:

- Your local doctor
- Nurse-on-Call: 1300 60 60 24
- Northern District Community Health: (03) 5451 0200
- Lifeline: 131 114
- Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636
- MensLine: 1300 789 978
- Kid's Help Line: 1800 55 1800
- Parent Line: 13 22 89

Flood Assistance

If you need assistance recovering from the October-November 2022 floods, please speak to any of our friendly staff. You can do this by Council on (03) 5450 933 or by calling into Council's Customer Service Centres, located at (open 10am-4pm weekdays) and Kerang (open 8.30am-5pm weekdays).

Support Available

Financial Assistance and Grants

The Victorian and Australian governments are providing financial support for people, businesses and farmers affected by the floods including;

- Relief Assistance Payment
- Re-establishment Assistance
- Disaster Recovery Allowance
- Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment
- Small Business Immediate Flood Relief Program
- Primary Producer Recovery Grants
- Primary Producer Concessional Loans
- Primary Producer Transport Subsidies
- Rural Landholder Grant
- Business and Community Sport Flood Recovery Grant

For more information please visit www.vic.gov.au/2022-flood-recovery

Support for Farmers

A support package is available for flood-affected farmers. Please see the Financial Assistance and Grants section or visit www.ruralfinance.com.au

Animal Welfare and Landholder

Agriculture Victoria is assisting rural landholders with agricultural relief needs, with a priority on addressing urgent animal welfare issues.

Affected landholders can call 1800 226 226 for:

- Urgent animal welfare needs including assessment of injured animals and destruction
- Livestock management information e.g., emergency access to saleyards
- Technical information on pasture re-establishment, pest animal or plant control
- Information on assistance available and access to personal support and other services.

For information on what to do during and after a flood event including checking hazards, animal welfare, asset recovery and navigating supports, please visit www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/floods

Financial Counselling and Advice

The Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) provides free financial counselling to farmers, fishing enterprises, forestry growers and harvesters, and small related businesses experiencing, or at risk of, financial hardship. More information is available at www.wswrcs.com.au or by calling 1800 260 425.

If you require assistance relating to insurance, please call the Insurance Council Australia's disaster hotline on 1800 734 621.

Flood debris skip bin service

Council has developed a free skip bin collection service for rural residents whose primary place of residence was inundated or impacted by the floods.

Available to landowners/tenants who are uninsured for such a clean-up, registration is by phoning Council on (03) 5450 933 or by calling into Council's Customer Service Centres, located at Cohuna (open 10am-4pm weekdays) and Kerang (open 8.30am-5pm weekdays).

Residents who are eligible for this service can only use the skip bins to dispose of flood waste. This includes carpets, white goods, furniture and plasterboard. Items that cannot be placed in the skip include tyres and machinery, food waste, asbestos, hazardous waste, materials that can be recycled and contaminated fodder.

One skip bin between 12-18m³ will be delivered to the affected dwelling and available for use for a seven-day period. This includes one pick-up and collection service. Should the resident require additional pick-ups during the seven days, it will be at the cost of the resident.

Please note: Priority will be given to those who have already requested this assistance, however requests are still being accepted with these properties to be added to a waiting list due to the limited number of skip bins available.

NOTE: Information was correct at time of printing. For the latest information regarding support available, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods

COUNCIL INFORMATION

YOUR COUNCILLORS AVOCA WARD



Cr Charlie Gillingham
(Mayor)
0457 719 874
charlie.gillingham@gsc.vic.gov.au



MURRAY WARD



Cr Ross Stanton
0417 515 769
ross.stanton@gsc.vic.gov.au

PATCHELL WARD



Cr Kelvin Burt
0407 319 414
kelvin.burt@gsc.vic.gov.au



Cr Travis Collier
0433 269 577
travis.collier@gsc.vic.gov.au



Cr Jane Ogden
(Deputy Mayor)
0476 786 051
jane.e.ogden@gsc.vic.gov.au

YARRAN WARD



Cr Keith Link
0427 564 138
keith.link@gsc.vic.gov.au



Cr Garner Smith
0418 871 054
garner.smith@gsc.vic.gov.au

COUNCIL MEETING DETAILS

The **February 2023 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 15 February at 10am. The **March 2023 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 15 March at 10am.

Meetings are held at the Kerang Senior Citizens Centre, located at 169 Boundary Street, Kerang, with a recording available to view 24 hours after the meeting at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/meetings. 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
Kerang Customer Service Centre
47 Victoria Street

BY PHONE

(03) 5450 9333 during business hours

BY EMAIL

council@gsc.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