

# GANNAWARRA *CONNECT*



January-February 2024

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## FROM THE MAYOR

Council is looking forward to what will be a busy 2024, highlighted by work on major capital works and a commitment to maintaining our key assets.

The Kerang CBD Redevelopment is scheduled to be completed by the middle of the year, whilst we are looking forward to construction of *The Glasshouse @ The Gannawarra* beginning.

We are also committed to supporting our residents impacted by the 2022 floods and rain events that occurred on Christmas Day 2023 and early January 2024. This includes repairing damaged infrastructure and advocating for additional financial support.

Regards,  
**Mayor Ross Stanton**



## JACQUELINE, FIFI OUR TOP CITIZENS

Council congratulates the winners of its Australia Day Awards, announced during a Civic Reception on 24 January.

The 2024 Gannawarra Shire Council Citizen of the Year, Jacqueline Hibbert (top right) was recognised for her involvement in numerous community groups, such as the Kerang Progress Association and Gannawarra Refugee Support Group. Jacqueline's experience as a retired secondary school teacher has been pivotal for executive roles she currently holds or has held with various local organisations.

Five other local residents were nominated for this honour - Rachel Barnes, Mandy Hutchinson, Tracy Roberts, Brooke Williams and Kaye Wilson.

The 2024 Gannawarra Shire Council Young Citizen of the Year, Fifi White (bottom right) was recognised for her dedication to the Cohuna Leos and Northern District Community Health's youth events team. Fifi was the only nominee for this accolade.

To learn more about all of the 2024 Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year nominees, please visit [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/Australia\\_Day\\_Awards](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/Australia_Day_Awards)



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## WHAT'S ON

3 FEBRUARY

Murrabit Country Market

7 FEBRUARY

Around the Paddock dairy farmer dinner, Cohuna

15 FEBRUARY

Gannawarra Sporting Club dinner, Kerang

16 FEBRUARY

Gannawarra Tiny Towns Showcase, Kerang

23 FEBRUARY

A Little Piece of Italy, Cohuna

24-25 FEBRUARY

Ski Racing Victoria Point Score 4, Lake Charm

24 FEBRUARY

Kerang Community Market

25 FEBRUARY

Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market

2 MARCH

Murrabit Country Market

15-16 MARCH

Cohuna A.P. & H. Society Show

23 MARCH

Kerang Community Market

24 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](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events)

NOTE: Event details were correct at time of publishing

## KEEP COOL AT COUNCIL'S OUTDOOR POOLS

The Cohuna and Kerang swimming pools are open for another six weeks, with the 2022/23 season ending at 7pm Sunday, 10 March.

Both venues are open daily between 10am and 8pm until Thursday, 29 February, before reverting to 3pm-7pm from Friday, 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](http://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](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/pools)



## IMMUNISATION SESSIONS BY APPOINTMENT

### FEBRUARY 2024

Wednesday, 7 February

Kerang  
(10.30am – 12 noon)

Wednesday, 21 February

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

### MARCH 2024

Wednesday, 6 March

Kerang  
(10.30am - 12 noon)

Wednesday, 20 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.**

For more details, visit [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/immunisation](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/immunisation)

*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.*



# COMMUNITY NEWS



## KERANG CBD REDEVELOPMENT WORKS CONTINUE

Work associated with Stages 3 and 4 of the Kerang CBD Redevelopment will begin in February.

Fully funded thanks to the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, improvements will occur along Wellington Street between Nolan and Albert streets, Fitzroy Street between Scoresby and Wellington streets, and Victoria Street between Scoresby Street and the Walkers IGA car park.

Works will include replacing existing paved surfaces with materials used throughout the Kerang CBD sections of Scoresby and Victoria streets, installing new street furniture and landscaping, and improving lighting around the Karlie McDonald Memorial Clock to enhance this iconic memorial.

For more information regarding the Kerang CBD Redevelopment, please visit [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/KerangCBD](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/KerangCBD)

## TELL US HOW WE ARE PERFORMING

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 be contacting 400 residents over the age of 18 by telephone between 29 January and mid-March, 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.

The survey also features questions specifically relating to community services, customer service, libraries, recreation facilities, roads and waste management.

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

## KEEP RECYCLING YOUR HOUSEHOLD GLASS BOTTLES

Residents are encouraged to continue taking their household glass bottles to any of Council's transfer stations at Cohuna, Kerang, Lalbert and Quambatook, as well as the Koondrook depot, for recycling.

Not only are all bottles handed in for recycling turned into new products such as roads and construction material, this process reduces 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](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/waste)



## SMALL-SCALE ENERGY FACILITIES PROPOSED

Council has approved a Kig Energy proposal to construct small-scale solar energy generation facilities at the Kerang Aerodrome and Kerang Transfer Station.

As part of the proposal, a 4.99-megawatt solar generation facility incorporating a 5-megawatt battery storage unit would be built at the Kerang Aerodrome.

The proposal also includes the installation of a 1-megawatt solar generation facility incorporating a 1-megawatt battery storage unit at the Kerang Transfer Station.

Council has been working with Kig Energy since 2019 to identify suitable locations for these projects, with a proposal to lease a 12-hectare parcel of land within the Kerang Aerodrome approved in July 2020.

Council will enter into a formal agreement between Council and Kig Energy, which is to be developed and approved at a future Council Meeting.

The facilities are also designed to provide cheaper electricity options for residents and community groups, which is achieved by avoiding network transmission costs.



## COHUNA'S NEW PUBLIC DEFIBRILLATOR

Cohuna residents and visitors are benefiting from the recent installation of a 24-hour publicly accessible automated external defibrillator (AED) at the Gateway to Gannawarra Visitor Centre.

Made possible thanks to Ambulance Victoria's gifting program, the AED will benefit anyone who needs this potentially lifesaving assistance within Cohuna's central business district, at Garden Park, Apex Park or at the Gateway itself.

As part of the donation, the Gateway to Gannawarra Visitor Centre has also hosted sessions enabling residents to learn how to use an AED.

Community-accessible AEDs are located throughout the Gannawarra. To locate an AED or to register your community group's device, please visit <http://registermyaed.ambulance.vic.gov.au>

Pictured is Council's Business Liaison Officer, Scott Wishart (left), Ambulance Victoria Cohuna Team Manager, Libby Fox and Community Officer Craig Harbinson with the new AED.

## RESIDENTIAL HOUSING OPTIONS EXPLORED

Residential housing availability is currently a national issue, with Council playing its role in attracting new developers to the area.

Council has been working with national development company, Wel.Co regarding a proposed 350-lot residential development in Cohuna.

"We have been impressed with the high level of development and growth in the Gannawarra Shire and we see serious opportunities to provide new residential options," Wel.Co Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Welsh said.

Other accommodation projects are being considered for Kerang, Koondrook and Quambatook to capitalise on development proposals.

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## VNI WEST COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CONTINUES

Council is encouraging landowners who have questions regarding the VNI West electricity transmission project to contact Transmission Company Victoria (TCV), which now has an regional office based in Patchell Plaza, Kerang

TCV representatives have held regular meetings with Gannawarra landowners wanting to know more about the project and the two-kilometre wide corridor the proposed transmission infrastructure will be built on.

“There have been several key farming issues resolved by landowners working with TCV staff and consultants, and we will assist any landowners seeking solutions with TCV,” Council’s Executive Manager Economic Development, Roger Griffiths said.

The TCV regional office is open 11.30am-5pm Tuesdays and 8.45am-2pm Wednesdays. For appointments or more information, phone 1800 824 221 or email [enquiries@transmissionvictoria.com.au](mailto:enquiries@transmissionvictoria.com.au)

## KOORANGIE ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM DISCUSSIONS

Edify Energy recently held an information session regarding the Koorangie Energy Storage System.

To be built at Sandhill Lake, the \$400 million project involves the construction of a lithium-ion battery that will

connect to the 220kV transmission network that currently passes through the Gannawarra and provide system strength to the Murray River Renewable Energy Zone.

Edify Energy already has a strong presence in the Gannawarra, thanks to the Gannawarra Solar Farm and Energy Storage System, which has been in operation since 2018.

For more information about the Koorangie Energy Storage System project, please visit <https://edifyenergy.com/project/koorangie-energy-storage-system/>

Pictured is Edify Energy’s Ian Christmas (left), with Council’s Manager Planning and Regulatory Services, Kellie Burmeister and Chief Executive Officer, Geoff Rollinson.



## TELSTRA 3G NETWORK CLOSING 30 JUNE 2024

Council is working with mobile phone providers to improve connectivity in readiness for the closure of the Telstra 3G (third generation) network on 30 June 2024.

Residents whose mobile phones are only 3G compliant are urged to upgrade their device to one that is 4G or 5G compliant, with rural residents requested to check their on-farm monitoring devices to ensure they are 4G or 5G compliant.

Businesses that provide eftpos for purchasing will also be impacted, with owners encouraged to speak to their bank to check that their devices are 4G or 5G compliant.

For more information regarding the closure of Telstra’s 3G network, please visit [www.telstra.com.au/exchange/our-3g-closure-in-2024--your-questions-answered](http://www.telstra.com.au/exchange/our-3g-closure-in-2024--your-questions-answered)

Similar changes are also planned for the Optus network, which is shutting down its 3G network in September 2024. Vodafone has already shut down its 3G network, which occurred in December 2023.

Meanwhile, Council continues to advocate for the installation of a mobile phone reception tower at Benjeroop, which would build on recent tower upgrades at Lalbert, Lake Meran and Sandhill Lake, as well as the introduction of 5G services at Kerang and Koondrook/Barham.

# FLOOD RECOVERY

## GANNAWARRA REFLECTIONS FLOOD EXHIBITION

Thank you to residents who contributed items to be considered for the Gannawarra Flood Reflections Exhibition.

Premiering at Kerang's Sir John Gorton Library in March 2024 before touring other towns across the Gannawarra, the exhibition will feature photographs, drone footage, digital media, art, poetry and stories inspired by the October-December 2022 floods.

All photographs that feature in the exhibition will be professionally presented and returned to the contributor following the completion of the exhibition's tour throughout the Gannawarra.

Local schools can still submit items created individually or collaboratively, such as a piece of art, poetry or a storybook, up to Friday, 23 February.

For more information regarding the Gannawarra Flood Reflections Exhibition, visit [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods)

## SPORTING CLUB DINNER, TINY TOWN SHOWCASE

Former *10 News First* and *Sports Tonight* presenter, Brad McEwan will be hosting two events in the Gannawarra this February.

The advocate for small towns will be the special guest at the **Gannawarra Sporting Club Dinner** occurring at Kbar Function Room on Thursday, 15 February. This event will focus on the importance of sports and recreation clubs as the fabric of small communities.

Gannawarra's smallest communities will be able to showcase their achievements during the **Gannawarra Tiny Towns Showcase**, occurring at Northern District Community Health, Kerang on Friday, 16 February.

For more information about these events and to book, please visit [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events)

## COMMUNITIES BENEFITING FROM FLOOD RECOVERY FUNDS

Communities across the Gannawarra are benefiting from projects and events supported by flood recovery funding.

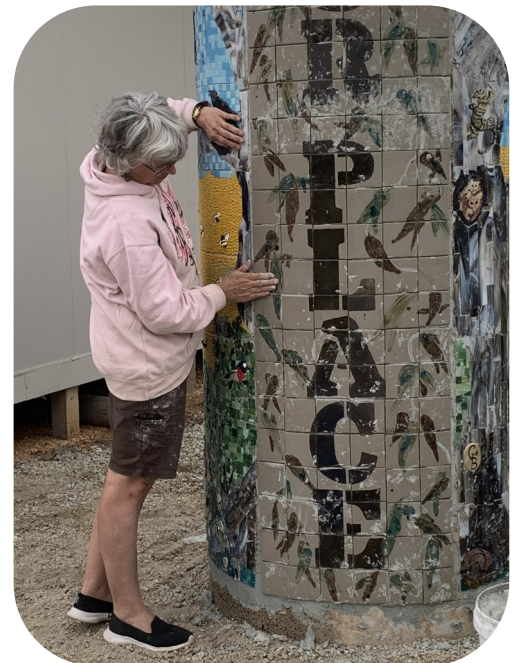
New Year's Eve celebrations at Cohuna, Kerang and Koondrook benefited from additional support, enabling organisers to provide additional attractions to what are already popular events for residents and visitors.

Funding was also provided to local Christmas celebrations and creative activation events, which help people remain socially connected with their communities.

Flood recovery funding is also supporting various projects, such as the Dingwall Community Creative Art Project (pictured).

These events and programs are 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.

For more information regarding events supported by this funding, please visit [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events)





## FLOOD-DAMAGED ROAD REPAIRS CONTINUE

Work to repair the more than 1,000 kilometres of roads damaged by the October-December 2022 flood continues.

Council is working to receive approval under the joint Commonwealth and State Government funded Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements to begin repairs associated with the final 12 road repair packages, valued at more than \$8 million.

The approval process is time consuming, with Council required to take photographs at 100-metre intervals and submit this and other evidence.

Council will provide regular updates once these works begin via its website, Facebook page and *Gannawarra News*. These updates will include any changes to traffic conditions, which will be undertaken to ensure minimal disruption for residents in affected areas.

## GANNAWARRA REFLECTIONS - ONE YEAR ON VIDEO

Council and Northern District Community Health have partnered to develop the *Gannawarra Reflections - One Year On* video, which highlights how communities across the Gannawarra are recovering from the October-December 2022 floods.

The video builds on the development of a seven-video series in early 2023 that highlighted how residents from communities throughout the municipality were impacted by the floods and how their communities responded.

Filming occurred over a two-day period during November 2023 at various locations, including Cohuna, Kerang, Koondrook, Murrabit, Quambatook, Reedy Lake and Tragowel.

Funding of the video was 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.

To view the latest and previous videos in the *Gannawarra Reflections* series, click on the *Gannawarra Reflections video series* heading at [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods)

## WERE YOU AFFECTED BY THE CHRISTMAS DAY, EARLY JANUARY RAIN?

Council's Flood Recovery Support Team is aiming to contact all residents who have had homes, infrastructure or business property damaged by the Christmas Day, 2 January and 7-8 January storm and flooding events.

If this is you and you have not yet had a conversation, or if you are aware of someone who is impacted, please phone Council's Flood Recovery Support Team on (03) 5450 9333.

All information collected helps Council communicate to government and emergency agencies the impact across Gannawarra, and this determines assistance which may be made available by government to our residents.

# COUNCIL INFORMATION

## YOUR COUNCILLORS AVOCA WARD



**Cr Charlie Gillingham**  
(Deputy Mayor)  
0457 719 874  
[charlie.gillingham@gsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:charlie.gillingham@gsc.vic.gov.au)



## MURRAY WARD



**Cr Ross Stanton**  
(Mayor)  
0417 515 769  
[ross.stanton@gsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:ross.stanton@gsc.vic.gov.au)

## PATCHELL WARD



**Cr Kelvin Burt**  
0407 319 414  
[kelvin.burt@gsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:kelvin.burt@gsc.vic.gov.au)



**Cr Travis Collier**  
0433 269 577  
[travis.collier@gsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:travis.collier@gsc.vic.gov.au)



**Cr Jane Ogden**  
0476 786 051  
[jane.e.ogden@gsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:jane.e.ogden@gsc.vic.gov.au)

## YARRAN WARD



**Cr Keith Link**  
0427 564 138  
[keith.link@gsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:keith.link@gsc.vic.gov.au)



**Cr Garner Smith**  
0418 871 054  
[garner.smith@gsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:garner.smith@gsc.vic.gov.au)

## COUNCIL MEETING DETAILS

The **February 2024 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 21 February at 6pm. The **March 2024 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 20 March at 6pm.

Meetings are usually 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](http://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](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/meetings) two days prior to each meeting.

If you have any questions about Council or if you 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](mailto:council@gsc.vic.gov.au)

### BY MAIL

PO Box 287  
Kerang VIC 3579

### ONLINE

Lodge a request at [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/request](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/request)

### SOCIAL MEDIA

**Facebook** – [www.facebook.com/gannawarra](http://www.facebook.com/gannawarra)  
**X (Twitter)** – [www.twitter.com/GannawarraShire](http://www.twitter.com/GannawarraShire)