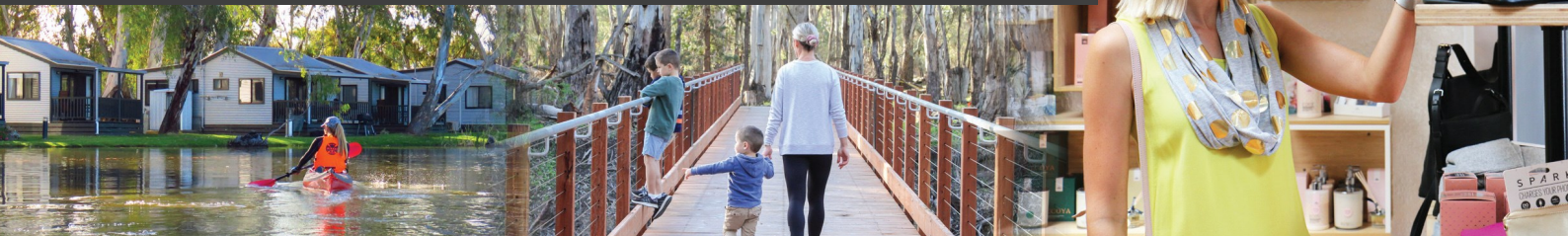


GANNAWARRA *CONNECT*



July-August 2021

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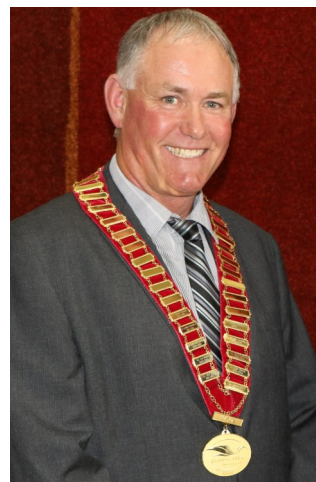
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FROM THE MAYOR

All residents are to be commended for their actions following the recent COVID-19 circuit breaker period. Whether it was lining up to get tested after the Cohuna Recreation Reserve (football and netball) was declared a Tier 2 exposure site in late May or supporting local businesses during the seven-day circuit breaker period, you have all played a role in keeping the Gannawarra safe.

The next two months will be busy for Council as we seek your feedback on *Growing Gannawarra—the 2021-2025 Council Plan* and major projects in the planning stage. I encourage you to have your say on these items and help inform Councillors about what is important to you.

Regards,
Mayor Charlie Gillingham



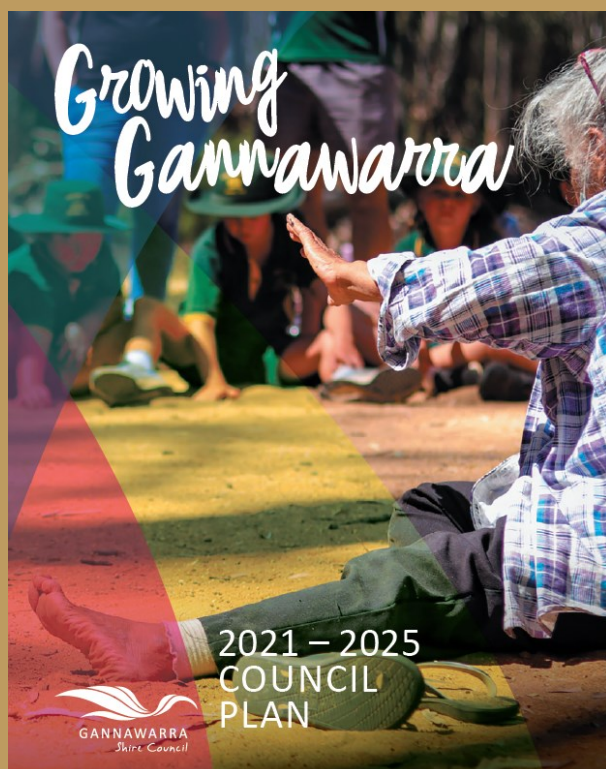
LET'S GROW THE GANNAWARRA

Council is seeking feedback regarding the draft version of *Growing Gannawarra—the 2021-2025 Council Plan*, which includes the *Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan* and draft *Year One Action Plan*.

Developed following extensive community consultation during January/February this year, the document identifies three goals — *Liveability, Growth and Sustainability* — and a number of strategic priorities Council aims to achieve between now and July 2025.

The document also outlines a long-term *Community Vision*, which is in response to the community feedback received earlier this year.

For more information and to have your say on *Growing Gannawarra—the 2021-2025 Council Plan* and draft *Year One Action Plan*, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/councilplan



COMMUNITY NEWS

FOCUSING ON THE NIGHT SKY

Visitors to Kerang's Sir John Gorton Library can view works from some of Australia's top astrophotographers, with the free 2020 David Malin Awards Winning Sky Photos Exhibition occurring up to Saturday, 31 July.

Presented by the Central West Astronomical Society, the Museum of Applied Arts and Science and the CSIRO, the 2020 David Malin Awards Winning Sky Photos Exhibition features the top entries from this renowned astrophotography competition.

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



ABOVE: *Cape Byron Moonrise* by Kelvin Hennessy is one of 26 images to feature in the 2020 David Malin Awards Winning Sky Photos Exhibition.

WHAT'S ON

CURRENT—31 JULY

2020 David Malin Awards Winning Sky Photos Exhibition, Kerang

3 JULY

Murrabit Country Market

10 JULY

Kerang Welcome Barbecue

17 JULY

Astrophotography Workshop, Kerang

23-25 JULY

Northern District Dance Association Weekend of Dance

25 JULY

Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market

7 AUGUST

Murrabit Country Market

22 AUGUST

Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market

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

IMMUNISATION SESSIONS

JULY 2021

Wednesday, 7 July

Kerang
(10.30am – 12 noon)

Wednesday, 21 July

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

AUGUST 2021

Wednesday, 4 August

Kerang
(10.30am – 12 noon)

Wednesday, 18 August

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

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.



THREE-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN ROLLOUT

Council is preparing to roll out a three-year-old kindergarten program for eligible children at Cohuna, Kerang, Koondrook and Leitchville in 2022.

Children who are three years of age before 30 April 2022 will be eligible to participate.

Information sessions for families looking to enrol their child in three-year-old kindergarten in 2022 be held on the following dates:

Tuesday, 13 July – Cohuna Community Meeting Room (6pm-7pm)

Thursday, 15 July – Koondrook Senior Citizens Hall (6pm-7pm)

Monday, 19 July – Kerang Memorial Hall (6pm-7pm)

Wednesday, 21 July – Leitchville Preschool Play Centre (6pm-7pm)

Parents and guardians of children eligible for three-year-old kindergarten can complete an expression of interest form at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/enrolments or by contacting the Gannawarra Shire Children's Centre on (03) 5452 1357.

This same form can also be used for parents and guardians looking to enrol their child in four-year-old kindergarten programs at Cohuna, Kerang, Koondrook or Leitchville in 2022. Children turning four years of age before 30 April 2022 are eligible to enrol.

For more information, please contact the Gannawarra Shire Children's Centre on (03) 5452 1357 or visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/children



2021/2022 BUDGET

Council's 2021/2022 Budget, adopted at the June 2021 Council Meeting, will maintain current services, support projects and invest in community-led initiatives that will grow the Gannawarra now and in the future.

Major highlights include:

- Completion of the Kerang CBD-Redevelopment—Stage 2;
- Continuation of the Cohuna CBD Waterfront Development;
- Creation of Kerang's Atkinson Park All Abilities Play Space and Changing Places facility;
- Development of the Quambatook Sustainable Water Project;
- Installation of stormwater drainage throughout Murrabit;
- Support for community grants and projects; and
- Road, bridge, kerb and footpath improvements.

Also adopted at the June 2021 Council Meeting was Council's Revenue and Rating Plan.

This document outlines the manner in which Council calculates the revenue needed to fund its activities, and how the funding burden will be apportioned between ratepayers and other users of Council's facilities and services.

Council thanks all residents who completed a submission on the 2021/2022 Budget and Revenue and Rating Plan during the community engagement process.

UPDATE YOUR COMMUNITY GROUP DETAILS ONLINE

Did you know that Council produces a Community Directory featuring information regarding the various groups and organisations based within the Gannawarra?

To view the latest edition of the Community Directory, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/communitydirectory

Community groups and organisations that want to be included in this document, or need to update their details, can also visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/communitydirectory and complete the Create/Update details form.

COMMUNITY NEWS

ENJOY A MEAL AND A CHAT AT A SOCIAL MEALS LUNCH

Council's popular Social Meals program continues to provide a social outlet for the Gannawarra's residents.

Held at least once a month at Cohuna, Kerang, Koondrook, Lalbert, Lake Charm, Leitchville, Macorna, Murrabit and Quambatook, attendees are able to socialise and enjoy a home-cooked two-course meal for just \$10. Dates for events planned for July—December 2021 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

Friday, 9 July (12 noon)
Friday, 13 August (12 noon)
Friday, 10 September (12 noon)
Friday, 8 October (12 noon)
Friday, 12 November (12 noon)
Friday, 10 December (12 noon)

Cohuna Memorial Hall

Friday, 16 July (12 noon)
Friday, 20 August (12 noon)
Friday, 17 September (12 noon)
Friday, 15 October (12 noon)
Friday, 19 November (12 noon)
Friday, 17 December (12 noon)

Kerang Lawn Tennis Club

Thursday, 8 July (12 noon)
Thursday, 12 August (12 noon)
Thursday, 9 September (12 noon)
Thursday, 14 October (12 noon)
Thursday, 11 November (12 noon)
Thursday, 9 December (12 noon)

Lake Charm Hall

Tuesday, 13 July (12 noon)
Tuesday, 10 August (12 noon)
Tuesday, 14 September (12 noon)
Tuesday, 12 October (12 noon)
Tuesday, 9 November (12 noon)
Tuesday, 14 December (12 noon)

Lalbert Recreation Reserve

Tuesday, 13 July (12 noon)
Tuesday, 10 August (12 noon)
Tuesday, 7 September (12 noon)
Tuesday, 5 October (12 noon)
Tuesday, 2 November (12 noon)
Tuesday, 30 November (12 noon)



Leitchville Memorial Hall

Thursday, 8 July (12 noon)
Thursday, 22 July (12 noon)
Thursday, 5 August (12 noon)
Thursday, 19 August (12 noon)
Thursday, 2 September (12 noon)
Thursday, 16 September (12 noon)
Thursday, 30 September (12 noon)
Thursday, 14 October (12 noon)
Thursday, 28 October (12 noon)
Thursday, 11 November (12 noon)
Thursday, 25 November (12 noon)
Thursday, 9 December (12 noon)

Macorna Recreation Reserve

Friday, 23 July (12 noon)
Friday, 27 August (12 noon)
Friday, 24 September (12 noon)
Friday, 22 October (12 noon)
Friday, 26 November (12 noon)

Murrabit Hall

Wednesday, 28 July (12 noon)
Wednesday, 25 August (12 noon)
Wednesday, 22 September (12 noon)
Wednesday, 20 October (12 noon)
Wednesday, 17 November (12 noon)
Wednesday, 15 December (12 noon)

Quambatook Senior Citizens Clubrooms

Tuesday, 6 July (12 noon)
Tuesday, 20 July (12 noon)
Tuesday, 3 August (12 noon)
Tuesday, 17 August (12 noon)
Tuesday, 31 August (12 noon)
Tuesday, 14 September (12 noon)
Tuesday, 28 September (12 noon)
Tuesday, 12 October (12 noon)
Tuesday, 26 October (12 noon)
Tuesday, 9 November (12 noon)
Tuesday, 23 November (12 noon)
Tuesday, 7 December (12 noon)

PROJECTS *UPDATE*



GANNAWARRA SHIRE CHILDREN'S CENTRE EXPANSION WORKS TO BEGIN

Works to expand the Gannawarra Shire Children's Centre in Kerang will begin in the coming weeks.

The works, supported by the Victorian Schools Building Authority, will enable the facility to host three-year-old kindergarten from 2022.

The improvements to the Murray Street, Kerang building will also increase the number of rooms from four to five, increasing the number of places available at the centre from 95 to 126.

To cater for these works, four-year-old kindergarten sessions will relocate to Kerang South Primary School for the remainder of the school year once construction begins, with alternative arrangements to be in place for immunisation sessions.

Council thanks families for their understanding as these works occur and looks forward to welcoming families to experience these improvements in 2022.

ATKINSON PARK PLAY SPACE PROJECT TO PROCEED

Council will work with the community in the coming weeks regarding what features will be incorporated into Kerang's Atkinson Park All Abilities Play Space.

To be constructed during early 2022, the project will be the third all abilities play space to be built within the Gannawarra, following on from works at Cohuna and Koondrook.

Updates regarding how you can provide input will be published on Council's website, Facebook page and *Gannawarra News*.

This project, which includes the construction of a Changing Places facility at Atkinson Park, is made possible thanks to \$1 million of funding from the State Government's Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program.



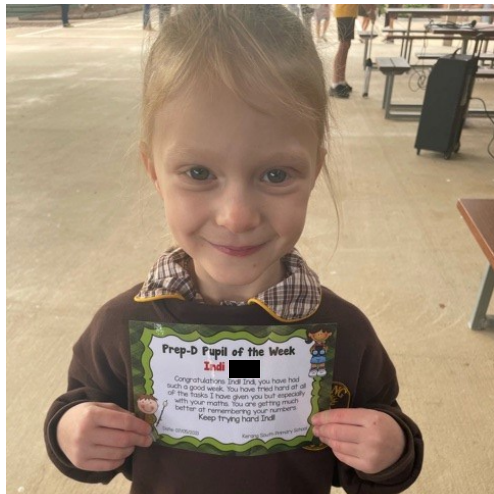
QUAMBATOOK WEIR POOL PROJECT

Council looks forward to working with the community regarding the design of the Quambatook Weir Pool Project.

Located north of the Quambatook township, the precinct will be a retreat for residents and visitors to keep cool during the warmer months and the perfect place for community members to enjoy.

This project is made possible thanks to a \$2.050 million contribution from the State Government's Regional Infrastructure Fund

COMMUNITY WELLBEING



IN-HOME EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

Council's In-home Educational Support Program has been helping families experiencing challenges to manage the requirements of home schooling throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The program provides families with support and resources needed to ensure that children could complete the required curriculum from home. Support has been offered to 34 families across the Gannawarra Shire thus far, from internet access to one-on-one in-home mentor support.

Indi (pictured) joined our program in 2020 and has since received her first Pupil of the Week award at school for Maths. Indi's mother shared how proud she was of Indi and expressed how grateful she was for the support offered through the program.

The program was delivered in partnership with local schools and funded through Carer Support Services until January 2021. Due to the initiative's success, the program will continue until December 2021 after being fully funded by Department of Families, Fairness and Housing.

COHUNA CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL'S NEW VEGIE PATCH

Students at Cohuna Consolidated School have been busy finalising the installation and planting of garden beds as the first stage of establishing a food garden within the school grounds.

Titled *The Vegie Patch*, the project received \$5,000 through Round 3 of the Gannawarra Community Resilience Grants Program, with this grant round being funded through the Federal Government's Drought Communities Programme – Extension.

Food gardens are a focus area of the Gannawarra Community Resilience Action Plan with the aim being to improve access to healthy food and reduce food insecurity across our Gannawarra communities.

Ten small community-led projects have so far been funded at Kerang, Cohuna, Murrabit, Lake Charm and Leitchville through the Community Resilience Grants Program that helps support this aim.



COUNCIL'S NDIS AUDIT SUCCESS

SAI Global completed Stage 2 of Council's National Disability Insurance Scheme certification audit as a registered NDIS provider in late May.

Auditors interviewed participants, Community Care workers, administration staff and management throughout the two-day audit, which resulted in one of the most successful audits they have conducted.

For more information about Council's role as a NDIS provider and how you can access support, please phone Council or visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/ndis



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

AGRICULTURE PROJECTS UNDERWAY

Council has received a planning permit for a 16-shed **free range poultry project** that also includes two on-site managers residences. This project will be contracted to Bendigo's Hazeldene's facility. It is anticipated this project will provide additional local jobs and support local services.

Several new **dairy loafing barns** have been constructed in the Cohuna and Leitchville areas. This new system reduces pasture-based grazing with high volume feed crops grown and harvested.

Work is underway on a **6000-acre irrigation development project** west of Kangaroo Lake. Comprising of 40 centre pivots along with a 1000 acre vineyard, this project is connected to Kangaroo Lake for irrigation supply, with the on-farm channel also acting as a water storage.

Staff are facilitating a **medicinal cannabis project** in Kerang. This indoor growing facility will provide product for the high end market and create significant new jobs for the area. Several sites are being considered.

BUSINESS AND TOURISM UPDATE

Work to implement initiatives outlined in the **Waterfront Masterplans** for Cohuna, Koondrook and the Kerang Lakes continues. Many of these initiatives, developed following extensive community consultation, have improved local infrastructure and provided new tourism attractions. Works in Cohuna are underway, with Cohuna Beach being extremely popular and the construction of the All Abilities Adventure Play Space to bring more families to Apex Park.

Koondrook Retreat continues to bring new visitors to the Gannawarra, highlighted by a visit from social media tourism guru, Tyson Mayr. Tyson's visit was extremely positive, describing Koondrook Retreat as the second best destination along the Murray behind Echuca-Moama.

Following on from the successful hosting of the **CMCA Solos Rally** in 2019, Cohuna will host the 2021 version of this popular event in October. It is anticipated around 220 RV users will stay in the town for the eight-day event.



INDUSTRIAL ESTATES

The final subdivision of **Kerang's Tate Drive Industrial Estate** is underway, and will provide an additional 13 lots. Demand is strong, with seven lots on hold and one new business already erecting a new factory.

Plans have been developed for the next stage of the **Cohuna Industrial Estate subdivision**. This project is likely to commence in the second half of 2022, depending on several key developments. A new car wash facility and several new businesses are anticipated to open in the estate later this year.

A new industrial site has been identified in **Koondrook**, with Council working through the acquisition process. This project will allow further business development to be undertaken in Koondrook, which will support the diversification of the local economy.

PROJECTS TO BOOST JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Council's Economic Development team is working hard to diversify the local economy, with 315-375 new jobs to be created in the mineral sands/ rare earth mining, poultry, pork, medicinal cannabis, manufacturing, agriculture/horticulture, energy and hospitality sectors in the next 2-3 years.

Council is also assisting with proposals for new retail, manufacturing, accommodation and residential projects throughout the municipality.

COUNCIL INFORMATION

YOUR COUNCILLORS AVOCA WARD



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

MURRAY WARD



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

PATCHELL WARD



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



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



Cr Jane Ogden
0476 786 051
jane.e.ogden@gannawarra.vic.gov.au

YARRAN WARD



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



Cr Garner Smith
(Deputy Mayor)
0418 871 054
garner.smith@gannawarra.vic.gov.au



COUNCIL MEETING DETAILS

The **July 2021 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 21 July at 6.30pm. The **August 2021 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 18 August at 6.30pm.

Meetings are held at the Kerang Senior Citizens Centre, located at 169 Boundary Street, Kerang, and livestreamed via Council's website—www.gsc.vic.gov.au/livestream. Changes to meeting locations 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@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