

GANNAWARRA *CONNECT*



GANNAWARRA
Shire Council

July-August 2022

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FROM THE MAYOR

It has been great to see residents and visitors making the most of the major projects recently completed by Council. These include the second stage of the Cohuna Waterfront Development, highlighted by the new jetty on the banks of Gunbower Creek, and the Kerang All Abilities Play Space, which has enhanced the popularity of the Atkinson Park playground.

Works will begin in the coming months on a number of transformational projects for our townships, including Stage 3 of the Kerang CBD Redevelopment, *The Glasshouse @ The Gannawarra* and the Sustainable Water for Quambatook Project - all highlights of Council's 2022/2023 Budget.

Regards,

Mayor Charlie Gillingham



2022/2023 COUNCIL BUDGET - THANKS FOR YOUR SAY

Thank you to all residents who had their say on Council's 2022/2023 Proposed Budget, with feedback sought between late May and early June.

One of Council's major documents, the Proposed Budget outlined how Council will maintain current services, support projects and invest in initiatives that will continue to make the Gannawarra a great place to live.

All feedback received assisted with the development of the 2022/2023 Budget, which was presented to a Council Meeting on 29 June.

To view Council's 2022/2023 Budget or for more information, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/budget



COMMUNITY NEWS

WHAT'S ON

CURRENT-18 JULY

2022 Australian of the Year Exhibition, Kerang

23 JULY

Kerang Community Market

24 JULY

Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market

29 JULY

Rolling on the Floor Laughing by The Listies, Cohuna

6 AUGUST

Murrabit Country Market

19 AUGUST

Sound of Your Town by Mama Kin Spender, Kerang

27 AUGUST

Kerang Community Market

28 AUGUST

Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market

3 SEPTEMBER

Murrabit Country Market

14 SEPTEMBER

The Alphabet of Awesome Science, Kerang

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

THE LISTIES, MAMA KIN SPENDER COMING TO THE GANNAWARRA THIS WINTER

Two performances delayed due to COVID-19 will be coming to the Gannawarra this July and August thanks to Creative Gannawarra.

The Listies (above, right) will bring their family-friendly fun and frivolity to the Cohuna Memorial Hall on Friday, 29 July, thanks to their latest show, *Rolling On The Floor Laughing*.

Meanwhile, Mama Kin Spender will team up with a group of local singers when her show, *Sound of Your Town*, comes to the Kerang Memorial Hall on Friday, 19 August.

For more information regarding both performances and how to purchase tickets, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/CreativeGannawarra or follow Creative Gannawarra on Facebook.



IMMUNISATION SESSIONS BY APPOINTMENT

JULY 2022

Wednesday, 6 July

Kerang
(10.30am – 12 noon)

Wednesday, 20 July

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

AUGUST 2022

Wednesday, 3 August

Kerang
(10.30am – 12 noon)

Wednesday, 17 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.

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.



LEARNER DRIVER PROGRAM BACK ON THE ROAD

Council's popular L2P Driver Mentor Program is back on the road.

Placed on hiatus during the COVID-19 pandemic, the program helps learner drivers aged between 16 and 20 years gain the necessary 120 hours of driving experience needed to obtain a probationary licence.

To sign up to the program, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/L2P or phone Council on (03) 5450 9333.

Volunteer mentors are also being sought to assist with the programs.

Mentors need to be over 21 years of age and hold a current full Victorian driver's licence. Mentors will also need to undertake a Working with Children Check, a Police Check and VicRoads Driver History Report, with all costs associated with these checks met by the program.

To apply to be a mentor, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/L2P or phone Council on (03) 5450 9333.



DRAFT AQUATIC STRATEGY - HAVE YOUR SAY

Residents are encouraged to have their say on the *Draft Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy* by completing a survey online at

www.gsc.vic.gov.au/aquatic

before 5pm Sunday, 31 July.

Feedback will also be accepted during this period via a Have Your Say form available at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/aquatic, by emailing council@gsc.vic.gov.au or writing to Gannawarra Shire Council, PO Box 287, Kerang VIC 3579.

All feedback received during the community engagement period will assist with the development of the final version of the *Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy*, which will be presented to Council at a later date.



SILAGE WRAP RECYCLING SERVICE

Local farmers can dispose of their silage wrap for free at Council's Cohuna Transfer Station.

To assist with the recycling of this product, silage wrap needs to be shaken and as clean as possible, and will be accepted in Bulka bags, wool bags or Plasback bags without net wrap or twine.

Silage wrap is made of a high quality linear low-density polyethylene plastic which is a wasted resource if sent to landfill.

Please note that burning silage wrap is illegal and it also releases harmful chemicals into the atmosphere.

The Cohuna Transfer Station is located at 150 Chuggs Road, Cohuna and is open 9am-11am Fridays and 1pm-4pm Sundays.

COMMUNITY NEWS

POPULAR SOCIAL MEALS PROGRAM RETURNS

Residents have welcomed the return of Council's Social Meals program.

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 July—December 2022 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, 8 July
Friday, 12 August
Friday, 9 September
Friday, 14 October
Friday, 11 November
Friday, 9 December

Cohuna Memorial Hall

Friday, 15 July
Friday, 19 August
Friday, 16 September
Friday, 21 October
Friday, 18 November
Friday, 16 December

Kerang Senior Citizens Centre

Thursday, 28 July
Thursday, 25 August
Thursday, 22 September
Thursday, 27 October
Thursday, 24 November
Thursday, 22 December

Lake Charm Hall

Tuesday, 12 July
Tuesday, 9 August
Tuesday, 13 September
Tuesday, 11 October
Tuesday, 8 November
Tuesday, 13 December

Lalbert Recreation Reserve

Tuesday, 26 July
Tuesday, 30 August
Tuesday, 27 September
Tuesday, 25 October
Tuesday, 29 November
Tuesday, 6 December

Leitchville Memorial Hall

Thursday, 7 July
Thursday, 4 August
Thursday, 1 September
Thursday, 6 October
Thursday, 3 November
Thursday, 1 December

Macorna Recreation Reserve

Friday, 29 July
Friday, 26 August
Friday, 30 September
Friday, 28 October
Friday, 25 November
Friday, 2 December

Murrabit Hall

Wednesday, 6 July
Wednesday, 3 August
Wednesday, 7 September
Wednesday, 5 October
Wednesday, 2 November
Wednesday, 7 December

Quambatook Senior Citizens Clubrooms

Tuesday, 5 July
Tuesday, 2 August
Tuesday, 6 September
Tuesday, 4 October
Tuesday, 8 November

PROJECTS UPDATE

SUSTAINABLE RECREATIONAL WATER FOR QUAMBATOOK

The transformation of the Quambatook Weir Pool into a recreational oasis for residents and visitors will soon begin, with Earthwork Civil & Constructions awarded the tender to complete the \$1.53 million project.

Supported by a \$2.05 million contribution from the State Government's Regional Infrastructure Fund, the project involves isolating the Avoca River's flows at the Quambatook Weir Pool and installing infrastructure that connects this popular waterspot to the Quambatook township.

Key features include the development of a five-kilometre walking trail and pedestrian bridge crossing over the Avoca River between the township and the weir, as well as the installation of a jetty and boat ramp at the weir site.

Council will keep residents updated regarding the progress of this project via its website, Facebook page, *Gannawarra News* and future editions of *Gannawarra Connect*.



COHUNA WATERFRONT PROJECT COMPLETE

The transformation of Cohuna is complete, with the final stage of the Cohuna Waterfront Project finished in June.



Residents and visitors have provided positive feedback on works associated with Stage 2 of the project, which included the installation of a jetty on the banks of Gunbower Creek and new lighting.

Stage 2 of the Cohuna Waterfront Development formed part of the \$3.4 million Cohuna CBD and Waterfront Connections Project, supported by the State Government's \$2.7 billion Building Works package.

KERANG ALL ABILITIES PLAY SPACE

Construction of the Kerang All Abilities Play Space is nearing completion.

Located at Atkinson Park, this new space will be integrated into the current playground site, expanding the area to as far south as the sound shell.

Visitors are already benefiting from the recent installation of a fully accessible sway fun swing, with work to install in-ground trampolines, a log scramble area and water play areas continuing.

For more information click on the projects tab at www.gsc.vic.gov.au



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

VHM GOSCHEN PROJECT UPDATE

With Western Australia border restrictions eased, VHM Limited's Managing Director, Graham Howard was able to travel to Kerang in early June to meet with Gannawarra Shire Council and provide a status update on the Goschen Rare Earths and Mineral Sands Project and community engagement activities for 2022.

A wide range of technical studies have been undertaken in line with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) Environment Effects Statement (EES) process. These studies assess and measure existing conditions which form the baseline from which potential impacts as a result of mining can be assessed. Some of the studies include air quality, noise, biodiversity, cultural heritage, landscape and visual, and traffic and transport.

These, and other studies, are currently being reviewed by the Technical Reference Group (TRG) – made up of representatives from a range of government departments and agencies, including Gannawarra Shire - to ensure all potential environmental impacts have been considered and addressed. Following TRG review, the findings from these studies, and the resulting environmental management commitments will be presented to the wider Gannawarra community.



VHM will host a number of drop-in information sessions across the region, commencing in late June. Community members are encouraged to attend to find out more about the technical studies and how they help refine the project. All feedback from community provides valuable input and forms part of the EES which is currently scheduled to be exhibited for public review in late 2022.

Information sessions are planned to be held in Lalbert and Kerang, and at other venues in the area. Keep an eye out for the roadshow schedule which will be advertised in local newspapers, on radio and www.vhmltd.com.au



VHM is also undertaking other activities in the region, including a metallurgical drilling program and airborne geophysical survey.

Currently there are three drill rigs in operation to obtain soil and mineral samples which are being sent to laboratories in Queensland for analysis. Further testing and refining is underway to ensure that soil layers and mineral properties are fully understood. For example, when mining is to commence, all topsoil would be carefully removed, then stored while mining takes place. On completion of mining, the pit would be filled with mine tailings, then the topsoil reinstated and conditioned to ensure cropping (pre-mining land-use) would continue. This is the key outcome of mine rehabilitation works.

The mineral samples are being analysed to ensure the mineral separation plant is designed and built to perform at optimal level.

The airborne geophysical survey work commencing in June is being undertaken in VHM's exploration lease areas to measure magnetic variations within the different rock types. This data is used to map the underlying geology which helps predict the location of minerals.

If you have any questions about the Goschen Project or VHM's activities, you can contact the Community team directly on 0429 462 524 or email community@vhmltd.com.au



KOONDROOK RETREAT AWARDS PUT THE GANNAWARRA ON THE MAP

Council's work to develop Koondrook Retreat into Victoria's nature based tourism destination was recognised by peak local government body, LGPro in June.

The retreat took out two awards at the 2022 LGPro Awards for Excellence - the Community Assets & Infrastructure (\$2.5 million and under) Initiative Award and Outstanding Small Rural Council Initiative Award.

Judges were impressed with high level of engagement Council undertook during the planning and construction of Koondrook Retreat, which opened in December 2020.

Council's work to transform Cohuna's Apex Park into a tourism and recreation hub for residents and visitors was also recognised, with the project - which included the creation of Cohuna Beach - highly commended in the Community Assets & Infrastructure (projects over \$2.5 million) Initiative category and a finalist in the Outstanding Small Rural Council Initiative Award.



URBAN GROWTH STRATEGY

Council is developing an Urban Growth Strategy to guide the future strategic directions for residential and industrial growth across the Gannawarra. This work will include an urban and regional demand analysis; completing an assessment of forecast population, housing and employment growth; undertake an assessment of the housing market and associated demand; complete a land supply audit of residential and industrial land; and prepare planning policy recommendations.

Growth in the Gannawarra has been backed up by two consecutive population increases, strong annual building figures, a high level of investment in the local economy and the development of new infrastructure that supports tourism and lifestyle choices.

To maximise future growth, new residential and industrial sites across the municipality needs to be identified to ensure that land supply doesn't restrict growth opportunities.

Around 80 new houses are built in the Gannawarra each year, highlighting the level of growth currently underway.

Industrial land sales are also very strong, with new developments proposed for Cohuna, Kerang and Koondrook.

Employment growth is strong, with around 450 jobs predicted in the short to medium term in mineral sands, manufacturing, agriculture and hospitality. Future growth in renewable energy will see KerangLink, along with other wind and solar projects, create around 1,000 construction jobs.

The development of the Urban Growth Strategy will generate developer confidence and maintain the high level of investment interest in the Gannawarra.

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 **July 2022 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 20 July at 10am. The **August 2022 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 17 August 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