

GANNAWARRA *CONNECT*



GANNAWARRA
Shire Council

March-April 2023

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FROM THE MAYOR

Council continues to support the Gannawarra's recovery from the October-December 2022 floods.

Work to repair more than 1,000 kilometres of roads damaged is underway, and we are committed to returning our road network to a pre-flood standard.

Council is also coordinating recovery efforts, with the Gannawarra Municipal Recovery Committee and Gannawarra Community Recovery Committee meeting regularly to develop and implement the Gannawarra Flood Recovery Action Plan.

To find out more about the Gannawarra's recovery from the floods, please read the report in this edition of *Gannawarra Connect* or visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods

Regards,

Mayor Charlie Gillingham



HELP SHAPE THE CONNECTING GANNAWARRA PROJECT

Residents living in six communities are encouraged to work with Council to develop community plans that reflect their uniqueness and priorities.

Funded by the Agriculture-Dependent Community Resilience Project, the *Connecting Gannawarra* project will build on community planning work undertaken since 2008 and will empower communities to plan for their future whilst building resilience.

Project facilitators will work with residents from the Lakes District, Lalbert, Leitchville, Macorna/Tragowel, Murrabit/Myall/Benjeroop, and Quambatook during the first half of 2023 to develop these community plans, with various options to participate available.

For more information regarding the *Connecting Gannawarra* project, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/ConnectingGannawarra



COMMUNITY NEWS

WHAT'S ON

25 MARCH

Kerang Community Market

25 MARCH

Motorcycle Accident
Management Training

26 MARCH

Cohuna Farmers & Makers
Market

1 APRIL

Murrabit Country Market

7-9 APRIL

Rotary Club of Kerang Art
Show

8 APRIL

Murrabit Country Market -
Easter Saturday

9 APRIL

Cohuna Farmers & Makers
Market

16 APRIL

Kerang Show & Shine and
Harley Evo Fest

22 APRIL

Kerang Community Market

23 APRIL

Cohuna Farmers & Makers
Market

25 APRIL

ANZAC Day commemorations,
shirewide

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

RECYCLE YOUR E- WASTE AT COUNCIL'S TRANSFER STATIONS

Residents who have everyday electrical products that need to be disposed of can take these items to their local transfer station for recycling for free.

Anything that has a plug, battery or cord that is no longer of use is classified as e-waste, and cannot be disposed of in your household rubbish bin. This includes televisions, DVD players, computer monitors, printers, microwaves, portable heaters and fans.

More than 4,852 kilograms worth of e-waste materials was collected via Council's transfer stations at Cohuna, Kerang, Lalbert and Quambatook in 2021/22, diverting these items from landfill and ensuring these products were made into new items.

For more information regarding Council's transfer stations and opening hours, please click on the Transfer Station heading at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/waste

E-WASTE



IMMUNISATION SESSIONS BY APPOINTMENT

APRIL 2023

Wednesday, 5 April

Kerang
(10.30am – 12 noon)

Wednesday, 19 April

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

MAY 2023

Wednesday, 3 May

Kerang
(10.30am - 12 noon)

Wednesday, 17 May

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

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



ELECTORAL STRUCTURE REVIEW

Residents are encouraged to have their say on the Victorian Electoral Commission's preliminary report into Gannawarra Shire Council's electoral structure.

The Minister for Local Government has called for the review of the electoral structure of 39 local councils, including Gannawarra Shire, which are currently not consistent with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

The review will determine whether Gannawarra Shire Council has an appropriate number of Councillors and whether the municipality should be one large unsubdivided area or subdivided into wards.

To view the preliminary report and to have your say, please click on the Electoral Structure Review box at www.gsc.vic.gov.au

CELEBRATE EASTER WITH THE GANNAWARRA LIBRARY SERVICE

The Gannawarra Library Service will be celebrating Easter with a unique Story Walk event.

In what is a first for the service, families will be able to enjoy a walk whilst interacting with a picture story book.

Details regarding this special event will be announced soon.

To keep up to date with the Gannawarra Library Service's children's activities, please follow the Gannawarra Library Service Facebook page or visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/libraries

ANIMAL REGISTRATION RENEWALS

Animal registration renewal notices have been distributed to pet owners throughout the Gannawarra.

As outlined in the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, all dogs and cats over three months of age must be registered with their local Council and microchipped.

Reduced registration fees are applicable for pets aged over 10 years; dogs kept for working stock; animals that are registered with an Applicable Organisation; and animals that are desexed.

Payment can be made in person at Council's Customer Service Centres, by cheque or money order mailed to Council, over the phone by phoning (03) 5450 9333 or online via BPAY. A separate BPAY payment is required per animal.

For more information regarding pets and animals, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/pets_and_animals



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COMMUNITY NEWS

THE GLASSHOUSE @ THE GANNAWARRA

Council recently released the final designs for *The Glasshouse @ The Gannawarra*.

To be located at Kerang's Sir John Gorton Library, this contemporary space will enable users to connect, collaborate, create and celebrate together.



Residents were able to have their say on the project's initial designs during late August and early September 2022, with all feedback assisting with the development of the revised plans.

For more information regarding *The Glasshouse @ The Gannawarra* project, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/glasshouse



Did you know that membership with us is **FREE** and you will have access to...

- New release Fiction and Non-Fiction titles for adults, teens & children
- eBooks, eAudio books, eMagazines, comics, TV, music and movie streaming
- DVDs for all age groups and audio books on CD & MP3
- Magazines & local newspapers
- Local History and in-library access to ancestry.com
- Regular children's programs including Story Time and School Holiday activities, along with access to online stories read by popular Australian storytellers with Story Box Library
- Books on Wheels home delivery for those unable to physically come to our branches due to illness or disability
- Book Chat, author talks, events and exhibitions
- IT and academic help with access to the Computer School and Britannica online
- Wi-Fi and public computer access & scanning
- Printing & photocopying (charges apply)

Scan the QR code to become an online member and have instant access to our eLibrary, or drop in to one of our branches at Kerang, Cohuna, Leitchville & Quambatook

ancestry library edition



theComputerSchool.net



Britannica Library



KEEPING ACTIVE IN THE WATER DURING THE COOLER MONTHS

Residents wanting to keep active during the cooler months can do so by visiting the Kerang Exercise Pool.

Located in Kerang's Patchell Plaza, this small but welcoming facility is heated to between 30 - 34 degrees.

Whether you are a parent with a young child, recovering from an injury, have a disability or even if you just want to keep active; the Kerang Exercise Pool is for you!

The Kerang Exercise Pool is open 7am - 2pm Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and 11am - 2pm Tuesdays and Thursdays.

For more details on Council's pools, as well as community managed swimming pools at Koondrook, Leitchville and Quambatook, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/pools

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WATERSPORTS RETURN TO THE GANNAWARRA

Ski racing action returned to Kangaroo Lake and Lake Charm in January and February after the October-December 2022 floods impacted Ski Racing Victoria's Point Score Series schedule.

Kangaroo Lake hosted event 3 of the Point Score series on 28-29 January, attracting 217 entries. Similar numbers attended the Point Score 4 competition, also held at Kangaroo Lake on 11-12 February, as well as the Point Score 5 competition held at Lake Charm on 25-26 February.

Many of the teams that competed used these meets as warm-ups for the Southern 80 Ski Race, occurring at Echuca on 24-26 March.

Council continues to work on promoting the Kerang Lakes area as an ideal place for watersports events, which provides flow-on benefits to accommodation providers and hospitality businesses.

HOUSING DEMAND

Council's Economic Development team continues to work with developers regarding residential development options in the Gannawarra.

With renewable energy projects and the VHM Minerals project at Goschen predicted to generate hundreds of jobs, there is strong demand for additional housing for new residents.

If you would like to learn more about our efforts or are considering options for your land, please contact our team on (03) 5450 9333.

TOURISM AND EVENTS BROCHURE

More than 40 events feature in the Autumn-Winter 2023 edition of the Tourism and Events Brochure.

Developed by Council's tourism team, this brochure promotes annual events to be held throughout the Gannawarra between March and August 2023, ranging from performances, art exhibitions, community events and sporting competitions. The brochure also highlights regular monthly events, including Cohuna and Kerang parkrun and monthly markets at Cohuna, Kerang and Murrabit.

You can pick up a copy of this popular brochure from Council's Customer Service Centres at Cohuna and Kerang; the Gateway to Gannawarra Visitor Centre at Cohuna; Gannawarra Library Service branches at Cohuna, Kerang and Leitchville; and numerous tourism and business facilities located throughout the Gannawarra.

Tourism & Events

Autumn and Winter

March 2023 - August 2023



VIEW THE MURRAY NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE

Did you know you can view the Murray River at Koondrook from the comfort of home at any time?

A webcam has been installed near Koondrook Wharf as part of a Murray Regional Tourism project that aims to provide live still images of destinations along the Murray River.

Koondrook is one of six locations where webcams have been installed, with footage from Albury, Echuca, Mildura, Swan Hill and Tocumwal available from the Murray Regional Tourism website.

To learn more about tourism attractions located within the Gannawarra, please visit www.thegannawarra.com.au

FLOOD RECOVERY

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR FLOOD-AFFECTED FARMERS

Flood-affected farmers are eligible to apply before 4pm Sunday, 30 April 2023 for financial support via the current Agriculture Victoria flood recovery grants program. Available grants include:

- **Primary Producer Recovery Grants:** Up to \$75,000 grants to cover the cost of recovery and get businesses up and running again. **Note:** This replaces the \$10,000 Primary Producer Flood Clean-Up, Relief Grants announced on 19 October 2022. Producers that have received a Primary Producer Flood Clean-Up Relief Grant of \$10,000 can now apply for up to a further \$65,000 under the Primary Producer Recovery Grant, bringing the total to \$75,000.
- **Rural Landholder Grants:** Up to \$25,000 grants to cover the costs of disaster impacts for small-scale producers.
- **Primary Producer Concessional Loans:** Up to \$250,000 to restore or replace damaged equipment and infrastructure, or to cover short-term business expenses.
- **Primary Producer Transport Subsidies:** Up to \$15,000 to support the transport of emergency fodder or stock drinking water, and the movement of livestock.

For more information, phone the Agriculture Victoria's Recovery Team on 0427 694 185 or email recovery@agriculture.vic.gov.au

FLOOD RECOVERY ADVOCACY EFFORTS CONTINUE

Council continues to advocate on behalf of the community regarding key issues resulting from the October-December 2022 floods.

Issues being raised to other government agencies include:

- Additional support for our agricultural sector
- Repairing rural levees located on Crown Land
- Funding for establishing and repairing ring levees on private properties
- Improving road infrastructure to reduce isolation in future floods
- Mobile phone connectivity improvements

SECONDARY FLOOD IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Windermere Services continues to assist Council in providing additional support to residents impacted by the October-December 2022 floods.



Secondary impact assessments on private residences damaged by the floods are continuing, which helps determine what assistance each resident needs.

Residents who have not yet registered with Council for flood recovery assistance, can do so by contacting Council on (03) 5450 9333 during business hours.

Meanwhile, secondary impact assessments are also occurring on Council-managed infrastructure damaged by the floods, such as roads, levees and bridges. These assessments also include recommended actions that need to be undertaken, such as repairs or requesting follow-up inspections by specialists. This data will assist Council in advocating for additional funding from the Federal and State governments.

FLOOD RECOVERY



COMMUNITY COMMITTEE ASSISTING WITH FLOOD RECOVERY

The Gannawarra Community Flood Recovery Committee recently held its first meeting, enabling community members from impacted areas across the Shire to come together to discuss the flood situation and provide guidance on priorities they would like to see implemented to help their communities recover from the floods.

The committee is also assisting with the development of the Gannawarra Flood Recovery Action Plan, which will ensure recovery efforts are undertaken in a coordinated, effective and timely manner.

WANT TO HOST A POST-FLOOD COMMUNITY EVENT?

Community groups wanting to host a post-flood community event are encouraged to contact Council to discuss what financial assistance may be available.

Whether it is a barbecue lunch, dinner, guest speaker or performance, post-flood community events are a great way to keep the community connected as we continue to recover from the October-December 2022 floods.

For more information, please phone Council on (03) 5450 9333.

FINANCIAL COUNSELLING SUPPORT AVAILABLE

Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) Victoria West's Small Business and Rural Financial Counsellors are available to assist farmers and small business owners navigate the range of flood relief grants and government support.

Team members can assist from the beginning to the end of the application process and support you through your flood recovery.

RFCS Victoria West also has a team of qualified Wellbeing Counsellors available to ensure anyone working with a financial counsellor is fully supported.

For more information, please phone 1300 735 578 or visit www.wswrcs.com.au



Murrumbidgee



Quinn Family Farm



Kerang



Reddy Lake

GANNAWARRA REFLECTIONS VIDEO SERIES

Council and Northern District Community Health have produced a seven-part video series highlighting how the Gannawarra united during the October-December 2022 floods.

The *Gannawarra Reflections* series focuses on communities across the municipality and how residents young and old managed during this event.

To view these videos, please click on the *Gannawarra Reflections* video heading at 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
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PATCHELL WARD



Cr Kelvin Burt
0407 319 414
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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 **April 2023 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 19 April at 10am. The **May 2023 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 17 May 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