

GANNAWARRA CONNECT



May-June 2021

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FROM THE MAYOR

It is great to see so many popular community events, ranging from arts performances to celebrations, returning to the Gannawarra as COVID-19 restrictions continue to ease. I encourage you to support these events and experience what the Gannawarra has to offer.

This time of year is also a busy period for Council as we seek your feedback on our Proposed Budget. The 2021/2022 Proposed Budget is no exception, with this economic plan aiming to help the Gannawarra grow now and in the future. I encourage you to read the story on page 3 of this edition of *Gannawarra Connect* and visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/budget for more information.

Regards,
Mayor Charlie Gillingham



CREATIVE GANNAWARRA

Council's Creative Gannawarra program, launched in March 2021, continues to support and empower the Gannawarra creative community, as well as encourage community inclusion and participation in the planning and delivery of creative projects.

The program's next major performance is Jude Perl's *I Have a Face*, occurring at the Leitchville Memorial Hall on Friday, 4 June. Tickets for this hilarious show will be on sale soon, with further details available in *Gannawarra News*, Council's website and Facebook pages.

For more information and to keep up to date with initiatives supported by the program, follow the Creative Gannawarra Facebook page — www.facebook.com/CreativeGannawarra

I Have a Face
Jude Perl
Friday, 4 June 2021
Leitchville Memorial Hall

GANNAWARRA Shire Council
Creative Gannawarra
REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA
CREATIVE VICTORIA

Residents can also sign up to receive the Creative Gannawarra newsletter by email at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/CreativeGannawarra



ACRE21 FESTIVAL TO BENEFIT QUAMBATOOK

Council is pleased to be financially supporting the ACRE21 Festival, which will be held at Quambatook on Saturday, 15 May.



One of four festivals to be occurring across north-western Victoria and south-western New South Wales, the event will enable local communities to come together, share in some top-quality music, a fire and a good chat.

The highlight of the festivities will be the unveiling of an artwork marking the celebrations, with the host artist selected via a recently held Expression of Interest process.

Details regarding Quambatook' ACRE21 Festival will be promoted via *Gannawarra News*, as well as Council's website and Facebook pages.

The ACRE21 Project is managed by The ACRE Project, a collaboration between artists, farmers, community development workers and arts workers from across the region.

The ACRE Project is supported by Swan Hill Regional Art Gallery, participating local councils, Regional Arts Victoria, South West Arts and Creative Victoria.

WHAT'S ON

1 MAY
Murrabit Country Market

11 MAY
Sofie Laguna author talk, Kerang

15 MAY
ACRE21 Festival, Quambatook

23 MAY
Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market

4 JUNE
I Have a Face, Leitchville

5 JUNE
Murrabit Country Market

27 JUNE
Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market

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

PROMOTE YOUR EVENT ONLINE

To submit your event details, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/add_your_event

IMMUNISATION SESSIONS

MAY 2021

Wednesday, 5 May
Kerang
(10.30am – 12 noon)

Wednesday, 19 May
Cohuna
(10.30am – 12 noon)
Kerang
(4pm – 5.30pm)

JUNE 2021

Wednesday, 2 June
Kerang
(10.30am – 12 noon)

Wednesday, 16 June
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.



2021/2022 PROPOSED BUDGET



A BUDGET THAT WILL GROW THE GANNAWARRA

Residents are encouraged to have their say on Council's 2021/2022 Proposed Council Budget, which outlines a \$16.179 million investment in capital works and a rates revenue increase that complies with the State Government's Fair Go Rates System.

The Proposed Budget aims to maintain current services, support projects and invest in community-led initiatives that will grow the Gannawarra now and in the future .

The Proposed Budget relies on partnerships with other government bodies to minimise the impact on ratepayers and complies with the State Government's Fair Go Rates System, which states that the total revenue raised through municipal rates cannot increase by more than 1.5 per cent compared to the previous year.

To have you say, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/budget before 5pm on Monday, 24 May. All submissions received will help formulate the final version of the 2021/2022 Budget, which will be presented to Council at its meeting on Wednesday, 16 June. 2021.

DRAFT REVENUE AND RATING PLAN FEEDBACK SOUGHT

Council is also seeking feedback regarding its Draft Revenue and Rating Plan during the 2021/2022 Proposed Budget engagement process.

The draft plan 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 facilities and services.

To view the Draft Revenue and Rating Plan and to have your say, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/budget

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- \$534,000 in funding for grants and projects, including \$250,000 for the Major Community Project Fund, \$84,000 for Council's Community Grants Program, and \$200,000 to enable strategic projects identified in the *Gannawarra Shire Council Plan 2017-2021* to be "shovel ready";
- Close to \$5 million for road, bridge, kerb and footpath improvements, including the Kerang CBD Redevelopment - Stage 2 (\$1 million) and Apex Park bridge replacement, Reedy Lake (\$300,000)*;
- Close to \$5 million for tourism opportunities, including the Cohuna CBD Waterfront Development (\$1.707 million), Kerang to Koondrook Rail Trail – Stage 1 (\$2.4 million)* and Kangaroo Lake North End Foreshore Redevelopment— Stage 2 (\$830,000)*;
- Close to \$3 million for parks and recreational facilities, including the Quambatook Sustainable Water Project (\$1.2 million)*, Atkinson Park All Abilities Park, Kerang (\$1.1 million)*, Morton Garner Pavilion upgrade (\$475,000) and Cohuna Sporting Precinct Masterplan (\$100,000);
- \$1.15 million for Murrabit stormwater drainage development; and
- \$650,000 for the Gannawarra Shire Children's Centre expansion, enabling three-year-old kindergarten to occur on-site.

* Grant dependent



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

In-house programs have resumed at Gannawarra Library Service branches:

Story Time - Cohuna (Tuesdays, 10.30am) and Kerang (Thursdays, 10.30am)

Rhyme Time - Kerang (Wednesdays, 10.30am)

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

KEEPING CONNECTED WITH COUNCIL

Did you know you can sign up to receive Council-related information delivered to your inbox?

To sign up for Council news, community information or Creative Gannawarra opportunities, please use the links provided below:

Council news, including media release: Visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/news and click on the "Sign up for the latest news by email" link.

Community information, including programs and grant opportunities: Visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/communitydirectory and click on the "Community updates" link.

Creative Gannawarra information, including arts programs, workshops and funding opportunities: Visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/CreativeGannawarra and click on the "Creative Gannawarra Newsletter" link.

ACCESSIBLE PARKING PERMIT SCHEME

Residents wanting to apply for an Accessible Parking Permit can now do so via a new process managed by VicRoads.

The scheme, which replaces the Disability Parking Permit scheme, will standardise permits to better align with the Australian Disability Parking Scheme, making sure Victorian permits are recognised across the country.

Applications for a permit can be completed online via a VicRoads portal, which is available at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/parking

Residents who need assistance to complete an application are welcome to visit either the Cohuna or Kerang Customer Service Centres, where our friendly staff are able to help.

Residents who currently hold a Disability Parking Permit may continue to do so until their current permit expires.



The Accessible Parking Permit Scheme

PROJECTS UPDATE



CHILDREN'S CENTRE EXPANSION UPDATE

The tender for the \$725,000 expansion of the Gannawarra Shire Children's Centre will be advertised during May.

This project, expected to be completed by the end of 2021, will see the centre's capacity increase to 126 and sessional kindergarten - including a dedicated three-year-old program.

These works are possible thanks to a \$600,000 contribution from the Victorian Schools Building Authority.

For more information regarding tenders currently advertised, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/tenders



KINGS PARK, COHUNA UPGRADE CONTINUES

Improvements to Kings Park, Cohuna are underway, with the recent installation of a basketball half-court a major milestone.

Council and the Lions Club of Cohuna engaged with various community groups and residents during the final months of 2020 to determine how Kings Park is utilised and what improvements can be made to help make the park an inviting location for families .

These discussions led to the current improvements, with the upgraded park to feature expansion of the current playground on the Belmont Street side, new garden beds, increased seating options and the installation of stepping logs to cater for families visiting the park.

KOONDROOK ALL ABILITIES PLAYGROUND

Construction of the Koondrook All Abilities Playground is on track for completion at the end of the month.

Constructed on the site of the former Koondrook Memorial Hall, the playground will be a space where people of all ages and abilities can interact.

Once completed, the Koondrook All Abilities Playground will feature elements that are prominent in many popular all-abilities play spaces, including a flying fox with an accessible harness, timber swings featuring accessible harness seating, an accessible carousel and in-ground trampolines. Tactile features, including water and sand play areas, as well as shaded seating, will also feature.

The \$520,000 Koondrook All Abilities Playground is supported by a \$390,000 grant from the State Government's Regional Infrastructure Fund.



COMMUNITY RESILIENCE



DRY TIME TALKS—A SHOW ABOUT HOPE IN DROUGHT

Dry Times Talks is a podcast and video series from Australian Red Cross.

Over five short episodes, people living in rural and regional Australia share their stories of resilience along with simple, important tips on how you can look after yourself, your family and community through dry and other tough times.

To listen to any of the episodes, visit www.redcross.org.au/drytimes or search “Dry Times Talks” on your favourite podcast channel.

RESILIENCE GRANTS AWARDED

Successful applicants in Round 4 of the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee’s Resilience Grants Program were recently awarded.

Funded through the Victorian Government’s Drought Mental Health Support Package and Community Activation and Support Initiative, 13 groups have shared \$35,002 funding for small projects that support mental health and wellbeing, community connections, inclusion and participation.

Projects supported by Round 4 of the Gannawarra Community Resilience Grants Program are:

- Cohuna Agricultural, Pastoral and Horticultural Society (Farmer information forums)
- Cohuna District Hospital (Men’s Cooking Program)
- Gannawarra University of the Third Age (Outdoor games social program)
- Kerang and District Community Centre (Split system air conditioner/heater)
- Kerang Historical Society (Purchase of engine lift and defibrillator)
- Kerang Progress Association (Kerang Local Arts Project)
- Leitchville Lions Club/Leitchville Men’s Shed (Purchase of defibrillator)
- Murrabit Advancement Association (Murrabit Community Support Officer)
- Murrabit Men’s Shed (Post-COVID revitalisation project)
- Northern District Community Health (Responsible Service of Alcohol training)
- Quambatook Community Resource Centre (Arts for All Abilities Program)
- Quambatook Football Club (Indigenous Round support)
- Rotary Club of Kerang (Walking/cycling track connection at the northern end of the Kerang levee track)



QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY INFORMATION DAY

Kerang residents, Joe and Beryl Tartaglia are reaping the sweet rewards of their efforts to control Queensland fruit fly in their garden this year. These include hanging traps to monitor fruit fly, keeping their trees at a manageable height, using protective insect nets, and being vigilant in picking up and disposing of any fallen fruit.

If you too want beautiful fruit next year, head to the Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area information stand, which will be located in Victoria Square, Kerang on Friday, 11 June 2021. Tricia Witney, a Queensland Fruit Fly Community Support Officer, will be there from 9.30am to 3pm. For more information, visit www.pestfreearea.com.au



**DON'T
TAKE THE
RISK THIS
SEASON**

GET THE FLU VACCINE

2021 INFLUENZA IMMUNISATION PROGRAM

The annual Influenza immunisation program has now commenced across the Gannawarra.

Behaviours such as increased hand washing and physical distancing helped to stop the spread of flu viruses last year. Relaxing restrictions this year may allow flu viruses to recirculate.

You can access flu vaccine through your local medical clinic, pharmacy or by making a booking with Council's Community Health Team on (03) 5450 9333 or visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/immunisation

Please note that local government is not involved in the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out, however a 14-day separation between getting a flu vaccine and a COVID-19 vaccine is required. Given this, it's important to plan both vaccinations.



GET ACTIVE IN THE GANNAWARRA

Autumn is a great time to be outdoors making the most of the sunshine before the cooler months arrive. Make it a habit to prioritise your health and wellbeing by dedicating time to moving more.

It is also a great way to practice the Five Ways to Wellbeing – Be Active, Connect, Take Notice, Keep Learning and Give. Join in group exercise, participate in a local Parkrun, sign up for a new sport, meet up with a friend for a walk, or take your dog for a jog! Check out all that Autumn in Gannawarra has to offer.

CLIMATE READY COMMUNITIES

Adapt Loddon Mallee is supporting communities across the region to build resilience and be ready to face the challenges and embrace the opportunities of a changing climate.

Support is being offered to 100 communities/groups across the region to host a community climate change conversation.

Applicants will be provided with a conversation toolkit created in collaboration with community leaders that includes a how-to guide for facilitators, conversation cards to get things started, and workbooks to record learnings. Funding of \$200 per conversation is also available to support each event and remunerate facilitator time.

To book a community climate ready conversation or for more information on Adapt Loddon Mallee, visit www.adaptloddonmallee.com.au

CONTINUE TO BE COVIDSAFE

Continue to be COVIDsafe during your daily activities by:

- Washing your hands regularly with soap and water
- Keeping 1.5m from others
- Making sure the COVIDSafe app is active on your phone
- Staying informed about local restrictions
- Calling Northern District Community Health on (03) 5451 0200 to get a COVID test if you have a cough or a sniffle.

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 **May 2021 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 19 May at 6.30pm. The **June 2021 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 16 June 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