

GANNAWARRA CONNECT



September-October 2020

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FROM THE MAYOR

Congratulations to all for adhering to the State Government's COVID-19 Stage 3 measures, which were implemented in early August. If we continue to work together, a return to a COVID-safe society will occur sooner.



Thank you also to all residents and community groups that completed Council's COVID-19 Community Health, Wellbeing and Recovery Survey. All feedback received will help the 28 agencies that make up the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee develop and implement measures that will help shape the Gannawarra's recovery.

Finally, I wish all candidates considering nominating for October's Council elections all the best. More information about these elections are on page 3 of this edition.

Kind regards,
Mayor Lorraine Learmonth

GETTING CLOSER TO NATURE

A new tourism experience at Koondrook is nearing completion.

The \$1.2 million Koondrook Glamping Hub will be operational later this year.

Supported by an \$800,000 contribution from Regional Development Victoria, this new accommodation facility will provide visitors a unique way to enjoy what our region has to offer.

Features include six glamping style tents, a camp kitchen, a fire pit area and canoe platform.



The venue provides access to cycling tracks, walking tracks, canoe trails and the proposed Kerang – Koondrook Rail Trail.

An official opening will be held following the easing of COVID-19 social distancing measures.

KNOW YOUR LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

The **Kerang and District Community Centre**, located at 11 Scoresby Street, aims to provide opportunities for connection, lifelong learning and support for all of the Kerang community.



The house is governed by a volunteer committee and managed by Meghan Stewart.

The Centre's services include:

- IT help, photocopying, scanning and laminating;
- Community room hire;
- Courses, including First Aid and Marine Licence;
- Emergency food relief;
- Community Pantry;
- Hosting visiting services;
- Community DVD Library;
- Scrapbooking Group;
- Knitting Group;
- Production of the fortnightly *Kerang Happenings* newsletter;
- Cross Fiit for 65+, an exercise group to encourage older Australians to be active;
- Line Dancing; and
- The development of a community vegetable garden.

The Centre is keen to expand our programs and events. If you have a project in mind, or wish to be involved as a volunteer or participant in a program, please email reception@kdcc.org.au or phone (03) 5452 2522.

The Centre is currently open to the public under restricted conditions by appointment only.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/kdcckerang

STAY CONNECTED WITH COUNCIL

Would you like to stay up to date with the latest Council information?

If you answer is "yes", please email media@gannawarra.vic.gov.au to sign up to receive Council's media releases and other information delivered to your inbox.

Are you a local artist or creative with a unique talent?
Do you love running workshops and teaching your skills to others?
Gannawarra Arts & Culture would love to support you and help bring your ideas to life.



If you're a community member interested in arts & culture, we want to hear from you too! What sort of new skills would you like to learn? This could be anything from jewellery making, to photography and beyond...



Gannawarra
Arts & Culture
2021

We want to hear from YOU!

Email your ideas to
Arts@gannawarra.vic.gov.au

We look forward to connecting!



IMMUNISATION SESSIONS

SEPTEMBER 2020

Wednesday, 2 September

Kerang
(10.30am – 12 noon)

Wednesday, 16 September

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

OCTOBER 2020

Wednesday, 7 October

Kerang
(10.30am – 12 noon)

Wednesday, 21 October

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 Coronavirus, or those who are in isolation, should not attend.

For more details, visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/immunisation

COVID-19 RESPONSE, RECOVERY CONTINUES

Council thanks residents who have taken the time to complete a Gannawarra COVID-19 Community Health and Wellbeing Survey.

All feedback received will assist the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee, which consists of 28 agencies, guide the Gannawarra's social and economic recovery from the pandemic in what continues to be an uncertain time.

The latest edition of the Gannawarra COVID-19 Community Relief and Recovery Plan, as well as further information regarding COVID-19, is available online at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/coronavirus



RECOGNISING OUR LOCAL CHAMPIONS

Nominations for Gannawarra Shire Council's 2021 Australia Day Awards will open later in the year.

Presented as part of Council's Australia Day celebrations, previous winners have demonstrated a commitment to the organisations and groups they are a part of.

The 2020 Citizen of the Year, Leo Parker and Young Citizen of the Year, Mitchell Gross (pictured above with Mayor Lorraine Learmonth) are both key members of the Quambatook community.

Nominations will be sought for the 2021 Citizen of the Year; and Young Citizen of the Year (for residents aged 15-24 years of age on Tuesday, 26 January 2021).

Nomination forms will be available online at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/Australia_Day_Awards, with key dates to be promoted via Council's website, *Gannawarra News* and social media accounts.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The 2020 Gannawarra Shire Council elections will be held during October.

Conducted by the Victorian Electoral Commission, residents and ratepayers will receive ballot papers by post, which need to be returned by Friday, 23 October.

You must vote if you are a State-enrolled voter as at 4pm on Friday, 28 August 2020. If you do not vote, you may be fined.

Candidates need to be an Australian citizen, at least 18 years of age on election day (24 October 2020) and enrolled to vote in the Gannawarra Shire.

Candidates also need to undertake mandatory Local Government Candidate Training before they are able to nominate. A link to this training is available at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/election

An election office will open on Wednesday, 16 September. The location and contact details of this facility will be publicised closer to the opening date.

For more information, including candidate resources, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/election

Key dates

17 September — Nominations open

22 September — Nominations close (12 noon)

6 October — Ballot pack mail-out begins

8 October — Ballot pack mail-out ends

23 October — Voting closes (6pm)

30 October — Postal vote receipt period closes (12 noon)

13 November — Results declared

COVID-19 TESTING



Screening and Assessment Clinic

Anyone who has any symptoms, no matter how mild, such as a runny nose or scratchy throat, should stay home and get tested.

STEP 1 – PHONE FIRST

Call the NDCH hotline to discuss your symptoms.
Monday to Friday – 9.00am to 12 Noon



03 5451 0200

STEP 2 – SWABBING CLINIC

Testing is available by appointment only, in Kerang, Cohuna and Boort.
Monday to Friday – In the afternoon

Having a test is free.

This is **NOT** a standard Medical Clinic service. Walk up appointments are **NOT** available. **You must phone first.**

STEP 3 – STAY HOME

After your test, you must stay home until you get your test results back.

If you have symptoms and are unable to travel, Gannawarra Shire Council is providing a transport service to any testing clinics held in Gannawarra townships. Please call 5450 9333 for this service.

Check the NDCH Facebook page and community newsletters for information about pop-up testing clinics in the Gannawarra Shire in the coming weeks.

Common symptoms of Coronavirus are:

Temperature

Including fever or chills



Breathing Difficulties

Including breathlessness or sore throat



Fatigue or Tiredness



Cough or Runny/Stuffiness Nose



Headache or Body Aches and Pains



Lack of Taste or smell, Nausea, Vomiting, Diarrhoea





COHUNA WATERFRONT AND CBD REDEVELOPMENT

Community consultation regarding the Cohuna Waterfront and CBD Redevelopment will begin in the coming weeks.

This \$3.4 million project, supported by \$1.7 million from the State Government's *Building Works* program, will enable Council to build on the recent upgrades to Apex Park—including the development of the Cohuna Beach (above) - and develop linkages between the Cohuna CBD and Gunbower Creek.

Planned works scheduled for completion in the 2020/2021 financial year include improvements to the Apex Park car park; the design and construction of a new All Abilities Playground, to be located closer to the Apex Park toilet block; the design of a barbecue shelter, to be located adjacent to the new All Abilities Play Space; and extensive landscape works.

Future stages will focus on the redevelopment of Garden Park, linking this popular space to the Cohuna CBD.

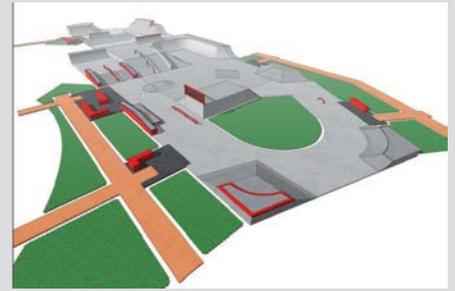
Information regarding how you can have your say will be promoted via Council's website, *Gannawarra News* and social media accounts.

KERANG CBD REDEVELOPMENT—HAVE YOUR SAY

Residents and business owners will soon be able to have their say on Stage 2 of the Kerang CBD Redevelopment.

This \$1.317 million project, fully funded by the Federal Government, will see the installation of traffic calming measures along the CBD section of Scoresby Street, drainage upgrade improvements and beautification works along Victoria and Scoresby streets.

Information regarding how you can have your say will be promoted via Council's website, *Gannawarra News* and social media accounts.



SKATE PARK WORKS

The redevelopment of the Cohuna Skate Park is one step closer to completion, with Council advertising for a tender to complete this \$600,000 project.

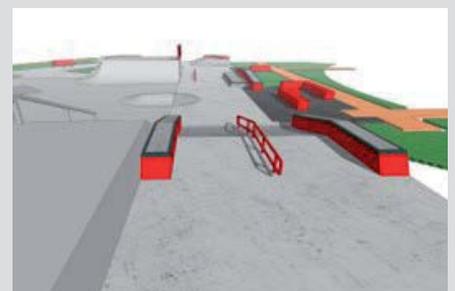
Supported by a \$250,000 grant through the Community Facilities Program, this project is expected to be completed in the 2020/2021 financial year.

Council undertook extensive community consultation in late 2019 to determine what features users would like incorporated in the redevelopment, working closely with a group of skate park users to outline what they wanted to see in the new-look venue.

This feedback led to the development of the final design, which involves the redevelopment and extension of the current skate park.

Other features include new paths, riding areas, open space, play areas and seating to cater for users of all types, levels and abilities.

ABOVE AND BELOW: The design concept for the Cohuna Skate Park redevelopment



COMMUNITY RESILIENCE



KEEPING CONNECTED DURING COVID-19

Red Cross Australia is continuing to keep residents connected during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The service's COVID Connect national telephone service is helping to build connections as home isolation forced by the pandemic brings a sharp increase in people reporting feelings of social isolation and loneliness.

COVID Connect is available to anyone and allows for regular access to a friendly human voice, listening ear and tips to improve social connection.

To register for this free service, please visit www.redcross.org.au

Residents can also phone Red Cross Australia's COVID Hotline on 1800 675 398 if they're feeling isolated or need help to access practical support including assistance with food shopping, pet care, connecting to local services and supports.

DRY CONDITIONS PORTAL

Council's Dry Conditions Support portal features information in the one location to support community members impacted by drought.

Information featured includes financial support provided by government and charities.

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

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PROJECTS

Fifteen local projects, ranging from garden upgrades to health measures, will share in \$57,704 of funding thanks to Round 3 of the Gannawarra Community Resilience Grants Program:

- Cohuna Consolidated School (The Vege Patch)
- Cohuna and District Leos (Cohuna Retirement Village shelter over recreation area)
- Lions Club of Cohuna (fitting out the new Lions barbecue shelter)
- Kerang and District Community Centre (Food For Life / iPad for sign-in)
- Kerang District Health (Wellbeing Garden)
- U3A Kerang and District (purchase and installation of Smart TV)
- Koondrook Fire Brigade (Community fire danger advice signage)
- Lake Charm Primary School (Vegetable garden watering system and fencing)
- Lakes Community Development Group (Bringing The Lakes Community Together Through The Arts Stage 2)
- Leitchville Progress Association (Community gardens upgrade)
- Macorna Recreation Reserve Committee (Purchase of a 23,000-litre water tank for community use)
- Murrabit Advancement Association (Murrabit Country Market - Help Get Our Community Up and Running Post COVID-19)
- Murray Human Services (The Right Coverage for Vivid Living)
- Northern District Community Health (Women in the Warra health promotion campaign)
- Quambatook Community Resource Centre (Hands Out Gannawarra)



ASK "R U OK?"

Do you know what to say when someone says they're not OK?

By knowing what to say, you can help someone feel supported and access appropriate help long before they're in crisis.

Learn what to say at www.ruok.org.au/how-to-ask

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DIVERSIFYING OUR LOCAL ECONOMY

Council has developed three strategic platforms aimed at diversifying the local economy—Agriculture, Renewables and Tourism (The ART of the Gannawarra).

The Gannawarra has always been heavily reliant on agriculture to drive the local economy and has witnessed a range of factors—including irrigation water, climate variability, input costs and farm gate prices—that is influencing the long-term capacity of agriculture as we currently know it

Increasing the diversity in agriculture will assist to maintain local investment that will in turn feed the local economy on a variety of fronts.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AGRICULTURE?

A 6,000-acre irrigation project is underway at Beauchamp, which involves connecting a dryland cropping farm to the Goulburn-Murray Water system to create a large-scale irrigation farm.

The project will consist of around 1,000 acres of wine grapes along with intensive irrigated cropping under 40 centre pivots, creating 20 jobs when in full operation. Calum Peace is part of the Andrew Peace Wines family from Piangil, located north of Swan Hill, and is excited by the prospects of the new project.

“The property provides an ideal mix of soil types that will allow us to expand our viticulture operations as well as develop further capacity to grow feed for live-stock,” Mr Peace said.



Poultry is not something we have seen much of in this part of Victoria, but Council is seeking to change that. The infrastructure across the Gannawarra is suited to poultry and intensive animal industries with secure water systems in place. There are large areas of 3-phase power supply, good road access to local highways and availability of grain.

A free range organic egg farm at Beauchamp is well into the construction phase and has also commenced construction of a processing facility in Kerang's Tate Drive Industrial Estate. Council is facilitating a range of other project proposals and hoping to see around 20-plus jobs from this new development.

A medicinal cannabis facility is operational in the Gannawarra and at capacity will provide around 30 jobs. Council is also working with a Melbourne-based company interested in establishing a large indoor growing and processing facility.

Dairy has been hit hard by the price and availability of temporary water with many farms reliant on the temporary market to supplement their water use. Several farms in the Gannawarra are moving to a shedded system where feed is delivered to the cows rather than the standard grazing methods.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Kilter Rural grows a range of horticultural produce on their farms north of Kerang that is transforming the landscape with the use of innovative irrigation systems such as sub surface drip.
- Kerang's Tate Drive Industrial Estate is rapidly expanding, with Stage 9 due to commence later this year. Council is also looking at the next stage of development in Cohuna and establishing a new estate in Koondrook.
- Residential development in Cohuna, Kerang and Koondrook continues to remain strong.
- Council has held off finalising the Retail Strategy whilst the COVID-19 crisis continues. Council staff are facilitating a “pop up shop” initiative and have a business keen to test the market and hopefully stay for the long term.



- New sign trailers promoting the Gannawarra will soon be located throughout the area.
- Council's marketing campaign is running strongly with a range of television, radio and hard copy materials reaching key locations across the State.
- Council has developed a database of more than 1,000 contacts, with information promoting visitation, business development and relocation to be distributed regularly.

COUNCIL INFORMATION

YOUR COUNCILLORS AVOCA WARD



Cr Charlie Gillingham

(Deputy Mayor)

0457 719 874

charlie.gillingham@gsc.vic.gov.au

MURRAY WARD



Cr Steve Tasker

0438 531 271

steven.tasker@gsc.vic.gov.au

PATCHELL WARD



Cr Jodie Basile

0409 439 269

jodie.basile@gsc.vic.gov.au



Cr Jenny Fawcett

0400 804 488

jenny.fawcett@gsc.vic.gov.au



Cr Brian Gibson

0408 171 476

brian.gibson@gsc.vic.gov.au

YARRAN WARD



Cr Andrew Gibbs

0488 668 114

andrew.gibbs@gsc.vic.gov.au



Cr Lorraine Learmonth

(Mayor)

0429 103 180

lorraine.learmonth@gsc.vic.gov.au

COUNCIL MEETING

The **September Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 16 September 2020 at 6.30pm.

The **October Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 21 October at 6.30pm

Agendas for Meetings of Council are available online at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/meetings two days prior to each meeting.

NOTE: Council is operating in accordance with the new *COVID-19 Omnibus (Emergency Measures) Act 2020* which operates for a Prescribed Period from 1 May to 1 November. During this Prescribed Period this new Act puts in place numerous measures to ensure local government decision-making can continue during the Coronavirus pandemic.

During this Prescribed Period the following arrangements will apply until 1 November 2020:

- Ordinary Council Meetings will be closed to the public; and
- Meetings will be live-streamed via Council's website (www.gsc.vic.gov.au/livestream).

Alternative options are available for residents who want to ask questions of Council. These options are listed in 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