

# GANNAWARRA *CONNECT*



January - February 2022

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## FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to the first edition of *Gannawarra Connect* for 2022.

This year promises to be a busy time for the Gannawarra, especially as we continue to manage the COVID-19 pandemic the best we can.

From Council's perspective, this year will see the completion of numerous major projects, including stormwater improvements at Murrabit, the second stage of the Cohuna Waterfront Development and the third stage of the Kerang CBD Redevelopment.

This year will also see Council engage further with the community on key projects and strategies.

Regards,

**Mayor Charlie Gillingham**



## WALKING AND CYCLING STRATEGY COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Residents are encouraged to help shape Council's *Draft Walking and Cycling Strategy* by taking part in the community consultation process planned for February 2022.

In-person community workshop sessions are planned for Cohuna, Kerang and Koondrook between 1-3 February. On-site listening posts are planned to occur during the month, with a virtual workshop scheduled for Wednesday, 2 February.

Residents can also complete an online survey available between Tuesday, 1 February and Friday, 25 February.

For more information regarding the community workshops and to complete the online survey, please visit [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/walking](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/walking)



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## ACCESSIBLE PARKING PERMIT SCHEME

Residents wanting to apply for an Accessible Parking Permit can do so via a VicRoads-managed process, accessible via Council's website.

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



## KEEP COOL AT YOUR LOCAL POOL THIS SUMMER

Residents are encouraged to keep cool at their local swimming pool.

The Council-managed Cohuna and Kerang swimming pools are open daily between 10am and 8pm during January and February. Operating hours may change, with changes promoted via Council's Facebook page — [www.facebook.com/gannawarra](http://www.facebook.com/gannawarra)

Please note that Council's outdoor pools will be closed on days the Bureau of Meteorology website's forecast temperature for either town is 23 degrees Celsius or lower.

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](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/pools)

## WHAT'S ON

5 FEBRUARY

Murrabit Country Market

5 FEBRUARY

Live Comedy with Kevin Kropinyeri, Kerang

27 FEBRUARY

Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market

5 MARCH

Murrabit Country Market

18-19 MARCH

108th Cohuna Show

27 MARCH

Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market

EVERY SATURDAY

Kerang and Cohuna parkruns

Event details can be found at

[www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events)

To add your event to Council's calendar of events, visit

[www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events)

## IMMUNISATION SESSIONS

### FEBRUARY 2022

Wednesday, 2 February

Kerang  
(10.30am – 12 noon)

Wednesday, 16 February

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

### MARCH 2022

Wednesday, 2 March

Kerang  
(10.30am – 12 noon)

Wednesday, 16 March

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.*



## COUNCIL PARTICIPATING IN INTERNET OF THINGS (IoT) TECHNOLOGY TRIAL

Sensors will soon be installed outside the toilets at Atkinson Park, Kerang as part of Council's participation in the Smart Cities project.

The sensors, which form part of a 12-month Internet of Things (IoT) trial across the Mallee, will provide Council with a greater understanding of how the toilets and car park are utilised.

One three-dimensional, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning sensor will focus on the Atkinson Park car park, whilst two infrared and heat sensors will measure how frequently the public toilets are utilised.

For more information, please visit [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/IoT](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/IoT)



## CREATIVE GANNAWARRA 2022 PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

Creative Gannawarra's 2022 program features a diverse range of music, theatre, comedy and indigenous performances for people of all ages.

The 2022 program is highlighted by renowned indigenous singer and storyteller, Kutcha Edwards' *Circling Time*, (pictured) occurring on Friday, 17 June at the Kerang Turf Club.



Damian Callinan, who wowed audiences in the Gannawarra in 2018 with *Swing Man*, will return in 2022 with *The Hall Committee* on Saturday, 5 November, whilst children will enjoy interactive shows with *A Day in the Life of You* by *Musical Sprouts* (Sunday, 10 April) and *The Alphabet of Awesome Science* (Wednesday, 14 September).

Three performances postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions will proceed in 2022- *Mama Kin Spender's Sound of Your Town* (Friday, 19 August), *Jazz High Tea* (Saturday, 14 May) and *The Listies' Rolling on the Floor Laughing* (Friday, 29 July). For more information, please visit [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/creativegannawarra](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/creativegannawarra)

## LEARNING TO LIVE WITH QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY

Hats off to our local gardeners who are taking up the challenge to protect their fruit from Queensland fruit fly - and winning!

The Fruit Fly Fighter program guides backyard residents through the fruit fly season, showing you all the techniques to protect your fruit. Joining the program will also provide you with some of the key tools to get started, such as traps and nets (pictured).

Residents from Kerang, Koondrook, Mystic Park, Lake Charm, Murrabit and surrounds can sign up for the free program. For more information, visit [www.pestfreearea.com.au](http://www.pestfreearea.com.au).



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## COHUNA CHILD CARE ONE STEP CLOSER

The creation of Long Day Care and sufficient kindergarten options for Cohuna and district residents is one step closer to fruition after Council received \$65,800 from the State Government's 2021/22 Building Blocks Planning Program to explore future kindergarten service delivery and models of care for Cohuna, as well as the potential to also provide Long Day Care in the town.

Since this important issue was raised with Council in April 2021, Council has been working proactively with residents who led this community campaign and the State Government to find a solution that would be beneficial for the community and families accessing this much-needed service.

This funding will enable Council to explore a children's hub model, bringing together three-year-old kindergarten, four-year-old kindergarten, Maternal and Child Health services, Supported Play-group and Long Day Care.

It is hoped that the end result will be a modern, purpose-built centre that will embrace the advantages of indoor/outdoor programming, bush kindergarten programs and explore service models which give working families flexible options.

Investigations are scheduled to be completed by mid-2022, with the report to assist with seeking funding for the construction of the proposed facility.

## THE GLASSHOUSE @ THE GANNAWARRA BECOMES A REALITY

Kerang's Sir John Gorton Library will soon feature a dedicated media lab and fully accessible, contemporary meeting space that will provide flexibility and creativity for new and emerging library and community programs.



State Minister for Local Government, Shaun Leane MP recently announced Council will receive a \$1.5 million contribution from the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program 2021 - Major Works program towards the \$1.507 million project.

To be completed by mid-2024, *The Glasshouse @ The Gannawarra* will feature a media lab designed to support movie making, sound and music recording and other creative digital technology projects, new meeting spaces to support community groups and events, and a glass façade that will enable the opportunity for evening activation using light projection and sound.

Updates regarding this project will be available via Council's website, Facebook page, *Gannawarra News* and *Gannawarra Connect*.

## SOCIAL MEALS PROGRAM RETURNS IN 2022

Council's popular Social Meals program will return in 2022, providing a social outlet for Gannawarra residents.



Held at Cohuna, Kerang, Koondrook, Lake Charm, Lalbert, Leitchville, Macorna, Murrabit and Quambatook, attendees are able to socialise and enjoy a home-cooked two-course meal.

Details regarding venues and dates will be announced at a later date and published in a future issue of *Gannawarra Connect*.

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



## TOURISM ATTRACTIONS RECOGNISED

Two Gannawarra tourism attractions are in the running for a major local government award.

Koondrook Retreat (above) and the Cohuna Waterfront Development (below) are in the running for the inaugural 2022 *LGPro Awards for Excellence Outstanding Small Rural Council Initiative*.

Opened in November 2020, the Cohuna Waterfront Development included the creation of Cohuna Beach, construction of new toilet facilities and barbecue shelters in Apex Park and redesign of vehicle access to the area.

Koondrook Retreat – which opened in December 2020 – has captured the flourishing “glamping market”, with the facility’s six glamorous safari-style tents enabling visitors to immerse in the surrounds around Gunbower Creek and the adjoining Gunbower Forest.

The winning initiative will be announced during the 2022 LGPro Annual Conference Dinner on 24 February.



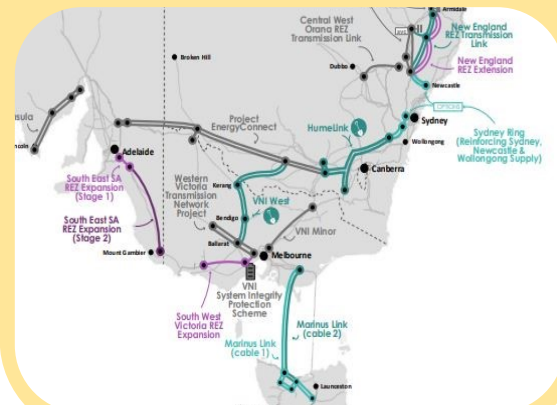
## KERANGLINK UPDATE

Billions of dollars worth of renewable energy projects will proceed in the Gannawarra after the Australian Energy Market Operator recommended for the Victorian and Federal governments to proceed with developing KerangLink.

The project, scheduled for completion by 2031, will connect Victoria and New South Wales’ electricity network via infrastructure that passes through the municipality, with the upgrading of current infrastructure and development of new transmission lines enabling local renewable energy facilities to feed into the national grid.

The development of KerangLink and the projects it will enable to support will create thousands of jobs in the years to come and potential millions to Council in future Payment in Lieu of Rate payments.

KerangLink would not be possible without the support and advocacy from local, State and Federal government colleagues. These include Federal Member for Mallee, Anne Webster; State Minister for Energy, Lily D’Ambrosio; State Government departments, including the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions, and Regional Development Victoria; Mallee Regional Partnership; Murray River Group of Councils; and the Loddon Campaspe Group of Councils.



# PROJECTS *UPDATE*

## THE GANNAWARRA'S CONSTRUCTION BLITZ CONTINUES

Work continues across the Gannawarra Shire to roll out Council's \$16.542 million capital works program, which is supporting town developments, investment in recreational facility improvements and tourism initiatives.

### BOOST FOR KEY WORKS

Stages 5 and 6 of the Murrabit Stormwater Project and Stage 3 of the Kerang CBD Redevelopment - which will upgrade street furniture and pavements from Victoria Street leading into Wellington Street - will proceed after Council received \$2.636 million from the third round of the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.

Updates regarding these projects will be available via Council's website, Facebook page, *Gannawarra News and Gannawarra Connect*.

### MURRABIT STORMWATER PROJECT CONTINUES

Work to transform Murrabit's stormwater network from an open drain to an underground drainage infrastructure system recently resumed.

Installation of underground drains along a number of streets was completed in late 2021, with work now focusing on Gonn Avenue, south of Browning Avenue.

This \$1.1 million project is funded by the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.



### COHUNA WATERFRONT PROJECT - STAGE 2

Stage 2 of the Cohuna Waterfront Project, which will improve connections between Gunbower Creek and the Cohuna central business district, will be completed in April.

Work on this project began prior to Christmas, with improvements made to the footpath along King George Street adjacent to Garden Park (right).

As part of the improvements currently underway, a deck pontoon will be constructed on the banks of Gunbower Creek, dedicated outdoor dining areas will be created either side of the King George Street pedestrian crossing and a seated area will be installed at the intersection of King George and Sampson streets.

The project is part of the \$3.4 million Cohuna CBD and Waterfront Connections Project and is supported by the Federal Government's Regional Growth Fund.



# PROJECTS UPDATE

## ALL ABILITIES PLAYGROUNDS UPDATE

Residents and visitors are benefiting from the construction of two all abilities playgrounds.

Celebrations occurred on 14 December 2021 when Mayor Charlie Gillingham (top left, pictured with Deputy Mayor, Cr Jane Ogden and Council Chief Executive Officer, Tom O'Reilly) officially opened the Koondrook All Abilities Playground.

Residents and visitors to Apex Park, Cohuna have enjoyed exploring some of the completed sections of the Cohuna All Abilities Adventure Playground, which opened at the end of December (below). Featuring a carousel, seated swing, stand-up see saw that pumps water into a water channel, a three-storey play area designed as an old farm shack, climbing areas and flying fox, this space celebrates Cohuna's agricultural links and the area's connection to Gunbower Creek. Sections of the park still to be completed are scheduled to be opened in early 2022.

Meanwhile, construction of the Kerang All Abilities Playground, to be located adjacent to the Atkinson Park playground, will begin in early 2022. This project also involves the construction of the first Changing Places facility in the municipality. Featuring a height-adjustable adult-sized change table, ceiling track hoist system and a peninsular-structured toilet, the space will provide suitable facilities for people who cannot use standard accessible toilets.



## GANNAWARRA SHIRE CHILDREN'S CENTRE EXPANSION

Families will soon be able to experience the expanded Gannawarra Shire Children's Centre, with the final stage of the project occurring throughout January.

Once complete, the Kerang-based centre will be able to accommodate a subsidised three-year-old kindergarten program alongside the popular four-year-old kindergarten program.

The project, funded through the Victorian State Government's Building Blocks Program and the Victorian School's Building Authority, will also increase the centre's capacity from 95 places to 126 places.

# COUNCIL INFORMATION

## YOUR COUNCILLORS AVOCA WARD



**Cr Charlie Gillingham**  
(Mayor)  
0457 719 874  
[charlie.gillingham@gsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:charlie.gillingham@gsc.vic.gov.au)



## MURRAY WARD



**Cr Ross Stanton**  
0417 515 769  
[ross.stanton@gsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:ross.stanton@gsc.vic.gov.au)

## PATCHELL WARD



**Cr Kelvin Burt**  
0407 319 414  
[kelvin.burt@gsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:kelvin.burt@gsc.vic.gov.au)



**Cr Travis Collier**  
0433 269 577  
[travis.collier@gsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:travis.collier@gsc.vic.gov.au)



**Cr Jane Ogden**  
(Deputy Mayor)  
0476 786 051  
[jane.e.ogden@gsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:jane.e.ogden@gsc.vic.gov.au)

## YARRAN WARD



**Cr Keith Link**  
0427 564 138  
[keith.link@gsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:keith.link@gsc.vic.gov.au)



**Cr Garner Smith**  
0418 871 054  
[garner.smith@gsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:garner.smith@gsc.vic.gov.au)

## COUNCIL MEETING DETAILS

The **February 2022 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 16 February at 6.30pm. The **March 2021 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 16 March at 6.30pm.

Meetings are livestreamed via Council's website [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/livestream](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/livestream). 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](http://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](mailto:council@gsc.vic.gov.au)

### BY MAIL

PO Box 287  
Kerang VIC 3579

### ONLINE

Lodge a request at [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/request](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/request)

### SOCIAL MEDIA

**Facebook** – [www.facebook.com/gannawarra](http://www.facebook.com/gannawarra)

**Twitter** – [www.twitter.com/GannawarraShire](http://www.twitter.com/GannawarraShire)