

# GANNAWARRA *CONNECT*



September - October 2021

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## FROM THE MAYOR

Many businesses are diversifying their services under the ongoing challenges of COVID-19, proving their continued resilience, whilst the Gannawarra is experiencing demand for residential properties and industrial land. New agricultural projects are changing the rural landscape, bringing new jobs and services to the area as business changes to reflect market opportunities.



At Council, we are also looking at how we can continually adapt and grow with future changes in the Gannawarra Shire. Council has recently adopted its 2021—2025 Council Plan and long-term Community Vision. The Council Plan will guide future activities and subsequent achievements during the next four years whilst the Community Vision sets our intention for at least the next decade.

Furthermore, Council is seeking your feedback on the Draft Financial Plan which will ensure that Council is responsibly managed and remains sustainable into the longer term. My fellow Councillors and I look forward to receiving your feedback.

Regards,

**Mayor Charlie Gillingham**

## HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE DRAFT FINANCIAL PLAN

Gannawarra Shire residents are encouraged to provide their feedback on the Draft Financial Plan, with submissions accepted until 5pm on Friday, 24 September 2021.

The Draft Financial Plan is built on four key strategic actions; balancing the budget, maintaining assets, ensuring a low level of debt, and ensuring cash assets are maintained over the life of the ten-year plan.

Community members can view copies of the Draft Financial Plan at Council's Customer Service Centres in Cohuna and Kerang, and online at [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/financialplan](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/financialplan).

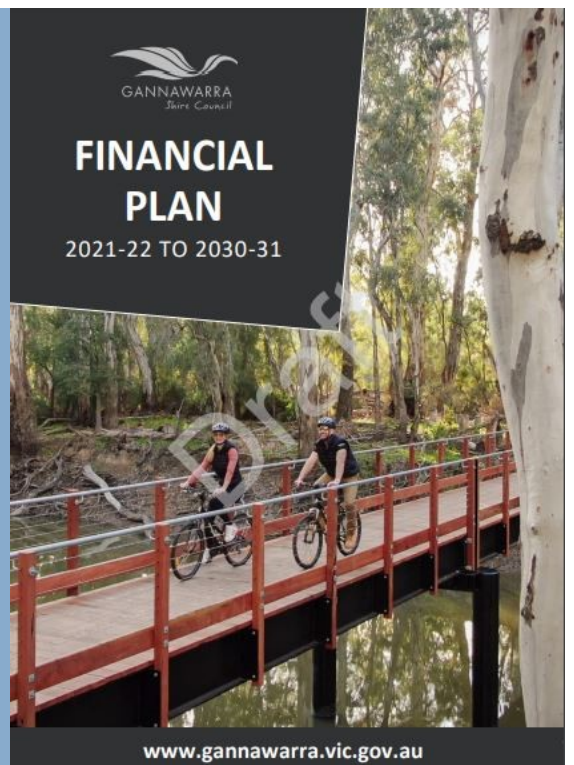
Public comments on the plan will be accepted in writing via email to [council@gsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@gsc.vic.gov.au); by post to PO Box 287, Kerang VIC 3579; or online at <http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/financialplan>.

For more information, please contact Council on (03) 5450 9333 or online by emailing [council@gsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@gsc.vic.gov.au).



## FINANCIAL PLAN

2021-22 TO 2030-31



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

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## LEXUS MELBOURNE CUP TOUR COMING SOON!

The 19th annual tour of the Lexus Melbourne Cup will be coming to Kerang on 14 October. As part of the tour, 2020 Melbourne Cup-winning jockey Jye McNeil will be returning home to the Gannawarra to open the start of celebrations.

The Lexus Melbourne Cup Tour provides one chosen community with the opportunity to be allocated a barrier, which if won on Melbourne Cup Day, provides a cash prize of \$50,000 to put towards a local



Picture: 2020 Melbourne Cup winner Jye McNeil

community charity initiative of its choice.

For more information, interested participants can contact the Kerang Turf Club by calling 0407 802 596.

## COVID RELIEF SUPPORT AVAILABLE

Support is available for residents who are required to isolate at home as a result of COVID-19 and who do not have access to support networks to access food and other essential support.

This includes people who have contracted COVID-19, close contacts, secondary contacts, those awaiting test results and otherwise isolating in line with public health directions. Support available may include food, material aid, healthcare items, personal support, financial aid, and/or other practical support.

Assistance can be accessed by phoning the Victorian Government's Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398 or Council's Community Recovery team on 5450 9333. Local neighbourhood houses in Kerang, Cohuna and Quambatook are also able to assist.

Further information is available from Council's virtual Recovery Centre at:

<http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>

## WHAT'S ON

CURRENT—31 October

4 SEPTEMBER

Murrabit Country Market

6 SEPTEMBER

Watercolour and Charcoal Nature Portraits Workshops with Paul Oswin

2 OCTOBER

Murrabit Country Market

14 OCTOBER

The Gannawarra hosts the Lexus Melbourne Cup

Event details can be found at

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

*\*events are subject to change pending COVID-19 restrictions*

## IMMUNISATION SESSIONS

SEPTEMBER 2021

Wednesday, 1 September

Kerang  
(10.30am – 12 noon)

Wednesday, 15 September

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

OCTOBER 2021

Wednesday, 6 October

Kerang  
(10.30am – 12 noon)

Wednesday, 20 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 COVID-19, or those who are in isolation, should not attend.**

For more details, visit [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/immunisation](http://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 WELLBEING

## NAIDOC AND RECONCILIATION WEEKS CELEBRATED

An event to acknowledge NAIDOC and Reconciliation weeks was held in Kerang during July. The day included a flag raising ceremony in Victoria Street, before a walk to the Sir John Gorton Library where the crowd witnessed an official Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony by Hack Webster, a Story Time session led by Damian Murray and a Question and Answer session with local Aboriginal Elders, Uncle Lloyd, Aunty Esther and Aunty Lil facilitated by the local youth indigenous group, Typen Kwe.

The event concluded with a morning tea featuring bush bread or seed cake, otherwise known as damper, a European term that refers to bread made by traditional owners for many thousands of years.

This annual event is a partnership between Council, Northern District Community Health, Mallee District Aboriginal Service and the Kerang Elders Group.



## GANNAWARRA GIVING ACCOUNT

The Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee established a Gannawarra Giving Account in 2019. Since that time \$6,500 has been distributed through our local schools to help support children and their families in need. 52% of the funds have supported families with the purchase of school uniforms, 15% was spent on essential items for students and 5% spent on inclusion of children in swimming programs.

All donations are tax deductible and can be made at Northern District Community Health. Phone 5451 0200 or visit

<https://www.givenow.com.au/gannawarragivingaccount>



## RE-CONNECT WITH YOUR GANNAWARRA

Community members are encouraged to re-connect to support mental health and wellbeing and re-establish social connections. Local men's sheds, playgroups, public hall committees and each of the nine communities across the Gannawarra Shire have been funded to deliver a small event or activity over the coming months to promote participation and inclusion. It is an important reminder of how important it is to have strong connections with those around you; your family, friends, and the wider community and to reach out to those who may need additional support and encouragement to re-connect at this time.



# PROJECTS UPDATE

## CONSTRUCTION BLITZ ACROSS GANNAWARRA!

A multi-million dollar construction blitz is underway across the Gannawarra, with a range of projects currently under construction.

These projects form part of the \$16.542 million capital works program Council will roll out during 2021/22, highlighted by town developments, investment in recreational facility improvements and supporting tourism initiatives.

A brief update on some key capital works projects across the municipality is included in this newsletter.

### SCORESBY STREET, KERANG

**Project: Kerang CBD Redevelopment—  
Stage Two**

**Funded through the Federal  
Government's Local Roads and  
Community Infrastructure Program**

The second phase of the works in Kerang CBD commencing in Scoresby Street between Victoria Street and Fitzroy Street, is expected to be completed by end of December.

Key elements of this stage of the works include footpath enhancements and improving connections to the CBD from the train station.



### MORTON GARNER SHOW PAVILION PROGRESSING

**Project: Morton Garner Pavilion  
Upgrade**

**Funded through the Federal  
Government's Regional Agricultural  
Show Development Grants Program**

The Cohuna Show Society was successful in obtaining funding to develop a new pavilion at the Cohuna Recreation Reserve. With a contribution from Council, the project is now underway and estimated to be completed at the end of 2022.

The project includes:

- Demolishing and removing the existing building,
- Erection of the new pavilion from a concept design approved by the Cohuna Show Society



## MILLION DOLLAR DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AT MURRABIT

**Project: Murrabit Township Stormwater Project**

**Funded through the Federal Government's Local Roads Community Infrastructure Program (Phase 2)**

A \$1.1 million project that is going to revolutionise Murrabit by converting its current open drain stormwater network to an underground drainage infrastructure system.

Key elements of this project include:

- Enhanced liveability and amenity for residents and visitors by minimising deep spoon drains and standing water
- Installation of storm water drainage including a network of underground pipes collecting surface water from grass spoon drains via grated pits
- The water will be directed to a pump station at the corner of Browning Ave and Church St from where it will be pumped along Browning Ave to discharge into Reedy Creek
- A detention basin will be constructed on the land adjacent the pump to provide storage capacity during large rainfall events.

The works will progress in stages beginning with the detention basin and are expected to be complete by the end of 2021.



# PROJECTS UPDATE

## GANNAWARRA SHIRE CHILDREN'S CENTRE EXPANSION UNDERWAY

**Project:** Gannawarra Children's Centre Expansion Project

**Funded through the Victorian State Government's *Building Blocks Program* and the Victorian School's Building Authority**

Key elements of this project include:

- Extending the north side of the current building to add an additional classroom that will allow the centre to be able to accommodate future subsidised 3-year-old Kindergarten classes.
- Increasing capacity from 95 to 126 places.

These works will be undertaken for the remainder of the year, with some services relocated for the duration of the project.

For details on services relocated from the Gannawarra Children's Centre, please see below:

- **Gannawarra Shire Children's Centre Kindergarten classes** have been relocated to Kerang South Primary School. Please call the Gannawarra Shire Children's Centre at (03) 5452 1357 or email [children@gsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:children@gsc.vic.gov.au) for further details.
- **Maternal and Child Health appointments** in Kerang are being conducted at Northern District Community Health until the end of 2021. Note, appointments and enquiries must still be made by contacting Council on (03) 5450 9333.
- **Immunisation sessions** have been re-located to the Sir John Gorton Library in Kerang. Appointments are essential and can be made by phoning Council on (03) 5450 9333. For further details on immunisations please visit [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/Immunisation](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/Immunisation)



## KOONDROOK ALL-ABILITIES PLAYGROUND OPENING SOON!

**Project:** Koondrook All-Abilities Playground

**Funded through the Victorian State Government's *Regional Infrastructure Fund***

Opening to the public soon, key elements of the playground, the first of its type to be built in the Gannawarra, include:

- Flying fox with an accessible harness, timber swings featuring accessible harness seating, an accessible carousel and in-ground trampolines
- Water and sand play areas, and shaded seating



## COHUNA ALL-ABILITIES PLAYGROUND BEGINS CONSTRUCTION

**Project:** Cohuna All Abilities Adventure Playground

**Funded through the Victorian State Government's *Rural and Regional Victoria Infrastructure Stimulus 2020 Grants Program***

Key elements of the playground include:

- 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
- Fencing and sealed footpaths for ease of access by prams and wheelchairs



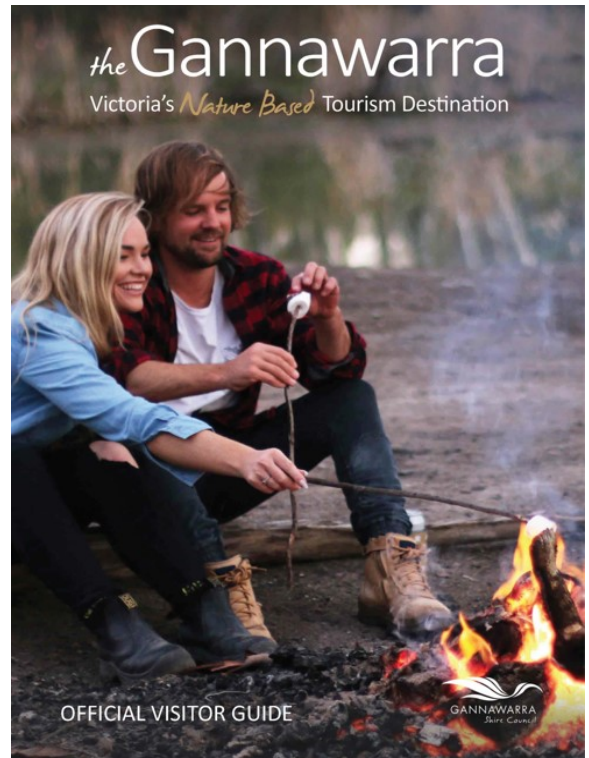
# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## GANNAWARRA VISITOR GUIDE OUT NOW

Gannawarra Shire visitors and businesses can now access copies of the new Gannawarra Visitor Guide which has been distributed to businesses that stock visitor information. Copies have also been distributed to Visitor Centres throughout Victoria and across the border.

The Gannawarra Visitor Guide showcases towns, services, and businesses from across the Gannawarra Shire, helping to promote increased tourism to the municipality.

Free copies of the guide can be pick up from local information centres or viewed online at: [www.thegannawarra.com.au](http://www.thegannawarra.com.au)



## INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION

Council has maintained a supply of industrial land in the major centres as a means of creating jobs and diversity for the local economy.



Tate Drive in Kerang is the largest estate and the recent development of Stage 9 has seen an additional 14 lots created. Demand has been strong with one lot already hosting a new factory for local manufacturing business, Faucet Stroman, while an additional seven lots are currently on hold pending sale for further business development. Tate Drive supports in excess of 150 jobs and around \$25m in local investment and is growing rapidly.

Further industrial estate planning is underway in Koondrook where Council and the community are looking at a site fronting Grigg Road. The greenfield site in Koondrook is likely to provide around 10 new allotments when developed. Further planning work is also underway for the Cohuna site with most of the land now sold and pending development.

Jobs growth is extremely strong right across the Gannawarra with around 400 plus jobs predicted across agriculture, mining, energy and manufacturing over the next few years. Agriculture alone is expected to create around 100 new jobs with poultry, pig and horticulture projects. A planning application has been received for a 16 shed free-range poultry project, while other major projects are undertaking due diligence and securing land. Intensive agriculture increases demand for local services especially from the grain industry and manufacturing.

## VICTORIAN SMALL BUSINESS BUS TO VISIT GANNAWARRA

The Victorian Small Business bus is scheduled to visit Kerang on Tuesday 7 September and Cohuna on Thursday 9 September (*pending COVID-19 restrictions*). The bus provides support and advice to small and emerging businesses to continue to grow in the Gannawarra Shire. Consultation sessions are free and no prior bookings are required.

A representative from the Rural Financial Counselling Service Victoria (West) will be present from 10am - 1pm, providing confidential, free business wellbeing support.

For more information go to [business.vic.gov.au/workshops-and-mentoring](http://business.vic.gov.au/workshops-and-mentoring)



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

The growth in jobs is now placing pressure on the local housing market and Council is facilitating several residential developments to try and alleviate the demand.

With Melbourne experiencing difficulties, residential developers are now looking to regional Victoria where demand is strong.



*New residential home in Koondrook*

## GANNAWARRA BRANDING

New projects in Koondrook and Cohuna are great examples of the Gannawarra brand. The signage at the Koondrook Retreat feature indigenous artwork and solid redgum logs that has a natural, earthy feel. The design is contemporary and artistic creating a point of difference that is becoming consistent across the Gannawarra. The Cohuna Beach sign maintains the contemporary look with redgum timber, charcoal and white signage and the inclusion of a surfboard to add to the artistic look. Most of the tourism and signing for local parks use this consistent brand, with other examples being the Cohuna Skate Park, recreation reserve entry and signage along the Koondrook waterfront. The designs also feature across most of the Gannawarra.



Buildings are also key areas for branding with many of Cohuna's buildings linking back to the simple but earthy design and shape of the gateway centre building. The corrugated iron pitched roof, redgum timbers and soft colours all contribute to the earthy design features.

The Gannawarra brand is designed to replicate the natural feel of the redgum forests and wetlands and use artistic features to create a point of difference.

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## DEMAND FOR ENERGY

Energy projects are still in demand across the Gannawarra with enquiries for major wind and solar projects received over the past 12 months. Much of the new development is planning to align with the proposed KerangLink project, a major interconnector line with New South Wales and South Australia. If all of the energy projects are developed they will only take up around .9% of available land in the Gannawarra and generate in excess of \$1.8m in revenue annually to Council.

A recent meeting with planning consultants has started the development of a planning permit application for a micro grid in Kerang. A micro grid generates and stores energy that can then be retailed to local customers and is usually significantly cheaper for consumers.



## PLANNING BOOM

Council's planning team have experienced one of the busiest periods ever with a 28% increase in planning permit applications received from the previous financial year.

Of the 175 permit applications received 91% of the decisions were within the statutory timeframe. As a comparison Swan Hill received 196 planning permit applications.

In Gannawarra the planning applications equated to \$43.6m with Koondrook recording 18 applications for new dwellings.



*New Faucet Stroman shed in Tate Drive, Kerang*

# 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**  
0476 786 051  
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## YARRAN WARD



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



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



## COUNCIL MEETING DETAILS

The **September 2021 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 15 September at 6.30pm. The **October 2021 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 20 October 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](http://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](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)