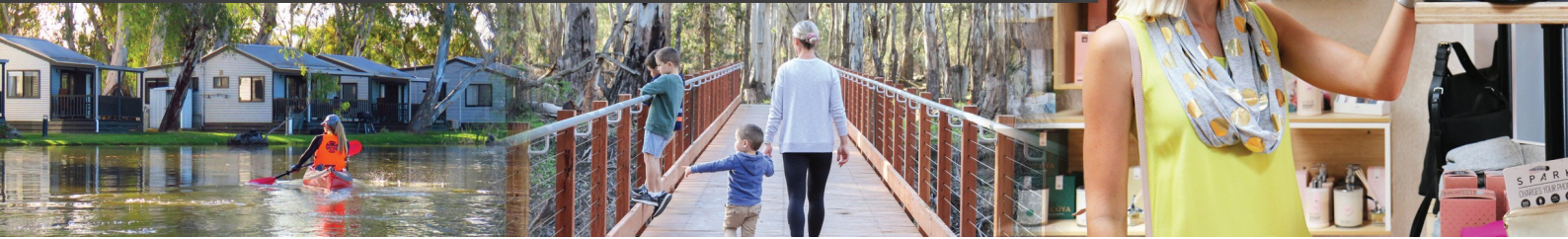


GANNAWARRA CONNECT



January-February 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

From the Mayor	1
What's On	2
Community News	2-4
Projects Update	5
Community Resilience	6
Economic Development	7
Your Councillors	8
Council Meetings	8
Contacting Council	8

FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to 2021. I hope that this year is a prosperous year for you, your family and the Gannawarra, particularly after the challenges 2020 brought.

This year will be a busy one for Gannawarra Shire Council, highlighted by the rollout of the Cohuna Waterfront and CBD Connection Project and Stage 2 of the Kerang CBD Redevelopment.

The next few months will see Council work with the community to develop our new Council Plan. This document, which is produced during the first eight months of a new term of Council, serves as a “road map” to focus Council’s activities and subsequent achievements during the next four years. My fellow Councillors and I look forward to receiving your feedback.

Regards,
Mayor Charlie Gillingham



COMMUNITY RESILIENCE GRANTS PROGRAM

Applications are now open for the fourth round of the Gannawarra Community Resilience Grants program.

Managed by the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee, Gannawarra Shire Council-based community groups and organisations located within the municipality are eligible to apply for up to \$3,000 for projects and initiatives.

The grants will support community-led activities that align with the following priorities from the Gannawarra COVID-19 Community Relief and Recovery Plan.



ABOVE: The Murrabit Country Market benefitted from support from the Gannawarra Community Resilience Grants program.

Community groups and organisations are encouraged to look at the program guidelines, which are available at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/grants and determine whether projects or activities planned would benefit from this funding.

Applications, which close on Tuesday, 16 February 2021, can be submitted online at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/grants

NEED A PA SYSTEM, HAND SANITATION STATION FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT?

Did you know you can hire PA systems and hand sanitation stations for your next event through your local community group or neighbourhood house?

Council previously gifted the Cohuna Neighbourhood House, Kerang Progress Association and Koondrook Development Committee PA systems that can be used by any community groups and organisations for use at events, activities or functions.

The Cohuna Neighbourhood House, Kerang Neighbourhood House and Quambatook Community Resource Centre also have automatic hand sanitation stations available for hire for your next event.

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

KEEP COOL AT YOUR LOCAL SWIMMING POOL

With summer upon us, 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 also be extended on days of extreme heat, with changes promoted via Council's Facebook page — 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.



WHAT'S ON

NOW TO 28 FEBRUARY

People and Places, Cohuna Art Gallery

24 JANUARY

Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market

6 FEBRUARY

Murrabit Country Market

28 FEBRUARY

Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market

Event details can be found at

www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events

SUBMIT YOUR EVENT

Want to see your event featured here? Submit your event details to www.gsc.vic.gov.au/add_your_event

IMMUNISATION SESSIONS

JANUARY 2021

Wednesday, 20 January

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

FEBRUARY 2021

Wednesday, 3 February

Kerang
(10.30am – 12 noon)

Wednesday, 17 February

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

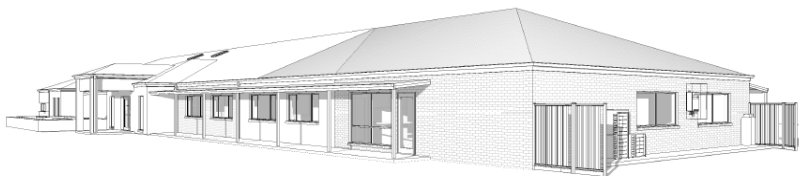
VOLUNTEERS WELCOMED BACK TO COUNCIL'S SERVICES

Council is pleased to welcome its dedicated group of volunteers back to support key services.

Volunteers play a key role assisting with the Gannawarra Non-Emergency Transport Service, L2P Driver Mentor Program, Meals on Wheels deliveries and the Gateway to Gannawarra Visitor Information Centre at Cohuna.

Volunteers can assist as little or as much as they want, with the minimum requirement being one hour per month

If you would like to volunteer to assist with these key community services, please contact Council on (03) 5450 9333 or email council@gannawarra.vic.gov.au



SUPPORT FOR THREE-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM ROLLOUT

Current and future families will benefit from State Government support for the rollout of three-year-old funded kindergarten programs across the municipality in 2022.

Council recently received \$600,000 from the Victorian Schools Building Authority to support the \$725,000 expansion of the **Gannawarra Shire Children's Centre, Kerang** (above), which will see the centre's capacity increase to 126 places in Long Day Care and sessional Kindergarten.

Works will also occur at the **Cohuna and District Preschool Centre** thanks to \$45,300 in funding for refurbished bathroom facilities, new floor furnishings and painting.

Three-year-old funded kindergarten will also be provided at Koondrook in 2022.

Updates on all construction projects will be provided during the year via *Gannawarra Connect*, *Gannawarra News* and Council's Facebook page.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE 2021-2025 COUNCIL PLAN

Residents are encouraged to have their say on what their future vision for the Gannawarra is, as part of the development of the *Gannawarra Shire Council Plan 2021-2025*.

Developed every four years, the document serves as a "road map" to focus Council's activities and objectives.

Residents will be able to provide their views via sessions to be held throughout the Gannawarra between late January and mid-February. Details regarding session dates, times and locations will be published online at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/CouncilPlan, as well as via *Gannawarra News* and Council's social media accounts.

All feedback provided will assist with the development of the *Draft Gannawarra Shire Council Plan 2021-2025*, which is to be placed on display for public comment later in the year.

For more information about the *Gannawarra Shire Council Plan 2021-2025* and its development, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/CouncilPlan



ELECTORAL BOUNDARY REVIEW FEEDBACK SOUGHT

The Electoral Boundaries Commission is seeking feedback into a review of Victoria's electoral boundaries.

Reviews are held every eight years to ensure each electorate has about the same number of enrolled voters, giving Victorians equal representation in Parliament.

Gannawarra Shire Council is located in the District of Murray Plains, which also covers the municipalities of Campaspe, Loddon and Swan Hill.

Gannawarra Shire Council is also a part of the Northern Victoria Region, which includes Benalla, Bendigo, Bright, Corryong, Echuca, Kyneton, Mansfield, Mildura, Shepparton, Swan Hill, Wangaratta, Wodonga and Warburton.

To have your say on the current boundaries, please visit www.ebc.vic.gov.au before 1 March 2021.

RECYCLE YOUR FARM CHEMICAL CONTAINERS

Residents are encouraged to recycle their used farm chemical containers at any of Council's transfer stations.

Agsafe's drumMUSTER program has recycled 36.4 million containers nationally since 1999, saving more than 40 tonnes of drums from ending up in landfill. Council joined the drumMUSTER program in October 1999, with more than 150,000 drums collected for recycling in the past 21 years.

Drums that have been rinsed clean after use and retain no chemical residue can be dropped off at Council's transfer stations free of charge. All drums handed in for recycling are either granulated or pressed and delivered to various plastic recyclers to make new plastic products we see and use in Australia each day.

To support the growing popularity of this program, a new drumMUSTER cage was recently installed at the Cohuna Transfer Station.



ABOVE: Council's Operations Team member, Marshall Rosewall (left) and drumMUSTER regional consultant, John Knight in front of the new cage at the Cohuna Transfer Station.

2020 ANNUAL REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

Hard copies of Council's 2020 Annual Report are now available to view at Council's Customer Service Centres, Gannawarra Library branches and the Gateway to Gannawarra Visitor Centre.

This 166-page document celebrates Council's achievements during the 2019/20 financial year and features two key audited documents— the 2020 Financial Statements and 2020 Performance Statement

The 2020 Annual Report, as well as previous editions of Council's Annual Report, can be viewed at any time by visiting [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/Annual Reports](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/Annual_Reports)



PROJECTS UPDATE

HAVE YOUR SAY ON PLAYGROUND, WATERFRONT CONNECTION WORKS

Residents are encouraged to have their say on two major projects to occur in Cohuna during 2021.

Feedback is sought regarding the design of the new Cohuna All Abilities Adventure Playground (above left), to be constructed south of the existing playground at Apex Park.

The new playground will incorporate a range of exciting features, including all accessible play equipment and water play.

The existing playground will remain available throughout the build of the new playground, and will be removed once construction of the new playground is completed.

To have your say, visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/CohunaPlayground before 5pm Friday, 5 February 2021.

Residents are also encouraged to provide input on the Cohuna Waterfront Connection Project (below left), which will provide greater linkages between Garden Park and King George Street.

To have your say, visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/CohunaConnection before 5pm Friday, 26 February 2021.

These works form part of the \$3.4 million Cohuna Waterfront Connections project, supported by the State Government.



Legend	
Subject site	
Clock tower	
Sculpture	
Gateway	
Informal ped crossing	
Commercial awning	
Sealed pedestrian path	
Sealed brick path	
Gravel path	
Primary ped entrance/circuit	
Tree up-lights	
River water feature	
Seating	
Bins	
Telstra phonebooth	
Informative signage	
Gravel	
Car parking	
Commercial interface	
Built form	
Existing vegetation	
Gunbower Creek	

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

LET'S PIVOT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM RESUMING

Make a Change Australia's Let's Pivot Leadership Program will resume in February 2021.

This free eight-week program provides participants with the skills necessary to adapt and move forward in the current environment.

Participants are encouraged to take part in any way that suit—be it info-mailers, zoom discussions, online community, resource toolkit and more.

An eight-session Zoom discussion forms part of the program, focusing on topics such as caring for self and others, digital systems, auditing for clarity, recreating, strategising and being heard.

To join the program, visit <https://makeachange.org.au/lets-pivot/>

ENJOY A SUMMER OF WELLBEING

The Five Ways to Wellbeing – Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning and Give – are all simple steps that can be taken to improve health and wellbeing.

Whether it is catching up with your neighbours, being active everyday, taking notice of the environment in which we live, learning a new skill or volunteering your time, all can help create positivity regardless of the challenging year many in our community have experienced.



MANAGING YOUR HEAT HEALTH

Did you know that heat kills more Australians than any other natural disaster?

Those most at risk are older people, young children and those with a medical condition.

Residents can reduce the risks of extreme heat by:

- Drinking plenty of water;
- Not leaving children, adults or pets in cars;
- Spending as much time as possible in cool or air-conditioned buildings, such as private homes, libraries or community centres;
- Cancel non-essential outings and plan essential activities for the coolest part of the day; and
- Look after those most at risk by keeping in touch with family members and neighbours.

If you or anyone you know feels unwell on a hot day, please call NURSE-ON-CALL on 1300 60 60 24, or phone Triple Zero (000) in an emergency.



STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

It is important for residents to continue to practice physical distancing by staying 1.5 metres from others whenever possible, maintaining good hand hygiene, and coughing and sneezing into your elbow.

Free masks for vulnerable residents are available from local neighbourhood houses, post offices, Northern District Community Health and Council.

Anyone who has any cold or flu-like symptoms, no matter how mild, should stay home and get tested.

EVERYTHING WE'RE DOING IS KEEPING US ON TOP OF THIS VIRUS



Keep our fitted face masks on and keep our distance.



Keep catching up outdoors.



Keep washing our hands.



Keep getting tested if we have any symptoms.

STAY SAFE STAY OPEN

Go to [CORONAVIRUS.vic.gov.au](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au)
Authorised by the Victorian Government, Melbourne



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



ABOVE: Member for Northern Victoria, Mark Gepp (left), Aunty Esther Kirby, Member for Northern Victoria, Tania Maxwell and Mayor Charlie Gillingham helped open Koondrook Retreat.

THE GANNAWARRA ON TRACK TO BECOME RENEWABLE ENERGY CAPITAL

Council is committed to making the Gannawarra the renewable energy capital of Australia.

The recent announcement of the Federal and State governments' commitment to invest in KerangLink, will enable approved renewable energy projects within the Gannawarra to proceed, and see North West Victoria become the nation's largest renewable energy zone.

To be completed by 2027, KerangLink will connect Victoria and New South Wales' electricity networks, and will be a game changer for our communities, thanks to the creation of employment opportunities and vast investment.

Already home to Australia's largest integrated battery and solar farm, Council has also approved six new permits for renewable energy projects and has received interest in a large wind energy project.

ESCAPE TO KOONDROOK RETREAT

Bookings are now available for Koondrook Retreat - Victoria's newest nature based tourism destination.

The retreat, which officially opened on 15 December 2020, is nestled on the banks of the Gunbower Creek and features six safari-style glamping tents.

The site will offer connections to the 1,390-kilometre multi-sport Murray River Adventure Trail, which will cover the Victorian and New South Wales sides of the Murray River from Lake Hume to Wentworth.

To book your register your interest to stay at Koondrook Retreat, phone 0435 760 002 or email jannah@jmps.com.au



COHUNA BEACH—THE PLACE TO BE

The completion of Cohuna Beach in time for summer has paid off for residents and visitors, with the banks of Gunbower Creek proving to be an ideal place to keep cool.

The beach forms part of the \$3.7 million Cohuna CBD and Waterfront Connections Project, which aims to establish stronger connection between Cohuna and Gunbower Creek, creating unique lifestyle experiences for residents and visitors.

COUNCIL INFORMATION

YOUR COUNCILLORS AVOCA WARD



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MURRAY WARD



Cr Ross Stanton
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PATCHELL WARD



Cr Kelvin Burt
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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

The **February 2021 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 17 February at 6.30pm. You can watch this meeting from the comfort of home via Council's website—www.gsc.vic.gov.au/livestream.

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