

# GANNAWARRA *CONNECT*



July-August 2023

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

From the Mayor	1
What's On	2
Immunisation sessions	2
Community News	2-3
Social Meals	4
Economic Development	5
Flood Recovery	6-7
Your Councillors	8
Council Meetings	8
Contacting Council	8

## FROM THE MAYOR

Did you know that Council provides funding to support community projects and initiatives?

Applications are currently being accepted for our Community Flood Recovery Grants program, whilst our popular Community Grants program will open in the coming weeks.

Both popular initiatives will support events, programs and initiatives that will guide our social recovery from last year's floods.

For more information about these programs - as well as other funding opportunities - please visit [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/grants](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/grants)

Regards,

**Mayor Charlie Gillingham**



## 2023/2024 BUDGET - LEADING OUR FLOOD RECOVERY

Thank you to everyone who took the time to view and provide feedback regarding Council's 2023/2024 Budget.

One of Council's major documents, the 2023/2024 Budget - adopted at the June 2023 Council Meeting - outlines how Council will maintain current services, support projects and invest in initiatives that will continue to make the Gannawarra a great place to live.

The major highlight of the 2023/2024 Budget is a record capital works program, which includes \$25 million to repair Council-managed roads damaged by last year's floods to a pre-flood standard.

For more information regarding the 2023/2024 Budget, please visit [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/budget](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/budget)



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## WHAT'S ON

15 JULY

Kerang Welcome Barbecue

22 JULY

Kerang Community Market

23 JULY

Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market

26 JULY

Day Out for Gannawarra Women

28-31 JULY

Kerang Dance Club Weekend of Dance

2 AUGUST

Community Mental Health Training, Kerang

5 AUGUST

Murrabit Country Market

12-13 AUGUST

Golden Rivers Artists workshop, Kerang

19 AUGUST

Kerang Welcome Barbecue

26 AUGUST

Kerang Community Market

27 AUGUST

Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market

2 SEPTEMBER

Murrabit Country Market

EVERY SATURDAY

Kerang and Cohuna parkruns

EVERY SATURDAY

Grow Collective Community Garden, Kerang

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)

## ADD YOUR EVENT TO COUNCIL'S EVENTS PAGE

Did you know you can add your event to Gannawarra Shire Council's Events calendar?

Available to view via Council's website, this calendar is your way to promote your next event, workshop or celebration.

Events that appear on Council's Events calendar are also promoted in Gannawarra Connect, which is delivered to every property in the municipality every two months.

To view Council's Events calendar and to add your event, please visit [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events)



## IMMUNISATION SESSIONS BY APPOINTMENT

### JULY 2023

Wednesday, 5 July

Kerang  
(10.30am – 12 noon)

Wednesday, 19 July

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

### AUGUST 2023

Wednesday, 2 August

Kerang  
(10.30am - 12 noon)

Wednesday, 16 August

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.

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.







## KERANG CBD REDEVELOPMENT - STAGE 3 UPDATE

Improvements to the central business district of Victoria Street, Kerang continue, with Stage 3 of the Kerang CBD Redevelopment on track for completion by December 2023.

Visitors to businesses along the eastern section of Victoria Street between Scoresby Street and Victoria Square are benefiting from recently completed works, including raising the height of the pathway and eliminating the need for steps at the entrance to each business. These improvements will complement the remodeling of car parking spaces along this section, enabling easier access for pedestrians.

Work will soon begin on improving paved surfaces along the eastern section of Victoria Street between Victoria Square and Wellington Street to tie this area in with already completed improvements. Residents and visitors are advised that access to footpaths and parking spaces will be impacted by these works, with Council aiming for minimal disruptions.

For more information regarding this project, funded by the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, please visit [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/KerangCBD](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/KerangCBD)

## KANGAROO LAKE NORTH END JETTY

Visitors to the northern end of Kangaroo Lake will benefit from the installation of a new jetty, replacing a structure that was removed in April 2020 due to public safety concerns.



Work on installing this new jetty, supported by the Victorian Fisheries Authority 2021-22 Recreational Fishing Grants Program, is nearing completion.

For project updates, please visit [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/news](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/news)

Free online presentations



Be Connected  
Every Australian online.

## Be Connected Presentations

eSafety's free online Be Connected presentations provide older Australians with the knowledge and skills to use technology with confidence and keep safer online.

Join our live streamed presentations to be stepped through the essentials, in an easy to understand format with our knowledgeable and friendly presenter.

**Audience:** Older Australians **How to book:** Register by calling 5452 1546

**Location:** Sir John Gorton  
Library Meeting Room, Kerang

### Topic schedule 2023

#### June

6 - Wi-Fi and data plans 10am - 11am

#### July

11 - Government websites 10am - 11am

13 - Smart home technology 3pm - 4pm

#### August

1 - Protect yourself against scams 10am - 11am

#### October

3 - Wi-Fi and data plans 10am - 11am

#### November

9 - Staying safe on Facebook 10am - 11am

9 - Can you spot a scam 3pm - 4pm

#### December

5 - Connecting with others 10am - 11am

Be Connected is a joint initiative between the Department of Social Services, the eSafety Commissioner and Good Things Foundation to increase the confidence, skills and online safety of older Australians.



eSafety Commissioner

This program has been developed by eSafety as part of the Be Connected initiative.



# SOCIAL MEALS

## ENJOY A MEAL, KEEP CONNECTED WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

Council's popular Social Meals program continues in 2023, with sessions planned monthly between July and November.

Held at Cohuna, Kerang, Koondrook, Lalbert, Lake Charm, Leitchville, Macorna, Murrabit and Quambatook from 12 noon, attendees are able to socialise and enjoy a home-cooked two-course meal for just \$11.

Dates for events planned for July-November 2023 feature on this page. Please note a Christmas meal will be served at each session held in November.

Bookings are essential, which can be done by phoning Council's Community Service team on (03) 5450 9333.



### **Bar-rook Senior Citizens Rooms (2 Station Street, Koondrook)**

Friday, 7 July  
Friday, 4 August  
Friday, 1 September  
Friday, 6 October  
Friday, 3 November

### **Cohuna Memorial Hall (21 King Edward Street)**

Friday, 21 July  
Friday, 18 August  
Friday, 15 September  
Friday, 13 October  
Friday, 17 November

### **Kerang Senior Citizens Centre (169 Boundary Street)**

Thursday, 27 July  
Thursday, 24 August  
Thursday, 28 September  
Thursday, 26 October  
Thursday, 23 November

### **Lake Charm Hall (Hall Road)**

Tuesday, 11 July  
Tuesday, 8 August  
Tuesday, 12 September  
Tuesday, 10 October  
Tuesday, 14 November

### **Lalbert Recreation Reserve (Evelyn Street)**

Tuesday, 25 July  
Tuesday, 22 August  
Tuesday, 26 September  
Tuesday, 24 October  
Tuesday, 28 November

### **Leitchville Memorial Hall (Hawken Street)**

Thursday, 13 July  
Thursday, 10 August  
Thursday, 14 September  
Thursday, 12 October  
Thursday, 9 November

### **Macorna Recreation Reserve (Macorna South Road)**

Friday, 28 July  
Friday, 25 August  
Friday, 22 September  
Friday, 27 October  
Friday, 24 November

### **Murrabit Hall (Danson Street)**

Wednesday, 26 July  
Wednesday, 23 August  
Wednesday, 27 September  
Wednesday, 25 October  
Wednesday, 22 November

### **Quambatook Seniors Building (Olive Street)**

Tuesday, 4 July  
Tuesday, 1 August  
Tuesday, 5 September  
Tuesday, 3 October  
Tuesday, 14 November



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## VNI WEST AREA OF INTEREST UPDATE

Council is working with landowners located in VNI West's area of interest following a recently announced realignment of the project's proposed route.

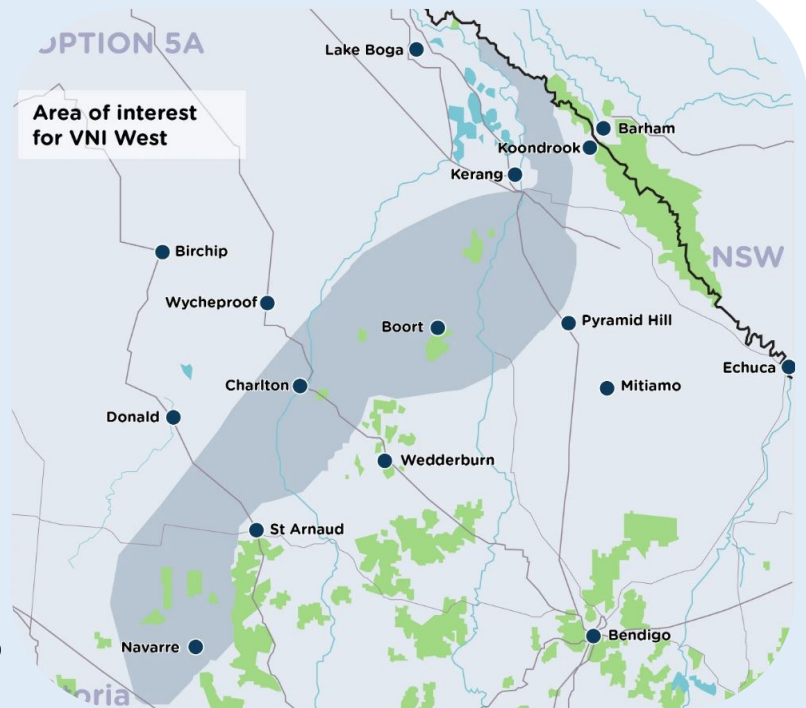
The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO), in consultation with the State Government, has revised the proposed route for the 500-kilovolt double-circuit overhead transmission line that will connect key electricity infrastructure projects near Stawell in Victoria and Jerilderie in New South Wales. This new route now covers the southwestern part of the Gannawarra Shire and a corridor of land north of Kerang, with further engagement to occur to narrow VNI West's confirmed route.

The project also involves construction of a new electricity sub-station near Kerang, with a location still to be determined.

Council has worked with landowners and investors during the past decade regarding renewable energy projects within the Gannawarra, many of which cannot proceed without the development of VNI West. Council is also committed to helping landowners located within VNI West's areas of interest, including providing information and coordinating meetings with AEMO to discuss issues around timing of works and appropriate compensation.

Once completed, VNI West will open up billions of dollars of investment opportunities, create thousands of construction jobs in the years to come and potentially bringing in millions of dollars to our Council in future Payment in Lieu of Rate payments, which will benefit all residents.

If you have any questions, please contact Council's Economic Development team on (03) 5450 9333.



## NEW REGIONAL PARK SIGNAGE PROMOTES ATTRACTIONS

Visitors to Kerang Regional Park may have noticed a new sign promoting recreational opportunities available within this popular space.

Installed in late May, this new sign - located adjacent to the Patchell Bridges - promotes the popular Loddon River Walk and kayak launch, which enables paddlers to access the Loddon River.

The sign is part of Council's continued efforts to promote nature based tourism opportunities within the municipality



## DRAFT GANNAWARRA URBAN GROWTH STRATEGY

Thank you to everyone who took the time in May and June to read the *Draft Gannawarra Urban Growth Strategy*.

This important document will help support the future rezoning of residential and industrial land in Cohuna, Kerang, the Kerang Lakes and Koondrook to cater for forecast population growth

All feedback received will assist with the development of the final version of the *Gannawarra Urban Growth Strategy*, which will be presented to Council at a later date for consideration.

# FLOOD RECOVERY

## FLOOD INQUIRY SUBMISSION CONTINUES ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Council recently provided a submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event.

Developed with input from residents impacted by the floods, the Gannawarra Community Recovery Committee, flood observers and Council staff, the document outlines how the October-December 2022 flood event affected residents and suggests ways response efforts can be improved.

The document features 37 recommendations covering the nine inquiry terms of reference topics, including what factors caused or contributed to the flood event, the adequacy and effectiveness of early warning systems, resourcing of emergency services, government policy, flood mitigation strategies, and the Victorian planning framework's implications for future planning decisions.

The development of the submission has played an important role in the Gannawarra's recovery process by enabling residents the opportunity to tell their story and more importantly, put forward solutions to mitigate future flood risk.

To view the submission, click on the Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event in Victoria heading at [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods)

## COMMUNITY MENTAL FIRST AID TRAINING

The Victorian Department of Health is funding a series of free training workshops to support flood-impacted communities across the State.

As part of this program, Phoenix Australia will run a free Community Mental First Aid workshop at Northern District Community Health, Kerang on Wednesday, 2 August from 9am-1pm.

Participants will learn skills to support others and their communities whilst looking after their own wellbeing.

For more information and to register, visit <https://events.humanitix.com/helping-you-help-others-psychological-first-aid-face-to-face-workshop>

## COMMUNITY FLOOD SUPPORT UPDATES

Did you know Council produces a monthly Community Flood Support Update newsletter?

This document features updates regarding Council's flood recovery efforts, information from partner agencies and planned flood recovery events.

To view the latest edition of the newsletter, visit Council's Customer Service Centres at Cohuna and Kerang or download a copy at [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods)

## COMMUNITY UPDATE FLOOD SUPPORT Issue Seven: 19 May 2023

Council continues to work with local, state and commonwealth partners to support communities in the recovery from the October-December 2022 floods. This newsletter outlines support available and efforts Council and partner agencies are undertaking.

### Support Contacts

Mallee Family Care: 03 5092 4479

Rural Financial Counselling Service: 1300 735 578

Flood Recovery Hotline: 1800 560 760

Northern District Community Health: 03 5451 0200

Lifeline: 13 11 14

Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636

BlazeAid: 0459 434 766

### Meet Council's Flood Recovery Team

### Advocacy efforts continue

Council continues to advocate on key issues impacting our communities, including:

- Additional support for our agricultural sector
- Repairing rural levees located on Crown Land
- Maintaining waterways
- Funding for establishing and repairing ring levees on private properties
- Road infrastructure to reduce isolation in future floods
- Community recovery support
- Seeking an in-person Hearing of the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Victorian Floods to be held in Gannawarra

Council has established a Flood Recovery team to help continue to deliver support to impacted residents and communities across the Gannawarra Shire. Pictured back left: Jan Palmer (Flood Recovery Support Officer), Scott Wishart (Business Liaison Officer), Leigh Hollingworth (Manager Projects and Design). Front left: Narelle O'Donoghue (Manager Community Recovery) and Jon Haw (Manager Infrastructure Rehabilitation). If you were impacted by the floods and need support, please give the team a call on (03) 5450 9333.



### You've got what it takes



### GANNAWARRA CARES Take the time to connect with your community...



Ph: (03) 5450 9333

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



## RURAL LEVEE BANK REPAIR REQUIREMENTS

Levees in rural areas of Gannawarra Shire are not under any formal management arrangements and there is no obligation on any landowner or agency, including Council, to maintain them.

A permit is required to repair a levee bank on Crown Land. This can be obtained by phoning North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA) on (03) 5440 1896.

Council and NCCMA have been made aware of works on private land that occurred during and after the recent flood event and will be working with landowners to ensure they gain the necessary approvals or remove the works if they have the potential to adversely affect neighbouring properties.



# FLOOD RECOVERY



## FLOOD ROAD REPAIRS CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THE GANNAWARRA

Efforts to repair Council-managed flood-damaged roads continue, with work expected to take 12-18 months to complete.

More than 1,000 kilometres of roads were damaged by the October-December 2022 floods, with Council developing 12 works packages supported by joint Commonwealth and State Government Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements to ensure repairs are completed to a pre-flood standard.

The first package of works was recently completed, focusing on roads at Horfield, Macorna North, Mincha and Mincha West. These works including grading road surfaces and resheeting areas where road surfaces were washed away.

Regular updates regarding flood repair works will be provided via Council's website, *Gannawarra News*, *Gannawarra Connect* and Council's Facebook page.

## COMMUNITY FLOOD RECOVERY GRANTS PROGRAM

Gannawarra Shire-based community groups have until Monday, 31 July to apply for funding from the Gannawarra Community Flood Recovery Grants Program.

This new grants program will provide up to \$3,000 for not-for-profit community groups based in the Gannawarra to support a variety of small activities that promote social connectedness and mental health and wellbeing across flood impacted communities.

Community groups are encouraged to look at the program guidelines, which are available at [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/grants](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/grants), and determine whether their project ideas fit within the funding criteria.

Projects that are successful in obtaining funding will be required to have clear outcomes for residents and communities impacted by the flood event and must be completed on or before 31 March 2024.

For more information and to apply, visit [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/grants](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/grants)

## GANNAWARRA MUNICIPAL FLOOD RECOVERY PLAN RELEASED

The Gannawarra Municipal Flood Recovery Plan is leading the municipality's recovery from the October-December 2022 floods.

Developed thanks to input from two flood-related committees – the Gannawarra Community Flood Recovery Committee and the Gannawarra Municipal Recovery Committee – and three sub-committees focusing on themes associated with wellbeing and social recovery; built and natural environment; and agriculture and economic recovery, the plan features 48 priority actions across 11 recovery target areas that Council and other agencies will work on to guide recovery efforts.

To view the Gannawarra Municipal Flood Recovery Plan, please click on the Gannawarra Shire flood recovery efforts heading at [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods)

# 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 **July 2023 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 19 July at 10am. The **August 2023 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 16 August at 10am.

Meetings are held at the Kerang Senior Citizens Centre, located at 169 Boundary Street, Kerang, with a recording available to view 24 hours after the meeting at [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/meetings](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/meetings). 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)