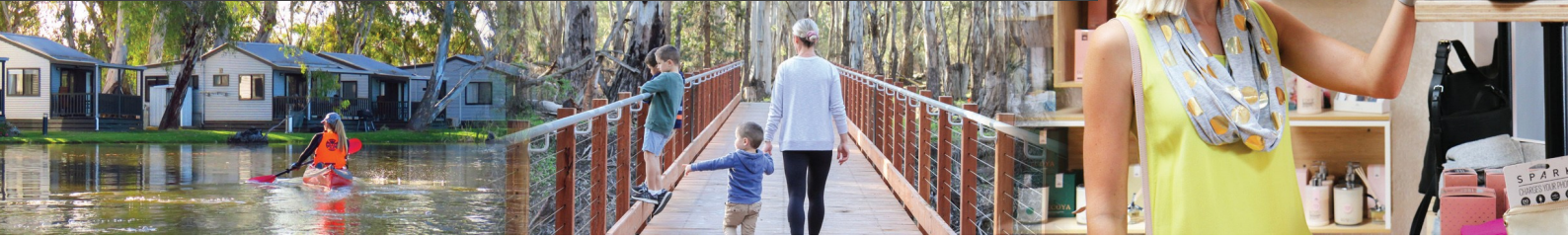


GANNAWARRA CONNECT



March-April 2021

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FROM THE MAYOR

March and April are traditionally a busy time for the Gannawarra. This year will be no exception, with many of the area's Easter events to proceed. With most of these celebrations not occurring last year due to COVID-19 restrictions, I encourage all residents to support our community groups at this time by attending these popular events and adhere to all COVIDsafe measures in place.

Council also looks forward to welcome back the public to our Council Meetings this month, with plans to do so in February postponed by the COVID-19 lockdown. Held monthly, our meetings are your chance to watch key matters debated.

Regards,
Mayor Charlie Gillingham



HAVE YOUR SAY ON KEY COUNCIL MATTERS

Council will seek community feedback on two important documents that will be presented at Council Meetings during the coming months.

Scheduled to be placed on display for public comment in late April, the *2021/2022 Proposed Gannawarra Shire Council Budget* will outline how Council will use funds collected through rates payments and successful grant applications to support key services and projects during the 2021/2022 financial year.

Other items that Council will seek community feedback on in the coming months include the *Draft Aquatic Strategy 2021-2031* and *Draft Gannawarra Shire Council Plan 2021-2025*.



More information on both documents and how you can have your say will be available via the "Have Your Say" tab on Council's website, which can also be viewed at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/yoursay

WHAT'S ON

4 MARCH

Bowling With Babies, Kerang Bowling Club

6 MARCH

Murrabit Country Market

11 MARCH

Bowling With Babies, Kerang Bowling Club

13 MARCH

Kerang Welcome Barbecue

28 MARCH

Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market

2-3 APRIL

Murrabit Lawn Tennis Club Easter Tournament

3 APRIL

Murrabit Country Market

4 APRIL

Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market

10 APRIL

Kerang Welcome Barbecue

25 APRIL

ANZAC Day commemorations, shire-wide

25 APRIL

Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market

Event details can be found at

www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events

PROMOTE YOUR EVENT ONLINE

The Events section of Council's website, located via the Events tab at www.gsc.vic.gov.au or at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events, features details regarding Council-planned and community organised gatherings and workshops.

To submit your event details, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/add_your_event

OUTDOOR POOLS SEASON ENDS 14 MARCH

The Cohuna and Kerang swimming pools will close for the 2020/21 season at 7pm Sunday, 14 March.



Both venues will be open between Monday, 1 March and Sunday, 14 March between 3pm and 7pm, with extended opening hours of 12 noon-7pm in place for the Labour Day public holiday on Monday, 8 March. Any changes to these times will be 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.

For those wanting to continue water activities after 14 March, the Kerang Exercise Pool, located at Patchell Plaza, is open 7am-2pm Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, as well as 11am-2pm Tuesdays and Thursdays.

For more information on public swimming pools located within the Gannawarra, visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/pools

IMMUNISATION SESSIONS

MARCH 2021

Wednesday, 3 March
Kerang
(10.30am – 12 noon)

Wednesday, 17 March

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

APRIL 2021

Wednesday, 7 April
Kerang
(10.30am – 12 noon)

Wednesday, 21 April

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

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.



YOU CAN HELP STOP QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY

The beautiful, mild summer has been great for the garden, but it's also been perfect conditions for Queensland Fruit Fly, which thrive in temperatures in the mid-30s.

Backyard fruit trees are areas where Queensland Fruit Fly can thrive. To reduce the risk, please keep trees at a manageable size, use insect nets, pick fruit early and pick up fruit that falls off your trees every day and put it in a plastic bag in the sun for 7-10 days to kill the maggots.

If you just don't want the hassle and mess of trees and fruit you don't use, you can request to have your fruit trees removed for free. Up until January 2021, more than 400 trees have been removed at no charge for householders in the eligible townships of Kerang, Murrabit, Koondrook and Lake Charm.

Residents who need assistance with removing unwanted fruit trees from their property can register for the free tree removal program by visiting www.pestfreearea.com.au/tree-removal or phoning (03) 5022 0327.

Pictured are Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area Community Support Officer, Tricia Witney with Kerang Community Garden caretaker, Dave Randell in front of a tree covered in an insect net.



COUNCIL MEETING QUESTION TIME

Residents have the opportunity to submit questions to Councillors, with the resumption of Question Time.

Re-introduced at the February 2021 Council Meeting, the process to submit questions is as follows:

- Questions must be submitted on a Question Time form, available online at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/QuestionTime;
- Completed Question Time forms must be emailed to council@gannawarra.vic.gov.au by 5pm the day prior to the Council Meeting; and
- Questions will be read by the Mayor or Chief Executive Officer.

Please note that questions from the public gallery in attendance on the night of the Council Meeting will not be taken, with submitted questions which meet the criteria to be answered in line with Council's Governance Rules.



CREATIVE GANNAWARRA TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

With events resuming throughout the Gannawarra as COVID-19 restrictions ease, Council's is seeking ideas, suggestions and contributions into its 2021 Arts and Culture Program.

Creative Gannawarra aims to foster community-driven projects, encourage community participation in the planning and delivering of creative projects that promote arts, culture, Indigenous heritage, local history, wellbeing, health and sustainability.

To discuss your idea and projects, phone (03) 5450 9333 or email arts@gannawarra.vic.gov.au

COMMUNITY NEWS

Bar-rook Senior Citizens Rooms

Friday, 12 March (12 noon)

Friday, 9 April (12 noon)

Friday, 14 May (12 noon)

Friday, 11 June (12 noon)

Cohuna Memorial Hall

Friday, 19 March (12 noon)

Friday, 16 April (12 noon)

Friday, 21 May (12 noon)

Friday, 18 June (12 noon)

Kerang Lawn Tennis Club

Thursday, 11 March (12 noon)

Thursday, 8 April (12 noon)

Thursday, 13 May (12 noon)

Thursday, 10 June (12 noon)

Lake Charm Hall

Tuesday, 9 March (12 noon)

Tuesday, 13 April (12 noon)

Tuesday, 11 May (12 noon)

Tuesday, 8 June (12 noon)

Lalbert Recreation Reserve

Tuesday, 23 March (12 noon)

Tuesday, 20 April (12 noon)

Tuesday, 18 May (12 noon)

Tuesday, 15 June (12 noon)

Macorna Recreation Reserve

Friday, 26 March (12 noon)

Friday, 23 April (12 noon)

Friday, 28 May (12 noon)

Friday, 25 June (12 noon)

Murrabit Hall

Wednesday, 10 March (12 noon)

Wednesday, 7 April (12 noon)

Wednesday, 5 May (12 noon)

Wednesday, 2 June (12 noon)



SOCIAL MEALS PROGRAM RESUMES

Council's popular Social Meals program has resumed after being postponed in late March 2020 as part of efforts to protect the community from COVID-19.

Held at least once a month at Cohuna, Kerang, Koondrook, Lalbert, Lake Charm, Leitchville, Macorna, Murrabit and Quambatook, attendees are able to socialise and enjoy a home-cooked two-course meal for just \$10. Dates for events planned for March-June 2021 feature on this page.

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

Attendees are asked to adhere to all COVIDsafe measures in place, which include providing contact details upon arrival and socially distancing, where possible.

Council thanks the support of all Senior and Recreational Clubs across the Shire who partner with us each month to host this popular program.

Leitchville Memorial Hall

Thursday, 4 March (12 noon)

Thursday, 18 March (12 noon)

Thursday, 1 April (12 noon)

Thursday, 15 April (12 noon)

Thursday, 29 April (12 noon)

Thursday, 13 May (12 noon)

Thursday, 27 May (12 noon)

Thursday, 10 June (12 noon)

Thursday, 17 June (12 noon)

Quambatook Senior Citizens Clubrooms

Tuesday, 2 March (12 noon)

Tuesday, 16 March (12 noon)

Tuesday, 30 March (12 noon)

Tuesday, 13 April (12 noon)

Tuesday, 27 April (12 noon)

Tuesday, 11 May (12 noon)

Tuesday, 25 May (12 noon)

Tuesday, 8 June (12 noon)

Tuesday, 22 June (12 noon)

PROJECTS UPDATE



COHUNA SKATE PARK REDEVELOPMENT UNDERWAY

Residents and visitors will have noticed works occurring at the Cohuna Skate Park, with the redevelopment of the popular facility underway.

Expected to be completed by the end of April, the park will be expanded to include additional ramps, railings and riding areas to cater for skateboarders, BMX riders and scooter users of all skill levels.

The new park will also incorporate new paths, open space, play areas and seating.

The Cohuna Skate Park Redevelopment is possible thanks to a \$250,000 grant from Sport and Recreation Victoria's Local Sport Infrastructure Fund.



KOONDROOK-MURRABIT ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Council is continuing to improve the condition of Koondrook-Murrabit Road, with a section of this popular road recently resealed thanks to Council's 2020/21 Capital Works program.



KERANG CBD REDEVELOPMENT CONTINUES

Kerang residents are benefiting from recently completed works along Scoresby Street, Kerang between Albert and Boundary streets.

Completed as part of the Kerang CBD Redevelopment—Stage 2, the works involved installing new kerb and channel, increasing the width of the footpath along both sides of the road and improving pedestrian crossings at the entrance to the Kerang Railway Station.

Parking along this section of the road will improve thanks to the installation of a traffic island and defined parallel car parking bays, with extra trees which are to be planted at a later date to improve sun protection for residents and pedestrians.

These improvements will tie into future works planned along Scoresby Street up to Fitzroy Street, with community feedback collated during September 2020 assisting with the design of these improvements.

Stage 2 of the Kerang CBD Redevelopment is funded by the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.



COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

AGRISAFE© CLINICS FOR THE GANNAWARRA

AgriSafe© clinics are now being offered to any person over 18 working within the agricultural industry in the Gannawarra Shire.

Conducted by a qualified health clinician specialising in agricultural health and medicine and who is familiar with farming practices, the program aims to improve the health, wellbeing and safety for our farmers, their employees and families.

For more information or to book a spot, please phone Northern District Community Health on (03) 5451 0200.

AgriSafe© clinics for Gannawarra was supported by a Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee partnership with the National Centre for Farmer Health with equipment funded by the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) and the Gannawarra Federal Government's Drought Communities Programme – Extension.

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM MOSQUITOES

We love getting outdoors while the weather is warm. The problem is, so do the mosquitoes.

Mosquitoes are not just annoying; some mosquitoes can transmit serious diseases.

There are simple things you can do to Beat the bite! To help protect yourself and your family from mosquito-borne disease:

- Wear loose-fitting clothing when outdoors.
- Use mosquito repellents on exposed skin.
- Try to limit outdoor activity at dusk and dawn.
- Remove any stagnant water where mosquitoes can breed around your home.

For further information, visit www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/campaigns/beat-the-bite

It's mozzie season, get the facts on the Better Health Channel to Beat the bite!



**Just a little sniffle?
Just get tested.**

PREVENT COVID-19 SPREADING

It might seem like it is just a sniffle – but remember that Coronavirus (COVID-19) affects different people in different ways.

Even someone with a mild case can pass it on to others.

Get tested to be sure.

To be tested, call Northern District Community Health on (03) 5451 0200.

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



CONNECT...
with the people
around you...

BE ACTIVE...
step outside...



TAKE NOTICE...
of what's happening
around you...



KEEP LEARNING...
discover new
things...



GIVE...
your time, smile,
listen to others...



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

AGRICULTURE

Diversifying agriculture is a priority of Council and we are seeing significant changes across the agricultural landscape.

Examples include the following;

- An outdoor medicinal cannabis facility is operational at Murrabit and we expect to see further growth of this business over the next couple of years.
- Council is facilitating an indoor medicinal cannabis facility proposed for a site in Kerang. This \$40 million project is currently evaluating several sites.
- A large-scale irrigation project is being developed at Beauchamp, west of Kangaroo Lake. The project will consist of 40 centre pivots plus a 300-hectare wine grape project.
- Council is facilitating a new poultry development that is currently working on a planning permit application for the development of 16 large free range sheds.
- Loafing barns for dairy cattle have been built as farmers look at new options for the dairy sector
- Construction of a new piggery at Kerang East is well advanced.



TOURISM

The Murray River Adventure Trail is a multi-sport adventure trail which extends along the length of the Murray River between Lake Hume and Wentworth, using land and water to incorporate walking, cycling, kayaking and other forms of water transport. The trail traverses secluded River Red Gum forests and major settlements along the length of the Murray River and provides opportunities for visitors to experience the Murray River in its natural setting, allowing immersion in the environment through active recreation.

The Barmah to Koondrook section will be the first stage, opening up significant opportunities for Cohuna and Koondrook. The work that Council is undertaking in Koondrook and Cohuna is strategically linked to the MRAT and will provide the perfect stopover for the many adventurers using the trail.

The connection between Cohuna and Koondrook, either by the Gunbower Creek, Murray River or forest trails, is sure to be popular. Council is also working with businesses keen to offer a range of nature-based activities such as kayaking, bushwalking and cycling with the ability to camp overnight.



RETAIL AND HOSPITALITY

- A power upgrade will allow further development within the Cohuna Holiday Waterfront Park.
- The Exchange Hotel in Kerang is undergoing renovations aimed at creating a new dining and function venue.
- The railway Goods Shed in Koondrook is looking great after a significant rebuild (above). Overlooking the Murray River, it is sure to be a popular attraction.

INDUSTRIAL

- The tender for the 14-lot subdivision of Tate Drive Kerang was recently awarded. This will be the final subdivision at this site and has already gained significant interest, with four lots on hold for new business developments.
- Several lots in Keely Estate, Cohuna are in the process of sale. Council will be looking at further subdivision of land in the future.
- A greenfield site is being considered for a new industrial estate in Koondrook with several proponents interested in land.
- Other proposals include a truck stop and food facility, several car wash projects, an engineering business and automotive business.

COUNCIL INFORMATION

YOUR COUNCILLORS AVOCA WARD



Cr Charlie Gillingham
(Mayor)
0457 719 874
charlie.gillingham@gannawarravic.gov.au

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 **March 2021 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 17 March at 6.30pm. The **April 2021 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 21 April 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.

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