

GANNAWARRA *CONNECT*



March - April 2022

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FROM THE MAYOR

It is great to see the Gannawarra returning to some sense of normality as we continue to navigate our way out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A major step in this united journey will occur in the coming weeks, with community groups and organisations preparing for major events and Easter celebrations - which traditionally bring large crowds to the area.

I encourage you all to consider attending any of the events on offer, as these celebrations have flow-on effects to the community groups hosting these festivities and our local economy.

Regards,

Mayor Charlie Gillingham



HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE DRAFT AQUATIC STRATEGY

Residents are encouraged to help shape the future of aquatic services within the Gannawarra by taking part in Council's *Draft Aquatic Strategy* community engagement process planned to commence from late March 2022.

The engagement process will focus on the future of aquatic services at Cohuna and Kerang, as well as community-managed swimming pools at Koondrook, Leitchville and Quambatook.

Council will seek feedback via in-person meetings and an online survey, with details how you can take part to be announced in the coming weeks.

For more information regarding the *Draft Aquatic Strategy* community engagement process, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/aquatic



COMMUNITY NEWS

WHAT'S ON

27 MARCH

Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market

2 APRIL

Murrabit Country Market

10 APRIL

Dress Up Box by The Kazoos, Kerang

15-18 APRIL

2022 Kerang Lawn Tennis Club Easter Carnival

16 APRIL

Murrabit Country Market - Easter Saturday 2022

17 APRIL

Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market - Easter Sunday

24 APRIL

Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market

25 APRIL

ANZAC Day commemorations, shire-wide

7 MAY

Murrabit Country Market

14 MAY

Jazz High Tea, Lake Charm

22 MAY

Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market

EVERY SATURDAY

Kerang and Cohuna parkruns

Event details can be found at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events

To add your event to Council's calendar of events, visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events

KERANG EXERCISE POOL OPEN DAILY

Residents wanting to keep active during the cooler months can do so by visiting the Kerang Exercise Pool.

Located in Kerang's Patchell Plaza, this small but welcoming facility is heated to between 30 - 34 degrees.

Whether you are a parent with a young child, recovering from an injury, have a disability or even if you just want to keep active; the Kerang Exercise Pool is for you!

The Kerang Exercise Pool is open 7am - 2pm Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and 11am - 2pm Tuesdays and Thursdays.

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



IMMUNISATION SESSIONS

APRIL 2022

Wednesday, 6 April
Kerang
(10.30am – 12 noon)

Wednesday, 20 April
Cohuna
(10.30am – 12 noon)
Kerang
(4pm – 5.30pm)

MAY 2022

Wednesday, 4 May
Kerang
(10.30am – 12 noon)

Wednesday, 18 May
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.



COMMUNITY NEWS

CREATIVE GANNAWARRA 2022 PROGRAM BEGINS

The 2022 Creative Gannawarra performance program will begin in April and run through to the end of 2022.

The program begins on Sunday, 10 April with the The Kazoos' children's show *Dress Up Box*, with Quiet Riot bringing *Jazz High Tea* to the Gannawarra on Saturday, 14 May.

For more information and how to purchase tickets, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/CreativeGannawarra



DRESS UP BOX BY THE KAZOOS

11am Sunday, 10 April

Kerang Memorial Hall

Set around a giant dress up box, children will be invited to join The Kazoos on stage to select items out of the box. What they choose directs where the show goes next! A Kazoo workshop will follow the show.



JAZZ HIGH TEA BY QUIET RIOT

4pm Saturday, 14 May

Lake Charm Hall

Jazz High Tea is a wonderful excuse to indulge in some freshly brewed tea and a selection of delicious treats, all accompanied by Australia's finest jazz performers.

2022 COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY

Thank you to all residents who have participated in the 2022 Community Satisfaction Survey.

Conducted by Independent market research agency National Field Services, this important process gauges whether Council is meeting the community's expectations in various categories, including overall performance, service delivery and response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Responses continue to be sourced, with 400 telephone interviews with residents aged 18 years and over to be conducted up to the end of March.

All responses received will be confidential, with only the overall summary results shared with Council and used to identify areas where Council can improve its performance.

Anyone who has any queries about the Community Satisfaction Survey is encouraged to contact Council on (03) 5450 9333.

BE A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER THIS AUTUMN

Residents are encouraged to be responsible pet owners during the cooler months of the year by completing a few simple steps:

- Ensuring your dogs do not roam outside the owners' premises.
- Checking fences and gates to ensure your dogs cannot escape.
- Attaching a registration tag to your dog or cat's collar at all times when your dog or cat is outside of your premises with you.

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



PROJECTS *UPDATE*

GANNAWARRA SHIRE CHILDREN'S CENTRE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH IMPROVEMENTS

Families using Council's Maternal and Child Health services at the Gannawarra Shire Children's Centre will soon benefit from extra consultation facilities, developed via the expansion of the Gannawarra Shire Children's Centre.

These works, funded through the Victorian State Government's Building Blocks Program and the Victorian School's Building Authority, have also included an additional room catering for 3-year-old kindergarten, installation of a commercial kitchen and improvements to several of the Centre's Long Day Care rooms.



MURRABIT STORMWATER PROJECT CONTINUES

Work to complete the first four stages of the Murrabit Stormwater Project was recently completed.

Thanks to additional funding from the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, stages 5 and 6 of this project will proceed. These works will benefit residents living in Church, Laursen and Whiter streets, as well as the Murrabit Market site.

These additional works will also include the planting of trees throughout Murrabit, beautifying the town's streets and providing shaded areas for people walking around these spaces.

COHUNA WATERFRONT PROJECT - STAGE 2 NEARING COMPLETION

Stage 2 of the Cohuna Waterfront Project is nearing completion, with work to construct a deck pontoon on the banks of Gunbower Creek at Garden Park underway.

Once completed, this new space will enable visitors to the popular park to socialise creekside.

This area also ties in with the recent construction of a new seated area at the corner of King George and Sampson streets (pictured), as well as the development of new dining spaces either side of the King George Street pedestrian crossing.

Stage 2 of the Cohuna Waterfront Development is part of the \$3.4 million Cohuna CBD and Waterfront Connections Project and is supported by the State Government's \$2.7 billion Building Works package.



PROJECTS UPDATE

KERANG ALL ABILITIES ADVENTURE PLAY SPACE CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES

Construction of the Kerang All Abilities Play Space, to be located adjacent to the fire brigade training track and soundshell located within Atkinson Park, will ramp up during April and May.

Work to remove the pump station from the play space site occurred in January, with visitors to Atkinson Park to soon see the installation of the space's main features. These include in-ground trampolines, a log scramble area, water play areas and a fully accessible sway fun swing.

Meanwhile, work to construct the region's first Changing Places facility, which is to feature in an expanded public toilet facility next to the Atkinson Park car park, will soon begin. 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.

This project, supported by a \$1 million contribution from the State Government's Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program, builds on all abilities play space developments completed at Koondrook and Cohuna.

To see a detailed version of the project's plans, please click on the projects tab at www.gsc.vic.gov.au



MURRABIT NETBALL CHANGE ROOMS

Netballers and officials will benefit from the redevelopment of the Murrabit Netball Club's change rooms, completed in time for the 2022 Golden Rivers Football Netball League season.

Supported by a \$219,000 contribution from the State Government's Female Friendly Facilities program, the redeveloped facilities incorporate a new netball change room, umpires rooms, an accessible bathroom, first aid room and the renovation of the previously used netball change rooms.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FREE-RANGE POULTRY PROJECT APPROVED

Council continues to facilitate the development of intensive animal industries that create jobs and service without the need for large volumes of irrigation water.

An example of this is the recent approval of a planning permit for a 16-shed free-range poultry project to be located between Cohuna and Kerang - a first for the Gannawarra. Each shed is 3,024 square metres in size and can house up to 50,000 birds.

It has been a great team effort by Council staff in facilitating this project, which has involved liaising with the developers and working with referral authorities and neighbours to ensure all concerns were considered in the planning process.

FACILITATING LOCAL RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS

With the residential market so tight, Council is facilitating residential projects across the Gannawarra. This facilitation role involves sourcing property developers and matching them up with interested landowners to provide new residential opportunities.

To support the future residential market, Council is developing a Future Growth Strategy that will provide much of the strategic justification to support rezoning of land - a detailed process that requires a range of factors such as environmental, infrastructure services, local growth and employment considerations.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT GROWTH CONTINUES

The Gannawarra's industrial sector continues to see incredible growth thanks to a range of business expansions and new business proposals. New developments in Kerang include a significant expansion of KERFAB (pictured), Faucet Strommen's new factory and manufacturing equipment, the development of Equipco's new factory and storage facility, a new business premises for Carmichael 4WD, and Kerang Rural Supplies have developed a new facility along Bendigo Road. A 13-lot subdivision in Tate Drive has recently been completed with serious demand from the business sector. New developments include a major recycling business, proposed timber sales, steel and timber manufacturing, and facilities for local trades and manufacturing.



In Gibbins Drive, Cohuna, three blocks have recently sold for a large-scale car and truck wash facility and boat and caravan storage facility. Plans for future expansion have been developed and Council is seeking funding to undertake the civil construction works.

The development of new industrial land in Koondrook is also a priority with land identified along Grigg Road currently being considered for acquisition. Industrial land in Koondrook has been identified by the community as a priority for future business growth in the town.

GOSCHEN PROJECT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

VHM Limited's Community and Stakeholder Engagement Advisor, Vesna Rendulic (pictured) is re-establishing engagement with the community about the Goschen Rare Earth and Mineral Sands Project.

Vesna will be a visible presence in the community, with plans to organise pop-up information stalls at local markets and community events - including the Gannawarra Air Muster event on 26-27 March. Vesna will also be organising drop-in information sessions across Gannawarra.



In the meantime, if you want to make contact about the project, you can call Vesna on 0429 462 524 or email community@vhmltd.com.au

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



CMCA SOLOS NETWORK RALLY

Cohuna hosted more than 220 Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia Solos Network members during a 10-day rally during late February and early March - the second time the town has hosted this event in four years.

Participants enjoyed many activities during their stay, including Wetlander cruises; tours to Elm Tree Nursery, Shepo's Whey Sculpture Park and Arbuthnot Sawmills; and a ladies lunch at the Leitchville Hotel. Local community and sporting groups also hosted functions, including a Nondies Cohuna Cricket Club-organised duck race and a Cohuna Kangas Football Netball Club-run movie night.

During the Rally the organising committee tracked spending in the community and although the final total is not tallied yet, it is looking to top \$80,000.

TOURISM DATA PROMOSING

Council's tourism website - thegannawarra.com.au - continues to be a popular place to learn more about our attractions.

Data collected during January and February 2022 showed the site recorded a 38 per cent increase in visits compared to the last two months of 2021.

It's easy to discover more about tourism in the Gannawarra by scanning the QR Code within this story.



Meanwhile, Murray Regional Tourism visitor statistic data revealed the number of people who stayed overnight in the region between October 2020 and September 2021 increased by more than 100,000 people compared to the previous 12 months.



KERANG LAKES OUR WATERSPORTS CAPITAL

It has been a busy time for Lake Charm and Kangaroo Lake, with both waterways hosting numerous watersports activities during March and April.

The Victorian Outboard Club's Archer Eade Memorial meet on 19 March, attracting around 80 entries in various classes - some reaching speeds over 120 miles per hour. The meet also doubles as a Red Nose Australia fundraiser, with last year's event raising more than \$20,000.

Jettin Vic held a jet ski racing event on 5-6 March at Kangaroo Lake (above), attracting more than 60 entries that reach speeds in excess of 110 kilometres per hour. A second meet is planned for 9-10 April at Kangaroo Lake, with residents encouraged to watch proceedings along the foreshore.

Meanwhile, Ski Racing Victoria continues to hold regular events each season in the Gannawarra, with their point Score 5 event to occur at Lake Charm on 2-3 April. Many of the ski race teams will use this Lake Charm event as a lead up to the Southern 80. Economic modelling of a ski racing events shows they generate around \$35,000 to the local economy.

The Australian Jet Sports Boating Association has also enquired about holding their three-day National Championships at Kangaroo Lake in April.

COUNCIL INFORMATION

YOUR COUNCILLORS AVOCA WARD



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YARRAN WARD



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COUNCIL MEETING DETAILS

The **April 2022 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 20 April at 6.30pm. The **May 2021 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 18 May at 6.30pm.

Meetings are livestreamed via Council's website 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 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

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ONLINE

Lodge a request at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/request

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook – www.facebook.com/gannawarra

Twitter – www.twitter.com/GannawarraShire