

# GANNAWARRA *CONNECT*



March-April 2024

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## FROM THE MAYOR

Council is committed to improving our urban stormwater network following the Christmas/January flash flooding.

Staff spent mid-January through to early February identifying more than 40 projects that will improve urban stormwater networks at Cohuna, Kerang, Koondrook, Murrabit and Quambatook.

Measures to prepare our towns for future events, including purchasing portable pumps, have occurred, whilst the cleaning of stormwater drains continues to be a priority.

Major stormwater improvements need to be fully costed and added to future Council budgets, with State and Federal government funding required for most of these works.

Regards,  
**Mayor Ross Stanton**



## ANIMAL REGISTRATION RENEWALS DUE

Residents who have animals registered with Gannawarra Shire Council are reminded that registration payments are due Wednesday, 10 April.

As outlined in the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, all dogs and cats over three months of age must be registered with their local Council and microchipped.

Registration fees cover Council's pound expenses and support key domestic animal-related services, including reuniting lost cats and dogs that are registered and microchipped with their loved ones.

Reduced registration fees are applicable for pets aged over 10 years; dogs kept for working stock; animals that are registered with an Applicable Organisation; and animals that are desexed.

Payment can be made in person at Council's Customer Service Centres, by cheque or money order mailed to Council, over the phone by phoning (03) 5450 9333 or online via BPAY. A separate BPAY payment is required per animal.

For more information regarding pets and animals, please visit [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/pets\\_and\\_animals](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/pets_and_animals)



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## WHAT'S ON

22 MARCH

HALT on Tour in Gannawarra

23 MARCH

Kerang Community Market

24 MARCH

Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market

29-31 MARCH

Rotary Club of Kerang Easter Art Show

30-31 MARCH

Kerang Quilters Inc. Quilt Show - Colours of Kerang

30 MARCH

Murrabit Country Market - Easter Saturday

30 MARCH

Quambatook Tractor Pull

30 MARCH

cluBarham Kerang Cup

31 MARCH

Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market - Easter Sunday

6 APRIL

Murrabit Country Market

13-14 APRIL

Kerang Show and Shine and Harley Evo Fest

25 APRIL

ANZAC Day commemorations, shirewide

27 APRIL

Kerang Community Market

28 APRIL

Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market

4 MAY

Murrabit Country Market

Event details can be found at [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events)

## KEEP ACTIVE AT THE KERANG EXERCISE POOL

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



## IMMUNISATION SESSIONS BY APPOINTMENT

### APRIL 2024

**Wednesday, 3 April**  
Kerang  
(10.30am – 12 noon)

**Wednesday, 17 April**  
Cohuna  
(10.30am – 12 noon)  
Kerang  
(4pm – 5.30pm)

### MAY 2024

**Wednesday, 1 May**  
Kerang  
(10.30am - 12 noon)

**Wednesday, 15 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.**

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 NEWS



## DETOX YOUR HOME COMING TO KERANG

Residents needing to dispose of household chemicals will be able to do so for free this April.

Sustainability Victoria is bringing its free Detox Your Home service to the Kerang Transfer Station on Saturday, 13 April from 11am-2pm.

Toxic household chemicals, such as cleaning products, pool chemicals and pesticides, will be accepted for disposal, ensuring these items do not end up in landfill.

There is no limit on the volume of materials you drop-off, however the maximum acceptable weight or size of any single container is 20 kilograms or 20 litres.

To assist with organising this event, residents looking to drop off items are encouraged to register by visiting the Detox Your Home page at [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/waste](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/waste). This page also features a list of items that can be accepted for disposal.



## COMMUNITY GRANTS

Applications will soon open for Council's 2024 Community Grants Program.

For more information, visit [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/grants](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/grants) or phone Council's Grants team on (03) 5450 9333.

## LET US KNOW WHEN ROADS, BUILDINGS NEED FIXING

Did you know Council is responsible for maintaining close to 2,500 kilometres of roads, 71 bridges and around 74 kilometres of footpaths within the municipality?

Council is also responsible for looking after many buildings and places residents and visitors rely on, including recreation reserves, playgrounds, halls, public toilets and swimming pools.

If you notice a road that needs repairing, a footpath that has a trip hazard or any repairs that need to occur to any Council-managed building, you can let us know anywhere, anytime in the following ways:

- By visiting [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/request](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/request) at any time;
- By phoning (03) 5450 9333 during business hours;
- Visiting Council's Customer Service Centres at Cohuna (25-25 King Edward Street) and Kerang (Patchell Plaza, 47 Victoria Street) during business hours;
- By visiting [www.gsc.vic.gov.au](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au) and chatting live with a staff member during business hours; and
- Emailing [council@gsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@gsc.vic.gov.au) at any time.

Any issues that may cause harm or serious damage should be reported to Triple Zero (000) immediately.

Please note that concerns regarding local highways or main roads identified with green signage with a gold B### or C2## prefix should be reported to Regional Roads Victoria on 133 778. An example of this is pictured.



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## RECYCLE YOUR SILAGE WRAP LOCALLY

Local farmers can dispose of their silage wrap for free at Council's Cohuna Transfer Station.

To assist with the recycling of this product, silage wrap needs to be shaken and as clean as possible, and will be accepted in Bulka bags, wool bags or Plasback bags without net wrap or twine.

The Cohuna Transfer Station is located at 150 Chuggs Road, Cohuna and is open 9am-11am Fridays and 1pm-4pm Sundays.

## NATIONAL AWARDS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Various Gannawarra Shire Council initiatives are in the running to be recognised as part of the 2024 National Awards for Local Government.

Awarded by a public voting system, these awards recognise innovative local government initiatives that can be replicated across the country.

For more information on nominees and to vote, visit [www.infrastructure.gov.au/territories-regions-cities/local-government/national-awards-local-government](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/territories-regions-cities/local-government/national-awards-local-government)

Voting closes on Friday, 26 April, with award winners to be announced in June.

## KERANG CBD REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Improvements are continuing throughout the Kerang central business district as work associated with the Kerang CBD Redevelopment increases.

New seating areas have been created at the intersection of Victoria and Wellington streets outside the Kerang Sports and Entertainment Venue (below) and Kerang SportsPower.

Work will soon occur on the southern half of this intersection and around the Karlie McDonald Memorial Clock Tower.

The Kerang CBD Redevelopment also includes the beautification of the central business district areas of Fitzroy and Wellington streets, with new paving to be laid and street furniture installed.

For more information regarding the Kerang CBD Redevelopment, please visit [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/KerangCBD](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/KerangCBD)

The Kerang CBD Redevelopment is fully funded by the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.



## HAVE YOUR SAY ON COUNCIL'S DRAFT BUDGET

Council will soon be seeking your feedback regarding its 2024/25 Draft Budget.

One of Council's important documents, the Draft Budget will outline how income from municipal rates, fees and charges, and government grants will be used to support key services residents rely on, maintain key Council assets and deliver major capital projects.

For more information regarding how you will be able to have your say, look out for future editions of *Gannawarra News*, follow Council's Facebook page or visit Council's website.



# FLOOD RECOVERY

## EASTER, APRIL HOLIDAY EVENTS BENEFIT FROM FLOOD SUPPORT FUNDING

Events, programs and activities planned for the Easter long weekend and April holiday period will benefit from funding made possible thanks to the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee.

As part of the Gannawarra's recovery from the 2022 floods and 2023/24 storm and flash flooding events, eligible groups were able to apply for up to \$5,000 to support new and existing events.

Details regarding events and programs that will benefit from this funding can be found online at [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events)

This round of funding was supported by the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments under the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) as part of the Gannawarra Community Flood Recovery Program.

## HALT ON TOUR IN GANNAWARRA TICKETS FILLING FAST

Men from throughout the Gannawarra are invited to attend the HALT On Tour event, occurring at Tree Tops Scout Camp, located between Cohuna and Koondrook, on Friday, 22 March from 6.15pm.

This free event will feature various attractions, including:

- OMG BBQ meat masterclass, where you can learn how to slow cook and smoke a brisket, then try your creation.
- Free haircuts at the pop-up Bush Barber stand.
- A presentation from Hope Assistance Local Tradies (HALT) founder, Jeremy Forbes, who will share his powerful tips for men looking out for each other.

**FREE EVENT**

**A BBQ MASTERCLASS FOR GANNAWARRA MEN!**

## HALT ON TOUR IN GANNAWARRA

**When:** Friday 22nd March at 6.15pm - 8.30pm

**Where:** Tree Tops Gunbower Creek

**What:**

- 'OMG BBQ' meat masterclass. Learn how to slow cook and smoke a brisket, then it's feasting time for all! Non-alcoholic drinks provided.
- Hear from Jeremy Forbes, a tradie with 20 years' experience in the building industry. Jeremy shares his powerful tips for men looking out for each other and why he established the HALT service for men.
- FREE haircuts at the pop-up Bush Barber stand

**WIN PRIZES**

INCLUDING A 2 LITRE YETI INSULATED DRINKER, BBQ GOODS & CAMP CHAIRS.

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL:** Book using the QR code

All in attendance will be in the running to win numerous prizes, including a two-litre Yeti insulated drinker, barbecue goods and camp chairs.

For more information and to book your spot, visit [www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1186068](http://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1186068)

This event is supported by Northern District Community Health, Murray Primary Health Network, Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal, and the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments under the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) as part of the Gannawarra Flood Recovery Program.

## PRIMARY PRODUCER FLOOD RECOVERY GRANTS

Residents who successfully applied for a Primary Producer Flood Recovery grant for the 2022 floods are reminded that the final claim date is 31 May 2024.

Administered by Rural Finance on behalf of the Victorian and Commonwealth governments, this date applies for the following grants programs:

- Primary Producer Flood Recovery Grant.
- Rural Landholder Grant.
- Transport Support Program.

Grant recipients are encouraged to make their reimbursement claims as soon as possible.

For more information visit the Rural Finance website or call 1800 260 425.

If you applied to Rural Finance for financial support following the 2022 floods and have a question, please email [admin@ruralfinance.com.au](mailto:admin@ruralfinance.com.au)

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## LOOKING AFTER OUR MAIN ECONOMIC DRIVER

**Agriculture** is one of the main drivers of the local economy. Council's economic development team are working on bringing in more projects. With water buy backs proposed we need to have back up investment and jobs to maintain production and diversify the local economy.

- A large free range egg farm is in the planning permit phase for as site between Kerang and Cohuna. This \$30 million investment will create 25 jobs and support the local feed milling and grain businesses.
- The medicinal cannabis farm at Murrabit is a great example of diversity in agriculture. With around 70 jobs and significant local investment, these projects have less reliance on water and add value to our smaller communities.
- Staff are always on the lookout for new agricultural businesses, especially with regulations now changing around caged systems and consumer preference of free-range products.
- Beef feed lotting is proposed in the Leitchville area and again this business will support the supply chain of feed milling, transport, farm supplies and jobs.

## MORE INFORMATION?

If you would like more information about any of these projects, please contact Council's Economic Development team on (03) 5450 9333.

## WORK CONTINUES TO SECURE INDUSTRIAL LAND

**Industrial land** is important to encourage new investment and jobs and work is well underway on three locations in Kerang, Cohuna and Koondrook.



- Land has recently been purchased in Kerang to expand the current Tate Drive Industrial estate. The new land will be enough for another 15-plus years, depending on the level of growth. Enquiries are good, with several external businesses looking at Kerang.
- A site has been identified in Koondrook, with this project likely to be a key part of the timber industry transition program. Initial transition funding has been secured and will look at an overall plan for the township linked to future economic growth.
- The Cohuna Industrial Estate is ready to expand, with new plans now subject to infrastructure funding to enable the next stage of works to commence. There should be some building action soon with several projects close to commencing, including a car and truck wash facility, works depot and storage.

## MINERAL SANDS MINING - SOURCING ITEMS CRITICAL TO OUR MODERN WORLD

**Mineral sands mining** is critical to keep the modern world moving with a range of products such as mobile phones, televisions, microwave ovens, paints and pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and jet engines all reliant on components produced from mineral sands.

- The VHM mineral sands mine is proposed to be constructed on private land northeast of Lalbert. The mine site itself is a footprint of around 600 hectares. Mining will only be undertaken with landowner agreements.
- Mining is highly regulated, with the Environmental Effects Statement detailing dust mitigation, traffic management, surface and ground water, monitoring and managing low levels of natural radiation in the ground and ensuring the site is remediated when mining finishes. The Lamattina carrot farm at Wemen was previously a mineral sand mine and now its one of the most productive horticultural farms in the region.
- The mine has a lifespan of around 25 years will employ 250 staff in the construction phase and 400 staff in the operational phase.

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## PREPARING FOR THE GANNAWARRA'S POPULATION GROWTH

Residential housing and workforce accommodation are critical for the ongoing growth of the Gannawarra Shire. While most small regional Councils are suffering population decline, Gannawarra Shire is growing, and the high level of major projects planned will ensure continued population growth. This growth is needed to support community groups, schools, retail businesses and bring vibrancy back to our local towns.

Various local initiatives are underway, with Council starting to see some positive outcomes.

These projects include:

- A 350-lot subdivision proposed by WelCo on the southern boundary of Cohuna is close to commencing a rezoning application. This project will cater for a wide range of residential options and capitalise on the opportunities to expand Cohuna.
- Several workforce accommodation projects are proposed for Kerang to cater for the influx of construction workers and permanent employees in energy, mining and agriculture.
- Council staff are working with external developers on several sites across the municipality in an effort to get more residential land onto the market.

## POWERING THE GANNAWARRA AND NATION FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

**Energy** has been in the spotlight for several years now with proposals for wind, solar and battery, along with the VNI West transmission line. Council staff are involved in the process and assisting landowners with information.

- The VNI West project is an interconnector transmission line linking Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia, allowing a wide range of generation options to provide network security.
- This project has been planned for many years, and was previously known as KerangLink. This project is now undergoing landowner consultation to finalise the preferred route.
- Farming, including irrigation, can continue underneath the final route.
- Landowners will be compensated for the length of line, for the area of easement and for any on-farm impediments to production, including land values.
- Undergrounding high voltage lines is extremely costly, has more environmental impacts, has more restrictions on farming and uses far more land.
- There are around 120 farmers directly involved in energy projects including wind, solar and battery. Many farmers recognise that energy and agriculture can coexist allowing farming to continue and providing new revenue streams for landowners.
- The current energy projects proposed for the Gannawarra Shire will take up only 0.63 per cent of the municipality's total land. This small area will provide around \$25 million annually to local farmers, as well as create more than 60 full-time jobs and around 1,200 construction jobs.





# COUNCIL INFORMATION

## YOUR COUNCILLORS AVOCA WARD



**Cr Charlie Gillingham**  
(Deputy Mayor)  
0457 719 874  
[charlie.gillingham@gsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:charlie.gillingham@gsc.vic.gov.au)



## MURRAY WARD



**Cr Ross Stanton**  
(Mayor)  
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**  
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**Cr Jane Ogden**  
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## YARRAN WARD



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

## COUNCIL MEETING DETAILS

The **April 2024 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 17 April at the Cohuna Community Meeting Room, starting at 6pm.

The **May 2024 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 15 May at the Kerang Senior Citizens Centre, located at 169 Boundary Street, Kerang, starting at 6pm.

All Council Meetings are recorded, 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).

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 if you 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)  
**X (Twitter)** – [www.twitter.com/GannawarraShire](http://www.twitter.com/GannawarraShire)