

GANNAWARRA *CONNECT*



GANNAWARRA
Shire Council

May-June 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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

FROM THE MAYOR

Council continues to work with the community through the recovery process from the October-December 2022 floods.

Our Community Flood Recovery Committee is providing insight into the issues residents are facing post-floods, with feedback provided assisting with Council's advocacy efforts.

The recovery journey is different for each person, but please remember help is available. Information regarding what resources are available can be found at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods or by contacting Council's flood recovery team.

Work is also underway to repair more than 1,000 kilometres of roads damaged, and we are committed to returning our road network to a pre-flood standard.

Regards,

Mayor Charlie Gillingham



2023/2024 PROPOSED BUDGET - HAVE YOUR SAY

Residents are encouraged to have their say on Council's 2023/2024 Proposed Council Budget, with feedback to be sought via a community engagement process currently underway.

One of Council's major documents, the Proposed Budget 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.

For more information regarding the 2023/2024 Proposed Council Budget and how to have your say, please follow Council on Facebook, read our fortnightly newsletter, *Gannawarra News*, or visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/budget



COMMUNITY NEWS

WHAT'S ON

6 MAY

Murrabit Country Market

21 MAY

Nancy Bates Trio, Murrabit

27 MAY

Kerang Community Market

28 MAY

Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market

3 JUNE

Murrabit Country Market

24 JUNE

Kerang Community Market

25 JUNE

Cohuna Farmers & Makers 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

To add your event to Council's

calendar of events, visit

www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events

NOTE: Event details were

correct at time of publishing

NANCY BATES TRIO COMING TO MURRABIT

Celebrations marking National Reconciliation Week and Mothers' Day will occur at the Murrabit Hall on Sunday, 21 May, thanks to a Creative Gannawarra-supported performance from the Nancy Bates Trio.

A gifted storyteller and humanitarian, Barkindji singer-songwriter, Nancy Bates undertook her musical apprenticeship under Archie Roach whom she performed with between 2014-2017.

Also joining Nancy for this special performance is Lainie Jamieson and Flik Freeman.

Tickets are \$25 per adult and \$60 for families (two adults and two children). To book your tickets, visit www.trybooking.com/CHNWG

For more information, including performance times, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events, follow Creative Gannawarra on Facebook, or contact Council on (03) 5450 9333.

NANCY BATES TRIO

Lainie Jamieson

Flik Freeman



IMMUNISATION SESSIONS BY APPOINTMENT

MAY 2023

Wednesday, 3 May

Kerang
(10.30am – 12 noon)

Wednesday, 17 May

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

JUNE 2023

Wednesday, 7 June

Kerang
(10.30am - 12 noon)

Wednesday, 21 June

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

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

KERANG CBD REDEVELOPMENT - STAGES 3 AND 4 UPDATE

Improvements to the central business district of Victoria Street, Kerang will soon begin.

CJ & BT McLoughlan Pty Ltd will oversee the \$2.31 million Kerang CBD Redevelopment - Stage 3, fully funded by Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.

The project includes improving paved surfaces along Victoria Street to tie this area in with improvements along Scoresby Street; installing new street furniture, trees and dining areas; and retaining rose bushes around the Karlie McDonald Memorial Clock at the intersection of Wellington and Victoria streets.

Kerbing along the eastern section of Victoria Street between Scoresby Street and Victoria Square will also be remodelled, making it easier for shoppers to access businesses along this section of road.

Residents and visitors are advised that access to footpaths and parking spaces will be impacted by these works, with Council aiming for minimal disruptions.

Work is also occurring to finalise the designs of the CBD Redevelopment - Stage 4, which focuses on Wellington Street between Albert and Nolan streets and Fitzroy Street between Scoresby and Wellington streets, with feedback provided during a recent community engagement period to be incorporated.

For more information regarding the Kerang CBD Redevelopment, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/KerangCBD



RECYCLE YOUR HOUSEHOLD GLASS BOTTLES AT COUNCIL'S FACILITIES

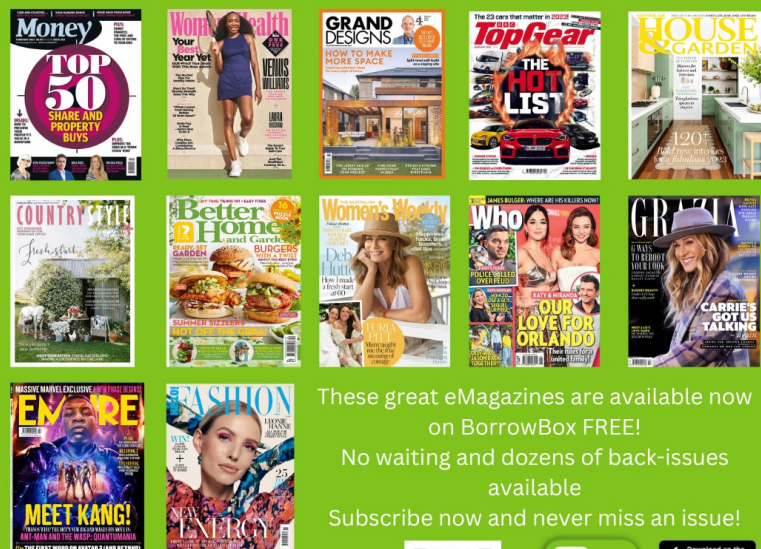
Residents are encouraged to recycle their household glass bottles at any of Council's transfer stations at Cohuna, Kerang, Lalbert and Quambatook, as well as at Council's depot in Koondrook, located on View Street.



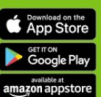
All glass taken to these locations for recycling will be turned into new products, such as road and construction material.

For more information regarding Council's waste services, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/waste

DISCOVER NOW!



These great eMagazines are available now on BorrowBox FREE!
No waiting and dozens of back-issues available
Subscribe now and never miss an issue!



COMMUNITY NEWS

KEEPING CONNECTED WITH COUNCIL

Did you know you can sign up to receive Council-related information delivered to your inbox?

To sign up for Council news, community information or Creative Gannawarra opportunities, please use the links provided below:

Council news, including media releases: Visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/news and click on the "Sign up for the latest news by email" link.

Community information, including programs and grant opportunities: Visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/communitydirectory and click on the "Community updates" link.

Creative Gannawarra information, including arts programs, workshops and funding opportunities: Visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/CreativeGannawarra and click on the "Creative Gannawarra Newsletter" link.

RECYCLE YOUR AGRICULTURAL AND VETERINARY CHEMICAL BOTTLES

Did you know Gannawarra Shire Council is a proud supporter of the drumMUSTER program, which enables residents to recycle their used farm chemical containers at any of Council's transfer stations for free?

Agsafe's drumMUSTER program has recycled more than 40 million containers nationally since 1999, saving more than 44,545 tonnes of drums from ending up in landfill.

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.

For details regarding Council's transfer station locations and opening hours, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/waste

ANIMAL REGISTRATION RENEWALS

Dog and cat owners are reminded that animal registration renewals are due for payment by 5pm Monday, 8 May.



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.

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.



Did you know that membership with us is FREE and you will have access to...

- New release Fiction and Non-Fiction titles for adults, teens & children
- eBooks, eAudio books, eMagazines, comics, TV, music and movie streaming
- DVDs for all age groups and audio books on CD & MP3
- Magazines & local newspapers
- Local History and in-library access to ancestry.com
- Regular children's programs including Story Time and School Holiday activities, along with access to online stories read by popular Australian storytellers with Story Box Library
- Books on Wheels home delivery for those unable to physically come to our branches due to illness or disability
- Book Chat, author talks, events and exhibitions
- IT and academic help with access to the Computer School and Britannica online
- Wi-Fi and public computer access & scanning
- Printing & photocopying (charges apply)

Scan the QR code to become an online member and have instant access to our eLibrary, or drop in to one of our branches at Kerang, Cohuna, Leitchville & Quambatook



The promotional graphics include: Ancestry Library Edition logo and QR code; The Computer School Net logo and a grid of movie covers; Britannica Library logo; and Hoopla logo with a smartphone displaying the app interface.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

COUNCIL SIGNS MoU WITH VHM LIMITED

Council has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with VHM Limited.

Council Chief Executive Officer, Geoff Rollinson (left) joined VHM Limited Managing Director, Graham Howard to sign the MoU in Kerang in late March.

The MoU allows both parties to share a common vision for the Goschen Mineral Sands Project to maximise potential benefits to the Gannawarra region and VHM shareholders.

The MoU focuses on maximising local social and economic opportunities associated with the project, while minimising impacts on the physical environment. Furthermore, it highlights areas for advocacy around transport infrastructure, housing and community support and outlines the framework of the working relationship between both parties.



KAYAK AND CANOE GUIDE

Residents and visitors wanting to explore the Gannawarra by water will benefit from the development of *the Gannawarra Kayak and Canoe guide*.

Developed by Council's Tourism team, this brochure features popular kayak and canoe locations along Gunbower Creek, as well as the Avoca, Loddon and Murray rivers

You can pick up a copy of this popular brochure from Council's Customer Service Centres at Cohuna and Kerang; the Gateway to Gannawarra Visitor Centre at Cohuna; Gannawarra Library Service branches at Cohuna, Kerang and Leitchville; and numerous tourism and business facilities located throughout the Gannawarra.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE ADVOCACY

As part of its advocacy efforts to improve digital connectivity within the Gannawarra, Council has submitted three priority locations for Telstra to consider installing new infrastructure in as part of the Federal Government's Regional Connectivity Program - Benjeroop, Koroop and Macorna North/Tragowel.

These three priority areas have been identified through connection mapping undertaken by Telstra which show poor connectivity in each location.

Improvements to connectivity in each of these areas would have significant benefits for the residents, agriculture, transport links and new developments in each of these communities.

VHM Limited will also be undertaking telecommunications improvements around Lalbert. With its mineral sands processing facility to employ around 400 staff, access to high-speed internet and mobile phone coverage will be important aspects of the business. Any improvements in telecommunications will also be shared with the local community.

FLOOD RECOVERY

PARLIAMENTARY FLOOD INQUIRY SUBMISSIONS

Residents have until 5pm Monday, 8 May to provide a submission to the Victorian Parliamentary Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee's Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event.

The inquiry will look into the flood event as a whole across the State, and the areas affected, including the Avoca, Loddon and Murray catchments.

Various factors, such as what caused or contributed to the flood event, emergency services resourcing, government policy, flood mitigation strategies, and the Victoria planning framework, will also be reviewed.

The committee will also hold public meetings in flood-affected regions.

All submissions received will assist with the development of a report that will be presented to the government next year.

For more information, including how you can complete a submission, please click on the Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event in Victoria heading at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods

Council is also developing a submission for the inquiry; compiled using information collected throughout the response to the flood event and the Community Flood Recovery Committee.



BLAZE AID HELPING WITH CLEAN-UP EFFORTS

BlazeAid's dedicated volunteers are continuing to assist residents with fencing restoration and clean up from the October-December 2022 floods.

The volunteers, some of whom have been in the Gannawarra since January, moved from their initial base at Alexandra Park, Kerang to the Murrabit Recreation Reserve in March. This has enabled greater assistance for Benjeroop and Murrabit West residents.

The volunteers have also supported the local community during their time in the Gannawarra, including purchasing items from Murrabit Group School's produce stall (above).

If you need assistance with fencing and property clean up following the October-December 2022 floods, please contact Kerang/Murrabit BlazeAid by clicking on the "Need a Helping Hand" heading at www.blazeaid.com.au

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE GRANTS PROGRAM TO RETURN

Gannawarra Shire-based community groups or groups that are auspiced by an incorporated not-for-profit group will benefit from the return of the Gannawarra Community Resilience Grants Program.

The program, which benefited community-led events, programs and activities following the 2018 drought and the COVID-19 pandemic, will assist initiatives that support communities impacted by the October-December 2022 floods.

Applications will soon open, with details to be promoted via *Gannawarra News* and Council's website.

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

FLOOD RECOVERY

Help the community
recover from the
floods



**GANNAWARRA
GIVING ACCOUNT**



The Gannawarra Giving Account is a partnership approach to support initiatives that help rebuild community connections and assist individuals affected by the floods.

To donate:

[givenow.com.au/gannawarragivingaccount/floods](https://www.givenow.com.au/gannawarragivingaccount/floods)

or scan the QR code



DONATE TO THE GANNAWARRA GIVING ACCOUNT

Council is proud to support the Gannawarra Giving Account, which will support initiatives that help rebuild community connections and assist residents affected by the October-December 2022 floods.

All donations are tax deductible and can be made at Northern District Community Health or by visiting www.givenow.com.au/gannawarragivingaccount



POST-FLOOD COMMUNITY EVENTS PLANNED

Assistance is available for community group wanting to host events to support post-flood recovery efforts.

The **National Centre for Farmer Health's** #BuildingFarmSpirit program is offering \$500-\$1,500 for events that provide social connection and mental health promotion for farmers and farming communities.

Applications close 30 May. For more information, please visit www.farmerhealth.org.au/buildingfarmspirit

Council has also assisted post-flood community events, providing support for gatherings held so far in 2023 at Dingwall, Kerang West, Benjeroop/Lake Charm, Macorna, Murrabit and Myall.

If your community groups would like to host a post-flood community event, please contact Council on (03) 5450 9333 to discuss what financial assistance may be available.

GANNAWARRA COMMUNITY FLOOD RECOVERY COMMITTEE

The Gannawarra Community Flood Recovery Committee continues to assist Council in supporting the municipality's recovery from the October-December 2022 floods.

The group meets monthly to discuss topics of interest within each representative's community.

Previous meetings have focused on event planning, the Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2022 Flood event, and funding opportunities. Advocacy issues were also discussed including levee banks, levee bank breaches, flood planning, connectivity and grant timelines.

The committee is also inputting into the development of the Gannawarra Flood Recovery Plan and providing guidance on priorities going forward.

COUNCIL INFORMATION

YOUR COUNCILLORS AVOCA WARD



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



MURRAY WARD



Cr Ross Stanton
0417 515 769
ross.stanton@gsc.vic.gov.au

PATCHELL WARD



Cr Kelvin Burt
0407 319 414
kelvin.burt@gsc.vic.gov.au



Cr Travis Collier
0433 269 577
travis.collier@gsc.vic.gov.au



Cr Jane Ogden
(Deputy Mayor)
0476 786 051
jane.e.ogden@gsc.vic.gov.au

YARRAN WARD



Cr Keith Link
0427 564 138
keith.link@gsc.vic.gov.au



Cr Garner Smith
0418 871 054
garner.smith@gsc.vic.gov.au

COUNCIL MEETING DETAILS

The **May 2023 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 17 May at 10am. The **June 2023 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 28 June 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. 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

council@gsc.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