

Art from the heart

Young people in Loddon Shire are invited to put their imaginations to work to help spread a message of improving mental health.

The Loddon Healthy Minds Network is presenting an art exhibition in October open to all Shire residents aged 14-18 years.

Timed to link in with Mental Health Week, the competition is taking the theme of "Five Ways to Wellbeing", being "Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning and Give".

Normally run through local schools, the timeline requires artwork to be completed and ready for collection by Monday 8 September, with judging, launches and display dates to follow.

The Network, which is auspiced by Council, was formed in 2007 to actively pursue mental health issues as they relate to residents of the entire Loddon Shire.

In addition to the committee, there are Mental Health Support Groups in the Shire who provide information and raise issues of concern. The committee then deals with these issues.

For further enquiries about the art competition, please phone Kara Mamouny-Brown on 5437 7999.



One of the winning pieces from last year's competition, created by Jade Treacy, from Pyramid Hill.

Shire's floods story goes on record

The floods of 2011 were a traumatic event which will remain in the memories of any Loddon Shire residents for their lifetimes.

They were the second-largest in Loddon Shire's recorded history, exceeded only by a greater disaster in 1909.

More than 30 per cent – or 2,200 square kilometres – of the Shire was impacted. At its peak, the floodwaters were said to be 90km long and 50km wide.

Many farms and towns were directly hit and about \$30 million worth of damage was caused to Council infrastructure alone. Water cut phones, power and roads, including the Calder and Loddon Valley Highways.

At the flood's peak, water volumes recorded at the Laanecoorie spillway reached 194 gigitalres a day.

As one way of commemorating the event, Council commissioned the production of a series of descriptive flood markers in 2012, after receiving funding from the state and federal governments of the time.

Earlier this year, Council added to the concept by approving the production of a second panel to be displayed alongside the first, showing photos of the devastation in particular areas.

The colour plates, which measure 45cm square and will be either free-standing or mounted on an existing wall, have been earmarked for 17 locations around the Shire.



Cr Geoff Curnow

Current Mayor Cr Gavan Holt – who was also Mayor at the time – said there had been no bigger event in Loddon in living memory.

"Time can dim memories and people tend to get on with life, but those negatively impacted will never forget those days," Cr Holt said.

"Those of us who did experience the floods won't be around forever and those who follow will benefit by being reminded, and educated, about what occurred.

"I was very proud of Council's response – people under pressure can be critical, but the response from Shire staff was exceptional.

"They were on the front foot quickly – as soon as we could, we had trucks down at Bridgewater to help out."

Cr Geoff Curnow, who served as Mayor during much of the mammoth flood restoration effort, said everyone in Loddon Shire had been affected to some extent.

"I've never seen so much water at one time," Cr Curnow said.

"It was very worrying for farmers concerned about what was happening to their fences and stocks of hay – the sheep couldn't find anywhere to sit down apart from a dam bank here and there.

"People soon move on and they do forget what impact the floods had on the community.

"These boards will be a talking point for local residents, an attraction for tourists and an education for young people who have never been through an event like this."

See for yourself

Ever wondered how grassroots democracy works?

See for yourself by taking a front-row seat at one of Council's monthly meetings, which are scheduled for the fourth Tuesday of each month (apart from December) at the Serpentine Council Chambers in Peppercorn Way, starting at 3pm.

Meeting dates for the remainder of this year are 24 June, 22 July, 26 August, 23 September, 28 October, 25 November and 16 December.

New-look website

Loddon Shire's brand-new website has gone live – the culmination of more than nine months' work by Council staff and contractors.

The new-look site puts all of Council's services at your fingertips, with easy-to-find information on community events and facilities, tourist attractions, business and investment opportunities, historical records, Council news and policies and much more.

Visit us soon on www.loddon.vic.gov.au

If not claimed return to



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Loddon Bulletin

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Loddon Bulletin

Strong communities proud of their individual identities

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Campers and caravan owners were given a surprise preview of Loddon Shire's new multi-million dollar caravan park at Bridgewater when Council opened 50 free sites for the April school holidays.

Holiday-makers rushed to take up the offer for the Easter period and there were plenty of takers for the other days, as sunny weather showed off the park to its best advantage.

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Awards honour our champions



Max Walker

Sportsman, media commentator and motivational speaker Max Walker will be the star attraction when Loddon Shire hosts its first-ever Sports Awards gala later this year.

The high-profile event is planned to follow on from last year's Loddon Powercor Excellence Awards, which are traditionally held every two years.

There will be 11 awards to be handed out on the night, honouring our top team, administrator, coach, club or organisation, two sportspersons (male and female), two junior sportspersons (under 18), two master

sportspersons (over 50) and the "Ultimate Sportsperson" to be chosen out of the six individual winners.

The gala evening will be held on Wednesday 20 August at Pyramid Hill.

People can enter themselves or be nominated. Individual categories will cover a nominee's achievements over the previous 18 months (that is, 1 November 2012 to 30 April 2014), while a club or organisation's track record can embrace the decade ending 31 December 2013.

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Cenotaph site is transformed - just in time

The Boort Cenotaph was looking an absolute picture on Anzac Day, after a seven-week, \$52,000 Council project to improve the safety and amenity of the site.

In addition to the poor condition of the existing kerb and channel, the original slope of the land made crossing it difficult for some older residents, there were problems with drainage and the mobile library and post office reported issues with people having difficulty getting in and out.

After a series of meetings with community members and Boort RSL late last year, technical officer Dale Jackson, who coordinated the project, produced sketches of possible works and conducted a survey to finalise the design.

Work started in early March, involving levelling the site, kerb construction, asphaltting and concreting and a new irrigation system.

Instant turf was installed before Anzac Day by Council's Parks and Gardens staff and plants were to come later.

Boort RSL president Lance Slatter said the new-look Cenotaph was "just about as good as it could be".

"We've been consulted all the way and have had a number of discussions with Dale Jackson and Paul Haw about the design," Mr Slatter said.



The new-look Soldiers Memorial in Boort was ready in time for the town's Anzac Day ceremonies.

"We're very pleased with it - there's a fair bit of imagination that's been shown and the dry creek bed is just one more example of that.

"It's now so much easier to access - the Shire has done well by us."

Loddon's call: 'Come see what we've got'



Volunteers (from left) Carol Canfield, Helen Tonkin, Karen Fazzani and Dede Williams were on deck.

A record 9,638 visitors and 147 exhibitors attended the third Regional Victoria Living Expo, held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre in April.

The free event is a four-year Victorian government commitment aimed at driving population and investment growth in rural and regional areas.

All of Victoria's 48 rural and regional councils take part.

Loddon Shire had a lively presence at the event, thanks to the efforts of staff volunteers Helen Tonkin, Dede Williams, Carol Canfield, Lynne Habner, Robyn Vella and Bryan McEwan, helped by Karen Fazzani, executive officer of the Central Murray Regional Waste Management Group.

Mayor Cr Gavan Holt and CEO John McLinden also visited the stand to lend their support.

Our volunteers exhausted their stocks of printed material and promotional DVDs, as expo visitors plied them with questions about house prices, work and education options, lifestyle factors and more.



Sports celebrity Max Walker is coming to Loddon.

Awards honour our sporting champions

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Max Walker, the son of a master builder/publican in Hobart, crossed Bass Strait at the age of 18 to pursue his sporting passions. He played 85 senior VFL games with the Melbourne Football Club while, at the same time, pursuing his cricketing career.

A stint playing 70 Sheffield Shield matches for Victoria was rewarded with national selection in 1972/73, sharing the Australian dressing room with legends of the game. Max was an early signature to Kerry

Packer's World Series Cricket revolution, later becoming the face and voice of multi-million dollar marketing campaigns.

Four years alongside Alan McGilvray on ABC Radio as a cricket commentator confirmed his talent for descriptive language and entertaining broadcasting. The Nine Network agreed and Max filled a role for 16 years as host of the iconic Wide World of Sports programs.

For information on how to nominate, or to download a form, go to www.loddon.vic.gov.au



The section of the campground opened for the holidays was quickly filled for the Easter break.

Caravan park try-out a win for all

Loddon Shire's brand-new caravan park at Bridgewater was filled to its temporary capacity for Easter, after Council decided to make 50 sites available at no charge to campers and caravanners.

The goodwill gesture was a "thank you" to both holiday makers and the Bridgewater community for their patience and support during the construction of the new park.

Council allowed campers in from the start of the last school holidays until the end of the Anzac Day weekend, before closing the site again to allow final construction works to take place.

Campground manager David Payne said he was swamped with requests for sites over the Easter break.

"I could have filled double the number of sites with the demand I've had," he said. "I'm knocking them back left, right and centre."

Before the temporary opening, turf had been planted on all powered sites, marking the end of all planned irrigation work, and the embankment between the higher and lower levels of the park mulched.

The three barbecues were finished off, while the manager's residence was delivered and reassembled on-site. A park cabin has also been ordered, though this will not arrive until early August.



Holiday-makers were given an early look at the rebuilt caravan park at Bridgewater.

Park managers get new home

The new managers' residence at the Council-owned Wedderburn Caravan Park was expected to be installed on-site by the end of last month.

Contractor New Trend Transportable Homes constructed the nine-square, two-bedroom timber home at its yard in Shepparton.

Project manager Adrian Lowrey said the house was to be brought to Wedderburn to be assembled next to the current residence.

"The frame was finished in April and the plasterboard and outside wall were installed before reaching lock-up stage," Adrian said.

"That was followed by the fitting of plumbing, cabinets and electrical work and the necessary painting.

"Newtrend representatives visited Wedderburn to do the site works and footings and the estimated time for the home's arrival was late May, subject to the builder obtaining the required road transport permits."

Council set aside \$120,000 for the project and the work was delivered within budget.



The new house under construction in Shepparton.

Historic station gains a new lease on life

Loddon Shire will get its first-ever business incubator and four busy community entities will gain new homes when the old Ingleswood railway station and goods shed are transformed during the next few months.

The neglected buildings will be redeveloped into a vibrant, multi-purpose community space, thanks to the Victorian Government's Community Use of Vacant Rail Buildings Program.

Mayor Cr Gavan Holt attended the official launch of the project in March, in company with Member for Northern Victoria Damian Drum - representing the Minister for Public Transport, Terry Mulder - Cr Colleen Condliffe, VicTrack staff and senior representatives of the community groups involved.

Loddon Shire Council will lease the buildings from VicTrack, with Ingleswood and Districts Health Service, Workspace Australia, the Goldfields Choir and Foodbank as agreed tenants.

Work to refurbish and fit out the 138-year-old station building and goods shed is expected to be completed by spring.

From Council's point of view, the project will assist in building the prosperity of the Ingleswood community and will provide a useful facility for residents' benefit.

Ingleswood and Districts Health Service will gain flexible office space for allied health practitioners, staff accommodation and



Cr Gavan Holt at the launch of the project.

for group activities such as cardiac rehabilitation and strength training, while Workspace Australia will establish a business incubator to give new and emerging local businesses the opportunity to grow.

Members of the Goldfields Choir will have a new rehearsal and performance space, while Foodbank gains a brand-new storage and distribution shed.

Streetscape works on the way



A \$1.4 million project to upgrade and beautify Wedderburn's main street is gathering pace, with works expected to begin in spring and completion slated for June next year.

The Wedderburn Streetscape Improvement Project is an initiative of the Wedderburn Development Association and Community Plan Committee, in partnership with Loddon Shire Council.

It has been under discussion for several years, with community consultations held in 2010 and draft concept plans released two years later.

The area to be worked on is along High St between Kerr and Reef street, plus a block each way on Chapel St.

Project coordinator Adrian Lowrey said there were three main sections to be addressed.

"The southern gateway will see changes to tree planting and the road intersection," Mr Lowrey said.

"At the northern end, we are working with the responsible authority, Vicroads, to examine issues around clearance.

"In the middle section, we're planning to install new kerb and channel with more trees, underground drainage into Nardoo Creek and new footpath pavements.

"Jacka Park will have its low fence removed, but the large entrance gate will remain. The school crossing will be upgraded to accommodate wheelchair access and visibility on to the Calder Highway from Kerr St will be reassessed.

"The Memorial Hall will have some grounds work done, while the light poles in the area may be replaced by more modern fittings, subject to further discussions with Powercor."

The project is being funded by Wedderburn ward community planning allocations, Council's own Community Planning resources and the state government.



Next summer should see works to improve Wedderburn's main street well under way.