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Bridgewater Foreshore Project begins

Stage 1 of the Bridgewater Foreshore Project will commence in March with initial works to turf and irrigate selected sections of the foreshore.

Works for this stage of the project will include the installation of shelters and seating, interpretive signage and a mooring jetty behind the Bridgewater Motel.

A Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the project has been completed.

The project will improve infrastructure and the appearance of the Loddon River foreshore in Bridgewater, providing visitors, travellers and residents with an attractive, accessible and welcoming entry to the Shire. It will encourage travellers to take a break in the town, while promoting return visitation. Tourists will also be able to easily access and enjoy the river.

The project adds to and enhances work already completed along the Loddon River at Bridgewater. These works involved the redevelopment of the swimming hole, connection of the



Stage 1 of the Bridgewater Foreshore Project will add to and enhance work already completed along the Loddon River, including connection of the foreshore's pathway.

pathway along the foreshore, an all-abilities jetty, foreshore redevelopment opposite the caravan park and boat ramp redevelopment.

This first stage of the project has been made possible thanks to \$300,000 from Regional Development Victoria and \$100,000 from Loddon Shire Council.

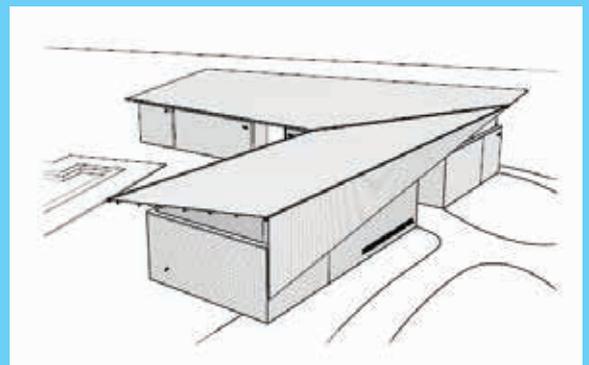
Inglewood pool works underway

Works to construct new multi-use facilities at the Inglewood Swimming Pool are now underway, with site preparation starting in January.

The project, which is anticipated to be completed in May, will provide the swimming pool with a universally-accessible change room facility for swimming pool users and netball players, public toilets, canteen, first aid office and administration areas, and landscaping.

All aspects of the project will be constructed to current day standards in line with DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) compliance. Solar heating infrastructure for the swimming pool will also be installed on the roof of the new facilities.

The project has been funded through grants from Sport and Recreation Victoria.



New multi-use facilities will be constructed at the Inglewood Swimming Pool.

Donaldson Park concept plans launched

The full detail design plans for Wedderburn's Donaldson Park Redevelopment Project are in progress, following the official launch of the concept plans in February by Federal Member for Murray the Hon Damian Drum MP.

A funding application for the new purpose-built sporting and community complex has also been submitted to the Federal Government's Building Better Regions Fund.

The new complex will replace the facility's three ageing pavilions and will include social rooms (with seating for up to 150 people), new kitchen, meeting room, kiosk, bar, office, change rooms as well as a trainers' and first aid room.

The building will meet sustainability guidelines, including installation of solar panels and battery storage (reducing future running costs) as well as sustainable water practices.

The community continues to fundraise for the Donaldson Park Redevelopment Project through the Australian Sports Foundation, which is a Federal Government body that raises money for Australian sport.

A feasibility study for the project was completed in 2016 and adopted by Council. Funding options for the project were enhanced with the launch in Bendigo in September of the AFL Central Victoria Strategic Plan (Facilities).

The project is being led by the eight-member Donaldson Park Redevelopment Committee, which comprises representatives of the park committee, Council and user groups.

You can make a tax deductible donation to the Donaldson Park Redevelopment project through the Australian Sports Foundation at

<https://asf.org.au/projects/donaldson-park-reserve-committee-of-management>.



Community fundraising for the Donaldson Park Redevelopment Project is continuing, after the launch of concept plans in February.

Works update

A glance at some of the works from our Technical Services department:

Local roads construction

Seven hundred metres of road rehabilitation works along Borung Hurstwood Road at Borung are complete.

Construction works to upgrade 3.2 kilometres of Yarrowalla West Rd at Yarrowalla were completed in February.

Rehabilitation works to upgrade Cemetery Road at Bridgewater started in February 2018.

Local road amenity program

Works in the Kelly Street Pyramid Hill School precinct, which commenced in mid-December 2017, are now complete. The works included kerbing and bus parking configuration.

Local road safety

Construction to upgrade the intersection of Pyramid Yarraberb Road and Dingee Road at Dingee will commence in March 2018.

Township street improvements

Kelly Street Pyramid Hill footpath construction works between Victoria Street and Ottrey Street are complete. Various other

footpath replacement works in Victoria and Kelly Street commenced in November and were expected to be complete at the time of publication.

Footpath projects in Boort, Inglewood and Wedderburn will be delivered from April to June 2018.

Urban drainage

Stormwater drainage construction works in Chapel Street, Serpentine (between Park View Street and Peppercorn Way (north side)) have commenced and are expected to be completed by March this year.

Annual reseal

Approximately 48 kilometres of spray seal works started in February 2018.

WORKS DEPARTMENT

Defect rectification

From 1 October to December 2017, 1,972 defects were rectified, with 98.9 per cent of all defects (1994 in total) completed before their due date.

Maintenance grading program

From 1 October to December 2017, 1,096 maintenance grading work actions were completed.

Townscape services capital works

Gladfield Road/Durham Ox Road works in Pyramid Hill were programmed to be completed in February.

The Wedderburn office open space works are expected to be completed in March.

Traffic island treatment for the St Arnaud Road/Calder Highway in Wedderburn is due to start in March.

Road capital works

Godfrey Street, Wedderburn – shoulder rehabilitation and sealing was completed in January 2018.

Local road culverts (locations across the Shire) – all precast units have been ordered and works programmed to start in March.

Waste services

In 2017, Loddon Shire Council introduced a new initiative, offering residents free waste disposal once a quarter with the first "fee" free day conducted in November 2017. Three hundred and seventy-two residents used the service with 194m³ of waste and 131m³ of green waste being disposed across the six Council facilities. The second "fee" free waste day took place in February 2018.

South West Loddon Pipeline update

The design of the pipeline network for the South West Loddon Pipeline Project (SWLPP) is continuing to be progressed based on the responses from landowners received to date.

Environmental and cultural heritage field investigations commenced in August 2017 and will be completed in March 2018. The contractor, Mitchell Water, requires access to private property to undertake field surveys during this design period.

GMMWater thanks landowners for their cooperation during the investigation and survey process so far.

Construction activities are scheduled to commence in late February/early March 2018 and landowners impacted by construction activities will be contacted by GMMWater and Mitchell Water.

GMMWater wishes to remind landowners that if they have not already done so, they must immediately lodge an Expression of Interest form if they are interested in receiving a stock and domestic water supply from the system. The pipeline will not be constructed to service properties that are not included in an Expression of Interest – therefore, it is important to immediately register an interest to ensure that the property can be serviced.

Landowners who have already received Heads of Agreement and Land Access Permission forms are reminded to return them signed as soon as possible to allow the system design to be finalised.

Please contact GMMWater on 1300 659 961 if you have any questions in relation to this project.

Information provided by GMMWater.

Flood restoration works continue



Flood restoration works have been completed at the bridge over Bullock Creek on Echuca Serpentine Road (pictured, right).

Works on flood-damaged roads are continuing across the Shire, with construction works underway following the awarding of a number of jobs to contractors.

Damaged roads requiring urgent works are currently being rectified, while the sealing contract for flood-damaged roads in the Shire has been awarded.

A panel of 12 contractors has also been selected. These contractors will be allocated flood restoration works based on their expertise and past experience. The selection of the panel of contractors was made through a tender process, which was presented to Council for consideration in November 2017.

Any restoration works can only bring an asset back to its pre-flood condition – additional upgrades must be funded by Council. For example, an unsealed road damaged by flooding will be brought back to its original unsealed condition – it cannot be sealed under the funding arrangement.

The majority of flood restoration works are anticipated to be completed by the end of 2018.

Road users are asked to bear in mind that there will be contractors working to repair damaged roads and to obey any traffic management in place, including reduced speed limits.

Final touches for Wedderburn streetscape

The final stage of the Wedderburn Streetscape Improvement Project is currently underway.

The project's civil construction is complete, with works for the final section of the streetscape (in front of the Uniting Church) completed in February.

Landscaping works will start in March and are expected to be completed by end of May 2018.

The landscaping works include grassed areas and garden beds with native plants, the planting of approximately 46 trees along the street and in its verges, an increased number of waste bins and installation of street furniture, including park benches.

Funding for the Wedderburn Streetscape Improvement Project was provided by the Federal Government (\$1.3m) and Regional Development Victoria (\$500,000) as well as Council.



The Wedderburn streetscape looking towards Jacka Park prior to commencement of landscaping works.

Loddon celebrates Australia Day

Australia Day festivities held across the municipality provided an ideal opportunity for friends and neighbours to join together to celebrate their community and country.

It also created a platform to thank individuals and groups who have provided an invaluable contribution to their local area and in turn, the Shire as a whole.

Loddon Shire's Citizen of the Year, Alice Leech from Inglewood, was recognised for her dedication to volunteering within the community.

A retired school teacher, Alice's extensive volunteering includes Inglewood Community Neighbourhood House, Inglewood Ambulance Auxiliary Opportunity Shop, Inglewood hostel, Inglewood Pool Committee (Alice has organised the Australia Day Swimming Carnival since the event began), St Marys Primary School and much more.

The Young Citizen of the Year was awarded jointly to Maddison Welsh from Calivil and Wedderburn's Jordan Hargreaves.

Award recipients for other categories were Boort Amity Inc. (Community Group of the Year), Wedderburn Golf Club's Victorian Sand Greens Championships (Community Event of the Year), Lynette Clark (Boort Community Service Award), Enzo Scafati (Inglewood Community Service Award), Dorothy Silke (Tarnagulla Community Service Award), Shirley Hope (Terrick Community Service Award) and Alex Holt (Wedderburn Community Service Award).

Australia Day celebrations were particularly significant for the Caburnay family in Pyramid Hill. The family became Australian citizens during a ceremony conducted by Loddon Shire Mayor Councillor Cheryl McKinnon at the Pyramid Hill Australia Day event.

The creative works of the 2018 Loddon Shire Australia Day competition winners for colouring, literature and photography were also displayed in Inglewood, Pyramid Hill, Wedderburn, Boort, Tarnagulla, Jarklin and Bridgewater.

Loddon Shire Citizen of the Year Alice Leech (photo courtesy of the Loddon Times).



BRIC Library construction update

Works for the library extension to the Boort Resource and Information Centre (BRIC) have commenced.

Following a tender process, OT McLoughlan Constructions was selected by Council to undertake the works, which include an extension of around 62m² to the eastern end of the existing building. This extension will house a library room, computer area and children's activity area.

The extension will enable BRIC to provide around three times more on-site books, magazines and other items. It will also improve access to library programs, such as children's story time. A static library agency operates from the building 25 hours per week.

As well as providing a practical and functional area for the Boort library agency (as part of the Goldfields Library Service) the project will provide upgraded facilities and improvements to the amenity at BRIC. This will complement the other services at the centre including Neighbourhood House, Rural Transaction Centre, Learn Local and community hub.

The project, which is being overseen by Council and the BRIC Committee of Management, is anticipated to be completed by June this year.

Funding for the \$280,000 project has been made possible thanks to the Victorian Government's Living Libraries Infrastructure Program (\$240,000), the Boort Resource and Information Centre (\$20,000) and Council (\$20,000).



Works for the BRIC extension (shaded section, right) have commenced.

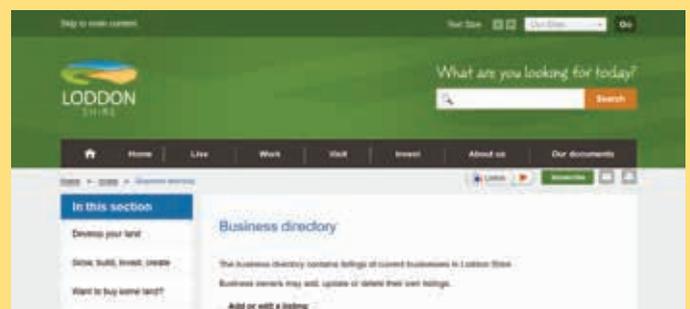
Is your business listed in the directory?

If you're a business operating in the Loddon Shire Council area, don't forget to add your details to Council's website business directory.

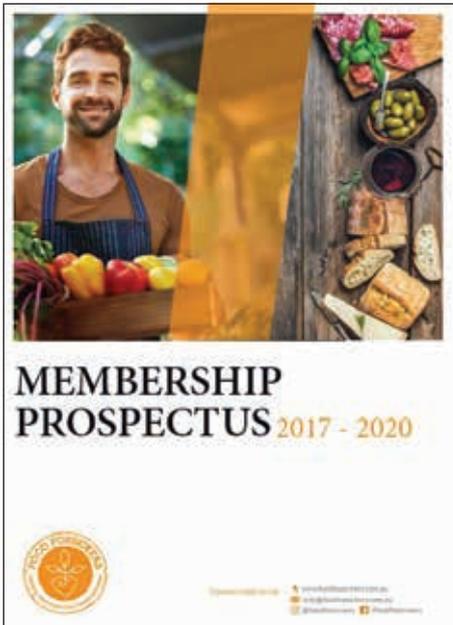
The website business directory contains listings of businesses in the Loddon Shire.

Business owners can add their details to the business directory at no cost, and can update or delete their own listings.

Visit the Loddon Shire Council's website business directory at www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Invest/Business-directory.



Loddon producers – become a Food Fossicker



The Food Fossickers network would like to hear from food producers in the Loddon region.

The Food Fossickers network wants to hear from food producers in the Loddon region who may be interested in joining their membership-based network.

Food Fossickers provides opportunities for food-related businesses to grow and develop, providing a strong and viable food trade network, and a structure and advocacy for local, regional and seasonal food knowledge.

The network aims to build partnerships that will inspire, nurture and promote regional food and food-related experiences, strengthening its cultural food heritage and creating a sustainable food industry that will highlight this region on the foodies map.

Food Fossickers welcomes food and beverage growers, producers, retailers, cafes, pubs, restaurants, butchers and more, and has a range of membership options available.

To find out more about the Food Fossickers network, contact the Loddon Visitor Information Centre on 5494 1257 to get a copy of the network's membership prospectus.

Food Fossickers member Simply Tomatoes is an example of how producers in the Loddon region are leading the pack.

The Boort-based business won gold at the 2017 RACV Victorian Tourism Awards, taking out the top prize for the Excellence in Food Tourism category.

The business is no stranger to the Victorian Tourism Awards, having previously claimed the silver award in 2015.

In addition to Simply Tomatoes, 2017 saw other producers in our Shire gain recognition for their products through awards.

The Bridgewater Bakehouse had four of its pies receive awards at the 2017 Great Aussie Pie Competition in Sydney.

Boort's Arnold Family Butchers also had great success at the state Australian Meat Industry Council Awards. The business took out awards at the Victorian competition in all five categories it entered, including first place for Ham Off the Bone and Traditional Australian Pork Sausage.

Pet registration renewals due 10 April



Dog and cat owners in Loddon Shire are reminded that pet registration renewals are due by Tuesday 10 April 2018. Owners are expected to receive pet registration renewal notices shortly.

Every dog and cat over the age of three months must be registered. Owners of dogs and cats being registered for the first time with Council must provide evidence that their pet has a microchip. You will also be provided with a lifelong registration tag for your pet.

Registering a cat or dog helps improve the chances of your pet being returned should it become lost.

Microchipping dogs and cats also helps Council reunite you with your pet if it loses its registration tag and becomes lost. The microchip allows Council officers to scan your pet and obtain your contact details.

Please ensure you keep your pet's microchip details up to date. Microchip details can be updated online through the Central Animal Register at www.car.com.au. If you have recently purchased your dog or cat, a Transfer of Ownership form can be downloaded through the register.

Dogs that are registered with Council as farm working dogs do not require a microchip nor have to wear a registration tag while they are working. It is important to note that under the Domestic Animals Amendment (Puppy Farm and Pet Shops) Act 2017, which passed the Victorian Parliament on 15 December 2017, the definition of farm working dogs has been clarified.

The definition classes a farm working dog as "a dog usually kept on rural land, by a primary producer, or a person employed by a primary producer and primarily kept or trained for the purpose of droving, protecting, tending or working stock on a farm."

To find out more, visit www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/pets/puppy-farm-legislation

If your dog or cat is no longer with you, please let Council know so we can update our records and ensure you no longer receive registration renewals for that pet.

For more information on registering your pet, visit www.loddon.vic.gov.au or phone Council's Local Laws staff on 5494 1200.

Easter office and service operating hours

Due to the Good Friday and Easter Monday public holidays, Council offices in Wedderburn and Serpentine will close at 4.45pm on Thursday 29 March and reopen at 8.15am on Tuesday 3 April.

The Loddon Visitor Information Centre will be closed on Good Friday, but is otherwise open Monday to Saturday from 9am to 5pm and from 10am to 4pm on Sundays and public holidays. For enquiries phone 5494 3489.

There will be no changes to scheduled kerbside garbage and recycling collections during the Easter period.

All waste facilities across the Shire are closed on public holidays.



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Fax: (03) 5494 3003

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Monday to Friday 8.15am to 5pm

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Web: www.loddon.vic.gov.au



Mayor

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Terrick Ward

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Cr Neil Beattie

Boort Ward

0427 552 468



Cr Colleen Condliffe

Inglewood Ward

0428 778 025



Cr Geoff Curnow

Tarnagulla Ward

0429 383 553



Cr Gavan Holt

Wedderburn Ward

0408 943 008

Feedback helps guide key Council documents

Community members across the Shire have provided valuable input and feedback to two key Council strategic documents – the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan and Customer Service Strategy and charter.

The draft Customer Service Strategy outlines Council's approach to delivery of its customer service across the Shire and addresses a number of key strategic directions to improve customer service.

The draft strategy was developed following an extensive consultation process with community and internal Council stakeholders, including online surveys and in-person surveys at events across the Shire.

Residents were also invited to attend a community workshop to provide their ideas around Council's customer service and how it could be improved.

Following closure of feedback to the draft strategy on 25 February, the final strategy is expected to go to Council's Ordinary Meeting in March for consideration by Councillors for adoption.

In January and early February this year, residents were asked to provide their feedback to Council's draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.

The Disability Access and Inclusion Plan reflects Council's commitment in continuing to reduce barriers experienced by people with a disability. Similar to the Customer Service Strategy, the updated plan was developed following extensive consultation with community and staff.

The Plan builds upon previous disability and inclusion plans, and further identifies how Council can contribute to better access and inclusion for its residents.

Following public feedback, and at the time of writing, the draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan was scheduled for February's Ordinary Meeting for consideration by Council to adopt the document.