

LODDON BULLETIN

A resilient, sustainable and prosperous community of communities



Final touches for community hub building

Stage 1 of Wedderburn's Donaldson Park Community Hub is effectively complete, with the car park and landscaping receiving finishing touches.



Severe rainfall events in December and January saw the car park works delayed, with expected completion in the coming weeks (subject to weather and contractor availability).

Stage 2 of the project is also underway. This stage includes an all-abilities playspace, additional landscaping and internal paths adjacent to the new building.

The project has been made possible thanks to funding from the Commonwealth Government, Victorian Government, Donaldson Park Community Asset Committee, user groups, the community, Inglewood & Districts Community Enterprises Limited and Council. The Donaldson Park Steering Committee has also provided input throughout the course of the project, including the building's design.

MARCH 2024

FEATURED

Donaldson Park hub
Building complete

Bright future
For Loddon trainees

Visitor guide launch
2024 guide available

Community centre project
Pyramid Hill

Inglewood Sports Centre
Master plan development

Recreation strategy
Planning underway

Library volunteering
Discover the joy

Ward boundary review
Have your say

Loddon trainees have a bright future

Council has welcomed seven local trainees to the organisation (*pictured L-R*): Tamika Salmond, Bridie Doyle, Pippi Hartnell, Ayla Hartnell, Keisha Boulton, Holly Martin and Crystal Hardiman.

Tamika, Bridie, Pippi and Keisha will be undertaking their Certificate III studies in Early Childhood Education. Ayla, Holly and Crystal are undertaking their Certificate III studies in Business Administration.

The traineeship, in conjunction with CVGT, not only supports local students but helps ensure Council has locally-trained employees, including for Early Childhood Educator roles.

"Loddon Shire Council has given me substantial opportunities to expand my career options in local government - focusing on corporate duties," Ayla said.

"I am enjoying the range of challenges and opportunities. It's a fantastic environment to work in, and full of optimistic and supportive colleagues I can rely on, and role model from.

"Because of all these reasons, I would love to continue working here after my traineeship concludes at the end of the year and ultimately, make it a long-term career."



A word from our Mayor

It has been fantastic to see the progress on a number of major projects - in spite of the challenges the severe rainfall brought with it in December and January.

Chief among these is the completion of the Donaldson Park Community Hub building, with finishing touches remaining, including landscaping and the car park.

This is a significant milestone in this project, with Stage 2 now underway.

Works are also underway on Stage 1 of the Pyramid Hill Community Centre, which will include new rooms for Northern District Community Health and Maternal Child Health services, as well as senior citizens room.

You can read about these projects and more in this edition of the *Loddon Bulletin*.

Thank you

Having made mention of the severe rainfall events, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who stepped up in response to help and support our community.

This includes SES and CFA volunteers, community organisations and community members.

Childcare facility announced

I thank the Member for Ripon Martha Haylett MP for her announcement late last year around the establishment of a childcare facility in Wedderburn.

It is great to see this step towards the growth of childcare in our municipality.

I would also like to acknowledge the hard work and efforts of the local community, particularly the local parents' group, in advocating for childcare in our Shire.

Council, together with our community and local organisations, will continue to work and promote the need for childcare facilities in other towns around our Shire.

Loddon celebrates Australia Day

Australia Day 2024 in our Shire once again saw communities from across the region come together.

Celebrations took place at Boort, Bridgewater, Eddington, Inglewood, Jarklin, Newbridge, Pyramid Hill, Tarnagulla and Wedderburn.

The day saw the presentation of the Australia Day awards, including Citizen of the Year Jude Raftis and Young Citizen of the Year Samantha Bewley.

The dedication of local community members was also recognised through the Citizen of the Year for each Shire Ward: Boort – Marjory Potter; Inglewood – Jany Clutton; Tarnagulla – James Metelmann; Terrick – Coral Maxted and Wedderburn – Margaret Bentley.

Additionally, students from schools across the Shire entered the annual Australia Day colouring, literature and photography competitions, with awards provided to winning and highly commended entries.

I'd like to thank Cr Dan Straub who stepped in to carry out my official Australia Day duties while I was unwell. I very much appreciate it.



Loddon Shire Council Mayor
Cr Gavan Holt.

2024 Visitor Guide available

The 2024 Loddon Valley Official Visitor Guide is now available.

This annual publication is your one-stop-shop guide to essential visitor information for the Loddon Valley including must-visit attractions, key businesses, events, itineraries, must dos and more.

The Loddon Valley Official Visitor Guide will be available at visitor information centres across central Victoria, key venues in Melbourne, local tourism attractions and outlets throughout the Loddon region, and online.

Coffee with the Boss – Bridgewater on Loddon

In February, Bridgewater on Loddon hosted the 'Coffee with the Boss' initiative, which has been developed through a partnership between Workforce Australia, Bendigo Regional Tourism and Council.

The event aims to inspire job seekers and strengthen business relationships by raising awareness of local employment opportunities, and showcasing local businesses through workplace tours.

Dipper's Destinations – Loddon episode

Television and online series *Dipper's Destinations* recently filmed a feature episode in the Loddon Shire (above).

Featuring AFL legend Robert DiPierdomenico as host, the episode will air in March.

It will showcase some of the leading visitor attractions and experiences across the Loddon Valley and will be available on 7 Mate and other online platforms. Keep your eye out on *Visit Loddon Valley* socials for more.



Pyramid Hill Community Centre project

Work has begun on Stage 1 of the redevelopment of the Pyramid Hill Community Centre.

The contract for this stage of the project was awarded to Searle Brothers at last November's Council Meeting for \$2.9 million.

Stage 1 includes:

- Allied health wing to accommodate Northern District Community Health and Maternal Child Health services
- senior citizens room
- upgraded toilet facilities
- renovation of the current hall and kitchen
- expansion of storage
- improved car parking and access to the building

Council thanks all those who contributed to getting the Pyramid Hill Community Centre to this stage of construction – including the Pyramid Hill senior citizens, Northern District Community Health and a number of other community organisations.

We look forward to working together with local organisations and the community on the first stage of this major redevelopment.

Funding for Stage 1 construction has been made possible with the support of the Victorian State Government's Regional Infrastructure Fund.

Council has also provided funding towards the project.

Additionally, Loddon Shire Council was invited to submit a funding application to the Commonwealth Government's Growing Regions Program to deliver the final stage of the community centre.

The final stage includes the construction of a community wing to accommodate the neighbourhood house, library services and a community gym, with further parking included.

The outcome of this funding submission is to be announced around March/April this year. If this funding submission is successful, it will enable Council to deliver the project in its entirety.

Inglewood Sports Centre Master Plan

Council is currently developing a master plan for the Inglewood Community Sports Centre.

The master plan will identify and clarify opportunities, challenges and limitations at the centre, as well as provide direction to Council and user groups for its future development over the next 10 years.

The master plan will focus on the sport and recreation reserve, including the main complex, oval, lawn and hard courts, cricket nets and the adjacent Riding Club, and Inglewood Cars and Bikes Club.

The master plan will be responsive to community expectations, as well as being achievable, realistic and attainable within the Council's budgetary framework.



Council is currently developing a master plan for the Inglewood Community Sports Centre.

Funding for Inglewood Streetscape

Council has allocated \$1 million from its Strategic Fund for detailed design and costing of the Inglewood Streetscape project. It will also provide seed funding towards future funding applications for this project.

Councillors allocated the funds at the November 2023 Council Meeting.

The Inglewood Streetscape Project aims to enhance the visual appeal, functionality, safety and cultural significance of the streetscape in Inglewood. The project will consider various elements, including:

- beautification
- kerb and channel improvements
- footpaths
- underground power installation
- greening initiatives
- traffic calming
- pedestrian safety enhancements
- overall amenity improvement
- place-making
- integration of public art
- heritage walking trails

The Inglewood community has undertaken a significant amount of work on the project, including helping develop a concept masterplan for the streetscape.

Additionally, the community looked at different components and ways the project could be broken down to ensure a deliverable project for a range of budgets.

Council thanks the Inglewood community and Inglewood Development and Tourism Committee for their outstanding efforts on the project.

The allocation of this funding by Council will enable the project to become shovel ready, meaning Council will be able to seek outside funding opportunities to help deliver the project.

Community members were invited to participate in a survey, which closed 26 February, to provide input into the master plan.

This input is now being incorporated into the development of the draft master plan, which is anticipated to be available for public feedback in late March.

Following this feedback period, the final draft master plan will be considered by Council for further public exhibition and feedback.

If you would like to know more about the project, please visit our Connect @ Loddon page by scanning the QR code.



DTP maintenance contract ends

Council's road maintenance contract with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) officially ended on 31 December last year.

For the past 30 years Loddon Shire provided a road maintenance service to DTP (formally VicRoads) for 394km of arterial roads within Loddon Shire.

SprayLine Road Services is now responsible for maintaining the DTP network within Loddon Shire. These roads are:

- Calder Highway
- Loddon Valley Highway
- Wimmera Highway
- Bendigo Maryborough Road
- Bendigo Pyramid Road
- Boort Charlton Road
- Boort Kerang Road
- Boort Mitiamo Road
- Boort Pyramid Road
- Boort Wedderburn Road
- Boort Wycheproof Road
- Bridgewater Dunolly Road

- Bridgewater Maldon Road
- Bridgewater Serpentine Road
- Dunolly Eddington Road
- Echuca Mitiamo Road
- Leitchville Pyramid Road
- Logan Wedderburn Road
- Prairie Rochester Road

To report a hazard or make an enquiry for DTP roads call 13 11 70.

To contact Council about an issue on a Council road call 5494 1200.



DTP Contract Manager Trent King (left) and Council's Manager Works Daniel Lloyd.

Works update

Township street improvements

The tender for the annual footpath construction program is anticipated to go out in March.

Building improvement program

The tender for Inglewood Town Hall and Boort Historical Society (former Court House) roof work, has closed.

Capital works completed

From 1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023 road projects delivered by the Works department saw the completion of 9km of road re-sheets and 9km of road shoulder re-sheets.

Construction works are continuing on the Echuca Serpentine Road and Newbridge Road.

Road maintenance inspection

From 1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023, 471 inspections were completed (2,630 defects raised), with 98.9% of all inspections completed before their due date.

Road maintenance rectification

From 1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023, 3,151 defects were rectified, with 96.9% of all defects (3,053 in total) completed before their due date.

Road maintenance grading

From 1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023, 504 maintenance grading work actions were completed resulting in 1,047km of grading.

To report an issue to Council call 5494 1200.

Parks and townships

From 1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023, 2,009 programmed maintenance works were carried out as well as rectification of defects. These included on footpaths, street and park trees, garden beds, grass mowing and playgrounds.



Waste vouchers

Vouchers 3 and 4 are due to expire on 30 June 2024.

Vouchers can be used to dispose of up to four cubic metres of general domestic waste free of charge at Council's landfill and transfer stations.

Works for Pyramid Yarraberb Road, Canary Island culverts, reseals

Reconstruction of 2.6km of Pyramid Yarraberb Road is expected to start in March, with works to be completed by Berne Fleming Civil Pty Ltd.

The Pyramid Yarraberb Road runs north south between Boort Mitiamo Road and Loddon Valley Highway. It is an important connecting road between Bendigo, Pyramid Hill and surrounding areas.

The road was affected by the October 2022 flood event, resulting in damage to 1.36km of the road, requiring reconstruction work.

Canary Island culvert replacement

Works on the replacement of three culverts along Canary Island Leaghur Road, Canary Island are expected to start in April.

The works include a new 6m by 1.8m twin culvert, 9m by 1.8m triple cell culvert and a 3m by 1.5m culvert.

The culvert replacements are being completed by Avard Civil.

Annual reseal program

Council's annual reseal program is underway. This year's program will see reseals on 56.7km of Council roads, with a total area of 307.9m².

Resealing works are taking place on various roads throughout the Shire including in Auchmore, Arnold, Campbells Forest, Dingee, Eastville, Eddington, Inglewood, Kamarooka North, Kingower, Kurraca and Lake Marmal.

Additionally, resealing works are taking place on roads in Laanecoorie, Llanelly, Pompapiel, Powlett Plains, Pyramid Hill, Raywood, Rheola, Salisbury West, Serpentine, Tandarra and Wychitella.

Flood recovery update

Storms and torrential rain experienced in December and January impacted the homes and properties of many members of our community.

Our thoughts are with all those impacted by these events, particularly those who had their homes or properties impacted more than once in such a short period of time.

We would like to thank the SES and CFA volunteers, community organisations and community members who responded and provided support to our community during these events.

Council is working closely with State Government agencies to understand the level of impact of this event to inform the recovery supports going forward.

If your home or property has had storm or flood damage we encourage you to register this information with Council on 5494 1200 or email mrm@loddon.vic.gov.au

As the recovery process continues we encourage community members to stay engaged and connected.

With funding support from the Victorian and Commonwealth governments, Council is continuing to organise a range of community recovery activities.

Keep an eye out for the Flood Recovery Bulletin fortnightly in the Loddon Herald, Council's website: www.loddon.vic.gov.au/For-residents/Community-Flood-Recovery or Council's Facebook page www.facebook.com/LoddonShire for upcoming events.

Roads and infrastructure works continue

Works are continuing on flood recovery from the October 2022 flood event. Currently 3.1km of resheet work is underway on unsealed roads near Bridgewater and Newbridge.

Council officers have inspected flood damage resulting from the December 2023 flood event. In total, 220 instances of damage have been identified as a result of the event.

Healthy Loddon Campaspe

Our Healthy Loddon Campaspe (HLC) initiative is working with Boort District Health (BDH) to revitalise the Community Garden at the Health Service (*pictured*). Thanks to those community members and staff who joined our planting day on 7 February. We'll be planning more ways for the community to be involved in the garden in the coming months. Additionally, we're working with BDH and Boort Resource and Information Centre to host a series of healthy cooking days.

HLC has partnered with Inglewood Neighbourhood House and Inglewood and Districts Health Service to present *Healthy Meals on a Shoestring* – a cooking program teaching residents how to make healthy, tasty meals using pantry staples and affordable ingredients.

HLC will soon be bringing a fun new physical activity project to Inglewood and Pyramid Hill. The *Walk This Way* project promotes walking and active travel via fun wayfinding stickers and footprints on local footpaths. The project will also install outdoor seating along footpaths.

The Healthy Sports Clubs project is back again in 2024, with two bowling clubs and four football/netball clubs involved in making simple, healthy changes to their food and drink offerings.

If you'd like to know more about any of the HLC projects in Loddon Shire, get in touch at hlc@bendigo.vic.gov.au



ROSA planning underway

Council is currently preparing the Loddon Recreation, Open Space and Aquatic Strategy (ROSA).

We are fortunate to have a diverse range of open spaces in our Shire, including sport and other active recreation reserves, parks and playgrounds, swimming pools, tracks and trails as well as bushland reserves, rivers and lakes.

A key focus of the 10-year strategy will be use of these areas, and how we can encourage our community to be more active.

Input and ideas from residents will be a big part of this strategy, which is in its planning phase.

As part of this planning process, Council will be asking residents to complete a survey and select their top three ideas regarding the use of recreation facilities in the Shire.



A number of drop-in sessions were held where residents were able to further discuss their ideas and provide input directly to Council officers.

For more information, including a link to the survey, scan the QR code.



Your Councillors



Mayor Cr Gavan Holt

Wedderburn Ward | 0408 943 008
gholt@loddon.vic.gov.au



Cr Neil Beattie

Boort Ward | 0427 552 468
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Cr Linda Jungwirth

Tarnagulla Ward | 0428 259 082
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Cr Wendy Murphy

Inglewood Ward | 0436 457 170
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Cr Dan Straub

Terrick Ward | 0429 236 399
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Discover the joys of being a library volunteer

Have you ever considered volunteering at the library? Libraries are a vibrant part of our community, and volunteers play a crucial role.

By volunteering at one of our local libraries, you're not just lending a hand – you're ensuring that services remain accessible to everyone in the community.

Whether it's helping someone find their next read, helping to maintain the space, or just being a friendly face, your contribution makes a real difference.

Joining the library team means working alongside library staff who share a passion for making a difference. You'll get to showcase your unique skills, strengths, experiences and interests while gaining new ones along the way.

Robyn has been volunteering at the Dingee Library Agency since 2016. She is now the Agency Volunteer Coordinator and also volunteers with the CWA.

"Volunteering at the library is not just about organising books on the shelves; it's about cultivating a community of knowledge, fostering a love for learning, and unlocking doors to endless possibilities.



Community Librarian Naarah at Pyramid Hill Library Agency. (Image: Pyramid Hill Neighbourhood House).

"In giving your time, if only for two hours once a week, or each month, you receive the immeasurable gifts of connection and the joy of helping others."

With six library agencies across the Shire – Boort, Dingee, Inglewood, Pyramid Hill, Tarnagulla and Wedderburn – there's a place for everyone to get involved. Most libraries are co-located with other community services, serving as hubs of activity and connection for residents.

To find out more, call the Goldfields Libraries team on 5449 2790.

Loddon Shire ward boundary review

The ward boundaries in Loddon Shire Council are being reviewed and you can have a say.

Loddon Shire Council's ward boundaries will be independently reviewed by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) at the request of the Minister for Local Government to ensure all wards have a voting population within 10%.

The VEC has proposed an option for the council's ward boundaries in a preliminary report. You can share your views on this report and which model would best serve your community through a response submission to the VEC.

Response submissions for the Loddon Shire Council ward boundary are currently open and close at 5pm Wednesday 13 March. In your submission, you can also ask to speak about your views at a public hearing.

At the end of the review, the VEC will make a final recommendation to the Minister for Local Government. Any changes to the ward boundaries for Loddon Shire Council following this review are expected to apply at the next local council elections.

To find out more visit vec.vic.gov.au

Loddon Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land comprising the Loddon Shire Council area. Council would like to pay respect to their Elders both past and present.



Loddon Shire Council

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