

# LODDON

# BULLETIN

A PROSPEROUS  
VIBRANT AND  
ENGAGED COMMUNITY



QUARTERLY BULLETIN  
JUNE 2020

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## Anzac Day

On 25 April we paused to remember the sacrifice of men and women who have served or are currently serving our country during wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

Despite being required to stay at home, Australians found novel ways to mark this important commemorative day. People in Loddon Shire demonstrated their respect and gratitude on Anzac Day by placing a cut-out poppy on their mailbox. This was an initiative of our tourism team to show solidarity during isolation.

Other ways that people recognised the service and sacrifice of our Anzacs included having people pay their respects on balconies, front gates and driveways at 6am on Anzac Day for #StandTo, in place of attending a dawn service.

Musicians learnt and played the 'Last Post' at home to stand united in music and 'in spirit' in the Music for Mateship campaign.

The Australian War Memorial held a revised Anzac Day service which was televised on the ABC while the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne live streamed the Dawn Service taking place behind closed doors in the Sanctuary of the Shrine.



Although the usual Anzac Day service at the Soldiers' Memorial Park in Wedderburn was not able to take place, the planned refresh of the gates and fence at the park was completed in time.

## Soldiers' Memorial Park

During April, work to refresh the fence and memorial gates at the Soldiers' Memorial Park in Wedderburn was carried out. The gates to the park were removed while work was undertaken.

Both fence and gates were sandblasted and repainted in a close approximation to the previous colour. Repairs to the fence and render also occurred.



## A word from our Mayor



The past few months have been a very difficult time, with the temporary loss of regular routines, incomes and leisure activities causing a great deal of stress for everybody. Restrictions on unnecessary travel added an extra layer of tension as people have been unable to enjoy a longed-for break over the Easter and school holidays.

I thank everyone who has done their bit to help. While the Stage 3 restrictions and physical distancing requirements have been tough, these measures are working to slow the spread of COVID-19, but we must keep it up as directed.

To stay safe, we need to not only take care of our physical health but our mental health as well. Even though we have to maintain our physical distance, we should make sure that we remain connected as a community.

Many businesses in the Loddon Shire have been affected by forced closures and restrictions. I applaud those businesses that, wherever it was possible, have been so flexible in adapting to these difficult times. Many have found innovative ways to still meet the needs of their customers while complying with Government regulations.

Cafes, general stores, takeaway shops and pubs have modified their trading to accommodate restrictions and public safety. When shopping from home, make sure you remember our wonderful Loddon businesses and the great range of original and quality good that are available. Now, more than ever we need to support our local businesses that are fighting to survive. To browse some of the diverse offerings, check out <https://www.facebook.com/Visitloddonvalley/> or click through to the Visit Loddon Valley website [www.bendigoregion.com.au/visit-loddon-valley/blogs/loddon-valley-take-away-food-and-closures](http://www.bendigoregion.com.au/visit-loddon-valley/blogs/loddon-valley-take-away-food-and-closures).

## Council response to COVID-19

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Council has worked to manage the impact of coronavirus on our community, customers and staff. It is closely monitoring the evolving situation and following the advice of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the lead Victorian agency dealing with the outbreak.

While many events and services have been limited, postponed or cancelled in order to slow the spread of the virus, essential services such as rubbish and recycling collections, Meals on Wheels, immunisations and outdoor works continue.

Customer Service staff continue to provide service over the phone, including answering questions and facilitating payments. Community Services keep in regular contact with vulnerable members of the community and wherever possible, adapt services to meet the individual's need.

A dedicated webpage has been set up and provides comprehensive information on which services are impacted by the pandemic. This includes links to important information such as health messages, Stage 3 restrictions and advice and support for business.

Council also established a financial response package to assist residents, businesses and the wider community with the financial impacts of the pandemic.

You can access the webpage at [www.loddon.vic.gov.au/covid-19](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au/covid-19).

## Citizenship congratulations



On Tuesday 24 March, our Mayor, Cr Cheryl McKinnon officiated at a Citizenship Ceremony outside the Council office at Serpentine.

Phanthila Maiyavong, who was originally from Thailand, has made Boort her home. The outdoor arrangements for the pledge were in response to physical distancing requirements for COVID-19.

## Upcoming Council meetings 2020

Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, Council meetings will be held virtually until further notice. For up-to-date details, check the Council website closer to the meeting date.

Meetings start at 3pm.

Tuesday 23 June

Tuesday 28 July

Tuesday 25 August

Tuesday 15 September

At the end of April, the State Government amended the Local Government Act 2020 to allow virtual meetings for local councils to carry out their work remotely.

This enables Councillors and Council staff to fulfil their duties while maintaining physical distance requirements, using teleconferencing and live stream technology. This will be implemented at the May Council meeting.

## Active Living Census

The results are in! According to the Active Living Census results, the most popular physical activity in the Loddon Shire is walking, followed by swimming, active play (playgrounds) and tennis.

In May 2019 Loddon Campaspe residents were asked to complete the Active Living Census (ALC) – an online and paper-based survey available to all residents in the region aged three years and over. The ALC asked them about their health and wellbeing, and physical activity habits including participation in sport and other physical recreation activities.

The ALC was delivered as part of the Healthy Heart of Victoria; a State Government funded health and wellbeing initiative aimed at improving health outcomes for the Loddon Campaspe region.

24,500 people from across the Loddon Campaspe region completed the 2019 Active Living Census, with 812 Loddon Shire residents taking part, being just over 11% of our population.

The findings of the census will assist the region plan for residents' health and wellbeing needs, such as funding the enhancement of public open spaces and recreation facilities to encourage more people to be more active, more often.

Gaining valuable information on what would help people with healthy eating and active living will support efforts to reduce rates of obesity, chronic disease and high-risk health behaviours.

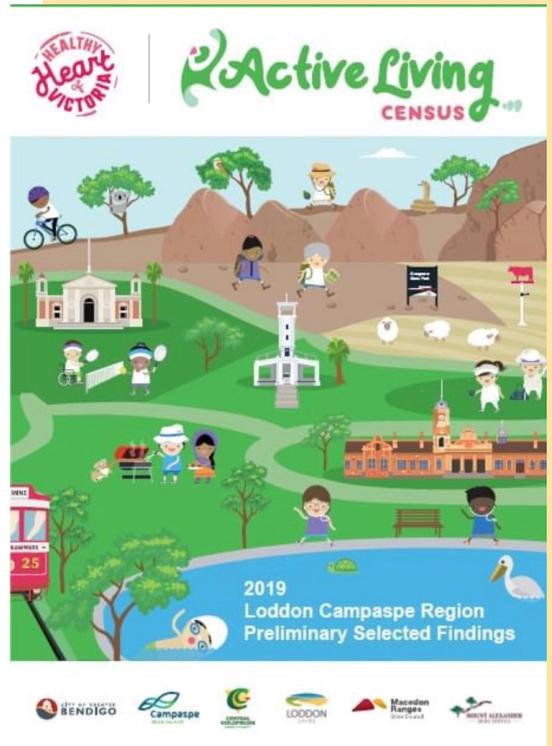
The census also found that being too busy, having poor health, and cost were some of the main barriers to residents not doing more physical activity. About half of Loddon adults were not meeting fruit consumption guidelines, while almost nine in ten (84.8%) were not eating enough vegetables.

The Healthy Heart of Victoria initiative, in conjunction with Council has installed free outdoor fitness equipment in Wedderburn, Boort and soon to be in Pyramid Hill (currently on hold due to COVID-19). It also installed two water refill stations in Bridgewater and Inglewood in collaboration with Coliban Water.

Check out the Healthy Heart of Victoria Facebook pages for some great ideas on how to stay active while at home, as well as plenty of suggestions for cheap, easy and healthy meals to cook.



*FEBRUARY 2019: Active Living Census launch featuring Mayors, Councillors and CEOs from the six councils in the Loddon Campaspe Region – Loddon, City of Greater Bendigo, Macedon Ranges, Central Goldfields, Campaspe and Mount Alexander.*



## Pyramid Hill Community Centre Master Plan

The completed Pyramid Hill Community Centre Master Plan and Feasibility Study was presented to Council in April and will now be submitted to Regional Development Victoria.

The project focuses on the existing use of the Pyramid Hill Senior Citizens Centre and identifies opportunities to develop and extend the existing space into a community hub.

The improved space will enable the provision of a range of allied health services, senior citizen and community meeting and activity spaces, learning and library spaces and consulting rooms.

## Light up Inglewood Sports Centre

A project to light up Inglewood Sports Centre is well underway with the light towers planned for the Inglewood precinct.

The lighting upgrade project will ensure that the Inglewood football oval floodlighting meets AFL training standards and the netball floodlighting meets Netball Victoria competition standards. Once installed, the improved lighting will provide many benefits to the players using the facility.

The light towers, cages and lights have been ordered and once delivered and installed in Inglewood will be commissioned, ready for football and netball to begin.

This project follows the successful Mitchell Park, lighting upgrade project at Pyramid Hill in 2019.

## Economic Development and Tourism

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many events were cancelled across the Shire and some were postponed to later dates. Some, such as the Giant Pumpkin Challenge were able to adapt by going online to ensure it still ran.

Throughout this crisis, more than 25 operators across the region have taken on the task of offering take-away meals throughout the Loddon Valley. The Coffee Bank in Pyramid Hill is one great example of a business acting fast to adapt to the times, implementing a service window, social distancing measures out the front of the store and creating various take home meals to coincide with their normal takeaway menu.

Many businesses have embraced technology and used their websites to sell products online or increased their use of social media to ensure their survival.



### Contact the Loddon Visitor Information Centre

**Phone:** 03 5494 3489

**Email:** [loddonvisitorinformation@loddon.vic.gov.au](mailto:loddonvisitorinformation@loddon.vic.gov.au)

**Web:** [www.bendigoregion.com.au/visit-loddon-valley](http://www.bendigoregion.com.au/visit-loddon-valley)

**Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/visitloddonvalley](http://www.instagram.com/visitloddonvalley)

For a list of the status of cafés, general stores, take away shops and pubs during COVID-19 visit:

[www.bendigoregion.com.au/visit-loddon-valley/blogs/loddon-valley-take-away-food-and-closures](http://www.bendigoregion.com.au/visit-loddon-valley/blogs/loddon-valley-take-away-food-and-closures)

### Spotlight on: Red Dog Chillies

A farm at Fernihurst has been transformed from cereal cropping to a chilli and pepper farm that is now the headquarters of successful new agri-venture, Red Dog Chillies.

Run by local couple Jude Hannah and Neville Tonkin, the business has effectively found a niche market to suit the small acreage of their farm and respond to the growing interest in hot, Mexican-style food.

The couple planted their first crop of over 1800 chilli and pepper plants three years ago and began selling fresh chillies, jalapeños, cayenne peppers, habaneros and other varieties.

Soon after, they turned their hand to producing, and in addition to their fresh products, which can be bought in season; they now sell a range of pickled jalapeños, peri peri sauces in three flavours and a handful of dried chilli varieties, all under the newly rebranded Red Dog Chillies label.

The bold new brand is fast developing a cult-like following across the state and the pair are now looking to increase their wholesale and retail offering, including an online store, as demand for their spicy locally grown products continue to rise.

Visit: [@reddogchillies](https://www.facebook.com/reddogchillies) on Facebook and Instagram



## Waste voucher system

Until May 2020, Council continued to offer residents fee free waste disposal once a quarter. From 1 July 2019 to 31 March 2020, the service was used by 2,362 residents with 753m<sup>3</sup> of waste, 60m<sup>3</sup> recyclables, 259m<sup>3</sup> steel and 463m<sup>3</sup> of green waste as well as 126 items of white goods and 500 items of e-Waste disposed of across the six Council facilities

In an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19, drumMuster collection has been suspended. Also cash payments have been suspended. Currently EFTPOS is the only payment method accepted for the disposal of waste and recycling material.

In April, Council voted to implement a voucher system to replace the fee free waste disposal days.

This is in response to a number of issues that residents and staff have identified since the program was implemented at the end of 2017.

A voucher system will be more convenient for residents and give them the flexibility to dispose of their waste when they need to.

This will also avoid congestion at the landfills and transfer stations, be more efficient for our staff and ultimately lead to better sorting of waste and recyclables.

The vouchers will be delivered to residents through the annual rates notice process with renters contacting the landlord or property owner to obtain a voucher.

## Works update

### Defect rectification:

From 1 July 2019 to 31 March 2020, 4,970 defects were rectified, with 99.5% of all defects (4,944 in total) completed before their due date.

Defects include such things as potholes and edge breaks on roads, debris or obstacles on pavements, vandalism or graffiti, damage on signage, issues with vegetation and bridge maintenance.

The main three defects categories dealt with were:

- sealed pavement and surface
- signs and delineation
- vegetation

## Fee free waste disposal

The last fee free waste disposal days for residents ahead of the introduction of the Voucher system are scheduled for the following dates:

### Saturday 15 August 2020

Inglewood Transfer Station

### Sunday 16 August 2020

Wedderburn Transfer Station

Pyramid Hill Landfill

Dingee Transfer Station

Boort Landfill

Newbridge Landfill



Check Council's website for times:

[www.loddon.vic.gov.au/For-residents/Your-home/Garbage-and-recycling/Landfill-and-transfer-station-timetable](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au/For-residents/Your-home/Garbage-and-recycling/Landfill-and-transfer-station-timetable)

You may dispose of up to four cubic metres of general domestic waste free of charge. This includes green waste, mixed recyclables, general household waste, E-waste such as television and computer screens, home appliances and electronic items, refrigerators, freezers, microwaves and air conditioners. Charges still apply for tyres, bricks and concrete, and mattresses.

Residents will be required to provide proof of Loddon Shire residency.

### Maintenance grading program

From 1 July 2019 to 31 March 2020, 3,009 maintenance grading work actions were completed resulting in 1,470kms of grading and 2,116kms of inspections.

### Works snapshot

- Construction of footpaths in Wedderburn and Boort is complete while those in Inglewood and Bridgewater are nearing completion.
- Work has commenced on the bridge at Sloans Road over Bullabul Creek, Inglewood.
- Reseals have been completed.
- Old Inglewood Reservoir safety upgrade works have commenced.

## Appin South bridge

Works to replace the Appin South bridge with a new dual-lane structure commenced at the end of March, with construction estimated to take fourteen weeks to complete.

The Appin South bridge, spanning the Loddon River is a major access to the Loddon Valley Highway.

The \$1.179 million Appin South bridge replacement program is supported by \$589,500 from the Federal Government's Bridges Renewal Program and a \$393,000 contribution from Regional Roads Victoria's Fixing Country Roads program.

*Appin South bridge*



## Upcoming infant immunisation sessions

Immunisation sessions will be held at Boort Senior Citizens Centre, Dingee Bush Nursing Centre, Inglewood Maternal and Child Health Centre, Pyramid Hill Senior Citizens Centre and Serpentine Council offices on:

<b>Thursday 11 June</b>	9.30am Inglewood, 11.30am Dingee, 2.00pm Pyramid Hill
<b>Thursday 9 July</b>	9.15am Serpentine, 11.15am Boort
<b>Thursday 13 August</b>	9.30am Inglewood, 11.30am Dingee, 2pm Pyramid Hill
<b>Thursday 10 September</b>	9.15am Serpentine, 11.15am Boort

## Bookings essential

To make an appointment for an infant's immunisation, call Council's Serpentine Office on 5494 1201.

Please bring your Medicare card and Child Record Book to each immunisation session and allow 15 minutes waiting time following immunisation.

For information regarding immunisation, or to contact immunisation staff during sessions, call 0488 095 205. Information is also available from Council's website at [www.loddon.vic.gov.au](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au).

## Community Grants Scheme extended

Council assists community groups, organisations and other not-for-profit agencies through annual grant programs that support the development of projects, activities and services that contribute to the wellbeing and quality of life of our residents.

The Community Grants program, which normally closes on 1 May, has been extended to 1 June 2020.

Community groups are encouraged to apply that have projects to:

- develop or improve upon existing facilities
- fund programs or purchase equipment that will increase accessibility and participation
- meet a demonstrated community need.

For further information, please refer to the Community Grants Guidelines on our website: [www.loddon.vic.gov.au/For-residents/Community-support/Council-grants](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au/For-residents/Community-support/Council-grants).

## Website short cuts

Our new-look website is a wealth of information for residents needing Council information. You can find almost anything by using the search function. Here are some quick links to frequently requested pages:

### Forms and permits:

[www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Council/Forms-and-permit-applications](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Council/Forms-and-permit-applications)

### Garbage and recycling:

[www.loddon.vic.gov.au/For-residents/Your-home/Garbage-and-recycling](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au/For-residents/Your-home/Garbage-and-recycling)

### Agendas and minutes:

[www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Council/Agendas-and-minutes](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Council/Agendas-and-minutes)

### Business Directory:

[www.loddon.vic.gov.au/For-residents/Business-Directory](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au/For-residents/Business-Directory)

### Community facilities:

[www.loddon.vic.gov.au/For-residents/Community-facilities](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au/For-residents/Community-facilities)

### Current job vacancies:

[www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Council/Working-with-us](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Council/Working-with-us)

### Tourism:

[www.bendigoregion.com.au/visit-loddon-valley](http://www.bendigoregion.com.au/visit-loddon-valley)

### Follow us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/LoddonShire/](http://www.facebook.com/LoddonShire/)

### Find us on Instagram:

[@visitloddonvalley](https://www.instagram.com/visitloddonvalley)

## Shire offices

**Wedderburn** 41 High St, Wedderburn 3518 **T:** (03) 5494 1200 **F:** (03) 5494 3003  
**Serpentine** 37 Peppercorn Way, Serpentine 3516 **T:** (03) 5494 1201 **F:** (03) 5437 8407

Offices open Monday to Friday 8.15am to 4.45pm

**Email:** [loddon@loddon.vic.gov.au](mailto:loddon@loddon.vic.gov.au) **Web:** [www.loddon.vic.gov.au](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au)

## Your Councillors



**Mayor Cr Cheryl McKinnon**  
Terrick Ward  
0409 557 888



**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