

LODDON

BULLETIN

A PROSPEROUS
VIBRANT AND
ENGAGED COMMUNITY



Food and Wine Expo among autumn events

Have a flutter on a horse, sample some fine fare or size up a giant pumpkin – just a few of the varied and entertaining options on offer for visitors to Loddon Shire this autumn.

Taking place on the banks of the Loddon River at Newbridge on 16 March 2019, the Loddon Valley Food and Wine Expo will showcase the region's gourmet food and wine, supported by live music and entertainment.

Additionally, the expo features a three-course lunch for 150 pre-booked guests prepared by chef Karen Martini (*Better Homes and Gardens*) and served with local wines.

For those not attending the lunch, entry is \$10 (under 16 free) or \$20 for entry, tastings of food and wine, plus a souvenir wine glass.

On the Sunday 17 March, it's the Boort Pacing Cup, a colourful social event hosted by the oldest continuous trotting club in Australia. Patrons are guaranteed a lively day's racing, plus access to a sports bar and free children's entertainment.

The Pyramid Hill Fiesta on 23 March celebrates the vibrant contribution of the town's multicultural community, with dance displays, singing, children's entertainment, live music, Filipino and Australian country cuisine and an operating bar facility.

Soon after comes the Eddington Vintage Sports Car Club Sprints, planned for 30 March, featuring vehicles from early 1900s roadsters to classics from the 70s.

Free to spectators, cars compete individually against the clock across 25 classes to set the fastest time they can over the quarter-mile. Historic motorcycles are also run on the day.

Think you can grow a pumpkin bigger than 52.5kg? That's the challenge for a family day at Simply Tomatoes, near Boort, from noon on 31 March to raise funds for cystic fibrosis research. Categories include decorated pumpkins, best conditioned pumpkin and a separate section for giant specimens of fruit, vegetables and flowers.

On Easter Monday 22 April, the 149th Rheola Charity Carnival showcases old-fashioned country entertainment, while the Bridgewater Mother's Day Classic returns on 12 May, with courses for walkers and runners in aid of breast cancer research.

For further details on all these events and more, phone the Loddon Visitor Information Centre on (03) 5494 3489 or visit www.loddon.vic.gov.au



The Loddon Valley Food and Wine Expo on 16 March will showcase the region's gourmet food and wine.

QUARTERLY BULLETIN
MARCH 2019

FEATURED

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A word from our Mayor

Welcome to the new-look Loddon Bulletin!

The bulletin has received a bit of a refresh and a new Mayoral Column thrown into the mix. We hope the revitalised bulletin will help keep you informed about what's happening in your Shire.

As featured on the front page of this bulletin, autumn is a great time of year to visit the Loddon Valley, with a range of events to celebrate the pleasant autumn weather.

It is also pleasing to see the works component of the flood restoration efforts is now complete. This has been a huge achievement by Council's Flood Restoration Team.

There is also a number of other works happening, including community projects and an array of on-the-ground works. You can find out more in this bulletin.

I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate Loddon Shire's Citizen of the Year Ron Grimmett and all our Australia Day award recipients including Young Citizen of the Year Katie Baker and Community Group of the Year the Campbells Forest and District Community Action Planning Group.

It was also an honour to preside over two citizenship ceremonies on Australia Day at the Eddington breakfast celebrations and the Pyramid Hill celebrations.

For more Shire news, visit Council's website www.loddon.vic.gov.au and its Facebook page www.facebook.com/LoddonShire/

You can also read my weekly Mayoral Column in *The Loddon Times* each Tuesday, as well as on Council's website. Selected items from the column are also published in local community newsletters.

Ron's the Citizen of the Year



Laanecoorie resident Ron Grimmett has been awarded Loddon Shire's Citizen of the Year during the 2019 Australia Day celebrations.

Mr Grimmett (pictured) has a long history of community service, including 14 years as secretary of the Laanecoorie Recreation Reserve, 12 years as a member of the Laanecoorie School committee and member of the Laanecoorie Hall committee for 45 years. He is also a life member of the Woodstock West Fire Brigade and life member of the CFA region, and received the National Medal for long service given to emergency services.

Additionally, Mr Grimmett has been involved in all local sporting clubs and has a passion for

agriculture and generosity to his community.

Dingee's Katie Baker was awarded the Young Citizen of the Year, while the Campbells Forest and District Community Action Planning Group received the award for Community Group of the Year.

Other award recipients were: Jennifer Weaver (Boort Community Service Award), Fred Shea (Inglewood Community Service Award), Denise Bridges (Tarnagulla Community Service Award), Kevin Pollock (Terrick Community Service Award) and Robert Steel (Wedderburn Community Service Award).

Two citizenship ceremonies also took place during Australia Day, the first at the Eddington Australia Day breakfast, and the second that evening at the Pyramid Hill celebrations.



Flood restoration works complete

Works for the flood restoration program are now complete.

The completion of works, which were made possible through funding via the Natural Disaster Financial Assistance, represents the end of a significant portion of the program, with administrative components to conclude on 30 June 2019.

The program began following a flood event in October 2016, which saw 2,237 damages recorded across the Shire.

Major works have included the restoration of Sebastian Bridge, Appin South Bridge and Dalziels Bridge, and major road reconstruction works on Tandarra Serpentine Road and Rothackers Road.

Major restoration works have also been completed on sections of Pyramid Yarraberb Road, Sebastian Road and Wilkinson Swamp Road.

The completion of flood restoration works has been a united effort between Council's works crew and external panel contractors. Council would also like to thank the community for its continued support and cooperation, which has helped in completing works and goals under the flood restoration program.



Old Boort Road at Woolshed Flat before (top image) and after flood recovery works (above). The works included beaching and installation of concrete edge beams.

Community projects update

A snapshot of the many community projects happening around our Shire:

- All swimming pools in the Shire have now had solar hot water installed, with the last project completed at the end of February 2019. The project was made possible thanks to Sport and Recreation Victoria.
- Shade sails are scheduled to be installed at Boort Swimming Pool and over the playground in Korong Vale's Borella Park during the second week of March.
- The Rheola Town Hall verandah has been redeveloped. Works included lining the underside of the hall verandah and installation of flood lighting.
- A new barbecue and shelter will be installed at Progress Park in Newbridge. Works are expected to start after the Loddon Valley Food and Wine Expo on 16 March.
- A number of repairs will take place at the Newbridge Hall, including replacement of doors, and painting of new carpentry works and existing back deck. Works are expected to get underway following the Loddon Valley Food and Wine Expo.
- Two timber light towers will be replaced at the Bridgewater Recreation Reserve. Works will include installation of LED lights. Works are expected to be completed by the end of April.
- New playground equipment will be installed at Dingee Recreation Reserve and Rheola Recreation Reserve in March.
- The playground redevelopment at Pyramid Hill between the tennis courts and pool is in progress. The redevelopment includes a new barbecue area and shade structures.
- The Pyramid Hill Memorial Hall will receive a power upgrade, including a new meter board. The upgrade is expected to be completed by the end of March.
- Boat ramps and a new canoe launch area will be installed at the Laanecoorie foreshore.
- Solar panels have been installed on the Dingee Town Hall roof.
- New light towers for the Pyramid Hill Recreation Reserve are expected to be launched in the first round of the 2019 Loddon Valley Football Netball League season.



All swimming pools in the Shire now have solar hot water installed.

Community grants now open

Applications for Council's Community Grants Scheme are now open.

Up to \$10,000 is available for not-for-profit clubs and organisations based in the Loddon Shire to deliver projects that directly benefit residents. This includes enhancing the provision of activities, facilities or delivery of services to people in our community.

Successful grant applications are funded on a two-to-one basis. This means for every \$2 provided by Council, the successful applicants must contribute a minimum of \$1 towards the cost of the project. Up to 50 per cent of an applicant's contribution can be in-kind.

Last year the scheme allocated almost \$142,000 in funding across the Shire, with 26 groups receiving full or partial funding.

Applications for Council's Community Grants Scheme close at 5pm, Wednesday 1 May 2019.

Please note, applications must be submitted online through Smarty Grants. The link is available on Council's website (www.loddon.vic.gov.au). Support is also available to assist with the Smarty Grants process.

To find out more, call Council's Community Support Team on 5494 1200.

Guide to working on rural roadsides

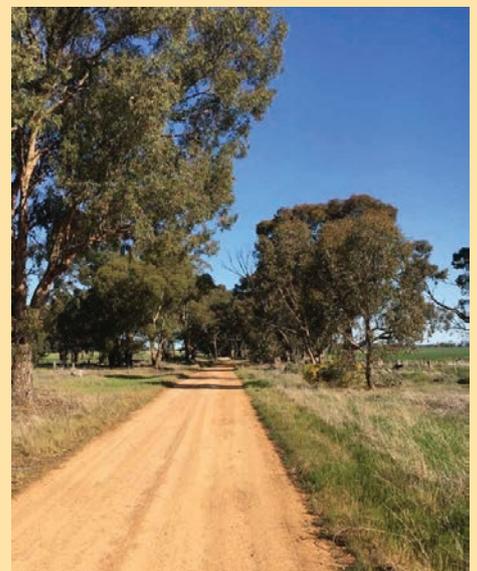
Council has released a handy pocket guide regarding working on rural roadsides in the Shire.

The guide provides an overview of what permits might be needed for activities on a roadside, who to contact in Council as well as Victorian and Federal legislation applied to each activity.

Activities listed in the guide include mowing or slashing of native vegetation, stock movement, earthworks, revegetation and many more.

Additionally, the guide provides a list of VicRoads-managed roads and roadside reserves in our Shire.

The pocket guide is available now from Council offices and via Council's website at www.loddon.vic.gov.au.



Next free waste disposal days



The next free waste disposal days are scheduled for the following dates:

Saturday 18 May

Inglewood Transfer Station 8am - 12pm

Sunday 19 May

Wedderburn Transfer Station 8am - 12pm

Pyramid Hill Landfill 8am - 12pm

Dingee Transfer Station 10am - 2pm

Boort Landfill 1pm - 5pm

Newbridge Landfill 1pm - 5pm

You can 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, television and computer screens, home appliances, electronic items, microwaves and air conditioners, and white goods. You can also dispose of battery operated products that have reached their end of life.

Charges still apply for tyres, bricks and concrete, and mattresses, as these items have additional third party costs associated with their disposal.

Inglewood pool update

New multi-use facilities at the Inglewood Swimming Pool are nearing completion, with the fitout of the changeroom underway.

The combined netball and swimming pool facilities will provide a universally-accessible changeroom, public toilets, canteen, first aid office and administration areas.

The project was funded through grants from Sport and Recreation Victoria.

A new pool hoist has also been installed, enabling community members with disability or limited mobility to access the pool.

Works update

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

Resealing works

Designs for the 2018/19 resealing works program are in progress. Works are scheduled to take place during April.

Local road construction – safety program

Safety works on Gowar Logan Road are expected to start in March. The works involve upgrading the approach and guardrail located over the road's culvert.

Township street improvements

Construction of footpaths in Wedderburn, Boort, Newbridge, Bridgewater and Mitiamo are anticipated to start in April.

Tenders

The tender has closed for the construction and installation of culverts and crossings on Mologa Durham Ox Road, Hudson Lane and Pigeonhole Road. The tender has also closed for the installation of underground stormwater drainage infrastructure in Verdon Street, Inglewood. The tender for the replacement of the bridge at Connors Road in Leichardt closed on 6 March.

Newbridge Town Hall waste treatment facility

Works to install the new treatment waste facility at Newbridge Town Hall and public toilets are expected to get underway in March.

Roads

Local road construction works have been completed on Pyramid Yarraberb Road and Echuca Serpentine Road. Construction works on Bridgewater Raywood Road started in late February.



The local road resheet of Salathiels Road has been completed, as has 1.3 kilometres of shoulder resheet on Dunns Road.

Defect rectification

From 1 January to middle of February this year, 2,007 defects were rectified, with 96 per cent of all defects completed before their due date.

Maintenance grading program

From 1 January to middle of February this year, 1,225 maintenance grading work actions were completed resulting in 131 kilometres of grading and 596 kilometres of inspections.

Did you know?

Around 30,000 to 40,000 tonnes of gravel has been carted for Council's capital works program from the start of July 2018 to January this year.

The majority of gravel for the program is sourced from within our Shire.

Small business bus coming to Boort

Looking to start a small business?
Want to develop your existing small business?

Help is on the way with the Victorian Government's Small Business Bus coming to Boort on 30 May.

The Small Business Bus offers free mentoring throughout the day with an experienced business professional who can assist you in taking your small business to the next level.

On board the Small Business Bus you will find information on Small Business Victoria's programs and services as well as tools and tips to help you start or grow your business.

Bookings are essential for the mentoring sessions, so reserve your place now at business.vic.gov.au/sbb or call 13 22 15.

The Small Business Bus will be located at Godfrey Street, opposite the Boort Resource and Information Centre (BRIC) between 10am and 4pm on Thursday 30 May 2019.



Pet registrations due 10 April

Dog and cat owners in Loddon Shire are reminded that pet registration renewals are due by Wednesday 10 April 2019. 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.

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.



Did you know?

In 2017/18 there were 2,123 dog registrations in the Shire and 390 cat registrations. Pet registrations are due annually on 10 April.

South West Loddon Pipeline Project update

Construction of the South West Loddon Pipeline is continuing with the current construction phase expected to be completed by July 2019. Around 800 km of pipeline has been installed to date which is 85 per cent of the design total. The service connection installation process is continuing.

Construction of the pump stations is well underway and final system commissioning is anticipated to occur around September 2019. Limited water supply will be made available in some areas prior to final commissioning. Customers will be individually notified when water is available at their property.

The period for lodging an Expression of Interest to join the scheme under the initial terms and conditions of the project has now expired and so any future requests to connect will be managed under the standard new connections policy. Please contact GMMWater to discuss future connections to the system.

GMMWater will remain in contact with landowners who have signed up to the scheme to provide updates on when a water supply will be available and when final commissioning will occur.

Information provided by GMMWater.

Upcoming 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:

Thursday 14 March

9.15am Serpentine
11.15am Boort

Thursday 11 April

9.30am Inglewood
11.30am Dingee
1.45pm Pyramid Hill

Thursday 9 May

9.15am Serpentine
11.15am Boort

Thursday 13 June

9.30am Inglewood
11.30am Dingee
1.45pm Pyramid Hill

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 Go to "Services for our younger residents" from the "Live" dropdown box at the top of the page.

Easter and Anzac Day office hours

Due to the Good Friday and Easter Monday public holidays, Council offices in Wedderburn and Serpentine will close at 4.45pm on Thursday 18 April and reopen at 8.15am on Tuesday 23 April.

Council offices will also be closed for the Anzac Day public holiday on Thursday, 25 April.

The Loddon Visitor Information Centre will be closed on Good Friday and Anzac Day, but is otherwise open Monday to Saturday from 9am to 5pm and from 10am to 4pm on Sundays and other public holidays.

For enquiries phone 5494 3489.

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

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

For details regarding Anzac Day services visit Council's website www.loddon.vic.gov.au

Upcoming Council meetings

Community members are always welcome to attend Council's monthly meetings to learn of issues affecting their community.

Meetings start at 3pm and are held at the Serpentine Council Chambers.

Upcoming Council meetings:

- Tuesday 26 March
- Tuesday 23 April
- Tuesday 28 May
- Tuesday 25 June

Shire offices

Wedderburn 41 High St, Wedderburn 3518 **T:** (03) 5494 1200 **F:** (03) 5494 3003
Monday to Friday 8.15am to 4.45pm

Serpentine 37 Peppercorn Way, Serpentine 3516 **T:** (03) 5494 1201 **F:** (03) 5437 8407
Monday to Friday 8.15am to 4.45pm

Email: loddon@loddon.vic.gov.au **Web:** www.loddon.vic.gov.au

Your Councillors



Mayor Cr Cheryl McKinnon
Terrick Ward



Cr Neil Beattie
Boort Ward



Cr Colleen Condliffe
Inglewood Ward



Cr Geoff Curnow
Tarnagulla Ward



Cr Gavan Holt
Wedderburn Ward