

LODDON BULLETIN

A resilient, sustainable and prosperous community of communities.



Major projects update

Donaldson Park Community Hub

Works are continuing on Wedderburn's Donaldson Park Community Hub, including earthworks.

Removed soil from the earthworks will not impact on use of the Nardoo Trail. Material from the earthworks will be used for Stage 2 of the project.

Preparation for the building construction is also well underway, with installation of footings and services.

Stage 1, anticipated to be completed in October, includes the construction of a new multisport and community-focused pavilion. It will also include the construction of a carpark, solar installation with batteries, pavement works and landscaping.

The Donaldson Park Community Hub project has been made possible thanks to funding from the Commonwealth Government, Victorian Government, Donaldson Park Committee of Management, user groups, the community, Inglewood & Districts Community Enterprises Limited and Council.



Works are continuing on the Donaldson Park Community Hub.

The Donaldson Park Steering Committee has provided input throughout the project, including the building's design.

Pyramid Hill Streetscape Revitalisation Project

Works are underway on the \$1.58 million Pyramid Hill Streetscape Revitalisation Project, with the contractor progressing works in Lions Park before commencing at Kelly Park.

The works at Lions Park include the replacement of the concrete path to and around the shelter, replacement of garden beds, planting of trees and shrubs, and a new path around Lions Park.

The project has been made possible through \$800,000 in funding from the Victorian Government's Building Works package and Council.

QUARTERLY BULLETIN
MARCH 2023

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Cr Dan Straub

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Godfrey Street culvert replacement nearing completion

Works on the replacement of the culvert in Godfrey Street in Wedderburn are nearing completion.

Recent work included the laying of the concrete slab, followed by installation of the new culvert (*pictured*).

At completion, the culvert replacement works will provide a connection over Nardoo Creek when it is in flood.

Council thanks the community for their patience during completion of the works.



A word from our Mayor

Flood recovery and restoration works are continuing across our Shire following last year's flood event, with Council busy getting its road network open and safe for use.

Over the duration of the flooding, at least 65 roads were closed for various lengths of time, while others were impacted without needing to be closed. Further damage to impacted roads caused by traffic has resulted in the need for their reassessment in some instances.

To put the situation that Council finds itself in perspective, Council's total road expenditure in the 2022/23 budget is \$6.7 million. The estimated repair bill for the flood damage to Council's road assets is approximately \$60 million.

If you encounter an issue with one of Council's roads or any other Council matter, you can contact the team on (03) 5494 1200 or via Council's website at www.loddon.vic.gov.au and clicking on "Report an issue".

Council operates an after-hours service for urgent road issues, this is also accessed through the 5494 1200 phone number.

There are several roads in Loddon Shire that are the responsibility of Regional Roads Victoria. These include the highways and major connecting routes. Issues on these roads can be reported to Regional Roads Victoria on 133 778.

A list of Regional Roads Victoria roads within Loddon Shire can be found on Council's website at www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Services/Footpaths-roads-and-drains/Roads and opening the appropriate tab.

Australia Day congratulations

I would like to take this opportunity to thank community groups, organisers and volunteers for once again putting on fantastic local celebrations for Australia Day.

I had the privilege of attending Australia Day events at Jarklin for the East Loddon celebrations as well as Inglewood, Tarnagulla and Pyramid Hill.

It was fantastic to hear the guest speaker at the Jarklin Australia Day event – Assistant Chief Fire Officer James Dullard, while I was very honoured to be guest speaker at the Inglewood, Tarnagulla and Pyramid Hill celebrations.

I would like to congratulate our Australia Day award recipients, including Loddon Shire's Citizen of the Year Howard Rochester and Young Citizen of the Year Jake Murphy.

I'd also like to congratulate the 8th National Tractor Trek (Wedderburn) for being awarded the Community Event of the Year, as well as recipients of the Community Service Awards (by ward): Murray and Cheryl Chalmers (Boort), Don Wilson (Inglewood), Susan Horsley (Tarnagulla), Robyn Spowart (Terrick), and Ian Hall (Wedderburn).

Furthermore, I congratulate all of the Loddon Shire students who participated in the annual competition for literature, colouring and photography, including the winners and highly commended entries.

Citizenship ceremonies honour

It was a great honour to officiate at Citizenship Ceremonies on 13 December last year and earlier this year on 24 January. I'd like to congratulate Jincy Mukalel (originally from India), Cresilda Oversby (Philippines), Jhon-Denver Dula (Philippines), Jeroen Van Veen (Netherlands) and Kevin O'Hara (England). All made the Australian Citizenship Pledge during their respective ceremonies.

It was fascinating to hear all the different stories from our new citizens, and find out what inspired them to become Australians.



Loddon Shire Council Mayor
Cr Dan Straub.

Loddon celebrates Australia Day 2023

Australia Day 2023 in Loddon Shire 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 Howard Rochester and Young Citizen of the Year Jake Murphy.

The dedication of local community members was also recognised through the Community Service Awards for each ward of the Shire, as well as the Community Event of the Year.

The recipients of the Community Service Awards were: Murray and Cheryl Chalmers (Boort), Don Wilson (Inglewood), Susan Horsley (Tarnagulla), Robyn Spowart (Terrick) and Ian Hall (Wedderburn).

The 8th National Tractor Trek (Wedderburn) was awarded the Community Event of the Year.



Australia Day celebrations taking place at Eddington.

Works update

Township street improvements

- The tender for the concrete footpaths program 2022/23 has closed.
- Footpath construction works on Commercial Road in Tarnagulla (between Poverty and Wayman streets) will take place in March.
- Works for kerb and channel, underground drainage and sealing upgrades in Grant Street (between Houston Street and the railway line) in Inglewood have started.
- The construction of a pedestrian barrier in Lakeside Drive, Boort is nearing completion.
- The construction for underground drainage works in Inglewood at the primary school and Verdon Street are complete.

Other

- The septic system upgrade and replacement at the Tarnagulla Town Hall, Community Centre and public toilets is complete.
- The septic system upgrade and replacement at Eddington Public Hall is complete.

Flood restoration

In getting roads on our network open and usable again, more than 2,000 tonnes of gravel have been used on 34 locations, with many more roads requiring grading.

Council has a team inspecting roads and capturing the damage in line with the State Government's Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. To date the following repairs have been identified:

- 117 culvert repairs or replacements
- 56 floodway repairs
- 1 bridge replacement
- 273 km of gravel road re-sheets
- 47 km of unsealed road shoulders to replace
- 14.25 km of sealed road to be rebuilt

Council is in the process of developing a panel of contractors for the delivery of the works. The panel of contractors will be required to provide quotations on packages of work. The entire program is expected to be ongoing until June 2025.

Council officers continue to work with the Department of Transport and Planning and other government bodies for relevant funding and approvals.

Road Management Plan

In order to get our roads useable within existing resources, Council's Road Management Plan has been suspended.

This means Council's usual road and footpath maintenance activities have been greatly reduced and we are not able to meet the repair timeframes as per that Plan. As a result, Council has seen an increase in customer requests for maintenance.

It is expected that the Road Management Plan will remain suspended until August 2023. In the meantime, we ask the community to be patient and make sure you travel according to the conditions of the roads, obey warning signs, and adhere to any restrictions in place.



Flood works taking place in October 2022.

Maintenance inspection summary

From 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022, 128 road, footpath and bridge maintenance inspections were completed (1460 defects raised), with 29.4 per cent of all inspections completed before their due date.

Maintenance defect rectification

From 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022, 4,125 road, footpath and bridge defects were rectified, with 94.6 per cent of all defects (3,902 in total) completed before their due date.

Maintenance grading program

From 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022, 938 kilometres of Council roads were inspected and 532 kilometres were graded.

VicRoads-controlled roads

Council has a contract to undertake routine maintenance of pavement, shoulders, roadside areas, drainage systems, road furniture and structures on various arterial roads within Loddon Shire (VicRoads roads). If you have any requests or issues with VicRoads arterial roads please call 13 11 70.

From 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022, 1,178 defects were rectified, with 81.3 per cent of all defects (981 in total) completed before their due date.

Waste vouchers

Residents are provided with four vouchers with their rates notices - one for each quarter. Each voucher 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. This includes green waste, mixed recyclables, general household waste and e-waste (white goods, TVs, computers, electronic items, etc.).

Tyres, bricks and concrete, and mattresses are not included as these items have additional third party costs associated with their disposal, and will be charged as per normal disposal charges.

Each voucher can only be used once, and only one voucher used per transaction. The voucher must be presented to attendants at landfill and transfer stations. Each voucher must be used by its expiry date - with voucher 3 due to expire 31 March 2023.

Storytime at the library

Storytime sessions have now resumed at Goldfields Library agencies. Storytime sessions are a great way to introduce your little one to the fun of books, songs and rhymes.

Children can dance and make new friends as they learn vital skills for healthy literacy.

Each fun-filled session is run by trained library staff and is specially designed for children under five years.

Pick up a Storytime card from your local agency, or view upcoming sessions below:

Boort Library Agency, 10.30-11am
Boort Resource and Information Centre
(119-121 Godfrey Street)

- Thursday 9 March
- Thursday 23 March
- Thursday 6 April
- Thursday 4 May
- Thursday 18 May

Inglewood Library Agency, 10.30-11am
Inglewood Town Hall Hub (20 Verdon Street)

- Tuesday 21 March
- Tuesday 16 May

Pyramid Hill Playgroup, 10.30-11am (67 Kelly Street)

- Friday 24 March
- Friday 28 April
- Friday 26 May



Serpentine Playgroup, 11-11.30am
Memorial Hall (20 Chapel Street)

- Wednesday 8 March
- Wednesday 5 April
- Wednesday 17 May

Wedderburn Playgroup, 9.45-10.15am
(15-29 Hospital Street)

- Tuesday 7 March
- Tuesday 4 April
- Tuesday 2 May

For more information about Storytimes, visit www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au/storytimes or call (03) 5449 2790.

Events to showcase the inspirational Loddon region

The Loddon region's cultural heartbeat continues in full rhythm over Autumn showcasing a range of culturally-enriching events throughout the whole Shire.

The Autumn events calendar includes the return of the annual favourite – the **Minelab Detector Jamboree**, held in Wedderburn over the Labour Day weekend from 11 to 12 March.

Saturday 25 March will be a day for car enthusiasts and clubs, with the **Eddington Vintage Sports Car Club Sprints**.



The Minelab Detector Jamboree will be held over the Labour Day weekend.

Easter will see two big community sporting events – the **Wedderburn Bowls Club Easter Carnival** from 6 to 8 April, and the **Boort Lawn Tennis Club Easter Tournament** from 7 to 10 April.

On Easter Monday (10 April) Rheola will celebrate its **150th Charity Carnival** – a community celebration not to be missed, while Sunday 14 May will feature the **Bridgewater on Loddon Mother's Day Classic**.

Autumn is then topped off with the **Annual Swap Meet & Market** on 20 May in Wedderburn.

For a full list of events, including regular and monthly events in the region, go to www.visitloddonvalley.com.au or call the Loddon Visitor Information Centre on (03) 5494 3489.



The 150th Rheola Charity Carnival will be held Easter Monday (10 April).

Outdoor fitness equipment launched

A new outdoor fitness station in Inglewood was officially opened late last year, providing a free opportunity for locals and visitors to be physically active.

Launched by Loddon Shire Councillor Wendy Murphy, the new outdoor fitness equipment project was led and funded by the Healthy Loddon Campaspe initiative.

The equipment includes a balance beam, aerobic cycle, pull downs, leg press, chest press, body twist and step-ups.

The new fitness station further complements the Inglewood Recreation Reserve and its facilities, while providing a great opportunity for the local community and visitors to enjoy new ways to be active.

The Inglewood outdoor fitness station is the fourth to be installed in Loddon Shire through the Healthy Loddon Campaspe initiative, with stations also in Boort, Pyramid Hill and Wedderburn.

As highlighted by the 2019 Active Living Census, the exercise equipment gives residents who expressed a goal of wanting to exercise more, the chance to do so.

Installing outdoor exercise equipment was also identified as an action in goal 4 of the Inglewood Community Plan 2021-2031.



Cr Wendy Murphy (centre) tries out Inglewood's new outdoor fitness equipment, joined by (L-R) Loddon Shire Council Chief Executive Officer Lincoln Fitzgerald, Council's Director Community Wellbeing Wendy Gladman, and Inglewood and Districts Health Service's Shanaye Alexander.

For more information on the Healthy Loddon Campaspe initiative, visit www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Services/Health-and-wellbeing/Healthy-Loddon-Campaspe

Dedicated resources for flood recovery

Council has welcomed two new full-time dedicated resources to help the community recover from the devastating October floods: Manager of Community Recovery Mal Brown and Community Recovery Officer Josie McKinnon.

Mal Brown (top right), from Leichardt, has extensive experience in both community engagement and community flood recovery, particularly the 2011 event. He has worked for the North Central CMA, Agriculture Victoria and has run his own consultancy business.

Josie McKinnon (bottom right), originally from Pyramid Hill, has enjoyed a long career in events and hospitality management, working, studying and travelling throughout Australia and overseas. Since returning to Victoria in 2020, Josie has completed studies in community planning and development and taken up various volunteer roles while continuing her work as a hospitality professional.

Josie is committed to achieving positive outcomes for her community and looks forward to reconnecting with local communities throughout the Shire.

Both Mal and Josie will work collaboratively with Council staff and partner agencies to advocate for the resources needed to support our community's recovery.

They will identify priorities for action through the development of a Recovery Plan and advocate for investment and resource allocation to rebuild and, where appropriate, upgrade community infrastructure.

Mal can be contacted on 0499 978 145 and Josie on 0474 911 783.

Additional information on the State recovery supports can also be sourced by calling the flood recovery hotline on 1800 560 760 or visiting www.vic.gov.au/emergency-recovery-victoria

For further information on the financial assistance available, please visit: www.vic.gov.au/financial-help-2022-victorian-floods



Community projects update

Floodlighting upgrade project

A contractor has been appointed and works are in progress on lighting upgrades at the Serpentine Recreation Reserve.

The project will see the Serpentine Recreation Reserve receive new fit-for-purpose light towers and sustainable LED floodlighting.

It will result in a significant upgrade to the standard of lighting available for training and provide the opportunity for further activation for the community and users.

Flood recovery projects

- Works are underway on the reinstatement of the Newbridge Recreation Reserve.
- New canoe launchers are anticipated to be installed at Laanecoore and Durham Ox around Easter.
- Works on the Bridgewater Swimming Hole are expected to take place during the winter months.

Your Councillors



Mayor Cr Dan Straub

Terrick Ward | 0429 236 399
dsraub@loddon.vic.gov.au



Cr Neil Beattie

Boort Ward | 0427 552 468
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Cr Gavan Holt

Wedderburn Ward | 0408 943 008
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Cr Linda Jungwirth

Tarnagulla Ward | 0428 259 082
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Cr Wendy Murphy

Inglewood Ward | 0436 457 170
wmurphy@loddon.vic.gov.au

Pet registration

Dog and cat owners are reminded that pet registration renewals are due by 10 April 2023.

Every dog and cat over the age of three months must be registered.

Registering your dog or cat greatly improves their chances of being returned to you if they become lost.



Owners of dogs and cats whose pets are being registered for the first time with Council

must provide evidence that their pet has a microchip.

Please ensure you keep your pet's microchip details up to date via the Central Animal Register at www.car.com.au

If your dog or cat is no longer with you, please let Council know so we can update our records.

For more information visit www.loddon.vic.gov.au or phone the Local Laws team on (03) 5494 1200.

Council Meetings



Council Meetings are usually held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 3pm.

The meetings are held at the Loddon Shire Council Chambers in Wedderburn (entry from Peters Street), behind the Council office.

A livestream of the meeting is available to the public via Council's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/LoddonShire

Upcoming Council Meetings:

- Tuesday 28 March
- Wednesday 26 April
- Tuesday 23 May

Citizenship ceremonies

On 13 December 2022 and 24 January 2023, Mayor Dan Straub officiated at citizenship ceremonies, presenting citizenship certificates to our newest Australian citizens.



Receiving their Australian Citizenship on 13 December were Jincy Mukalel (India), Cresilda Oversby (Philippines), Jhon-Denver Dula (Philippines) and Jeroen Van Veen (Netherlands).

On 24 January, a citizenship certificate was presented to Kevin O'Hara (England) (*left*).



Acknowledgement of Country

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

41 High St, Wedderburn 3518

Local call: 1300 365 200 **T:** (03) 5494 1200

Office hours: Monday to Friday 8.15am to 4.45pm (except public holidays)

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