

# LODDON BULLETIN

*A resilient, sustainable and prosperous community of communities*



## Australia Day 2025

Australia Day celebrations across the Loddon Shire were again well attended this year. Celebrations at Boort, Bridgewater on Loddon, Dingee, Eddington, Inglewood, Newbridge, Pyramid Hill, Tarnagulla and Wedderburn included presentations to Australia Day Award recipients and competition winning and highly commended entries.

Residents across the Loddon Shire who had generously contributed countless hours of time and effort to their local communities were recognised with 2025 Loddon Shire Australia Day awards.

Lifetime Pyramid Hill resident, Ian Bartels was named the 2025 Loddon Shire Citizen of the Year, recognising his volunteer efforts across various sporting clubs, recreation areas, the Caledonian Pipe Band, Anglican Church, as well as being a member of the former Pyramid Hill Hospital Board.

Wedderburn resident, Tyson Blair received the 2025 Loddon Shire Young Citizen of the Year award. This award recognised Tyson's active involvement in the community, including making and distributing masks during the COVID pandemic, filling and distributing sandbags during the 2024 floods, alongside his musical theatre, sporting pursuits and academic achievements.

The dedication of local community members was further celebrated through the Ward Citizen of the Year awards:

- Boort Ward - Carmel Allison
- Inglewood Ward - Tim Ferguson
- Tarnagulla Ward - Veronica Palmer
- Terrick Ward - Geoff Thomas
- Wedderburn Ward - Jon Chandler



*Australia Day celebrations taking place at Newbridge*

The October 2023 Back to Bridgewater on Loddon event, which celebrated the Memorial Hall Centenary was chosen as the 2025 Loddon Shire Community Group/Event of the Year.

## Community Grants Program

The Loddon Shire Community Grants Program is a competitive funding program aimed at helping clubs and organisations to enhance the provision of facilities, services or activities that improve the quality of life for people in their community.

Submissions are accepted throughout the year and applicants will be notified of their outcomes quarterly.

Please ensure you read the Community Grants Program Guidelines before submitting your application.

For more information on current grant categories and funding applications, visit

<https://loddon.smartygrants.com.au>

**MARCH 2025**

## FEATURED

**Australia Day 2025**  
Loddon celebrations

**Message from the Mayor**  
Cr Dan Straub

**End of pool season**  
2024/25 aquatic season

**Works update**  
Around the Shire

**Roadside Weed and Pest Program**

**Community projects update**  
Pyramid Hill Community Centre

**Easter and Anzac Day**  
Service hours

**2025 Official Visitor Guide**

**Goldfields libraries**  
Autumn events

**Healthy Loddon Campaspe**  
Updates

**Pet registrations**  
Renewals due 10 April

## A word from our Mayor

Welcome to the first edition of our Loddon Bulletin for 2025.

It has been an exciting start to the year, with some fantastic events taking place across the shire, with one of them being the Australia Day celebrations and what a day it was. I would like to congratulate Loddon Shire's Citizen of the Year, Ian Bartels and Young Citizen of the Year Tyson Blair. A congratulations also goes out to all the deserving recipients of awards presented at Australia Day celebrations held across the shire.

I am extremely proud of everyone who was nominated, and you should be proud of yourselves and the work you do and the impact you have within your communities. Your contributions do not go unnoticed and it's wonderful to see them recognised by the community.

Council continues to make progress on flood damaged road repairs across the shire. Federal and State Governments have approved \$8.33 million in flood damaged road repair work through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA), with an extra \$274,000 of work currently under review. Additionally, an estimated \$10.74 million of works is still to be assessed by the DRFA.

Work on the approved repairs is already underway and will continue throughout the year. Additional repairs are expected to be approved and completed by June 2026.

For more information on approved road repair works, visit Council's website under Flood Restoration Program.

The past six months have been very busy for Councillors as we completed our induction training, attended community events and enjoyed getting out and meeting members of the community.

In December, I attended the mandatory Mayoral training conducted by the Victorian Local Governance Association. I was impressed by the quality of the presentations and workshops, which also provided a great opportunity to network with our neighbouring Mayors.

Council is in the process of developing a draft Budget for the next financial year. The draft Budget will be made available to the community for feedback during March and April.

In the coming months, Council will be starting important conversations with the community about our Integrated Strategic Planning project. This project will guide the development of key documents like the Community Vision, Council Plan, Financial Plan and other strategies that shape the future of our shire.

Stay tuned for upcoming opportunities to get involved, share your voice and help us plan for a thriving and connected future for the Loddon Shire.



Loddon Shire Council Mayor  
Cr Dan Straub.

## End of 2024/25 pool season

Council and Belgravia Leisure have made a tremendous effort to ensure the 2024/25 pool season was one of the most enjoyable ever for the Loddon community.

This season, Council entered into an exciting new partnership with Community Bank Inglewood & Districts, Belgravia Leisure and Healthy Loddon Campaspe to enhance attendance and participation at our five pool locations. As a result of this partnership, there was a significant increase in both memberships and overall attendance.

With the generous support of Community Flood Recovery and Northern Districts Community Health, Council hosted seven movie night. Water aerobic fitness

sessions at the five pools, organised by Inglewood & Districts Health Services, were also well attended.

The VicSwim program offered swimming and water safety lessons during the school holidays for children four years and older. This important initiative focused on vital swimming and water safety skills, helping to keep our young swimmers safe.

As the pool season is now closed, Council thanks the community for a great season and looks forward to welcoming everyone back in November.

For more information on public swimming in Loddon Shire, visit [www.loddon.vic.gov.au](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au)

## 30th Anniversary of Loddon Shire

Current and former Loddon Shire Councillors and executive staff recently celebrated the 30th anniversary of Loddon Shire.

Loddon Shire was formed on 19 January 1995 during Victorian Local Government reforms with the amalgamation of the former shires of Gordon, East Loddon, Korong and portions of the former shires of Marong, Bet Bet, Tullaroop and Maldon.

During the celebrations, Mayor Straub highlighted many positive achievements over the years, thanks to the dedication of Councillors and staff.





## Works update

### Chamberlains Road

– Culvert and roadworks have been completed and the road is now open. Guard rail installation is anticipated to be completed by the end of June 2025.



**Ottreys Bridge Road** – Culvert replacement and roadworks is now complete.

**Sidney Watson Road bridge** – Culvert replacement works have commenced and expected to be completed by end of March 2025.

**Inglewood drainage upgrades** - Works are underway in North and Southey Streets, with completion expected by the end of March 2025.

**Boort Memorial Hall upgrade** – A contractor has been engaged to carry out necessary renovations. These renovations will include the installation of a new accessibility ramp, concrete footpaths and upgrades to the stormwater and irrigation systems.

During construction period, the affected entrances will be closed to the public. Works will conclude by April 2025.

**Footpath tender** – Works commenced in Barber Street (Pyramid Hill), Hospital and Tantalla Street (Wedderburn), as well as footpath crossover works in Godfrey Street (Boort). Completion is expected by the end of March.

**Reseal tender** - Contracted work is scheduled to begin in March 2025. The project will reseal 40.6km of roads across the entire shire.

### Quarterly Works Summary (July-December 2024)

The following provides statistical data with respect to Council's performance in managing its road network.

Performance is measured through a comparison of actual defect rectification timeframes against requirements specified in the Loddon Shire Road Management Plan.

**Road maintenance inspections** – 367 inspections were completed (with 1,771 defects raised) and 97% of all inspections completed before their due date.

**Road maintenance rectification** – 3,069 defects were rectified, with 95% of all defects (2,942 in total) completed before their due date.

**Road maintenance grading** – 506 maintenance grading work actions were completed resulting in 1,256km of grading. Additionally, 2,743km of roads were inspected.

**Parks and townships** – 2,196 programmed maintenance actions and defects relating to footpaths, street and park trees, garden beds, grass mowing and playgrounds were rectified with 82 per cent of all defects (1,815 in total) completed before their due date.

**Waste vouchers** – Residents are provided with four vouchers with their annual 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.

Each voucher must be used by its expiry date. Vouchers 3 and 4 are due to expire 30 June 2025.

During this quarter, 1702 vouchers have been used.

General domestic waste includes green waste, mixed recyclables, general household waste and e-waste (white goods, televisions, 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.

### Works completed on Inglewood Town Hall

Photo of the recently completed project which involved installing a brand new galvanized corrugated iron roof, which served as a direct replacement for the original.

The exterior of the building was painted the same colour to highlight its heritage.

Minor repairs were carried out on the rendered walls and timber windows.



## Roadside Weeds and Pests Program

Council continued to implement control activities for weeds and pests along Council's rural roadsides.

The Roadside Weeds and Pests Program is a state funded program. Council engaged contractors to complete the first round of treatment for Prickly Pear and Wheel Cactus, which concluded in December 2024.

During this round, approximately 5,812 Prickly Pear and Wheel Cactus plants combined were treated.

In February 2025, contractors began the second round of treatment for these species.

In support of the efforts of Mt Korong Eco-Watch and private property groups, Council also engaged a contractor to start the treatment of African Lovegrass along the roadsides surrounding Mt Korong.

Additionally, contractors commenced treatment of Silverleaf Nightshade as part of the Silverleaf Nightshade Compliance program managed by Agriculture Victoria.

# Redevelopment of Pyramid Hill Community Centre - Stage 1



The \$3.27 million redevelopment of Pyramid Hill Community Centre has been successfully completed. The project delivered significant improvements, including:

- allied health wing
- maternal and child health room
- consultation rooms
- renovated hall
- accessible car parking, curb and channel, landscaping and associated drainage infrastructure
- improved toilet facilities
- meeting room
- upgraded kitchen

These upgrades have created a more welcoming space for the community and increase the facility's appeal for event hire.

The major redevelopment was made possible through funding from the Victorian Government's Regional Infrastructure Fund, Northern District Community Health (NDCH) and Loddon Shire Council.

This facility is available for community hire through NDCH centre management. For bookings, please contact NDCH directly at [info@ndch.org.au](mailto:info@ndch.org.au) or phone 03 5451 0200.



## Council Meetings

Council Meetings are held at the Loddon Shire Council Chambers in Wedderburn, behind the Council office.

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

### Upcoming Council Meetings:

Tuesday 25 March at 3pm

Tuesday 22 April at 3pm

Tuesday 27 May at 3pm

## Easter and Anzac Day office hours

Due to the Good Friday and Easter Monday public holidays, the Wedderburn Council office will close at 4.45pm on Thursday 17 April and reopen at 8.15am on Tuesday 22 April.

The Wedderburn Council office will also be closed for the Anzac Day public holiday on Friday 25 April 2025.

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

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

For details regarding Anzac Day services, visit Council's website [www.loddon.vic.gov.au](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au)



## 2025 Official Visitor Guide available

The 2025 Loddon Valley Official Visitor Guide (OVG) is now available to the public.

This guide showcases must-visit attractions, key businesses, upcoming events, suggested itineraries, accommodation options, local insights, must do activities and more.

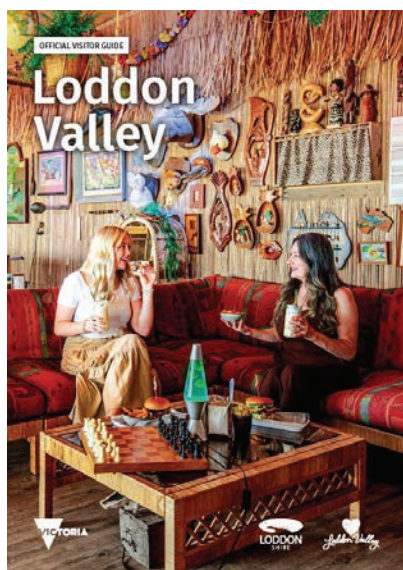
You can collect a copy of the OVG at the Wedderburn Visitor Information Centre, Welcome Shops in the Loddon Valley and other Visitor Centres throughout central Victoria.

Additionally, many of Loddon's leading businesses and community events will have copies available.

To download a digital version of the 2025 Loddon Valley OVG, please visit [www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Tourism](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Tourism)

If you would like to be included in future editions of the OVG, make sure to contact the Tourism Team at [loddonvisitorinformation@loddon.vic.gov.au](mailto:loddonvisitorinformation@loddon.vic.gov.au)

For a list of events happening in the region, make sure to visit [www.visitloddonvalley.com.au](http://www.visitloddonvalley.com.au)



## Autumn at Goldfields libraries

### Storytime at the library

Join the Goldfield's Library friendly staff for a chance to sing, dance, and make new friends. Pick up a Storytime card from your local agency or see the Autumn schedule below.

### Boort Library Agency

Boort Resource and Information Centre, 119-121 Godfrey St, 10.30am - 11:00am.

Thursday 3 April

Thursday 15 May

Thursday 1 May

Thursday 29 May

### Inglewood Library Agency

Inglewood Town Hall Hub, 20 Verdon St, 10.30am - 11:00am.

Tuesday 18 March

Tuesday 13 May

### Pyramid Hill Playgroup

67 Kelly St, 10.30am - 11:00 am.

Friday 4 April

Friday 2 May

### Serpentine Playgroup

Memorial Hall, 20 Chapel St, 11:00am - 11.30am.

Wednesday 19 March

Wednesday 14 May

### Wedderburn Playgroup

15-29 Hospital St, 9.45am—10.15am.

Tuesday 22 April

Tuesday 20 May

This autumn, explore a fresh season of free programs and events at your library agency.

There's something for everyone, so pick up a What's On program on your next visit or check online at [www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au/events](http://www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au/events)



## Pet registrations

Dog and cat owners are reminded that animal registration renewals are due by Thursday 10 April 2025.

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 [www.car.com.au](http://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](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au) or phone the Local Laws team on (03) 5494 1200.



## Your Councillors



**Mayor Cr Dan Straub**  
Terrick Ward | 0429 236 399  
dstraub@loddon.vic.gov.au



**Cr Nick Angelo**  
Tarnagulla Ward | 0498 851 292  
Nick.Angelo@loddon.vic.gov.au



**Cr Gavan Holt**  
Wedderburn Ward | 0408 943 008  
gholt@loddon.vic.gov.au



**Cr David Weaver**  
Boort Ward | 0499 893 925  
David.Weaver@loddon.vic.gov.au



**Cr Miki Wilson**  
Inglewood Ward | 0498 802 683  
Miki.Wilson@loddon.vic.gov.au

## Healthy Loddon Campaspe (HLC) news



### FREE Sports Equipment Libraries in Pyramid Hill and Tarnagulla!

HLC is excited to announce the launch of free sports equipment libraries in Pyramid Hill and Tarnagulla, aimed at encouraging our residents to stay active.

These libraries are stocked with a variety of sports gear, including cricket, croquet and badminton sets. They allow residents to borrow equipment free of charge and enjoy physical activity at home or in local spaces.

Over 150 residents shared their preferences regarding the types of equipment they wanted to see available in the libraries.

Borrowing equipment is easy:

- Open the container and choose the equipment you'd like to use.
- Have fun at home or in a local recreation space.
- Return the equipment in the same condition so others can enjoy it too.

You can find sports equipment libraries at Kelly Park, Pyramid Hill and Soldiers Memorial Park, Tarnagulla.

Keep an eye out for the large branded containers!



### Your Health, Your Community, Your Say – 2025 Active Living Census coming soon!

HLC will be conducting the 2025 Active Living Census (ALC) in six local government areas, including Loddon Shire later this year.

This important census aims to gather insights into our community's health and

wellbeing. We will ask questions regarding physical activity, fruit and vegetable consumption, and what you would like to see implemented to support and promote healthy eating and active lifestyles in our area.

More details about how you can get involved in the 2025 Active Living Census will be shared soon!

### Supporting Junior Cricketers with Healthy Choices in Loddon Shire

HLC has been working to help junior cricket players stay active and make healthier choices both on and off the field.

Over the past few months, the Upper Loddon Cricket Association and local clubs - including Boort-Yando, Bridgewater Bulls, Kingower, and Wedderburn Band, participated in the HLC Healthy Sports Clubs project which has seen fantastic results.

A special thanks to Boort IGA, Inglewood IGA and Randall's FoodWorks in Wedderburn for their generous donations of fresh fruit boxes for training nights and match days.

Belgravia Leisure has provided pool passes as rewards for junior players, encouraging them to stay active with their families throughout the pool season.

Additionally, encouragement awards in the form of healthier food options have been made possible through the support of Godfrey and Bear in Boort.

Café 3517 in Inglewood will soon be offering vouchers as part of the project as well.



Boort-Yando Cricket Club

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)

**Email:** loddon@loddon.vic.gov.au **www.loddon.vic.gov.au** /LoddonShire