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Loddon Australia Day celebrations 2019

Don't miss the chance to celebrate our nation at an Australia Day event on Saturday 26 January 2019. Australia Day celebrations will take place right across our Shire with towns hosting community events. See below for details.

Arnold	Arnold Hall	6.30pm	Flag raising, national anthem, BBQ tea
Boort	Nolens Park	9.15am	Flag raising, national anthem, morning tea, merry-go-round
Bridgewater	J Sloan Park	8am	Flag raising, national anthem, BBQ breakfast
Eddington	Eddington Community Centre	8am	Flag raising, national anthem, BBQ breakfast
Inglewood	Swimming Pool	11am	Flag raising, national anthem, sausage sizzle, swimming carnival
Mitiamo	RJ Phelan Reserve	8.30am	Flag raising, national anthem, BBQ breakfast
Newbridge	Newbridge Hall	11.30am	Flag raising, national anthem, Newbridge singers, light luncheon
Pyramid Hill	Pyramid Hill Hall	6pm	Flag raising, national anthem, BBQ tea
Wedderburn	Soldiers' Memorial Park	5pm	Flag raising, national anthem, BBQ tea

Australia Day competition entries (literature, colouring, photography) will be displayed at Inglewood IGA, Pyramid Hill IGA, Wedderburn old milk bar, Boort BRIC and Tarnagulla Community Centre, or on Australia Day at Mitiamo and Bridgewater.

The day will also include the presentation of Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Community Group/Event of the Year awards as well as Community Service Awards.

Speakers for Loddon Australia Day celebrations will be advised closer to the date.



The 2018 Australia Day celebrations were particularly significant for the Caburnay Family in Pyramid Hill. The family became Australian citizens at a ceremony conducted by Mayor Cheryl McKinnon at the town's Australia Day event.

Cr McKinnon re-elected as Mayor

Terrick Ward Councillor Cheryl McKinnon has been re-elected as Mayor of Loddon Shire for the next 12 months at a Statutory Meeting on Friday 16 November at Pyramid Hill.

Cr McKinnon said it was an honour to be elected as Mayor again.

"I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for electing me to the role for a further 12 months," Cr McKinnon said.

"I look forward to working with Council, its staff and the community over the next year towards further improving the liveability of our Shire.

"This includes through advocacy to our governments – State and Federal, as well as continuing to work with our neighbouring councils towards common goals."



Councillor Cheryl McKinnon (pictured with Councillor Geoff Curnow) has been re-elected as Mayor for the next 12 months.

Flood restoration works – your input needed



Sebastian Bridge before (left) and after flood restoration works.

Council would like to hear from residents regarding any remaining damage to roads, bridges, culverts, drains and floodways due to the October 2016 flood event.

The flood restoration program, which has been made possible through funding via the Natural Disaster Financial Assistance (NDFA), is due to finish on 30 June 2019.

Initially, 2,237 damages caused by flooding were recorded across the Shire. Most flood damages have been restored, with only 150 damages remaining to be assessed for restoration works.

Major works include 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 are also due to be completed on sections of Pyramid Yarraberb Road, Sebastian Road and Wilkinson Swamp Road.

Flood restoration works are being carried out according to damages initially recorded on Council's database.

If you're aware of other damages to infrastructure as a result of the October 2016 floods, please forward the details to: loddon@loddon.vic.gov.au

Attention: Project Manager Flood Restoration
Reference: October 2016 Flood Restoration Works

Please provide any supporting evidence in the form of photographs or anecdotal evidence describing the impact of flood on the asset.

Damages must fulfil the NDFA criteria before Council can include it under the flood restoration program.

If you would like to discuss flood damage please contact Council's Project Manager Flood Restoration, or the Works Coordinator Flood Restoration on (03) 5494 1200.

The completion of flood restoration works has been a united effort between Council's works crew and external panel contractors.

Council would like to thank the community for its continued support and cooperation, which has helped in completing works and goals under the flood restoration program.

Inglewood pool changerooms on track for completion



Construction works are in progress on new multi-use facilities at the Inglewood Swimming Pool.

New multi-use facilities at the Inglewood Swimming Pool are anticipated to open early in 2019.

The facilities will provide the swimming pool with a universally-accessible changeroom for swimming pool patrons and netball players, as well as public toilets, canteen, first aid office

and administration areas. The project also includes landscaping.

All aspects of the multi-use facilities have been constructed to current day standards in line with DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) compliance.

Solar heating infrastructure for the swimming pool will also be installed on the roof of the new facilities.

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

Bridges and culverts program update

Rehabilitation works to Janevale Bridge in Laanecoorie have been completed. The works included repairing of the bridge's concrete spalling, as well as minor cracks and expansion joints.

The current 12 tonne load limit on the bridge remains in place.

The tender for replacement works for Murphy Creek Bridge has been awarded, with works anticipated to begin before the end of the year.

Council has received \$350,000 in funding from the Commonwealth Government under the Bridges Renewal Program to assist with the cost of replacing the bridge, which has been matched by Council.

The replacement will ensure Murphy Creek Bridge and the road to the bridge have adequate capacity to carry all classes of heavy vehicles.

The local bridge and culvert program design team are also finalising designs for a number of projects.

Four culvert replacement projects are anticipated to go out for tender before Christmas. The projects are Connors Road (north of Leichardt), Hudson Lane (Pyramid Hill), Pigeonhole Lane (Nine Mile) and Mologa Durham Ox Road at Yarrowalla.

Council maintains approximately \$35 million worth of bridges and major culverts throughout the Shire.



Rehabilitation works taking place on Janevale Bridge.

Loddon Healthy Minds Network conference delivers insights

Around 90 mental health industry practitioners, staff and volunteers have gained valuable insights and skills to provide better care across rural and regional Victoria at the inaugural Loddon Healthy Minds Network suicide prevention conference.

Held at the Inglewood Town Hall at the end of August, the ***Suicide Prevention – it's everyone's business*** conference focused on suicide prevention strategies that have proven successful within rural communities.

Opened by the Federal Member for Murray Damian Drum, the conference brought together health professionals, volunteers and community members with an interest in community mental health. The aim of the conference was to focus on suicide prevention and mental health in rural areas, as well as raising awareness and starting conversations in communities.

A range of speakers on the day also shared important insights for participants to take back to their communities, providing valuable knowledge and skills to those in attendance.

The conference was made possible thanks to funding from the Building Better Regions Fund and support received from the Murray phn, Lifeline, Boort Hospital, SalvoCare Northern Victoria, Bendigo Health Carers Support Service, Northern District Community Health and Strong Families Strong Children Loddon.

If you or anyone you know needs help, phone Lifeline on 131114.



The Loddon Healthy Minds Network suicide prevention conference, which was held at Inglewood, focused on rural and regional communities.

Volunteer Strategy funding welcomed

Council welcomed an announcement by the Victorian Government of \$75,000 in funding to help with the implementation of the Loddon Shire Volunteer Strategy, including volunteer development and training.

The draft Loddon Shire Volunteer Strategy and Volunteer Management Plan, which had previously been out for comment, was adopted at the November Council meeting.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016 Census data, almost 32 per cent of the Loddon Shire population are volunteers. This is a higher rate of volunteerism in comparison to regional Victoria (which is around 24 per cent).

Additionally, among the key points to emerge during consultation for the Volunteer Strategy was the recognition that there is an ageing volunteer base and therefore a need to encourage young volunteers.

Council also heard that volunteers are "burning out" as they are involved in multiple volunteer activities, have heavy commitments within each volunteer activity and struggle with increased expectations in relation to compliance.

The Volunteer Strategy aims to address these issues, and has a particular focus on youth volunteer engagement, mobilisation and retention.

Generator ensures continuation of service

Extended power outages will no longer disrupt Council's customer service delivery, thanks to the installation of a new generator at its Wedderburn office.

In the event of a power outage, the generator will provide power to the Council office and server room, ensuring services to community members can continue.

Since December 2017, seven separate power outage events have affected Council's ability to provide services.

Previous flood events have also posed a significant risk to the Shire – if power is lost to the site, Council's capacity to respond in emergency situations can be at risk, including the ability to contact the Shire.

The new generator will help alleviate this risk. The generator also provides the potential for additional services to support ratepayers during extended power outages.

The new generator being installed at Council's Wedderburn office.



Works update

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

Resealing contract

The 2018/19 resealing contract has been awarded. Resealing works are scheduled to take place after January 2019 until the end of April.

Local road construction – safety program

The tender has been advertised for safety works on Gower Logan Road. The works, which are expected to start in the New Year, will involve upgrading the approach and guardrail located over the road's culvert.

Township street improvements

The tender has been advertised for the construction of footpaths in Wedderburn, Boort, Newbridge, Bridgewater and Mitiamo. Construction works are expected to start in the New Year.

Newbridge Town Hall waste treatment facility

The tender for a new waste treatment facility for the Newbridge Town Hall and public toilets has been awarded. Works to install the new treatment facility are expected to get underway in 2019.

Defect rectification

From July to the end of September, 2,385 defects were rectified, with 99 per cent of all defects completed before their due date.

Maintenance grading program

From July to the end of September, 691 maintenance grading work actions were completed resulting in 245 kilometres of grading and 448 kilometres of inspections.

Free waste disposal days to continue

Following a decision at Council's September meeting, free waste disposal days will now continue to be held one day each quarter throughout the year.

The decision to continue the program comes after a year-long trial which included four free waste disposal days at Council's landfills and transfer stations in November 2017 and this year in February, May and August.

In total, 1,293 customers took advantage of the trial, which collected 625.3 cubic metres of waste, 476 cubic metres of green waste, 56.6 cubic metres of recyclables, 145.4 cubic metres of steel and 37 white goods appliances.

The waste days enable community members to 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, and white goods.

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

The most recent free waste disposal day took place during the weekend of 3 and 4 November 2018.

Council will notify the community when the next free waste disposal day is due to take place.

Council meeting dates for 2019

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.

Council's 2019 meetings will be held on:

Tuesday 22 January
Tuesday 26 February
Tuesday 26 March

Tuesday 23 April
Tuesday 28 May
Tuesday 25 June

Tuesday 23 July
Tuesday 27 August
Tuesday 24 September

Tuesday 22 October
Tuesday 26 November
Tuesday 17 December

South West Loddon Pipeline Project update

Construction of the South West Loddon pipeline is well underway, with more than 700 kilometres of pipeline now in the ground and the bulk of pipe installation expected to be complete by February 2019.

GMMWater's contractor Mitchell Water is also currently constructing pump stations that will enable the network to be pressurised and made operational.

The expected timing for final system commissioning is June 2019, although some areas may be commissioned earlier, based on timing of pump station completions.

The design of the pipeline network has been finalised based on the responses from landowners received to date.

GMMWater thanks landowners for their cooperation during the delivery of the project so far.

GMMWater wishes to remind landowners that if they have not already done so, they may still lodge an Expression of Interest form if interested in receiving a stock and domestic water supply from the system.

Properties fronted by currently confirmed sections of pipeline may still connect to the network.

Landowners who have already received Heads of Agreement forms are reminded to return the signed forms as soon as possible to allow installation of customer meters and connection to the network.

Please contact GMMWater on 1300 659 961 if you have any questions in relation to the project.

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 10 January 2019

9.15am Serpentine
11.15am Boort

Thursday 14 February 2019

9.30am Inglewood
11.30am Dingee
1.45pm Pyramid Hill

Thursday 14 March 2019

9.15am Serpentine
11.15am Boort

Thursday 11 April 2019

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.

Wedderburn streetscape project officially opened

The Wedderburn community has celebrated the town's revitalised main street at an official opening of the Wedderburn Streetscape Improvement Project on 13 November.

The opening of the project follows the completion of the final touches to the streetscape earlier this year, including landscaping works.

Mayor Cheryl McKinnon, who officially opened the project, said it had resulted in a more visually appealing streetscape.

"The removal of the previous overhead powerlines, footpath upgrades, landscaping and installation of street furniture has made a substantial difference to the area," Cr McKinnon said.

"As well as improving the area visually, it has opened up the main street and its surrounds, and made it more accessible."

The vision for the Wedderburn Streetscape Improvement Project was first developed by the Wedderburn community in 2010 through the community planning process.

"The resulting project is a credit to the Wedderburn community and businesses, as well as Council and the contractor Avar Civil," Cr McKinnon added.

"In mentioning the community and businesses, I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank them for their patience as works for the project progressed."

The works included the replacement of the overhead powerlines in High Street with underground power cables, drainage, footpaths and carpark upgrades, and landscaping works – comprising grassed areas and garden beds, and installation of street furniture.



The Wedderburn Streetscape Improvement Project was officially opened by Mayor Cheryl McKinnon and Wedderburn Councillor Gavan Holt on 13 November.

The \$3.3 million project was made possible through funding from the Federal Government, Regional Development Victoria and Council.

The celebrations included the burial of the Wedderburn Lions Club time capsule beneath the footpath in front of Soldiers' Memorial Park. The time capsule was part of the centenary celebrations of Lions International and provides future residents of Wedderburn (and the Shire) a look at the day-to-day life of the town from our current era.

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SHIRE

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Mayor

Cr Cheryl McKinnon

Terrick Ward

0409 557 888



Cr Neil Beattie

Boort Ward

0427 552 468



Cr Geoff Curnow

Tarnagulla Ward

0429 383 553



Cr Colleen Condliffe

Inglewood Ward

0428 778 025



Cr Gavan Holt

Wedderburn Ward

0408 943 008

Christmas and New Year office and service hours

Council offices in Wedderburn and Serpentine will close at noon on Friday 21 December and reopen at 8.15am on Wednesday 2 January 2019.

The Loddon Visitor Information Centre will be closed on Christmas Day, but is otherwise open Monday to Saturday from 9am to 5pm and from 10am to 4pm on Sundays and public holidays. For enquiries phone 5494 3489.

There will be changes to scheduled kerbside garbage and recycling collections.

Collections scheduled for Christmas Day (Tuesday 25 December) will instead take place on Sunday 23 December. Collections for New Year's Day (Tuesday 1 January 2019) will take place on Sunday 30 December.

All waste facilities across the Shire will be closed on public holidays.

The Community Services Department will be closed from noon Friday 21 December and reopen at 8.30am on Wednesday 2 January 2019.

Limited personal care will be provided and clients will be advised of their personal care services for this period. There will be limited Meals on Wheels provided and clients will be contacted to arrange meals for this period.

There will be no home care, respite care, social support or property maintenance services delivered during this period. Client service emergencies are to be directed to After Hours on 0427 804 736.