

LODDON

BULLETIN

A PROSPEROUS
VIBRANT AND
ENGAGED COMMUNITY



Outdoor dining activates Loddon Shire

Council is working with local hospitality businesses to activate outdoor dining and entertainment across the Shire.

So far a number of sites have been launched in Boort, Pyramid Hill, Wedderburn, Newbridge, Tarnagulla, Logan, Korong Vale and Bridgewater.

Council was successful in securing \$250,000 (ex GST) in funding for the activation of outdoor dining and entertainment as part of the Victorian Government's \$29.5 million Local Councils Outdoor Eating and Entertainment Package.

It enables Council, in partnership with the State Government, to provide stimulus to the hospitality industry, to help businesses recover from COVID-19.

As part of the project, a local Loddon contractor was sourced to build the picnic benches and planter boxes, while plants have been sourced locally for sites. Keeping as much of Council's spending as local as possible, other local suppliers have been included in the future rollout of the project.



Outdoor dining activation is being rolled out across the Shire, including at the Commercial Hotel Boort, one of the first sites to activate outdoor dining. Pictured is Mayor Neil Beattie (left) and Commercial Hotel Boort publican Neil Eldershaw.

Locals recognised at Australia Day awards

Following a tough 2020, this year's Australia Day was a time to reflect, respect and celebrate, with local Australia Day celebrations across the Shire.

The day was also an opportunity to recognise the hard work of those in our community who selflessly contribute so much through the Australia Day awards. This included Citizen of the Year Howard Matthews and Young Citizen of the Year Hugh Cartwright.

The Community Group of the Year was awarded to Wedderburn Patchwork Group (Christmas Tree Festival), while Bridgewater Bowling Club was awarded the Community Event of the Year (Twilight Bowls). A Special Recognition of COVID-19 2020 was awarded to Susan Lockhart (The Front Door Project).

Other recipients included the Community Service Awards for each ward of the Shire: Tracey Webb and Rae Broadbent (Inglewood), Robyn Brown (Terrick), Roger Terrill (Tarnagulla) and Susan Lockhart (Wedderburn). No nominations were received for Boort.

QUARTERLY BULLETIN
MARCH 2021

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A word from our Mayor

It is great to see the continued roll out of outdoor dining and entertainment options at hospitality venues across the Loddon Shire.

The funding initiative from the Victorian Government is already making a big difference, delivering a boost for our local pubs and cafes. It has also been welcomed by our hospitality industry and greatly supported by our community right across the Shire.

In January events took place across Loddon Shire to celebrate Australia Day 2021.

I'd like to congratulate this year's Loddon Shire Australia Day awardees, including our Citizen of the Year Howard Matthews and Young Citizen of the Year Hugh Cartwright. You can read about all the awards recipients on the front page of this Loddon Bulletin.

I would also like to thank community groups and volunteers for once again organising local celebrations for Australia Day. Celebrations were held at Boort, Bridgewater, Calivil, Eddington, Inglewood, Newbridge, Tarnagulla and Wedderburn.

Finally, in this edition of the Loddon Bulletin is a community survey to help in the development of the Council Plan, which sets Council's strategic direction for the next four years. The survey asks your opinion on actions and initiatives you'd like to see Council take, including improving or enhancing our sense of community, the local economy, our natural environment, and infrastructure.

I encourage you to take the chance to fill out this survey (which is also available via Council's website) and return it to Council by 31 March 2021.



Pet registrations due 10 April

Dog and cat owners are reminded that pet registration renewals are due by 10 April 2021.

Every dog and cat over the age of three months must be registered. 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. You will be provided with a lifelong registration tag for your pet.

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 Council's Local Laws team on (03) 5494 1200.

Customer Service Workshop set to inspire businesses

A Customer Service Workshop aimed at local businesses in the Loddon Shire will see operators come away inspired to take action to drive their business forward.

To be held on 16 March, the theme of the workshop is *Visitor Service Mastery: How to deliver excellence and delight every customer post COVID-19*.

Topics to be covered in the workshop include *Your customer journey*, *Your tourism business* and *Your digital service*.

The workshop will be hosted by Institute of Excellence founder Despina Karatzias. Despina has worked within the tourism industry for almost 25 years and has around 20 years of business and digital marketing experience.

Despina said the Customer Service Workshop would be more than just "having a cup of tea and listening to a presentation".

"We really want to leave people inspired – and the workshop includes a lot of context, and research, examples, and interaction," she explained.

"More than anything what businesses can really expect is my promise that they will be come away with simple, actionable strategies to help drive their business forward, including low-cost, affordable initiatives."

Despina said the workshop would particularly focus on the management of the visitor experience.

"The workshop will look at pre, during and post-customer service. This includes how we are performing in terms of customer service when the customer is not in front of us."



The Loddon Valley Customer Service Workshop will be hosted by Institute of Excellence founder Despina Karatzias (above). Despina has worked within the tourism industry for almost 25 years.

Workshop details

When: Tuesday 16 March at 9am

Where: Wedderburn Goldseeker Motel

Cost: Free - includes light morning tea and lunch

More information and to RSVP:

Loddon Visitor Information Centre on
(03) 5494 1257 or email:

loddonvisitorinformation@loddon.vic.gov.au

Works update

A glance at some of the works around Loddon Shire:

Roads

- Works have started on the reconstruction and widening of two kilometres of Bridgewater Raywood Road (seven kilometres out of Bridgewater). Works are expected to be completed by the end of March.
- The reconstruction and widening of 3.7 kilometres of the Echuca Serpentine Road, three kilometres west of Bendigo Pyramid Road has been completed.

Township street improvements

- Construction is underway on the installation of footpaths in locations across the Shire.
- Works on the installation of kerb and channel and associated works at Lake View and Andrews Street in Boort is expected to get underway in March.
- Works have started on the Heales Street drainage project at Inglewood.
- Works are expected to start in March on new footpaths, kerb and channel, and some underground drainage at High Street in Wedderburn (from near the 24 Karat Café to the police station corner).

Local bridge and culvert construction

- Works to upgrade the barrier rail on the Yorkshire Road bridge over Spring Creek are complete.
- Works have started on culvert replacement on the Seven Months Creek in Kelly Street, Pyramid Hill (near the secondary college).

Tenders

- The tender has been awarded for Council's annual reseal program. Reseal works are anticipated to be completed by the end of April, dependent on weather.
- The tender for the Baileys Road Bridge replacement over Bullock Creek in Derby was to be considered at the Council Meeting on 23 February.
- The Laanecoorie Newbridge Road upgrade is currently out for tender.

Township signs

A number of townships signs have been replaced around the Shire. In total 54 township signs were replaced.

Defect rectification

From 1 July to 31 December 2020, 5,114 defects were rectified, with 97.2 per cent of all defects (4,973 in total) completed before their due date.

Maintenance grading program

From 1 July to 31 December 2020, 1,771 maintenance grading work actions were completed resulting in 1,259.5 kilometres of grading and 1,790 kilometres of inspections.

Inspection summary

From 1 July to 31 December 2020, 468 inspections were completed (3,912 defects raised), with 98.9 per cent of all inspections completed before their due date.

Capital works

From 1 July to 31 December 2020, Council completed:

- 15.3 kilometres of local gravel roads resheets and shoulder resheets
- 3.6 kilometres of local road construction



Baileys Road Bridge (above) over Bullock Creek in Derby will be replaced.

Caravan park upgrades

Upgrade works at the Wedderburn Pioneer Caravan Park, Pyramid Hill Caravan Park and Boort Lake Holiday Park are underway.

New amenities blocks for all three caravan parks are currently being constructed off site, and are expected to be ready for delivery in May.

On-ground works at the Wedderburn Pioneer Caravan Park are complete, while works at the Pyramid Hill Caravan Park are in progress. On-ground works at the Boort Lakes Holiday Park are expected to commence soon.

Upgrades to the caravan parks include road and drainage works, powerhead upgrades, solar lighting and new amenities blocks.



On-ground works underway at Wedderburn Pioneer Caravan Park.

The Loddon Project update and community survey

Council has made great progress on the Loddon Project. Our Community Reference Group met in February to discuss our Community Vision and will provide recommendations to Council in March.

The next step is the development of the Council Plan, which sets Council's strategic direction for the next four years. It will outline objectives and strategies for achieving the direction along with initiatives for services, infrastructure and amenity to achieve them.

This year Council will also be developing our 10-year Financial Plan and 10-year Asset Plan. These important documents identify what resources Council will have to deliver services, infrastructure and amenity, and any new initiatives identified during the Council Plan's development.

Council will roll out community engagement for the Council Plan in March and April 2021. As part of this engagement Council invites you to complete and return the survey (right).

Surveys can be dropped off in person at Council's Wedderburn office during business hours or via post to:

Loddon Shire Council
PO Box 21
Wedderburn VIC 3518

You can also submit your comment via email at loddon@loddon.vic.gov.au or complete the survey online: www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Council/Community-Engagement/The-Loddon-Project

Feedback closes 31 March 2021.

Funded three-year-old kindergarten program for Loddon

Council has welcomed the roll out of Victorian Government funding of three-year-old kindergarten in the Shire.

There are five kindergartens in the Loddon Shire cluster - Boort, Dingee, Pyramid Hill, Wedderburn and Inglewood.

All kindergartens are offering 15 hours of funded kindergarten to three-year-olds in 2021, which is run in combination with the four-year-old programs

Forty-one children are currently enrolled in three-year-old kindergarten across the Shire. The funded program has seen a significant increase in the number of three-year-old enrolments in 2021.

Research shows that two years of kindergarten are better than one and that these benefits last into school years and beyond.

Just like with four-year-old kindergarten, the funded three-year-old kindergarten program is tailored to meet the needs of local children and community.

For more information visit:

www.loddon.vic.gov.au/For-residents/Services-for-our-younger-residents/Kindergartens or call Council's Early Years team on (03) 5494 1201.

1. What Council ward do you live in? Please tick one.

- Boort Wedderburn Terricks
 Inglewood Tarnagulla Don't know

2. What is your age? Please tick one.

- Under 18 years 19-24 years 25-34 years
 35-44 years 45-54 years 55-64 years
 65-74 years 75-84 years 85+ years

3. What is your gender? Please tick one.

- Male Female Non-binary
 Intersex Other Prefer not to say

4. List up to 3 actions or initiatives Council could take to improve or enhance our sense of community.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

5. List up to 3 actions or initiatives Council could take to improve or enhance our local economy.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

6. List up to 3 actions or initiatives Council could identify to improve or enhance our natural environment.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

7. List up to 3 actions of initiatives Council could take to improve or enhance services and infrastructure.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

8. Council's budget is constrained by rate capping, availability of grants and any charges paid for services. When Council is considering new or improved services or new projects would it be more acceptable for Council to fund the service or project and ongoing costs through (select one):

- an increase in rates applied for through a special rate variation
 prioritisation and reduction of current service delivery to fund new services or projects
 grants if/when they become available
 'user pays' charges

If you require more room, please use a separate piece of paper.

Community projects update

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

- The \$1.4 million Pyramid Hill Streetscape Revitalisation project is currently undergoing detailed design. The project will include formalising pedestrian networks, landscaping, furniture, seating and other amenities within the civic centre.
- Detailed designs are currently underway for the Donaldson Park Community Hub Redevelopment Project. It is anticipated that the tender for the project will be advertised later this year. The project will replace the facility's three ageing pavilions, providing a new complex that will include male and female changeroom facilities, trainers' and first aid room, function room area, meeting room, office and administration area, and commercial kitchen and kiosk.
- Works on the Inglewood Football and Netball Lighting Upgrade are almost complete. Footings have been poured with lighting towers to be installed in the coming weeks. The project will see the installation of four lighting towers at the football oval and four lighting towers at the netball courts.
- Construction will begin soon on the installation of a section of path at the Little Lake Boort foreshore. The path, to be constructed at the northern end of the lake, will significantly reduce the number of road crossings required to circumnavigate the lake's walking track.
- Tenders have closed for construction works on new female friendly changerooms to be built at the Bridgewater Recreation Reserve.
- Council has funded the purchase of a new mower for the Serpentine Recreation Reserve (Janiember Park). The new mower will help volunteers in maintaining the reserve.
- Stage 2 of the Bridgewater foreshore project is currently undergoing a detailed design. This project involves the construction of a viewing platform, shelter and a continuation of landscaping to support local recreational activity and commercial operations associated with Bridgewater and the local area.

Laanecoorie canoe launching pad complete

The canoe launching pad at Laanecoorie has been finished, marking the full completion of the Laanecoorie Canoe Trail.

The canoe trail was originally designed by the La Trobe University Outdoor Education students from 2017 to 2018.

The Laanecoorie Canoe Trail complements other canoe trails in the Loddon Shire – the Serpentine Creek Canoe Trail and Loddon River Canoe Trail.

For more information regarding these canoe trails and maps, visit: www.bendigoregion.com.au/visit-loddon-valley/canoeing-and-kayaking



Community grants applications open

Applications for Council's Community Grants Scheme are now open until 5pm, Saturday 1 May 2021.

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 over \$187,000 in funding across the Shire, with 33 groups receiving full or partial funding.

Please note, applications must be submitted online through Council's SmartyGrants program:

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

Support is also available to assist with the Smarty Grants process.

To find out more, call Council's Community Support Team on (03) 5494 1200.

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 11 March

9.15am Serpentine
11.15am Boort

Thursday 8 April

9.30am Inglewood
11.30am Dingee
2.00pm Pyramid Hill

Thursday 13 May

9.15am Serpentine
11.15am Boort

Thursday 10 June

9.30am Inglewood
11.30am Dingee
2.00pm Pyramid Hill

Appointments are required. To make an appointment for an infant's immunisation, call Council's Serpentine Office on (03) 5494 1201.

Bookings can also be made through Council's website www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Services/Services-for-our-younger-residents/Immunisations

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 through the link above.

Easter 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 1 April and reopen at 8.15am on Tuesday 6 April. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, please call ahead to confirm if the Serpentine office is open on (03) 5494 1201.

The Loddon Visitor Information Centre will be closed on Good Friday, 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 (03) 5494 3489.

Kerbside collections will take place as normal on Good Friday and Easter Monday.

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

As Anzac Day falls on Sunday 25 April, there is no public holiday on the Monday. Council offices will open as usual on Monday 26 April from 8.15am.

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

Upcoming Council meetings

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

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Council meetings are currently being held at the Wedderburn office. An audio livestream of the meeting is available to the public via Council's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/LoddonShire

Upcoming Council meetings:

- Tuesday 23 March
- Tuesday 27 April
- Tuesday 25 May
- Tuesday 22 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 Neil Beattie
Boort Ward
0427 552 468



Cr Wendy Murphy
Inglewood Ward
0436 457 170



Cr Linda Jungwirth
Tarnagulla Ward
0428 259 082



Cr Dan Straub
Terrick Ward
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0408 943 008