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Flood recovery works update



Before and after: More than 2000 defects were identified across the Shire after flooding in September and October 2016.

Works are anticipated to ramp up during the warmer months to restore infrastructure following widespread flooding in the Shire in September and October 2016.

More than 2000 individual defects were identified, resulting in an estimated repair cost of around \$10 million. Funding has been provided under the joint Commonwealth-State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) to restore these assets.

In addition to the completion of three smaller jobs, a further 11 projects have been completed.

The appointment of a new Project Manager to Council's Flood Recovery Team will oversee the flood recovery efforts.

Council is also aiming to expand its Flood Recovery Team, subject to approval from the Department of Treasury and Finance and upon successful recruitment. This will help the team to deliver more projects in less time. The team will start developing contracts and tender documents, with restoration works expected to get underway soon.

Maintenance on our road network continues to rectify lower level damage caused by the flooding to ensure Council's roads remain in a safe and useable condition.

Under the funding arrangements, all repair works must be undertaken by contractors (not Council). Council's role instead is to scope the works (all works must also be approved by VicRoads) and procure the services of contractors to do the work.

Any repair works can only bring that asset back to its pre-flood condition and any additional upgrades to that asset must be funded by Council. For example, an unsealed road damaged by flooding will be brought back to its original unsealed condition – it cannot be sealed under this funding arrangement.

BRIC library extension

Designs for the library extension to the Boort Resource and Information Centre (BRIC) are currently being developed by Council and the BRIC Committee of Management.

The project includes an extension of around 62m² to the eastern end of the existing BRIC building, which will house a library room, computer area and children's activity area.

With a static library agency operating from the building 25 hours per week, the extension

will enable BRIC to provide around three times more on-site books, magazines and other items. It will also improve access to library programs, such as children's story time.

As well as providing a practical and functional area for the Boort library agency (as part of the Goldfields Library Service) the project will provide upgraded facilities and improvements to the amenity at BRIC. This will complement the other services at the centre including Neighbourhood House,

Rural Transaction Centre, Learn Local and community hub.

Funding for the \$280,000 project has been made possible thanks to the Victorian Government's Living Libraries Infrastructure Program (\$240,000), the Boort Resource and Information Centre (\$20,000) and Council (\$20,000).

Construction on the project is anticipated to start at the end of this year. Further updates will be provided as the project progresses or visit www.loddon.vic.gov.au.

South West Loddon Pipeline update

In July, GWMWater appointed Mitchell Water Australia as contractor to deliver the design and construction of the South West Loddon Pipeline Project. The design of the pipeline network is now progressing, based on responses from landowners received to date.

Environmental and cultural heritage field investigations started in August and will continue until March next year. During this time, Mitchell Water will need to access private property to conduct the field surveys during the design period.

Landholders potentially impacted by the field surveys may have received a Land Access Agreement in the mail.

Please sign and return this agreement to GWMWater at your earliest convenience to ensure field investigations can continue without delay.

Affected landowners will be contacted directly by Mitchell Water before they access your land.

Heads of Agreement documents are also currently being mailed out to all landholders who submitted an Expression of Interest in connecting to the pipeline.

GWMWater reminds landowners who haven't yet committed to the project, that the design may be finalised without your connection. Therefore, to ensure your property does not miss out on connecting to the pipeline, please sign the Heads of Agreement and return the form by the end of October 2017.

If you don't commit to connecting to the pipeline by submitting an Expression of Interest and signing the Heads of Agreement forms, the pipe will not be constructed to service your property.

GWMWater Land Liaison Officers are available to discuss your individual circumstances and requirements. Please call GWMWater on 1300 659 961 to arrange an appointment.

Construction activities for the pipeline are scheduled to start in early 2018. Landowners impacted by construction activities will be contacted closer to the time by GWMWater and then Mitchell Water.

There is still time to secure your connection – please call GWMWater on 1300 659 961.

Information supplied by GWMWater.

Wedderburn streetscape moves ahead



Footpaths and car parks have been completed along Randall's FoodWorks Supermarket in High Street.

The Wedderburn streetscape is continuing to transform as improvement works move ahead.

New footpaths have been completed in front of Randall's FoodWorks Supermarket in High Street and car parks in front of the supermarket resealed.

Footpaths in front of the Wedderburn Goldseeker Motel, Coach House Gallery/Museum and General Store Museum have been finished, while drainage works in front of Council have also been completed.

Works on a new footpath and car parks in front of Council (similar to the works in front of the supermarket) are currently underway. While these footpath works are ongoing, pedestrian access to Council is available from Peters Street (next to the Senior Citizens), or from the Bendigo side (next to Loddon Real Estate). Signage and alternative routes have been put in place to guide access to the Shire.

Don't forget that all businesses along High Street continue to remain open as usual and access to these businesses is available at all times while the streetscape improvement works are ongoing.

We also thank residents, businesses and visitors for their patience while these works continue. Please also be mindful when travelling through the works that traffic management is in place, including reduced speed limits at all times.

For the latest information regarding the Wedderburn Streetscape Improvement Project, visit the Current Projects page on Council's website www.loddon.vic.gov.au.

Helping Loddon families walk to school this October

Loddon Shire kids and families are encouraged to get active this October by taking part in VicHealth's Walk to School program.

Council will work with local primary schools to deliver a range of activities encouraging more families to walk, ride or scoot to school this October thanks to a \$10,000 grant from VicHealth.

VicHealth's Walk to School program is a free, easy and fun way for kids to get active and learn healthy habits for life.

It's also a great way for parents and carers to enjoy some quality time with their kids.

The important initiative will provide local families with a range of activities during the month of October, including school sports events and online competition to promote walking, riding or scooting to school.

Last year nine local schools participated in this VicHealth initiative, and we encourage primary schools to get involved again this year to make Walk to School bigger and better.

Local schools which participate in Walk to School will receive certificates to celebrate their students' achievements, and will be in the running for a series of prizes provided by VicHealth.

If you can't walk all the way, there are many great opportunities to get involved and support your school. Try parking the car a few blocks from school and walk, ride or scoot the rest, or get children to walk to the bus stop.

To find out more about Walk to School month, visit www.walktoschool.vic.gov.au.

Australia Day Awards – nominate now!

This year's Citizen of the Year recipient Edna Boyle (image courtesy of The Loddon Times).



Now is the time to start considering honouring those in our community who have given so much to our Shire with an Australia Day Award nomination.

Council is now receiving nominations for the Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Community Group/Event of the Year awards.

Residents are urged to consider people and groups in our community who have made an outstanding achievement or contributed towards values such as a fair go, community values, sport, cultural diversity and support.

Nominations are also open for the 2018 Community Service Awards. These awards recognise the outstanding contribution to the local community during 2017 or noteworthy service to the community over a number of years. An award is given for each ward (Boort, Inglewood, Tarnagulla, Terrick and Wedderburn).

Nominations for the awards close on Friday 6 October.

Council is also conducting competitions as part of its Australia Day celebrations for 2018. This includes a colouring competition for Prep to Grade 2 and a photographic competition with the topic "Energy" (with junior, senior and open sections). There will also be a literature competition for school-aged children with the topic "Volunteer Groups in the Loddon Shire".

Competitions are free to enter and entries must be submitted by 4pm on Friday 22 September 2017.

Australia Day nomination and competition entry forms are available from www.loddon.vic.gov.au, by calling the Wedderburn Council Office on 5494 1200, contacting Shannon Brown on 0429 380 465 or emailing loddonausday@bigpond.com.

Loddon ambassadors recognised

Loddon's volunteer ambassadors were recognised at a special presentation at the Wedderburn Community Centre in early June.

Eight volunteers were presented with certificates, recognising their valuable contribution as Loddon region ambassadors, including providing information and promoting the region to visitors.

A separate group of ambassadors was also presented with appreciation certificates during a volunteers' familiarisation tour in May. The certificates were presented by Loddon Shire Council Mayor Neil Beattie as part of National Volunteer Week.

Volunteers take part in familiarisation tours of the Loddon region twice per year, in autumn and spring. A Christmas dinner and other events for the volunteers are also held regularly.

The Loddon Visitor Information Centre is open seven days a week, with volunteers staffing the centre on Sundays and public holidays.

Community members who would like to volunteer as a Loddon ambassador, or who would like more information about the program, can contact Council's Robyn Vella on 5494 1233.

The volunteer ambassador program is a partnership between Loddon Visitor Information Centre, local businesses and the wider Loddon community.

In addition to the volunteer ambassador program, Loddon Shire has a diverse range of volunteer opportunities.

To find an organisation that suits your requirements contact the Loddon Visitor Information Centre on 5494 1257 or email loddonvisitorinformation@loddon.vic.gov.au.



Eight volunteers were presented with certificates in recognition of their time as Loddon ambassadors.



Mayor Neil Beattie presented Loddon ambassadors with certificates during National Volunteer Week (image courtesy of The Loddon Times).

Occasional care – Dingee and Inglewood

Families with children living in the Inglewood and Dingee areas now have access to occasional child care during terms three and four.

Dingee occasional care sessions will run Mondays from 1.45pm to 3.30pm, Tuesdays from 12.30pm to 3.30pm and Wednesdays from 1.45pm to 3.30pm.

Inglewood occasional care will run Thursdays from 1.45 to 3.45pm.

The program, which will run in the towns' kindergarten buildings, is available to families with children aged from three to six years and who are not at school.

The cost is just \$8 per hour, with a 10 per cent discount provided to families who book their child into the program for an entire term.

Loddon Shire Council's Director Community Wellbeing Wendy Gladman said the occasional care service had been welcomed by families in the community.

"Council's Early Years team has received a positive feedback from families regarding an occasional care program in the Inglewood and Dingee areas," Ms Gladman said.

"Council is pleased to offer this low-cost service to the community, and encourages families who are looking for occasional care to please get in touch with Council for more information."

The occasional care program will also provide child care during school hours for children eligible to travel to kinder on the school bus. This means children will be able to return home on the bus at the end of the school day, saving families from making several trips into town.

To book, call 5437 7999 the day before you would like your child to attend the occasional care session.

Spring – the perfect time to discover Loddon

Whether you're a lover of art, nature or history, or like to kick up your heels at a community celebration and a dance, then the Naturally Loddon 2017 Spring Festival is for you.

Launched on Father's Day (3 September) at Piccoli's Star Spanner Sculpture Gardens, this year's festival features 15 events located across the Shire over eight weeks. All events showcase the Loddon region, its communities and natural wonders.

Making a return for this year's spring festival is the Wedderburn Vintage Machinery Rally, the Tarnagulla Strictly Vintage Fair and the Pyramid Hill Fiesta.

This year's festival will again include the Friends of Kooyooro Wildflower Show and the Terrick Terrick National Park activities weekend.

Other events returning this year include the Boort Sculpture by the Lake Competition (which is part of the Boort Show) and the popular Boort Carp Eradication weekend.

A few events have been added to this year's festival, including guided trips of Nardoo Hills, Wedderburn Spring Dance and the Heal Your Life one-day workshop.

Additionally, a couple of events normally held outside the spring festival have come on board, including the Tastes of Loddon and the Wedderburn Open Gardens.



The Tarnagulla Strictly Vintage Fair will again be part of this year's Naturally Loddon Spring Festival, including the event's popular High Tea.

There will also be a special matinee and evening screening of the Australian film Road to Nhill (filmed in Pyramid Hill) to celebrate 20 years since its release.

The Naturally Loddon 2017 Spring Festival runs until Saturday 28 October.

For more information about the festival or for a copy of the brochure, visit www.loddon.vic.gov.au, email loddonvisitorinformation@loddon.vic.gov.au or phone the Loddon Visitor Information Centre on 5494 3489.

Projects get off the ground thanks to Community Grants Scheme funding

Council's annual Community Grants Scheme has allocated around \$197,000 in funding to groups across the Shire for community projects, with 36 groups receiving full or partial funding.

This includes \$10,000 towards an electronic scoreboard for the Newbridge Football Netball Club.

Newbridge Recreation Reserve Fundraising Officer Dean Gordon said the new electronic scoreboard would provide a multi-media experience for user groups and community members.

"The scoreboard allows all user groups to use it for game days, including netball,

tennis, cricket and football, and it will enhance game days for all," Mr Gordon said.

"It can also be used as an emergency response centre – it can connect to the internet, while users can download an app to the scoreboard. This means that emergency services messages can be put up through the scoreboard as well as be delivered to users' phones. This will also enhance the experience of those camping at the reserve."

As well as emergency services messages, the scoreboard will be able to play movies and live television.

"It means the recreation reserve can have movie nights for the kids, including for families camping during the Easter and Christmas holidays. It can also play live events such as the AFL Grand Final or cricket," Mr Gordon said.

Additionally, it can be used at live events, such as concerts, with the ability to screen the concert on the scoreboard as it happens, ensuring everyone gets a chance to see the event close up.

"It has a lot of uses," Mr Gordon added. "And it will make the experience at game day even better."

Living well in Loddon

Council's Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021 titled Living Well in Loddon is now out for feedback.

The plan aims to improve the health and wellbeing of our community during the next four years. It was developed through consultation with residents as well as agencies and Council officers who deliver health and wellbeing services.

While acknowledging the health challenges in Loddon Shire, the Living Well in Loddon plan aims to address these challenges, working hand-in-hand with agencies and organisations across the region.

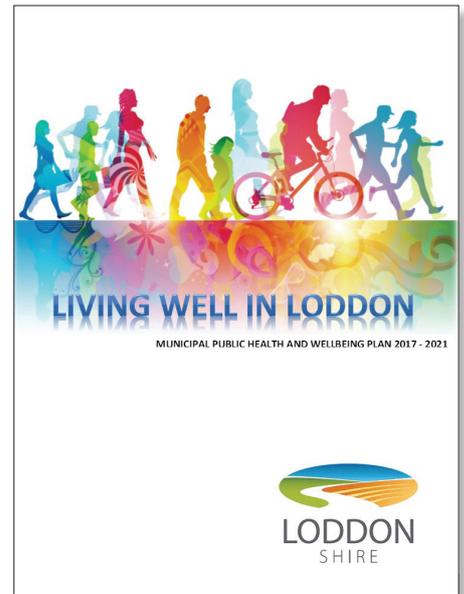
The plan incorporates four health and wellbeing priority areas: Good Physical Health, Good Mental Health, Protect and

Promote Health and Feel Safe and Secure.

Outcomes include a healthy start in life, reducing preventable disease, increasing mental wellbeing, increasing healthy eating and active living, reducing tobacco, harmful alcohol and drug use, and local and accessible services.

The impacts of climate change (particularly the capacity of the community to respond to and recover from emergencies) and the importance of connectivity as vital infrastructure (increased internet and mobile connectivity) are also part of the plan.

To view the draft Living Well in Loddon plan visit www.loddon.vic.gov.au. Feedback for the draft plan closes on Sunday 10 September.



New Council Plan adopted

The Council Plan 2017-2021 was formally adopted at Council's Ordinary Meeting in June.

The Council Plan 2017-2021 addresses and responds to a number of key factors (identified through its development) that could impact our Shire significantly during the next four years.

These challenges are reflected in the Plan's themes of Population, Economic Prosperity, Liveability, Sustainability and High Performance Organisation.

Council would like to thank all those who helped contribute to the development of the Council Plan, including the community, businesses

and Council staff who provided feedback (both informal and formal) to the draft document.

Council is looking forward to working with our community towards achieving the vision and objectives of the plan to enhance the sustainability and liveability our Shire.

MCH celebrates 100 years



Loddon Shire Maternal and Child Health Nurse Anthea Ryan.

Past and present Loddon Shire Maternal and Child Health nurses and families who have used the service reunited in recognition of 100 years of Maternal and Child Health across Victoria.

An afternoon tea held in July at the Inglewood Children's Centre saw those involved in the Shire's Maternal and

Child Health come together and share their memories of the service.

Loddon Shire Maternal and Child Health Nurse Anthea Ryan works across the five Maternal and Child Health centres in the Shire – Inglewood, Dingee, Wedderburn, Boort and Pyramid Hill.

Her role sees Ms Ryan support families with new babies adjust to parenthood, including guiding families through sleep issues, feeding issues or development concerns.

"I love forming relationships with the family, especially the mother and her baby," Ms Ryan said.

"It's rewarding to see the mother and child bond form and flourish. Some mothers struggle with daily challenges and they do an amazing job nurturing their infant."

She added that it was important families understood that the Maternal and Child Health Service was inclusive and non-judgmental.

"We support parents to choose what is right for them, as long as it's safe and informed," Ms Ryan said.

"We are providing more than just weighing babies or wanting everyone to breastfeed. The earlier a baby or child is identified as needing extra help or assessment, the better the outcome is for them."

Staffed by registered nurses with midwifery and maternal and child health nursing qualifications, the Maternal and Child Health service is funded jointly between the State and Loddon Shire Council.

The service provides important support around the health and wellbeing of children and parents and is available to all families in the Shire with children aged from birth to school entry age. From 2014 to 2016, 600 clients in the Loddon Shire were seen as part of the Maternal and Child Health service.

For more information regarding Council's Maternal and Child Health Services call 5437 7999.

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Cr Gavan Holt

Wedderburn Ward
0408 943 008



Cr Geoff Curnow

Tarnagulla Ward
0429 383 553



Cr Cheryl McKinnon

Terrick Ward
0409 557 888

Seniors Festival starts 27 September

Mystery trips, a road trip to Sheep Hills to visit the amazing silo paintings and entertainment from renowned performer James Blundell – don't miss this year's Loddon Seniors Festival.

For residents aged 50 years and above, this year's festival will start on Wednesday 27 September with a fantastic Mystery Trip. This will be followed by the visit to Sheep Hills on Monday 2 October to see the largest silo mural as part of the silo art trail.

Seniors are also urged not to miss the free Gala Day on Wednesday 4 October at the Boort Memorial Hall. The day will not only include the official launch

of the Loddon Seniors Festival, but a performance by Australian country music legend James Blundell.

There will be plenty to see and do during the second mystery trip on Thursday 5 October, while a number of the region's hotels will be taking part in the Bunch of Lunches events in September and October.

With the festival running in conjunction with the Naturally Loddon Spring Festival there are plenty of activities to enjoy and complement the Loddon Seniors Festival. The Naturally Loddon Spring Festival runs until Saturday 28 October.

To find out more about what's on during the Seniors Festival, contact Council on 5437 7999 or visit Council's website www.loddon.vic.gov.au.

The Loddon Seniors Festival is brought to our residents with support from Victorian Seniors Festival funding.

