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## Naturally Loddon Spring Festival is here!



*The Lions Inglewood Alive Festival on 4 November will cap off this year's Naturally Loddon Spring Festival.*

The Loddon region is again showcasing its history, art, communities and natural wonders through the annual Naturally Loddon Spring Festival, which is on now.

Featuring a jam-packed events calendar, the festival kicked off with an official launch on 2 September at Piccoli's Star Spanner Sculpture Gardens Father's Day Picnic.

This year's festival includes a number of much-loved and regular events on its calendar, including the 28th Wedderburn Vintage Machinery Rally on 8 and 9 September.

Other return events include free guided tours of the Nardoo Hills Reserves on 10 September and 14 October, the 2018 Friends of Kooyoora Wildflower Show on 22 to 23 September and the Terrick Terrick National Park activities weekend from 5 to 7 October.

This year's festival will again include the Boort Sculpture by the Lake competition (13 October), Wedderburn Community House's Rock 'n' Roll Spring Dance (19 October) and the annual Boort Angling Club Family Carp Eradication Weekend (20 to 21 October).

Sunday 21 October will also offer the rare opportunity to see the beautiful gardens of Wedderburn, for one day only, as part of the Wedderburn Garden Expo.

New events this year include a Walk and Talk about the native flora and fauna associated with the Loddon River environment at Bridgewater-On-Loddon (14 October).

Explore the town of Tarnagulla on Saturday 20 October with the Tarnagulla Revisited event. This will be a day out for everyone with music to dance to, history displays, as well as vintage cars, bikes and other stalls.

There will also be a gentle, stand-up paddleboarding tour on Sunday 28 October along a stunning section of the Loddon River to the historic Serpentine Weir.

Capping off this year's Naturally Loddon Spring Festival will be the return of the Lions Inglewood Alive Festival on Sunday 4 November, which will see Inglewood's Brooke Street transformed.

For more information or to get a calendar of events, phone the Loddon Visitor Information Centre on 5494 1257, email [loddonvisitorinformation@loddon.vic.gov.au](mailto:loddonvisitorinformation@loddon.vic.gov.au) or visit [www.loddon.vic.gov.au](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au).

# Grants scheme helps fund community projects

Twenty-six groups across the Shire will receive full or partial funding for their community projects after Council allocated almost \$142,000 in grants through the 2018/19 Community Grants Scheme.

This includes \$10,000 towards the Inglewood Football Netball Club netball lights upgrade and \$10,000 towards the Stage 2 kitchen upgrade for the Wedderburn Bowling Club/Wedderburn Tennis Club.

There were \$10,000 each in grants towards the installation of reverse cycle air-conditioning units at the Boort Memorial Hall and Pyramid Hill Memorial Hall, painting of the interior and exterior of the Serpentine Memorial Hall and the Pyramid Hill Preschool kitchen upgrade.

There was also an allocation of \$9,821 towards the development of permanent sheep yards at the Rheola Recreation Reserve.

These funding allocations are just a small number of the 26 groups who have been given a financial boost to get their projects underway.

Council started the Community Grants Scheme in the 2000/01 financial year to assist recreation, sporting and service organisations to deliver projects that improve the quality of life for residents. Since the scheme began, Council has provided around \$2 million to support almost 700 community-based projects, worth more than \$5 million.



*The Pyramid Hill Memorial Hall received \$10,000 towards the installation of reverse cycle air-conditioning units as part of the 2018/19 Community Grants Scheme.*

## Community Satisfaction Survey results



*According to the survey results, Council's kindergartens were among its top five performing areas.*

The results of Council's most recent community satisfaction survey are in, with 460 residents providing their thoughts about a range of Council services.

According to residents, Council's top five performing areas included waste services (weekly rubbish collection and fortnightly recycling collection), immunisation, kindergartens and playgrounds.

The survey, which was conducted by Key Research, also found Council's lobbying on behalf of the community was equal to the average for councils across the state and above the average for small rural councils.

Areas that residents named as needing improvement included financial management, leadership and regulatory services. Council also received feedback about roads in the Shire, particularly in relation to roads needing attention.

Where roads were identified by residents, Council is conducting inspections of those roads. If a defect is identified it will be resolved through Council's general maintenance program (and within the timeframes set out in Council's Road Management Plan).

If you do identify an issue with a road, please contact Council on 5494 1200, so our customer service team can put you in touch with the right staff member to report the problem.

So that Council can get a range of feedback from as many of our residents as possible, it will be conducting community satisfaction surveys with different residents across the Shire every quarter. Therefore, you can expect to be asked to provide your feedback approximately once per year.

The full survey report is available online at [www.loddon.vic.gov.au/About-us/Community-Satisfaction-Surveys/Links-to-surveys](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au/About-us/Community-Satisfaction-Surveys/Links-to-surveys).

## Preparation works for Boort levee

Pre-commencement works are continuing for the Boort levee project.

The first stage of the project involves installation of a siphon along Boort Pyramid Road under the Big Lake Boort outlet to Lake Lyndger. The works will also replace an irrigation channel, which will remove choke points and improve flood flows.

The second stage will involve construction and upgrading of levee banks on the eastern side of Boort, providing long-term flood protection to houses, property and infrastructure for an approximate one in 100 year flood event.

Flooding has had a significant impact on the community and township of Boort. The township was one of many areas of the Loddon Shire severely impacted by the 2011 flood event.

Funding for the \$501,000 Boort flood mitigation project has been provided through the Natural Disaster Resilience Scheme, including \$167,000 from the Federal Government and \$167,000 from the State Government. Council has also provided \$167,000 towards the project.



*Photo of flooding at Boort, taken in January 2011. Photo credit: Paul Haw.*

## Inglewood pool changerooms under construction



*New changerooms under construction at the Inglewood Swimming Pool.*

Works to construct new multi-use facilities at the Inglewood Swimming Pool are anticipated to be completed by the opening of the pool season in mid-November.

The swimming pool will have a universally-accessible change room facility for swimming pool patrons and netball players, public toilets, canteen, first aid office and administration areas. The upgrade also includes landscaping.

All aspects of the project are being 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 has been funded through grants from Sport and Recreation Victoria.

## Community provides thoughts about volunteering

More than 250 residents have provided their thoughts and ideas around volunteering in Loddon Shire.

Community members were asked about the type of volunteer activities, reasons for volunteering, benefits of volunteering and training. The survey also asked about informal volunteering (providing unpaid help directly to people – not through a group or organisation), non-volunteering and ideas to improve the rate of volunteering into the future.

Residents who completed the survey were invited to enter a raffle draw to win a hamper of local produce – with Honie Tweddle from Boort the winner after her name was drawn. Ms Tweddle was provided with the prize by Loddon Shire Councillor Neil Beattie.

Community workshops for residents to further provide their ideas around volunteering and

ways the experience could be improved were also held in Pyramid Hill, Boort, Wedderburn, Serpentine, Inglewood and Tarnagulla.

Loddon Shire Council Chief Executive Officer Phil Pinyon said the surveys and community workshops had provided valuable feedback about how Council could improve the volunteer experience.

“On behalf of Council, I’d like to thank our residents for providing their thoughts on how Council can better support volunteers,” Mr Pinyon said.

“All this information will now help the preparation of the draft Volunteer Strategy, which is currently underway,” Mr Pinyon added.

The draft Volunteer Strategy is anticipated to be released for public comment in September 2018.



*Honie Tweddle from Boort (above) won a hamper of local produce after providing her thoughts around volunteering in the Shire.*

## Local bridge works progress

Rehabilitation works to Kingower Brenanah bridge at Kingower have been completed.

The works, which were finished in August, involved replacement of the bridge’s bearers, timber running deck and termite treatment.

At the time of writing, rehabilitation works to Janevale Bridge in Laanecoorie were also anticipated to be completed by the end of August. The works involved repairing of the bridge’s concrete spalling, as well as minor cracks and expansion joints.

The current 12-tonne load limit on the bridge will remain in place.

Tenders for replacement works for Murphy Creek bridge were advertised in August, with works anticipated to begin before the end of the year.

The replacement infrastructure will ensure the road and bridge will have adequate capacity to incorporate all classes of heavy vehicles.

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.



*Rehabilitation works to Kingower Brenanah bridge at Kingower were completed at the end of August, including a new timber deck.*

Loddon Shire Council has approximately \$35 million of bridges and major culverts that it maintains throughout the Shire.

# What recreation spaces do you use in Loddon Shire?

In May and August this year, Council asked residents to provide their thoughts about what local spaces they used for recreation and physical activity, and how these open spaces could be improved.

Open spaces include parks, playgrounds, bushland, cycling/walking paths, rivers/lakes, swimming pools, sports facilities and shopping areas/streets.

The Activating Open Spaces community survey asked residents to provide information about the use of public open spaces around Loddon Shire, and what could be done to encourage people to use these spaces more often.

Further consultation took place in the form of listening posts, including at sporting events as well as visits to community meetings and some local schools to help gain a further insight into the use of open spaces.

Audits of recreation reserves, parks and other identified open spaces have also been undertaken to further help in the understanding and planning of how these spaces are used.



The results from the consultation and audits will assist in the development of an Activating Open Space Strategy. Council will provide an update regarding the strategy, including when the draft Activating Open Space Strategy is available for comment.

## Flood works update

Council continues to make progress on flood damage restoration projects across the Shire, with around 50 per cent of the identified damages restored so far and a number of jobs in progress.

Most of the sealed roads affected by flooding have been restored, with re-sealing/patching taking place on damaged sections. Gravel roads have also been graded and/or resheeted, depending on the nature of damage.

Eighty-five floodways have been restored (with more floodways being identified for scoping and further works) and 15 culverts have been replaced (with more to works to take place on other affected culverts).

A number of blocked drains have been cleared, while most of the trees damaged by flooding have been removed.

Three bridges were scheduled for flood damage restoration works – Sebastian Road Bridge, Appin South Road Bridge and Dalziels Road Bridge. Work has been completed on Appin South Road Bridge, works are in progress on Dalziels Road Bridge and a contractor has been selected for Sebastian Road Bridge.

Damaged sections of Tandarra Serpentine Road are being reconstructed, with reconstruction works to start soon on Rothackers Road.



*Flood restoration works in progress at Tandarra Serpentine Road.*

The flood restoration program is scheduled to come to an end on 30 June 2019. Initially, 2,221 damages caused by flooding were recorded across the Shire, of which 1,080 have been restored so far, with a number of jobs currently underway.

Residents are also asked to advise Council of any damages that might not be rectified and are a safety risk. If you have any information relating to flood damage that needs attention, please contact Council on (03) 5494 1200.

## South West Loddon Pipeline Project update

Construction of Stage Two of the South West Loddon Pipeline has begun, promising secure water supplies to farming and lifestyle properties in Skinners Flat, Fiery Flat, Arnold, Bridgewater, Powlett, East Gowar, Wedderburn South and Kurting.

GWMWater's Managing Director Mark Williams says that, when completed, the South West Loddon Pipeline project will have laid approximately 1,300 kilometres of pipeline, supplying secure water supplies to over 260 rural farming enterprises and more than 370 lifestyle properties across the region.

"Properties within the project area currently rely on local rainfall and catchment dams for their farms. The South West Loddon Pipeline will deliver security of water supply as well as provide economic benefits in the area," Mr Williams said.

Stage Two of the South West Loddon Pipeline project will deliver vital water to even more communities, households and farms throughout central North West Victoria.

More than 427 Expressions of Interest to connect to the Pipeline have been received to date, and more than 250 of those landholders have signed 'Heads of Agreement' with GWMWater, ensuring service to their properties.

Mr Williams said it was essential that landholders register Expressions of Interest well in advance, to ensure construction of the pipeline can incorporate their properties.

The Victorian Government is putting \$40 million towards the \$80.6 million project which will secure supply to communities, households and farmers in the South West Loddon region.

See where the South West Loddon water pipes are planned to be located in your area by visiting [www.gwmwater.org.au](http://www.gwmwater.org.au). Expressions of Interest to connect to the South West Loddon Pipeline can be made by contacting GWMWater on 1300 659 961.

*Information provided by GWMWater.*

# Works update

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

### Annual Infrastructure Program

The Annual Infrastructure Program for 2018/2019 was adopted at the July 2018 Council meeting. The 2018/19 program includes:

- \$380,000 for local road gravel resheets
- \$315,000 for local road shoulder resheets
- \$1.35 million for local road reconstruction (asset preservation and upgrade)
- \$45,000 for replacement of the guard rail on a bridge on Gowar Logan Road
- \$237,000 for township street improvements (to replace and install new footpaths)
- \$350,000 for urban and township drainage
- \$1.25 million for local bridges and culverts (including \$650,000 in grants from the Commonwealth and State Governments for Woodstock Road Bridge over Murphy Creek)
- \$603,725 for reseals on the sealed road network
- \$100,000 towards parks and gardens
- \$290,000 for public buildings owned and managed by Council

### Township street improvements

Council resolved to award the contract for the construction of footpaths in Wedderburn, Boort, Inglewood and Pyramid Hill. Construction works were expected to start by end of August 2018.

### From our Works department:

#### Defect rectification

From 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, 10,869 defects were rectified, with 95 per cent of all defects (10,437 in total) completed before their due date.

#### Maintenance grading program

From 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, 3,686 maintenance grading work actions were completed resulting in 1,689 kilometres of grading and 2,569 kilometres of inspections.

#### Waste services

Council trialled a new initiative offering residents free waste disposal once a quarter. "Fee" free waste days were conducted in November 2017, February and May 2018.

Nine hundred and eighty-seven people have used the service, with 617m<sup>3</sup> of waste and 378m<sup>3</sup> of green waste disposed across the six Council facilities.

The fourth "fee" free waste day took place in August 2018.

## Positive support for proposed Reconciliation/Aboriginal Partnership Plan

Loddon Shire residents have given their support for a proposed reconciliation/Aboriginal Partnership Plan, following a survey of the community in June.

Eighty-nine residents completed the survey, which was available to all community members, either via online or in hard copy.

"There has been overwhelming positive results for the support of Council developing an entry level plan," Council's Director Community Wellbeing Wendy Gladman said.

"Overall 77 per cent of people voted yes to the plan's development. In this figure, 83.8 per cent of women supported the plan's development and 59.3 per cent of men."

Council will now be proceeding with the development of a plan.

Reconciliation action plans generally guide organisations in building greater awareness, understanding and respectful relationships between our wider community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

To find out more, including a breakdown of the results of the survey, visit [www.loddon.vic.gov.au](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au) and go to "Current Projects" (located under the "About us" dropdown box).

If you are interested in being involved in the development of a proposed reconciliation/Aboriginal Partnership Plan or would like further information, please contact Council's Policy and Strategy Officer Christine Walters on 5494 1239 or email [cwalters@loddon.vic.gov.au](mailto:cwalters@loddon.vic.gov.au).

## BRIC library extension officially opened

The Boort Resource and Information Centre (BRIC) library extension has been officially opened by Mayor Cheryl McKinnon and Goldfields Library Corporation Chief Executive Officer Mark Hands.

Around 110 community members attend the official opening on 9 August, which included a talk by renowned author Ann Cleeves (creator of the iconic "Vera" and "Shetland" series) about her writing career, as well as libraries and literature.

The BRIC library extension project has added approximately 62 square metres to the eastern end of the current building, enabling it to house a library room, computer area and children's activity area.

The new extension will serve as a library agency for the Goldfields Library Corporation and has the capacity to house three times more books, magazines and other items onsite. 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 provides upgraded facilities and improvements to the amenity at BRIC. This complements other services at the centre including Neighbourhood House, Rural Transaction Centre, Learn Local and community hub.



Mayor Cheryl McKinnon, author Ann Cleeves and Goldfields Library Corporation CEO Mark Hands at the opening of the BRIC library extension. Photo credit: Liz Martin.

The \$280,000 project was 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).

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## Your Councillors

### SHIRE OFFICES:

#### Wedderburn

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Tel: (03) 5494 1200  
Fax: (03) 5494 3003

#### Serpentine

37 Peppercorn Way, Serpentine 3516  
Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm  
Tel: (03) 5437 7999  
Fax: (03) 5437 8407

E: [loddon@loddon.vic.gov.au](mailto:loddon@loddon.vic.gov.au)

Web: [www.loddon.vic.gov.au](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au)



#### 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

## 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 Loddon Shire Offices on:

#### Thursday 13 September

9.15am Serpentine

11.15am Boort

#### Thursday 11 October

9.30am Inglewood

11.30am Dingee

2.15pm Pyramid Hill

#### Thursday 8 November

9.15am Serpentine

11.15am Boort

#### Thursday 13 December

9.30am Inglewood

11.30am Dingee

2.15pm Pyramid Hill

To make an appointment for an infant's immunisation, call Loddon Shire's Serpentine Office on 5437 7999.

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](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au). Go to "Services for our younger residents" from the "Live" dropdown box at the top of the page.