

LODDON BULLETIN

A resilient, sustainable and prosperous community of communities



Council Plan nears adoption

“Thriving communities where everyone is welcome and all have the opportunity to live, work and create experiences.”

Those words aren't just a sentence plucked from thin air – they're what a Community Reference Group helped come up with to form Loddon Shire Council's Draft Community Vision 2035.

The Community Vision feeds into the Draft Council Plan 2025-2029, which after a three-week period of public comment is now being finalised ahead of being tabled for adoption by Council at its October meeting.

The Council Plan is the framework within which Council will operate for the next four years and is developed by each incoming Council.

The draft Plan outlines Council's strategic direction around five themes, in order to deliver the Community Vision: Thriving, Welcome, Live, Work and Experience.

It outlines the steps needed to achieve these goals.

Along with the Draft Community Vision and Council Plan, Council is also finalising the Draft Financial Plan 2025/26 – 2034/35 after three weeks of public comment.

This plan, which also supports the Community Vision and Council Plan, provides the framework for Council's finances for the next 10 years and will be the guiding document for the annual budget.

It will steer Council's long-term decision making and provides a long-term view of the organisation's financial position from which more informed decisions can be made as to how it allocates its resources.

To read the Draft Council Plan, please scan the QR code on the right.



OCTOBER 2025

FEATURED IN THIS EDITION

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Financial Plan**

Inglewood Alive

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**Australia Day awards and
competitions — be in to win**

Inglewood's biggest street party is back in November

Inglewood Alive returns on Sunday, November 2 with a range of exciting stalls, events and activities for the whole family.

A highlight of the Loddon Shire events calendar, Brooke Street will be closed to traffic and will host a monster vintage and classic car display, wood-chop arena, emergency services demonstrations, a range of stalls and local food trucks and wines and entertainment.

Did we mention kids amusements and Farmer Darryl's Farm?

Another huge day in Inglewood is on the way this November - make sure you're there to enjoy it all.



A word from our Mayor

Welcome to the latest edition of the Loddon Bulletin.

While winter is traditionally a quieter time of the year, it's been a busy few months for me as Mayor and Council as a whole.

In July, I helped turn the first sod at the new Wedderburn Early Learning Centre, to be based at Wedderburn P-12 College. This facility is scheduled to open in time for the start of the 2026 school year and will be run by the Victorian Government. With its imminent opening, Council at its July monthly meeting made the decision to close the Wedderburn Kindergarten on Ridge Street, with the intention of selling the building. While change can be difficult, this building has served the community well over many years, and importantly a kindergarten service will continue to be available in Wedderburn from next year, and one that will offer more convenience and accessibility for families.

But it was not all about openings in July - Council also expressed its displeasure at the impending closure of the Bendigo Bank agency network, which will mean the closure of agencies in Boort and Wedderburn. We have already seen the anxiety this caused in Pyramid Hill and we are extremely disappointed at this shortsighted decision, having made our feelings known to the bank.

August saw us look forward to spring with enthusiasm, and it wasn't just because of the rains. We announced the Loddon Valley Arts festival (see below), which will take place in early October, a wonderful event for our shire that sees art come to many of our communities. It's been a community-led initiative that keeps getting better, and I look forward to this weekend with great anticipation.

In September we hosted Australia's most iconic sporting trophy for the second time in recent years, when the Melbourne Cup came to Bridgewater. It was a

wonderful event both at the Recreation Reserve during the day and at a dinner that evening - the 'People's Cup' has certainly lost none of its drawing power.

A week later Council released the draft Council Plan 2025-2029 for public comment. There's more about that on the front page of this Bulletin, but I thank everyone who had their say on a document that will guide all our decisions over the next four years. A final Council Plan will be approved at the October Council meeting.

With the warmer weather we're all also a lot busier as we head towards the end of the year. With the next Bulletin not scheduled until January, I'll take an early opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



*Loddon Shire Mayor
Cr Dan Straub.*



In September Loddon Shire Mayor Dan Straub visited Canberra to talk with Federal Government Ministers about the Murray Darling Basin Plan and the \$5 million childcare promise for Loddon Shire.

Loddon Valley Arts

Loddon Valley Arts is back, with the shire's very own arts festival coming to a venue very near you.

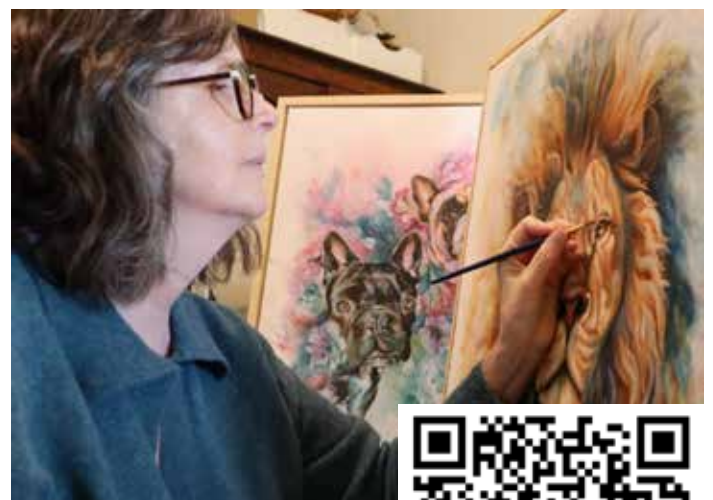
About 50 artists will be inhabiting 30 venues including community halls and other venues right across Loddon Shire from October 3-5.

You can find all the details by scanning the QR code on the right but one thing for sure - there's going to be a visual feast.

Loddon Valley Arts coordinator Rosemary Sorensen said planning had prioritised collaborations with committees, community groups, artists and "anyone who can help".

"I'm in awe of the Loddon people who have said yes and backed the expansion of the trail into a full-blown festival this year," she said. "The time and effort they put into their community is what has inspired us to make an event the whole shire can be proud of and benefit from."

Loddon Shire Mayor Dan Straub said Loddon Valley Arts was a wonderful example of how the community collaborated to achieve a shared vision.



Kristen Cowland will not only exhibit her work but will also hold a painting workshop at Boort Memorial Hall.



Get those dancing shoes on - the Seniors Festival is here

It's almost time for a popular annual event celebrating our senior citizens.

The Loddon Seniors Festival will take place during October, with plenty of community activities on show.

The feature will be a fabulous afternoon of music, memories, and celebration at the Seniors Festival Gala Day Concert – this year to be held at the Wedderburn Mechanics and Literary Institute Hall from 1pm to 4.30pm on Wednesday, 8 October.

It will feature The Stiletto Groove (right) – a sensational four-piece band serving up all your favourite hits from the 60s and 70s.

Following the concert, enjoy a complimentary afternoon tea with friends old and new.

This is a free event, but bookings are essential for catering purposes.

Throughout the month there will be plenty of other activities throughout the shire hosted by community groups and other Council partners – these include a garden party in Pyramid Hill, family history research in Wedderburn and a Portable Planetarium in Boort.

The full list is available in the Loddon Seniors Festival booklet which can be downloaded by scanning the QR code or from the Council website and is also available at post offices, local community/neighbourhood houses, selected businesses and Senior Citizens Centres in the shire.



Your one stop shop for Housing and Living in Loddon Shire

Curious about housing development and lifestyle opportunities in Loddon?

The Loddon Housing and Living Showcase returns to the Bridgewater Memorial Hall on Friday, 21 November from 2pm to 6pm.

The event is perfect for residents looking to sub-divide, extend or invest, as well as non-residents looking at moving to Loddon Shire.

Talk face-to-face with local and regional builders, developers, engineers and surveyors, as well as members of Loddon Shire's planning and economic development teams. For more information please visit housingshowcase.loddon.vic.gov.au



Healthy Loddon Campaspe wrap

Sports Equipment Libraries

Free sports equipment libraries were set up in Tarnagulla and Pyramid Hill (middle right) giving residents easy access to sports gear for spontaneous and informal play. The sports equipment libraries remain in place at each location and are being well used by the community, particularly by children and families, as a fun, free way to be active.

Healthy Schools Project

The HLC Healthy Schools Project worked with East Loddon College, Pyramid Hill College and St Mary's Primary School, Inglewood (bottom right) to improve healthy eating and physical activity. Each school delivered lasting changes including new kitchen gardens, bike racks, safer walking paths, and healthy policies. These improvements will continue to support students, staff, and the wider community to embed healthy habits into school life.

Healthy Sports Clubs and Rewards

Four junior cricket clubs – Boort Yando, Bridgewater Bulls, Kingower (top right) and Wedderburn Band – delivered healthy rewards for their players during the cricket season. Healthy rewards such as café vouchers and family pool passes were provided to clubs to use as recognition for their junior players, normalising healthy choices, while strengthening connections with local businesses. Local businesses including Boort IGA, Inglewood IGA, Randall's Food Works, Godfrey & Bear, and Café 3571 also supported the rewards, as well as fresh fruit during training and/or matches.



Works Update

The following is the 2024-25 Works Summary.

To stay up to date on all Council projects and other news across Loddon Shire, scan the QR code on the right.



Waste

- From July 2024 to 30 June 2025 **303,862** kerbside garbage and recycling collection bin lifts were scheduled. The amounts of garbage and recycling from kerbside bins were as follows:
- Weight of recyclables collected from kerbside bins 506.72 tonnes.
- Weight of garbage, collected from kerbside bins 2008.28 tonnes.

Vouchers

- Residents are provided with four vouchers with their rates notices - 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.
- This includes green waste, mixed recyclables, general household waste and e-waste (white goods, TVs, 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.
- From 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, 3,022 vouchers have been used.
- Each voucher can only be used once, and only one voucher used per transaction. The voucher must be presented to attendants at landfill and transfer stations. Each voucher must be used by its expiry date, with vouchers 1 and 2 for 2025-26 due to expire 31 December 2025.



South Townscape Services apprentice Aaron prunes a Lomandra at Bridgewater.

Hard Waste

- The annual kerbside hard waste collection for 2025 commenced on Monday 3 March to coincide with Clean Up Australia Day. The annual hard waste collection of metal, e-waste, furniture and white goods for residents (excluding businesses) within township boundaries was completed over a one-week period with approximately 566 collections.

Roadside Weeds and Pests Program

- Council continued to implement its control activities for weeds and pests on municipal rural roadsides. The Roadside Weeds and Pests Program (RWPP) is a state funded program. Council have engaged contractors to complete second round treatment of Prickly Pear and Wheel Cactus with approximately 12,213 Prickly Pear and Wheel Cactus treated.
- In support of the efforts of Mt Korong Eco-Watch and private property groups a contractor was engaged to treat African Lovegrass on the roadsides around Mt Korong with approximately 1,243 plants receiving treatment.
- Contractors have also begun first round treatment of Silverleaf Nightshade in support of the Silverleaf Nightshade Compliance Program, with approximately 70,707 plants being treated so far.

Works Update continued

Loddon Shire Road Management Plan (RMP)

This information provides statistical data with respect to the Organisation's performance in managing the road network. Performance is measured through a comparison of actual defect rectification timeframes against requirements specified in the Loddon Shire Road Management Plan.

Defect rectification

- **5,629** defects were rectified, with **97.07** per cent of all defects (**5,464** in total) completed before their due date.

Inspection summary

- **609** inspections were completed (3,699 defects raised), with **97.04** per cent of all inspections completed before their due date.



North Townscape Services crew members Bradley and Coby with a new Zero Turn mower in Boort (above), while the South crew mulch the foreshore at Bridgewater (right).



Maintenance grading program

- **905** maintenance grading work actions were completed resulting in **2,305** km of grading and **5,731** km of inspections.

Capital works completed

- 80% of Building projects delivered by the works department have been completed (four jobs in total).
- 100% of Townscape Service projects delivered by the works department have been completed including the Soldiers Memorial Playground Upgrade in Wedderburn.
- 91% of Road projects delivered by the works department have been completed.
- 13.6km gravel road resheets.
- 13.8km sealed road shoulder resheets.
- 2.2km road construction on Echuca-Serpentine Rd.
- 1km road construction on Newbridge Rd (1.8km to be rolled over to 2025-26 due to weather).

Other maintenance works have included:

Parks and townships

- **4,453** programmed maintenance and defects that consisted of maintenance actions on footpaths, street and park trees, garden beds, grass mowing and playgrounds were rectified with **83.8** per cent of all defects (**3,733** in total) completed before their due date.
- 3,007ha of grass mowed.

Your Councillors



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2026 Australia Day awards and competitions

Want to nominate a local achiever for an Australia Day award? Or do you want to be in to win in one of our competitions to mark the day?

Entries are closing soon for Loddon Shire Council's Australia Day awards as well as the three competitions.

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

These recognise outstanding Australians and community groups within Loddon Shire.

Ward Citizen of the Year nominations are open to those living, or operationally based within the Loddon Shire who have made an outstanding contribution to the local community during 2025, or have given noteworthy service to the local community over a number of years. Ward Citizen of the Year nominations are open for each of the five Loddon Shire wards (Boort, Inglewood, Tarnagulla, Terrick and Wedderburn).

The 2026 Loddon Shire Citizen of the Year will be selected from Ward Citizen of the Year nominations.

Young Citizen of the Year nominations are open to Loddon Shire residents aged up to 26 years old as at 26 January 2026 who have made a noteworthy contribution to the local community during 2025, or over a number of previous years.

Community Group/Event of the Year nominations are open to groups or events operating within the Loddon Shire. This award aims to recognise and encourage significant contributions to community life within the Loddon Shire and to promote national pride and community responsibility.

Further information on each Award category is contained in the nomination forms available on the Council website or by emailing

australiaday@loddon.vic.gov.au.

Nominations for all awards close at 4pm on Friday, 24 October 2025.



Australia Day

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

AUSTRALIA DAY COMPETITIONS

Based on the theme 'Australian Vegetation' Council is conducting the following competitions as part of Australia Day celebrations:

- **Colouring Competition** for Prep to Year 2 students
- **Photographic Competition** – for Junior (Prep/Foundation to Year 6) , Senior (Year 7 to Year 12) and Open.
- **Literature Competition** for school-aged children.

Anyone residing, working or attending a school within the Loddon Shire is eligible to enter.

The colouring competition picture and entry forms are available from schools within the shire, by downloading from Council's website, or by emailing australiaday@loddon.vic.gov.au.

Entries must be received by 4pm on Friday, 24 October 2025.

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

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Office hours: Monday to Friday 8.15am to 4.45pm (except public holidays)

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