

LODDON

BULLETIN

A PROSPEROUS
VIBRANT AND
ENGAGED COMMUNITY



Community Vision and Council Plan adopted

Council has adopted the Loddon Shire Community Vision 2031 and Council Plan 2021-2025 at its Ordinary Meeting in October.

The Community Vision 2031 and Council Plan 2021-2025 reflect Council's commitment to listen to our community's vision for the future and deliver a progressive and future-focused plan that will see the Shire continue to grow and prosper.

These critical documents were developed with feedback and collaboration from the community, including through The Loddon Project, which undertook extensive community engagement across the Shire.

The Community Vision 2031 is: *Creating a community where everyone is welcome and has the opportunity to live, work and thrive.*

This Community Vision is supported by the Council Plan's key themes, each with their own strategic objectives. These themes are:

- A sustainable built and natural environment
- A growing and vibrant community
- A diverse and expanding economy
- A supported and accessible community

Council thanks all the community members who contributed to The Loddon Project and who provided feedback to the draft Community Vision and Council Plan. This involvement was crucial in developing a blueprint for Loddon Shire's future.

The Community Vision and Council Plan helps Council advocate for additional Federal and State Government investment in our community to build on our goals – including population growth, infrastructure, sustainability, the environment and youth.

The Community Vision and Council Plan is available at: www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Council/Plans-strategies-and-policies/Plans-and-strategies



Council Plan 2021-2025

QUARTERLY BULLETIN

DECEMBER 2021

FEATURED

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Cr Dan Straub elected as Mayor

Cr Dan Straub was elected as Loddon Shire Mayor at a Special Council Meeting on 9 November.

Cr Straub, who is the Councillor for Terrick Ward, said he was delighted to be elected to the role.

"I'd like to thank my fellow Councillors for electing me as Mayor – it is a great honour," Cr Straub said.

"I'd also like to acknowledge and thank Cr Beattie for his excellent leadership as Mayor for the past year.

"His leadership and contribution as Mayor to Council and the community has been invaluable.

"I also look forward to working with Councillors, staff and the community during the coming year as Mayor.

"This includes delivering Council's Community Vision 2031 and Council Plan 2021-2025.



"This Community Vision and Council Plan will shape the future direction of our Shire."

Cr Straub recognised that the past year had again had its difficulties with impacts on local businesses and the community due to COVID-19 and subsequent restrictions.

"However, we are now seeing some light on the horizon with the recent easing of restrictions, which is very positive," he said.

Meet Council's new CEO

Council's new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Lincoln Fitzgerald started in the role 1 November 2021.

Lincoln (*pictured*) comes to Council with a wealth of experience in local government, coming to Loddon Shire from the City of Greater Bendigo and having previously worked for Mount Alexander Shire Council.

Lincoln's previous role was Manager, Active and Healthy Lifestyles at the City of Greater Bendigo.



Lincoln's career has focused on building, leading and managing diverse teams and large businesses in the region and overseas.

Lincoln thanked Acting CEO Jude Holt for her work in the role while the recruitment process was underway.

Australia Day celebrations

Australia Day celebrations will take place across our Shire with towns and communities hosting events. COVIDSafe requirements will be in place at all events.

Planned festivities will include sausage sizzles and free entry to Council's swimming pools.

Australia Day Awards will be presented which celebrate the achievements and contributions made by outstanding members of our community who, through their efforts, make us feel proud to be Australian.

Please check www.loddon.vic.gov.au or Council's Facebook page closer to the day.

Town	Location	Time
Boort	Nolen's Park	Morning tea provided from 9.15am
Bridgewater	Sloan's Park	Barbecue breakfast from 8am
Eddington	Eddington Community Centre	Barbecue breakfast from 8am
Inglewood	Inglewood Swimming Pool	Sausage sizzle from 11am
Newbridge	Newbridge Hall	Sausage sizzle from 11.15am
Pyramid Hill	Pyramid Hill Hall	To be confirmed
Serpentine	To be confirmed	Barbecue breakfast from 8.30am, BYO chair
Tarnagulla	Soldiers Memorial Park	Barbecue from 5pm
Wedderburn	Soldiers Memorial Park	Barbecue from 5pm

A word from our Mayor

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Councillors for electing me as Mayor for the coming year. It is a great honour to be elected into the role.

Similar to 2020, 2021 has been a challenging year, with the COVID-19 pandemic, lockdowns and restrictions having a huge effect on business, tourism, our communities and individuals across the Shire.

It has been a tough road, with challenges at every corner we turned, but as a community we held strong. We showed support for each other, we shopped local, made the most out of what our region and local communities have to offer, we networked and we made new friends along the way, all the while not discriminating against each other.

Together with Council, I'd like to thank all residents for your resilience and strong will to get on with the job to plan for the future.

On another note, Council has adopted a number of key documents during the past months. This includes the Community Vision 2031 and Council Plan 2021-2025, which will shape the future of our Shire. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all community members who contributed to and provided feedback to the draft Community Vision and Council Plan. You can read more about the Community Vision 2031 and Council Plan 2021-2025 in this edition of the Loddon Bulletin.

I'd like to also congratulate all of our new Australian citizens, for their dedication to their communities across the Loddon Shire. All were presented with their citizenship certificates during citizenship ceremonies conducted by former Mayor Cr Neil Beattie throughout the year.

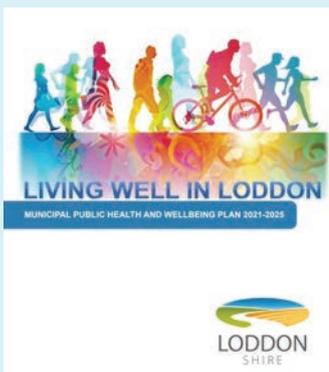
Finally, on behalf of all of us here at Loddon Shire Council, I'd like to wish all our community a happy and safe Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



Financial Plan, Health and Wellbeing Plan adopted

At its Ordinary Meeting in October Council adopted the Financial Plan 2020-21 to 2030-31.

This 10-year Financial Plan guides Council in long-term decision making and supports achievement towards the Community Vision 2031 and Council Plan 2021-2025.



At a Special Meeting on 22 October, Council adopted the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025.

The Plan includes strategic focus areas of Good Physical Health, Good Mental Health, Protect and Promote Health, and Feel Safe and Secure.

Each theme has priority focus areas and outcomes identified that will contribute to us being healthy and well. To achieve this, services and agencies across Loddon will work together to deliver this plan.

Council is required to prepare a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008.

To view the documents visit www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Council/Plans-strategies-and-policies/Plans-and-strategies

Healthy Heart of Victoria update

Loddon Shire Council and its partners have received further funding through the Healthy Heart of Victoria (HHV) initiative to continue supporting active and healthy communities.

Last month, community members came together at the outdoor fitness equipment at Nolen's Park, Boort.

The group participated in filming that will share the work undertaken as part of the HHV initiative, including installation of the outdoor fitness equipment and the Little Lake Boort path extension to support the upcoming Boort parkrun.

The videos will also be a reminder that health is everyone's business, not just the that of people working in the health sector.

The videos will be shared with the community when complete. You will be able to access these through the Healthy Heart of Victoria Facebook page.



Community members came together to participate in filming at the outdoor fitness equipment at Nolen's Park in Boort.

Community projects update

Bridgewater female-friendly change rooms

Construction works on new female-friendly change rooms (*pictured*) at the Bridgewater Recreation Reserve are now complete.

Donaldson Park Community Hub

The detailed designs for the Donaldson Park Community Hub project have been completed and the procurement process for construction is underway.

The project will upgrade facilities at Wedderburn's Donaldson Park, including construction of a new multi-sport and community-focused pavilion, car parking, new multi-faceted playspace for all abilities, landscaping and internal paths, and large solar installation with batteries.

In June, Council welcomed additional funding towards the project from the Victorian Government of \$1,381,974.

Pyramid Hill Community Centre Development

Stakeholders are currently engaged in working on plans for the Pyramid Hill Community Centre Development. The procurement process to engage a contractor for the project's detailed design is currently underway.

Stage 1 of the project will include construction of the allied health wing, standalone senior citizens room, new toilet facilities and renovation of the existing hall and kitchen.

The funding will also enable the expansion of storage for kitchen and user groups, development of breakout space and associated landscaping, and installation of car parking, kerb and channel and associated drainage infrastructure.

The funding was through the Victorian Government's Regional Infrastructure Fund – Stimulus Round.

Pyramid Hill Streetscape Revitalisation Project

Detailed designs for the Pyramid Hill Streetscape Revitalisation Project are now complete, with works expected to commence on the project in the New Year.

The project aims to unify the township via themed works along the town approaches and pedestrian navigation.



It will achieve this by improving pedestrian safety, linking key public spaces and providing additional landscaping and shade.

The project has been made possible thanks to \$800,000 in funding from the Victorian Government's Building Works package and Council.

Swimming pools

Pool painting has been completed at Pyramid Hill, Mitiamo and Inglewood swimming pools.

Council appointed Belgravia Leisure to manage its swimming pools. Council awarded the contract to Belgravia Leisure at its September meeting.

Belgravia Leisure has a long history working with communities and connecting them to leisure opportunities.

There are five swimming pools within Loddon Shire, located at Boort, Inglewood, Mitiamo, Pyramid Hill and Wedderburn.

Council's swimming pools open annually on the third Saturday in November and close on the Monday of the Labour Day weekend in March.

For more information regarding Council's pools visit www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Services/Community-facilities/Swimming-pools

Community grants funding: Group 2

At its August Meeting, Council endorsed the allocation of \$61,251 in grants to Group 2 applications under the 2021/22 Loddon Shire Community Grants Scheme.

Eight applicants received funding – Boort Historical Society, Inglewood Bowling Club, Dunolly and District Field and Game Club, Woodstock-on-Loddon Tennis Club, Calivil United Football Netball Club, Serpentine Recreation Reserve Committee of Management, Wedderburn Golf Club and Wedderburn Open-Air Gallery Committee.

The Community Grants Group 1 allocations were endorsed at Council's July Meeting.

Upcoming Council Meetings

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

Council Meetings are held at the Loddon Shire Council Chambers in Wedderburn (entry from Peters Street), behind the Council office.

A livestream of the meeting is available to the public via Council's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/LoddonShire

Upcoming Council Meetings:

- Tuesday 14 December 2021
- Tuesday 25 January 2022
- Tuesday 22 February 2022
- Tuesday 22 March 2022

Works update

A glance at some of the works around Loddon Shire:

Roads

- Works for the reconstruction, widening and sealing of Laanecoorie Newbridge Road are complete.
- The tender for Council's annual reseal program was considered at Council's November meeting. Reseal works are anticipated to be completed by the end of April, dependent on weather.

Township street improvements

- The tender for the 2021/22 footpath construction program has closed. The tender is expected to be awarded at the December Council Meeting.
- Works are continuing on the installation of kerb and channel and associated works at Lake View and Andrews Street in Boort.
- The tender to install a pedestrian crossing at Coutts Street in Boort has been awarded. Works are expected to get underway before Christmas.

Local bridge and culvert construction

- Works for the replacement of a culvert at Gladfield Road are underway.
- Works on the Baileys Road Bridge replacement over Bullock Creek in Derby are complete.
- The tender for a culvert replacement on Pickles Road, Jarklin has been awarded. Works are expected to get underway before Christmas.

Inspection summary

From 1 July 2021 to 30 September 2021, 56 inspections were completed (689 defects raised), with 92.9 per cent of all inspections completed before their due date.

Defect rectification

From 1 July 2021 to 30 September 2021, 1,445 defects were rectified, with 99.4 per cent of all defects (1,436 in total) completed before their due date.

Waste vouchers

Residents are provided with four vouchers with their rates notices - one for each quarter. 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.

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 Voucher 2 due to expire 31 December 2021.



Baileys Road Bridge replacement over Bullock Creek in Derby.

Maintenance grading program

From 1 July 2021 to 30 September 2021, 427 maintenance grading work actions were completed resulting in 789 kilometres of grading and 1,307 kilometres of inspections.

VicRoads-controlled roads

Council undertakes routine maintenance of pavement, shoulders, roadside areas, drainage systems, road furniture and structures on various arterial roads within Loddon Shire (VicRoads roads). If you have any requests or issues with VicRoads arterial roads please call 13 11 70.

From 1 July 2021 to 30 September 2021, 537 defects were rectified, with 97.0 per cent of all defects (521 in total) completed before their due date.

Completed capital works

From 1 July 2021 to 31 October 2021 30 per cent of building projects delivered by the works department were been completed (seven jobs in total).

Forty-six per cent of road projects delivered by the works department were also completed resulting in the following:

- 8.5 kilometres local road re-sheets and shoulder re-sheets
- 500 metres local road reconstruction

Road Management Plan adopted

Council adopted its Road Management Plan at a Special Council Meeting on 22 October.

The Road Management Plan document sets out to manage the operation and maintenance of Council's road and footpath assets.

It outlines the inspection regime, defect intervention and allowable time for Council to respond to any defect in the road and footpath assets. It is a requirement of the Road Management Act 2004.

The Road Management Plan can be viewed at Council's website:

www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Council/Plans-strategies-and-policies/Plans-and-strategies

Infant immunisation sessions

Infant Immunisation sessions will be available 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 9 December

9.30am Inglewood
11.30am Dingee
2.00pm Pyramid Hill

Thursday 13 January

9.15am Serpentine
11.15am Boort

Thursday 10 February

9.30am Inglewood
11.30am Dingee
2.00pm Pyramid Hill

Thursday 10 March

9.15am Serpentine
11.15am Boort

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 or visit the link above.

Christmas and New Year service hours

The Council office in Wedderburn will be closed from 4.45pm on Thursday 23 December and reopen at 8.15am on Tuesday 4 January 2022.

The Loddon Visitor Information Centre will be closed on Christmas Day, Sunday 26 December and Sunday 2 January, but is otherwise open Monday to Saturday from 9am to 5pm and from 10am to 4pm on public holidays.

For enquiries phone (03) 5494 2489 or email loddonvisitorinformation@loddon.vic.gov.au

The Community Care service will provide limited services from Friday 24 December and will recommence at 8.30am on Tuesday 4 January 2022. Personal care and meals on wheels will be provided and clients will be contacted to discuss their service needs for this period.

There will be no home care, respite care, social support or property maintenance services delivered during this period.

For urgent Community Care service assistance during this period, please contact the Serpentine Office on (03) 5494 1201 (option 3) or the after-hours service on 0427 804 736.

Kerbside waste and recycling collections during December 2021 and January 2022 will operate as scheduled, with no changes to collections.

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

Shire offices

Wedderburn 41 High St, Wedderburn 3518 **T:** (03) 5494 1200 **F:** (03) 5494 3003
Open to the public, subject to COVID-19 restrictions.
Monday to Friday 8.15am to 4.45pm

Serpentine 37 Peppercorn Way, Serpentine 3516 **T:** (03) 5494 1201 **F:** (03) 5437 8407
Currently closed to the public, customer support service is available by phone.
Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm

Email: loddon@loddon.vic.gov.au **Web:** www.loddon.vic.gov.au

Your Councillors



Mayor Cr Dan Straub
Terrick Ward
0429 236 399



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 Gavan Holt
Wedderburn Ward
0408 943 008