

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

## FLOOD SUPPORT

Issue 17: February - March 2025

Council continues to work with local, state and commonwealth partners to support the recovery of Gannawarra communities. This newsletter outlines support available and efforts Council and partner agencies are undertaking.

### SUPPORT CONTACTS

Mallee Family Care: 03 5032 4479  
Rural Financial Counselling Service:  
1300 735 578  
Flood Recovery Hotline: 1800 560 760

Northern District Community  
Health: 03 5451 0200  
Lifeline: 13 11 14  
Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636  
Council: 03 5450 9333

### BUSH TUCKER GARDEN PROJECT

A new bush tucker garden space at Mallee District Aboriginal Services, Kerang is underway with the support of Northern District Community Health. The garden is being funded by Emergency Recovery Victoria through the Gannawarra Flood Recovery Program.

A design for this exciting new outdoor space will feature bush tucker garden beds, local indigenous plantings, a yarning circle and fire pit. The garden will be a space for the local Aboriginal community to connect to Country and Culture.

Two working bees have already been completed to plant out the edges of the car park. The species chosen, *Lomandra longiflora* (at far right) and *Dianella revoluta* (top and left) once established, will be available to harvest and prepared for weaving.

The garden will include signage highlighting Indigenous knowledge of featured plants. A book is also planned to provide information to the community.

Working bees with the local Aboriginal community will continue weekly on Wednesdays with the aim to officially open the Bush Tucker Garden in April.

Enquiries on the Bush Tucker Garden project can be made to [emma.holland@ndch.org.au](mailto:emma.holland@ndch.org.au).



### KERANG U3A FLOOD RECOVERY FUNDED ACTIVITIES

Kerang U3A received a small Gannawarra flood recovery grant for two-day trips to support older residents to connect socially and enjoy activities that would otherwise be inaccessible through either cost, transport limitations, or mobility challenges.

The first day trip was held on 29 November 2024. The Cohuna Community Bus, which has an accessible ramp, was hired for the day trip to Chasney Estate at Tresco and the Catalina Museum on Lake Boga. The bus was full, with 17 Gannawarra residents enjoying the day out. The bus plays an important role in keeping people together and allows time for talking, learning, and connecting along the way.

Chasney Estate is a 14-acre Olive Grove and Lavender Farm owned by Gary and Isabel Chasney. The group enjoyed an informative talk on the workings of the business.

The visit also included a walk around the olive grove and lavender farm, including a viewing of the tiny houses used for tourist accommodation carefully concealed in the olive grove. An added delight was meeting Esme the donkey! The lavender scones with tea or coffee for morning tea and lunch at Lake Boga was also thoroughly enjoyed.

The second event to the Great Stupa on the outskirts of Bendigo is being held on Friday 7 March 2025.



# COMMUNITY UPDATE FLOOD SUPPORT



## Kerang Lunar New Year Festival 2025

- \* Lion Dance & Fire Crackers
- \* International Street Food
- \* Multicultural performances and entertainment
- \* Family friendly entertainment
- \* Live music by That Guy



Saturday 08/03/2025  
4.00pm - 9.00pm  
Atkinson Park  
No glass allowed  
BYO chairs

Proudly brought to you



Supported by Gannawarra Shire Flood Recovery Funding through the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee

### EVENTS IN GANNAWARRA

Events are supported by funding from the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments under the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) as part of the Gannawarra Community Flood Recovery Program. For a list of upcoming events, visit:

[www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events)

*-Free-*  
**Men's BBQ  
Breakfast**  
*-Morning Mates-*

*Starting this January  
31st  
All Welcome*

7am - 9am  
Fridays  
At Kerang  
Neighbourhood  
House

*-Brought to you by -*



Kerry Finch

## ART WORKSHOP

Unleash Creativity With Local Artist :  
Kerry Finch

SATURDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2025  
1:00pm - 3:30pm  
KERANG MUSEUM MEETING ROOM  
\$10 PER PERSON ENTRY

AFTERNOON TEA AND  
REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

HOSTED BY:



LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE  
Book Now: 0439999150

# LAKE MERAN FESTIVAL 2025

**SUNDAY FEB 23RD**  
3PM - 9PM

LIVE MUSIC  
KIDS ACTIVITIES  
UNVEILING OF THE TURTLE SCULPTURE  
FOOD VANS  
LOCAL BEER, WINE & SPIRITS

**\$10 TICKETS**  
UNDER 18S FREE

RAISE FUNDS FOR OUR MUCH LOVED LAKE MERAN!

THANKS TO OUR MAJOR SPONSORS

# COMMUNITY UPDATE FLOOD SUPPORT



**And THE LITTLE LONG WALK**

VISITING SARARA SARARA COUNTRY FROM MARCH 3RD

NOCH FRRR

Gannawarra

Supported by Gannawarra Shire Flood Recovery Funding Through the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee

## the Dish

22 FEBRUARY 2025 8.30PM  
WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/CYEUJ

QuambySiloCinema

**MURRABIT TRADING LTD**

### MURRABIT LAWN TENNIS CLUB

#### 78th Annual Easter Tournament 2025

**EVENTS**

- Mixed - Good Friday 18 April
- Doubles- Saturday 19 April
- Each day -Sections- Men's & Ladies - A, Inter & B, Boys & Girls u16 & u13

Enter it's:

- fun
- relaxing
- competitive
- friendly

For quick and easy way to enter  
[www.surveymonkey.com/r/BCXV9BQ](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BCXV9BQ)

Enquiries to: Murrabit Lawn Tennis Club  
PO Box 33, Murrabit VIC 3579  
Email: [murrabittlawntennisclub@gmail.com](mailto:murrabittlawntennisclub@gmail.com)  
or 0439 380 604  
[www.tennis.com.au/murrabit](http://www.tennis.com.au/murrabit)  
f murrabittennis

While in Murrabit explore the HUGE Easter Market on Saturday or experience camping, fishing or relaxing by the Murray River

Australian Government GANNAWARRA Shire Council Community Recovery Gannawarra VICTORIA State Government

Supported by Gannawarra Shire Flood Recovery Funding through the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee

### Flying Doctor Dental Clinic

Our FREE dental service is coming to Kerang 2 February to 7 March

RSL Drive Next to Memorial Hall Kerang

COVIDSAFE

Eligibility criteria apply, so to find out more about our dental clinic, or to book an appointment, please call (03) 8412 0444.

Royal Flying Doctor Service VICTORIA

# COMMUNITY UPDATE FLOOD SUPPORT



## GANNAWARRA SPORTING CLUB DINNER

Inviting members, volunteers, players and supporters from all sporting clubs in the Gannawarra Shire to come together and celebrate local sport, learn and network

KOONDROOK RECREATION RESERVE  
Penglase Street, Koondrook  
Tuesday 25 March, 2025

6:00 PM FOR 6.45PM START

Hosted by Brihony Dawson

- TV Host, Entertainer, MC, Vocalist
- Sports Presenter @foxfooty
- Advocate and Ambassador

The night includes:

- Practical and proactive advice for successful grant applications from **The Grants Guy**
- Industry professionals in a Q&A panel on all things sport and recreation, grant funding, club support and more!
- The launch of the Gannawarra Fair Access Policy
- Lucky door prizes to be won!



Bookings essential  
<https://www.trybooking.com/CYZLL>  
or scan the QR code  
Enquiries to [grants@gsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:grants@gsc.vic.gov.au)

Dinner  
provided  
Drinks at bar  
prices



Community Recovery  
Gannawarra



Supported by Gannawarra Shire Flood Recovery Funding through the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee

### 2024/25 POOL SEASON

Open hours at the Cohuna and Kerang outdoor swimming pools have altered for the final weeks of the 2024/25 season.

As part of the new arrangements, the Cohuna and Kerang swimming pools will be open 3pm-8pm weekdays and 10am-8pm weekends throughout February before reverting to the traditional March hours of 3pm-7pm daily from 1-9 March.

The 2024/25 season will end on Labour Day, 10 March with both pools open from 12 noon-7pm.

The Cohuna and Kerang swimming pools will be closed on days the Bureau of Meteorology website's forecast temperature for either towns is 23 degrees Celsius or lower. Changes to opening times, including during instances of inclement weather, will be publicised via Council's Facebook page.

For more details on Council's pools, as well as community managed swimming pools at Koondrook, Leitchville and Quambatook, please visit [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/pools](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/pools).



# COMMUNITY UPDATE FLOOD SUPPORT



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2025

SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY 7 MARCH  
7.30AM FOR 8AM START

@COHUNA

More event info, including speaker announcement for  
this *Breakfast* event coming soon



**March Forward** *It's time to turn promises into progress*

## GANNAWARRA ROADS UPDATE

Flood damaged roads from the October-December 2022 floods were assessed and divided up into twelve packages during 2023.

Over 50% of these works have been completed for a value of \$5 million under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

Four packages of work are complete and a further six have works underway in the Kerang East, Mead, Appin, Dingwall, Lake Meran, Meering West and Lake Charm areas.

There are two packages with pending works near Quambatook and Oakvale.

The total estimated value of rehabilitation works from the 2022 flood event is currently \$8.306 million.



# COMMUNITY UPDATE FLOOD SUPPORT



NATIONAL CENTRE FOR  
**FARMER  
HEALTH**

## NEW FARMER HEALTH SUPPORT HUB

A new dedicated space offers a comprehensive list of mental health services and wellbeing resources tailored for farmers and their families.



The page features links to trusted organisations, tools and programs designed to help farmers prepare for and navigate mental health challenges and help identify services available to access support. Scan the QR Code to access the new Farmer Health Support Hub.

## REEDY LAKE ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT COMPLETED

Residents and visitors to the popular barbecue area and amenities at Apex Park, Reedy Lake are benefiting from work to install a new concrete structure.

Work occurred between November and late January to install a new concrete structure spanning Washpen Creek and connecting the bridge to Apex Park Road, which had been closed to vehicles since July 2023 after the original bridge collapsed following the 2022 floods.

The bridge opened to traffic in time to provide vehicle access to Apex Park during the Christmas-New Year period, with the project completed in time for the Australia Day long weekend.

Reedy Lake is a popular location for visitors to the Gannawarra to relax and kayak. The new structure is double the width of the original bridge, which will improve vehicle access to the popular picnic and camping area.



## TACKLING THE TOUGH TOPICS



## A step-by-step guide to plan mental health and wellbeing events in farming communities

Are you planning an event for your local community with a focus on supporting farmer mental health, but not sure where to start?

The National Centre for Farmer Health has developed a practical handbook, *Tackling the Tough Topics: A step-by-step guide to plan mental health and wellbeing events in farming communities*, to help individuals and groups deliver successful community events with a mental health focus.

The guidelines **provide support to organise successful events** and avoid potential problems that can be damaging to vulnerable individuals and/or their communities.

Download the guidelines today and start tailoring your events to your community's needs in a psychologically and emotionally safe way.

### WHAT'S INSIDE THE GUIDELINES

- ▶ 14 key planning questions
- ▶ Practical templates
- ▶ Case studies & top tips
- ▶ Guidance on briefing guest speakers

[farmerhealth.org.au/tackling-the-tough-topics-a-step-by-step-guide-to-plan-mental-health-and-wellbeing-events-in-farming-communities](http://farmerhealth.org.au/tackling-the-tough-topics-a-step-by-step-guide-to-plan-mental-health-and-wellbeing-events-in-farming-communities)



This project was supported by Western Victoria Primary Health Network under the Australian Government's Primary Health Networks Program



## 4 simple ways to connect

- Call or text someone you haven't spoken to in a while
- Offer practical help to someone who needs it
- Grab a coffee with a colleague
- Ask someone how their weekend was



Pick one and try it today

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## FLOOD SUPPORT



### Supporting people in the Gannawarra area impacted by past rain events

Mallee Family Care's Flood Recovery Support Program offers free assistance and guidance to help people experiencing challenges or concerns following past rain events.

#### We can help with

- Legal advice
- Rebuild and repair guidance
- Housing advocacy
- Mental health support
- Grant applications
- Referral to other supports

Free assistance is available in-person and over the phone.

Please reach out if you need support.

#### More information

Ph: (03)5032 4479

Email: [disastersupport@malleefamilycare.com.au](mailto:disastersupport@malleefamilycare.com.au)



#### Mallee Family Care Outreach at Cohuna

Mallee Family Care provide outreach services twice a month on a Wednesday at Cohuna Neighbourhood House. To find out more about the service offered drop-in or call to make an appointment on (03) 5032 4479

### FLOOD RECOVERY FUNDED EVENTS

A range of community-led events and activities were held in the lead-up to the Christmas and the New Year period, supported by Emergency Recovery Victoria flood recovery funding. While bringing much needed joy to our residents and supporting social connections and mental health and wellbeing, these events also stimulate local business and tourism sector.

#### Quambatook Silo Cinema – The Man From Snowy River

The screening of the iconic Australian movie on the Quambatook silos was held on 26 October 2024.



#### Kerang Golf Club's Groove on the Green



The live music event on 24 November 2024 was a little dampened by rain but the evening was relaxed, friendly and positive for families, children and members.



#### Kerang Combined Churches' Christmas Carols



Over 100 people joined together for caroling, face painting, Rotary train rides and much more on 14 December 2024.



# COMMUNITY UPDATE FLOOD SUPPORT



## What to do in a disaster



### Rental properties

#### Vacating a property or ending a lease in a disaster

- Rental providers (landlords or property managers) must provide a reason when they give a renter notice to vacate (except in certain circumstances).
- If a property is totally destroyed or damaged and unsafe or unfit to live in, the renter or the rental provider can issue a notice to end the rental agreement immediately.
- If the property is still intact but the renter no longer wishes to live there, they must negotiate with the rental provider to end the rental agreement.

For more information on vacating a property or ending a lease in a disaster, visit: [consumer.vic.gov.au/resources-and-tools/advice-in-a-disaster/renting](http://consumer.vic.gov.au/resources-and-tools/advice-in-a-disaster/renting)

#### Urgent repairs

If urgent repairs are needed, the renter should contact their rental provider immediately. Rental providers must respond to urgent repairs immediately. Note that there may be delays as many properties may need repairs.

#### Cleaning up

- Rental providers are responsible for cleaning or clearing any debris caused by a disaster.
- Rental providers should first contact the local authorities, such as the emergency services, who may already have a cleaning program in place.
- Rental providers may reduce rent if a property has been damaged.
- Renters can contact Consumer Affairs Victoria for help assessing rent or repairs if there is a dispute or delays.



### Car or other vehicle damage

Contact your insurance provider before seeking repairs. Check your policy for details on what's covered and who can do the work.



### Clean up, repairs or re-building your home

Contact your insurance provider first to check your policy and find out if you're covered. Before hiring a tradesperson, check their credentials, get quotes and don't pay up front.



### Fake tradies

Be careful of hiring fake tradies. These are dodgy tradespeople who say they'll work for cash up front. They disappear after doing poor quality work or none at all.



### Charity scams

Be careful of charity and fundraising scams targeting disasters. Don't give money to an unfamiliar charity or in response to an unexpected email.

## Dealing with a disaster and need support?



Visit [consumer.vic.gov.au/disasterhelp](http://consumer.vic.gov.au/disasterhelp)  
or call **1300 55 81 81**

### Need help in your language?

Call TIS National interpreting service on **131 450**. Ask to be put through to Consumer Affairs Victoria.

