



*April-June 2025*

## IN THIS EDITION

<b>From the Mayor</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>What's On</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Immunisation Sessions</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Community News</b>	<b>3-5</b>
<b>Projects Update</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Economic Development</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Your Councillors</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Council Meetings</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Contacting Council</b>	<b>8</b>

## FROM THE MAYOR

One of the major issues that is impacting residents across the municipality is the state of our roads.

Since last October's elections, my fellow Councillors and I have heard various concerns regarding the condition of the roads we rely on to travel to and from work, school and other areas.

As a Council, we are committed to improving the condition of our roads, no matter whether these are Council-managed or overseen by VicRoads.

Council continues to raise our concerns regarding the condition of VicRoads-managed roads, which include our highways, with the State Government, whilst planning is occurring regarding enabling greater community input into our local road network.

Regards,

**Mayor Garner Smith**



## CELEBRATE THE KERANG CBD REDEVELOPMENT OPENING

Celebrations will be held on Thursday, 17 April to mark the official opening of Stages 3 and 4 of the Kerang CBD Redevelopment.

The \$2.5 million project, fully funded by the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, involved the transformation of Fitzroy, Victoria and Wellington streets, building on similar improvements along Scoresby Street and the award-winning Victoria Square precinct.

An official opening ceremony will occur on the day at 4pm in Victoria Square.

Various attractions will be available throughout the day as part of the Kerang Traders' Easter celebrations.



## IMMUNISATION SESSIONS BY APPOINTMENT

### APRIL 2025

**Wednesday, 2 April**

Kerang (10.30am-12 noon)

**Wednesday, 16 April**

Cohuna (10.30am-12 noon)

Kerang (4pm -5.30pm)

### MAY 2025

**Wednesday, 7 May**

Kerang (10.30am-12 noon)

**Wednesday, 21 May**

Cohuna (10.30am-12 noon)

Kerang (4pm -5.30pm)

### JUNE 2025

**Wednesday, 4 June**

Kerang (10.30am-12 noon)

**Wednesday, 18 June**

Cohuna (10.30am-12 noon)

Kerang (4pm -5.30pm)

**NOTE: Bookings must be made prior to attending any of Council's immunisation sessions, which can be done by phoning (03) 5450 9333.**

For more details, visit

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



*Gannawarra Shire Council acknowledges the Barapa Barapa, Yorta Yorta and Wamba Wamba people as the traditional Owners of the land now known as Gannawarra.*

*We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and acknowledge their rich culture and connection to Country.*

**NOTE:** All information that features in this edition of Gannawarra Connect was correct at the time of publishing.

## WHAT'S ON - APRIL-JUNE 2025

### 8 APRIL

Create Your Own Bookmark session, Kerang

### 11 APRIL

Make an Arty Leaf Collage session, Kerang

### 14 APRIL

Create Your Own Placemat session, Kerang

### 16 APRIL

Make an Easter Egg Basket & Egg Hunt, Cohuna

### 17 APRIL

Make an Easter Egg Basket & Egg Hunt, Cohuna

### 17 APRIL

Kerang CBD Redevelopment opening

### 18 - 20 APRIL

Rotary Club of Kerang Easter Art Show

### 18-19 APRIL

Murrabit Lawn Tennis Club Easter Tournament

### 18 APRIL

Good Friday Stations of the Cross Walk, Kerang

### 19 APRIL

Murrabit Country Market

### 20 APRIL

Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market

### 25 APRIL

ANZAC Day commemorations, shirewide

### 26-27 APRIL

Harley Evo Fest and Kerang Show and Shine

### 26 APRIL

Kerang Community Market

### 27 APRIL

Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market

### 3 MAY

Murrabit Country Market

### 24 MAY

Kerang Community Market

### 25 MAY

Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market

### 7 JUNE

Murrabit Country Market

### 22 JUNE

Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market

### 28 JUNE

Kerang Community Market

### EVERY MONDAY

Cohuna Pram Brigade Social Group  
Walk Safe Rural walking group, Kerang

### EVERY TUESDAY

Cohuna Men's Shed  
Kid's Club, Kerang (school terms only)

### EVERY WEDNESDAY

Waters Edge Walkers, Cohuna  
Cohuna Men's Shed  
Murrabit Crafty & Chatty Cafe

### EVERY THURSDAY

Cohuna Men's Shed  
Soup and a Sandwich, Kerang  
Kerang Line Dancing  
Murrabit Line Dancing

### EVERY FRIDAY

Morning Mates - Men's BBQ  
Breakfast, Kerang

### EVERY SATURDAY

parkrun, Cohuna and Kerang  
Grow Collective Garden, Kerang

### FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAYS OF THE MONTH

Chatty Café, Kerang

### EVERY SECOND TUESDAY

Carers Group, Kerang

For details or to add your event to Council's calendar of events, visit [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events)



## ANIMAL REGISTRATION RENEWALS DUE 10 APRIL

Residents who have animals registered with Gannawarra Shire Council are reminded that registration payments are due Thursday, 10 April.

As outlined in the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, all dogs and cats over three months of age must be registered with their local Council and microchipped.

Registration fees cover Council's pound expenses and support key domestic animal-related services, including reuniting lost cats and dogs that are registered and microchipped with their loved ones.

Reduced registration fees are applicable for pets aged over 10 years; dogs kept for working stock; animals that are registered with an Applicable Organisation; and animals that are desexed.

For more information regarding pets and animals, please visit [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/pets\\_and\\_animals](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/pets_and_animals)

## 2025-2029

### GANNAWARRA SHIRE COUNCIL PLAN UPDATE

Thank you to all residents who took the time between December 2024 and February 2025 to help shape what will become the *2025-2029 Gannawarra Shire Council Plan*.

This important document will incorporate Council's Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan and the municipality's Community Vision for the next 10 years.

Council is using all feedback received via surveys completed, discussions with residents via community pop-up sessions and details added to the various conversation boards located across the municipality to develop the draft version of the *2025-2029 Gannawarra Shire Council Plan*. This document will be presented to Council in the coming months, with residents able to have their say on its contents later this year.

For more information regarding the *2025-2029 Gannawarra Shire Council Plan*, please visit [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/CouncilPlan](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/CouncilPlan)

## HAVE YOUR SAY ON COUNCIL'S DRAFT BUDGET

Council will soon be seeking your feedback regarding its 2025/26 Draft Budget.

One of Council's important document, the Draft Budget will outline how income from municipal rates, fees and charges, and government grants will be used to support key services residents rely on, maintain key Council assets and deliver major capital projects.

The 2025/26 Draft Budget will also include the contribution Gannawarra Shire residents need to provide to the new Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund. Formerly the Fire Services Property Levy, this contribution includes a fixed charge and variable rate, with all funds collected to support Fire Rescue Victoria and the Country Fire Authority.

For more information regarding how you will be able to have your say, look out for future editions of *Gannawarra News*, follow Council's Facebook page or visit Council's website.



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## COMMUNITY GRANTS APPLICATIONS OPEN THURSDAY, 1 MAY

Applications for Council's annual Community Grants program will open on Thursday, 1 May.

Community groups will be able to apply for up to \$5,000 for projects, programs, events and activities that meet the program's essential criteria, align with the community vision outlined in the *Growing Gannawarra – 2021-2025 Council Plan* and must be delivered by 30 June 2026.



Groups considering applying for funding are encouraged to read the program's guidelines, which are available online at [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/grants](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/grants) and from Council's Customer Service Centres at Cohuna and Kerang.

Council's grants website, [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/grants](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/grants) also features advice on how to craft an application, obtain supporting information such as letters of support and quotes, guidance on completing a budget and advice on what assessors may look for when it comes to a successful application.



**Did you know that membership with us is FREE and you will have access to...**

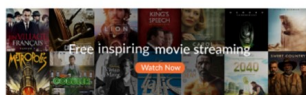
- New release Fiction and Non-Fiction titles for adults, teens & children
- eBooks, eAudio books, eMagazines, comics, TV, music and movie streaming
- DVDs for all age groups and audio books on CD & MP3
- Magazines & local newspapers
- Local History and in-library access to [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com)
- Regular children's programs including Story Time and School Holiday activities
- Books on Wheels home delivery for those unable to physically come to our branches due to illness or disability
- Book Chat, author talks, events and exhibitions
- IT and academic help with access to the Computer School and Britannica online
- Wi-Fi and public computer access & scanning
- Printing & photocopying (charges apply)

Scan the QR code to become an online member and have instant access to our eLibrary, or drop in to one of our branches at Kerang, Cohuna, Leitchville & Quambatook

ancestry library edition



The Computer School



Britannica Library

hoopla

Tap into Discovery. Hoopla that's free. And more. Visit [hoopladigital.com.au](http://hoopladigital.com.au)

## WHO TO CALL IN AN EMERGENCY?

Help is always available during and after an emergency. Knowing who to contact is important.

### Triple Zero – 000

Call for serious injuries, urgent medical health, or if your life or property is threatened.

### Victorian State Emergency Service – 132 500

Call if a tree has fallen and damaged your home or vehicle, or prevents you from leaving, if your roof is significantly leaking or your property is flooded or about to flood.

### VicEmergency Hotline – 1800 226 226

Call for emergency information and warnings, relief centre locations or to apply for emergency relief payments. You can also visit [emergency.vic.gov.au](http://emergency.vic.gov.au)

### Emergency Recovery Victoria – 1800 560 760

Call for information about recovery programs that may be available after a major disaster, like a bushfire, storm or flood. You can also visit [erv.vic.gov.au](http://erv.vic.gov.au)

### Power outages information

For information about power outages, call your energy distributor. You can find your distributor at [energy.vic.gov.au](http://energy.vic.gov.au) or by calling 136 186.

### Road closures information

For information on road works, road closures and traffic visit [traffic.transport.vic.gov.au](http://traffic.transport.vic.gov.au) or call 131 170.

# COMMUNITY NEWS



## COUNCIL'S PROJECTS, INITIATIVES NOMINATED FOR NATIONAL AWARDS

Four of Council's projects and initiatives in the running to be recognised at the 2025 National Awards for Local Government. Awarded by a public voting system, these awards recognise innovative local government initiatives that can be replicated across the country.

Council is nominated in the following categories:

- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Recognition:** Gannawarra Shire Council Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2024-2026.
- **Disaster Readiness and Recovery:** The Gannawarra's community recovery from the 2022 floods.
- **Economic Sustainability:** The Gannawarra's renewables journey.
- **Regional Growth:** Rejuvenating Kerang's Central Business District.

To add your support to these projects or initiatives receiving national recognition, head to <https://nalg.awardsplatform.com/> before Monday, 28 April to cast your vote.

Category winners will be announced in June.



## REMINDER TO DISPOSE OF YOUR WASTE CORRECTLY

Do you know what you can and cannot put in your red household waste and yellow household recycling bins?

Council's Kerbside Waste and Recycling Collection page, located at [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/waste](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/waste), features a comprehensive list of items that can and cannot go in your household bins.

Putting the correct items in each of your household bins ensures materials go the correct location. This is especially important in the following circumstances:

- Placing oils, paints or solvents in your red household waste bin creates a hazard for contractors emptying these bins, and can result in delays in the collection of neighbouring bins being empties as these items are disposed of properly.
- Placing garden waste, nappies, soft plastics, crockery or polystyrene foam in your yellow household recycling bin will contaminate other recycling collections, resulting in all items that were intended to be recycling being disposed of in landfill.

For more information about kerbside waste collection services in the Gannawarra, visit [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/waste](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/waste)



## AUTUMN, EASTER LIBRARY SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN

The Gannawarra Library Service will host five activities this April as part of its school holiday program.

Sessions will be held at the Cohuna Library and Kerang's Sir John Gorton Library from 8-17 April, catering for children of all ages.

Activities include bookmark, leaf collage, placemat and hunting basket making workshops, and an Easter egg hunt.

Bookings for all activities are essential, with all children participating to be accompanied by an adult.

For bookings, visit the Events and Programs page at [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/libraries](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/libraries) or phone (03) 5452 1546.

# PROJECTS *UPDATE*

## **GLASSHOUSE @ THE GANNAWARRA TAKING SHAPE**

*The Glasshouse @ The Gannawarra* - the municipality's newest community meeting and Gannawarra Library Service activity space - is taking shape.

Work occurred throughout late February and early March to erect the building's steel frame, which also involved connecting the structure to the adjoining Sir John Gorton Library.

Work will occur during the next 2-3 months to fit out the building, with the project on track for completion in the second half of 2025. Once completed, the site will allow the Gannawarra Library Service to plan and deliver youth programs including movie making, sound and music recording, whilst the flexible and scalable meeting space will have the technology necessary for modern meetings, conferences and training sessions.

Community groups can still book to use the library's foyer for meetings, however there will be no kitchen facilities available or access to the smart TV currently located in the building's meeting room.

There are various facilities for community groups seeking to meet in Kerang during these construction works, including the Council-managed Kerang Senior Citizens Centre and Kerang Memorial Hall supper room. For bookings or more information, visit [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/venues](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/venues) or phone (03) 5450 9333.

The \$3.07 million *Glasshouse @ The Gannawarra* project is supported by the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, the State Government's Living Libraries Infrastructure Program and Council's 2024/25 capital works program.

For more information, please visit [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/Glasshouse](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/Glasshouse)



## **MURRAY PARADE, KOONDROOK UPGRADE**

Koondrook residents are benefiting from a recently completed upgrade to a 300-metre section of Murray Parade.

As part of these works, the section of road between Forest Street and Grigg Road was resealed, with stormwater drainage installed.

These works were completed as part of Council's 2024/25 capital works program.

## **REPAIRS TO FLOOD-DAMAGED ROADS CONTINUE**

Work to repair all Council-managed roads damaged by the 2022 floods are on track for completion by 30 June.

As of mid-March, all rehabilitation packages have been approved, and works were occurring throughout the Appin, Mead, Lake Charm and Quambatook areas.

Council is working with contractors to ensure all outstanding works, which have received State Government approval to proceed, are completed in a timely manner.

Repairs to Council-managed roads damaged by the 2022 floods is made possible thanks to joint Commonwealth and State Government-funded Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.



# ECONOMIC *DEVELOPMENT*

## MURRAY REGIONAL TOURISM BOARD VISIT

Gannawarra Shire Council hosted the Murray Regional Tourism's board during two days of meetings in late February.

The meeting enabled Council's Economic Develop-

ment team to present to board members about the municipality's tourism branding and marketing strategy. The presentation highlighted the incredible natural environment we have in the Gannawarra and how we leverage that environment to maximise the visitor experience.

As part of the visit, board members also toured the Cohuna and Koondrook waterfronts, highlighting the significant work that has been undertaken in both towns to enhance the tourism product on offer.

Pictured are Council's Economic Development Officer, Scott Wishart (left) with Murray Regional Tourism Chief Executive Officer, Cameron Sutton and board members, Greg Roberts and Natalie Ajay at Koondrook Retreat.



## VHM GOSCHEN MINERAL SANDS PROJECT UPDATE

VHM Limited's Goschen Rare Earths and Minerals Sand Project is one step closer to proceeding following the Victorian Planning Minister's endorsement of the project's Environment Effects Statement (EES).

The approval of the ESS followed a ministerial review of the Inquiry and Advisory Committee report, which was prepared following six weeks of panel hearings that enabled all who submitted feedback to discuss their views.

The project's next step is obtaining a mining license.

It is anticipated the project will require around 200 staff during construction, and around 400 permanent positions once the facility is fully operational.

## THE GANNAWARRA'S NEW TOURISM WEBSITE

Have you visited The Gannawarra's tourism website recently?

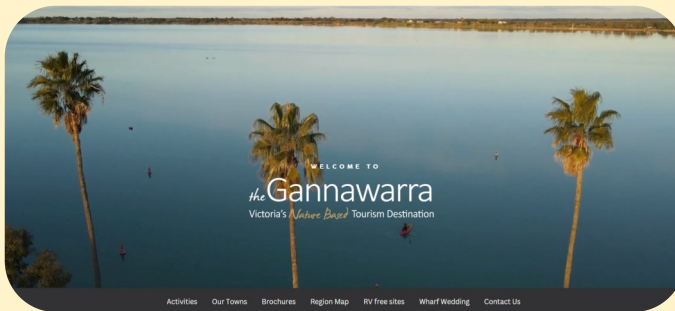
Council's tourism website has undergone a

transformation, with this new-look site highlighting the municipality's natural beauty.

This online resource for visitors to the area features details regarding local events, seasonal activities, destinations and tourist guides.

The page also features information regarding hosting weddings at Koondrook Wharf.

For more information, visit [thegannawarra.com.au](http://thegannawarra.com.au) or call into the Gannawarra's two tourism information centres - the Gateway to Gannawarra Visitor Centre (90 King George Street, Cohuna) and the Sir John Gorton Library (2 Shadforth Street, Kerang).



## BSR KERANG SOLAR PLANT OPERATIONAL

British Solar Renewables' Kerang Solar Plant is operational and has started feeding into Victoria's electricity grid.

The 37MW facility, located south of Kerang, was on track to reach full capacity by the end of March.

The plant uses single axis tracker technology to maximise its energy output.

Construction on this project commenced in March 2024, meaning this site being fully operational within 12 months is a great result.

# COUNCIL INFORMATION

## YOUR COUNCILLORS



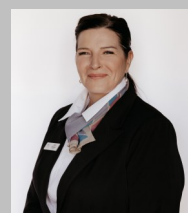
**Cr Garner Smith**  
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[garner.smith@gsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:garner.smith@gsc.vic.gov.au)



**Cr Ross Stanton**  
(Deputy Mayor)  
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[ross.stanton@gsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:ross.stanton@gsc.vic.gov.au)



**Cr Daniel Bolitho**  
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**Cr Keith Link**  
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[keith.link@gsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:keith.link@gsc.vic.gov.au)



**Cr Pat Quinn**  
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[pat.quinn@gsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:pat.quinn@gsc.vic.gov.au)

## COUNCIL MEETING DETAILS

The **April 2025 Meeting of Council** will be held on **Wednesday, 16 April**, starting at 6pm.

The **May 2025 Meeting of Council** will be held on **Wednesday, 21 May**, starting at 6pm.

The **June 2025 Meeting of Council** will be held on **Wednesday, 18 June** starting at 6pm.

All meetings are held at the Kerang Senior Citizens Centre (169 Boundary Street).

Changes to meeting details and times will be promoted via *Gannawarra News* and Council's Facebook page.

Agendas for Meetings of Council are available online at [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/meetings](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/meetings) two days prior to each meeting. All Council Meetings are recorded, with a recording available to view 24 hours after the meeting at [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/meetings](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/meetings).

Residents can submit up to two questions per person per meeting for consideration, which can be done by completing a form available online at [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/questiontime](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/questiontime) or from the Cohuna and Kerang Customer Service Centres by 5pm the day prior to the Council Meeting.

## CONTACTING COUNCIL

### IN PERSON

**Cohuna Customer Service Centre**  
21-23 King Edward Street  
**Kerang Customer Service Centre**  
47 Victoria Street

### BY PHONE

(03) 5450 9333 during business hours

### BY EMAIL

[council@gsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@gsc.vic.gov.au)

### BY MAIL

PO Box 287  
Kerang VIC 3579

### ONLINE

Report an issue at [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/request](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/request)

### SOCIAL MEDIA

**Facebook** – [www.facebook.com/gannawarra](http://www.facebook.com/gannawarra)  
**X (Twitter)** – [www.twitter.com/GannawarraShire](http://www.twitter.com/GannawarraShire)