

GANNAWARRA *CONNECT*



GANNAWARRA
Shire Council

May-June 2024

IN THIS EDITION

From the Mayor	1
What's On	2
Immunisation sessions	2
Community News	2-3
2024/2025 Proposed Budget	4-5
Flood Update	6
Economic Development	7
Your Councillors	8
Council Meetings	8
Contacting Council	8

FROM THE MAYOR

We would like to hear from you regarding our 2024/2025 Proposed Budget.

One of Council's major documents, the proposed budget outlines how we use funds received via municipal rates, fees and government grants to provide key services our residents rely on and to maintain our infrastructure.

The proposed budget also outlines what major projects we will be working on during 2024/2025.

For more information regarding the 2024/2025 Proposed Budget, please see pages 4 and 5 of this edition of *Gannawarra Connect*.

Regards,
Mayor Ross Stanton



CONNECTING GANNAWARRA PROJECT

Council has spent the past two months visiting six communities to launch community plans developed via the Connecting Gannawarra project.

Funded by the Victorian Government through the Agricultural-Dependent Community Building Initiative as part of the Victorian Government's Smarter Safer Farms Strategy, facilitators worked with residents from the Lakes District, Lalbert, Leitchville, Macorna/Tragowel, Murrabit/Myall/Benjeroop, and Quambatook to develop these community plans.

Councillors and Council staff have attended progress association and community development committees to discuss priorities and next steps to support the implementation of each plan.

For more information about the Connecting Gannawarra project and to view the six community plans, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/communitydevelopment

Pictured is Cr Charlie Gillingham (second from left) and Mayor Ross Stanton with Quambatook Community Development Association members following the launch of the Quambatook & District Community Plan.



COMMUNITY NEWS

WHAT'S ON

CURRENT TO 31 MAY
Kerang's History in our
Houses exhibition, Kerang

25 MAY
Kerang Community Market

26 MAY
Cohuna Farmers & Makers
Market

1 JUNE
Murrabit Country Market

22 JUNE
Kerang Community Market

23 JUNE
Cohuna Farmers & Makers
Market

6 JULY
Murrabit Country Market

27 JULY
Kerang Community Market

28 JULY
Cohuna Farmers & Makers
Market

EVERY SATURDAY
Kerang and Cohuna parkruns

EVERY SATURDAY
Grow Collective Community
Garden, Kerang

Event details can be found at
www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events

To add your event to Council's
calendar of events, visit
www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events

NOTE: Event details were
correct at time of publishing

CONSIDER STANDING FOR COUNCIL

Voting to elect representatives to
Gannawarra Shire Council will occur in
October.

In a first for the municipality, the
election will be held using an
unsubdivided format, meaning voters
will be voting for people standing
from across the Gannawarra.

To assist residents who are considering standing for election, a web page
featuring links to compulsory candidate training and other resources is available
on Council's website.

For more information and to access candidate resources, please visit
www.gsc.vic.gov.au/election

The Victorian Electoral Commission, which is conducting the election, will
announce details regarding voter enrolment deadlines and ballot distribution
closer to the election date.



IMMUNISATION SESSIONS BY APPOINTMENT

MAY 2024

Wednesday, 15 May
Cohuna
(10.30am – 12 noon)
Kerang
(4pm - 5.30pm)

JUNE 2024

Wednesday, 5 June
Kerang
(10.30am - 12 noon)

Wednesday, 19 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

*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.*



COMMUNITY NEWS



KERANG CBD REDEVELOPMENT CONTINUES

Improvements to the Kerang central business district are on track for completion by August 2024.

Fully funded by the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, work has already occurred to transform Victoria Street between Wellington and Scoresby streets, including new pavement, improved seating and landscaping.

Similar work was completed along the northern section of Wellington Street between Fitzroy and Victoria streets in mid-March (above), enhancing this space in time for the influx of visitors to the area during Easter.

Work to improve pavement, install new street furniture and improved landscaping along Wellington Street between Fitzroy and Nolan streets will occur throughout May and June.

For more information, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/KerangCBD

DISPOSE OF YOUR WASTE CORRECTLY

Residents and visitors to the Gannawarra are encouraged to dispose of their waste correctly following a recent increase in the reported illegal dumping of waste throughout the municipality.

Anyone who sees what they suspect is illegal dumping can report it to Environment Protection Authority Victoria online at www.epa.vic.gov.au/report-pollution/reporting-pollution or by phoning 1300 372 842.

2025 KINDERGARTEN EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Expressions of interest for Council's three-year-old and four-year-old kindergarten programs, held at Cohuna, Kerang, Koondrook and Leitchville, will soon open.

To be eligible for four-year-old kindergarten, children must be turning four years of age before 30 April 2025; and to be eligible for three-year-old programs, children must be three years of age before 30 April 2025.

For more information, visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/enrolments or phone the Gannawarra Shire Children's Centre on (03) 5452 1357.



2024 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

Thank you to all community groups that applied for funding from Council's 2024 Community Grants Program.

Applications for this popular program have closed, with an announcement regarding successful applicants to be made in the coming weeks.

For more information regarding grant opportunities, visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/grants or phone Council's Grants team on (03) 5450 9333.

2024/2025 PROPOSED BUDGET

SERVICES MAINTAINED, IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED

Residents are encouraged to have their say regarding Council's 2024/2025 Proposed Budget up to 5pm Thursday, 16 May.

The 2024/2025 Proposed Budget complies with the State Government's Fair Go Rates System, which states that the total revenue raised through municipal rates cannot increase by more than 2.75 per cent compared to the previous year.

The municipal charge will remain at \$100, whilst charges to kerbside garbage and waste collection charges will increase by \$10-\$17, depending on bin size. Green waste collection charges will also increase by \$1.

The 2024/2025 Proposed Budget features a \$22.862 million investment in capital works, with many of the proposed improvements made possible thanks to the State and Federal governments.

Key services Council provides to the community, such as our popular Children's and Youth services, libraries, waste management and recreational facilities, will also be supported.

To view Council's 2024/2025 Proposed Budget or for more information, visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/budget or call into Council's Customer Service Centres.



COHUNA WATERFRONT, CBD REJUVENATION CONTINUES

The rejuvenation of the Cohuna CBD will continue during 2024/2025, with Council allocating \$3 million from its 2024/2025 Proposed Budget for Stage 2 of the Cohuna Waterfront Development.

Dependent on grant funding, the project would involve installing a new clock and soundshell in Garden Park, rejuvenating the Cohuna CBD streetscape, improvements to Gilrue Park, located near the Cohuna Weir, and enhancing the streetscape along Dunn Street.

Council will keep residents updated regarding this project, including the success of funding applications and proposed designs, via its website, Facebook page and *Gannawarra News*.

COHUNA AND KERANG SWIMMING POOL CONCEPT DESIGNS

The future redevelopment of the Cohuna and Kerang outdoor swimming pools will reach a key milestone in the coming 12 months, with \$80,000 from Council's 2024/2025 Proposed Budget allocated to developing concept designs for both facilities.

As part of the funding, Council will engage a designer to develop plans for both sites, based on information outlined in the *Gannawarra Aquatic Strategy*.

Once approved by Councillors following a community engagement period, Council will use the designs to seek funding from the State and Federal governments to complement Council's contribution to these key works.

Funding from the State and/or Federal governments will be pivotal, with the redevelopment or construction of new swimming pool facilities across Victoria costing in the tens of millions of dollars.

2024/2025 PROPOSED BUDGET

DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED

Following the Christmas Day 2023 and early January 2024 storms that resulted in flash flooding throughout urban areas of the municipality, Council will allocate \$298,000 from its 2024/2025 Proposed Budget for stormwater network and pump renewal works.

Work has occurred since the Christmas Day 2023 flash flooding to identify projects that will alleviate pressure on town stormwater networks, both from frequently occurring events and instances when the Gannawarra receives a large volume of rain in a short period of time.

Efforts to determine costs associated with implementing these improvements are underway.

THE GLASSHOUSE @ THE GANNAWARRA

Construction of the Gannawarra's newest multipurpose community meeting space, *The Glasshouse @ The Gannawarra*, will occur in 2024/25, with the \$3.07 million project one of the major highlights of the 2024/2025 Proposed Budget.



Supported by \$1.5 million contribution from the State Government's Living Libraries Infrastructure Program and \$718,000 from the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, *The Glasshouse @ The Gannawarra* will be incorporated into Kerang's Sir John Gorton Library.

This regionally unique space will enable community groups to gather in a facility that can accommodate for attendance numbers larger than current buildings, such as local senior citizen rooms and community hall supper rooms, whilst incorporating technology required for modern meetings, conferences and training sessions.

The Glasshouse @ The Gannawarra will also support the Gannawarra Library Service to plan and deliver youth programs including movie making, sound and music recording.

For more information regarding *The Glasshouse @ The Gannawarra*, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/glasshouse

HOW TO HAVE YOUR SAY

There are various ways you can have your say on Council's 2024/2025 Proposed Budget:

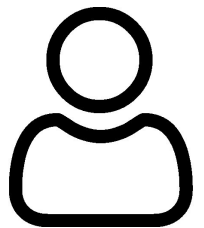


ONLINE

Complete a Have Your Say form at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/budget

IN PERSON

Visit Council's Customer Service Centres at Cohuna and Kerang and complete a Have Your Say form.



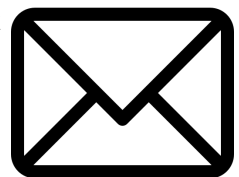
BY TELEPHONE

Phone Council on (03) 5450 9333 and our Customer Service staff will complete a Have Your Say form.



BY MAIL

Post your feedback to Gannawarra Shire Council PO Box 287 Kerang VIC 3579



BY E-MAIL

Send your feedback to council@gsc.vic.gov.au

All feedback received will assist with the development of the 2024/2025 Gannawarra Shire Council Budget.

FLOOD UPDATE

REPAIRS TO FLOOD-DAMAGED ROADS CONTINUE

Council continues to work with the State Government regarding receiving funding to enable repairs to flood-damaged roads to proceed.

Council announced in September 2023 that Harril Pty Ltd, Northern Constructions Pty Ltd and RECivil Pty Ltd had been awarded the tenders to complete these works, forecast to cost more than \$3 million.

The approval process has been time consuming, with Council required to take photographs at 100-metre intervals and submit this and other evidence to meet the requirements under the joint Commonwealth and State Government funded Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. This is unfortunately not a Gannawarra Shire Council-specific issue, with other municipalities impacted by the 2022 floods managing similar funding arrangement concerns.

Once works are ready to commence, regular updates will be provided informing of any disruption to the road and drainage networks in advance, whilst ensuring appropriate traffic management is in place to minimise disruptions.



PRIMARY PRODUCER FLOOD RECOVERY GRANTS

Residents who successfully applied for a Agriculture Victoria Primary Producer Flood Recovery grant for the 2022 floods are reminded that the deadline for the final claim date is Friday, 31 May.

The deadline applies to recipients of the following grants:

- Primary Producer Flood Recovery Grant.
- Rural Landholder Grant.
- Transport Support Program.

Rural Finance is administering these programs on behalf of the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments.

For more information visit www.ruralfinance.com.au or call 1800 260 425 or email admin@ruralfinance.com.au

GANNAWARRA FLOOD REFLECTIONS EXHIBITION

Images and drone footage from the 2022 floods will be on display in Cohuna this June as the *Gannawarra Flood Reflections Exhibition* begins its tour throughout the Gannawarra.

The exhibition, funded by the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments under the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) as part of the Gannawarra Community Flood Recovery Program, was recently on display at Kerang's Sir John Gorton Library.

Details regarding where the exhibition will be on display in Cohuna will be announced in the coming weeks via Council's website, Facebook page and *Gannawarra News*.

The exhibition will also travel to other locations throughout the Gannawarra during the second half of the year.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS PROGRESSING

Various renewable projects planned for the Gannawarra continue to progress, which will generate around 100 permanent jobs and around 1,500 construction jobs



during a 3-4 year period and inject upwards of \$400 million into the local economy:

- Independent renewable energy company, RES recently completed the first stage of their community consultation program for a proposed wind farm to be located north of Quambatook.
- ViRYA Energy is continuing to work with the community regarding its proposed wind farm at Meering West.
- Local developers are utilising their understanding of the area and agricultural practices to work with the Macorna community regarding the Macorna Wind Farm, proposed to be built 20 kilometres south of Kerang.

Meanwhile, Transmission Corporation Victoria (TCV) continues to hold regular community sessions and meeting with residents regarding VNI West, especially as the two-kilometre wide route is reduced to a 100-metre easement.

Residents wanting to learn more about the project are encouraged to visit the TCV team, located in their office at Patchell Plaza, Kerang on Mondays and Tuesdays.

DEMAND FOR INDUSTRIAL LAND GROWING

Demand for industrial land within the Gannawarra continues to grow.

Council recently purchased a greenfield site in Kerang to cater for additional industrial sites, with the Keely Road Industrial Estate at Cohuna earmarked for expansion. A new industrial land site is also being considered for Koondrook.

Council staff are working closely with several large business projects that will require industrial land for developments in Kerang and Cohuna. Updates regarding these projects will feature in a future edition of *Gannawarra Connect*.

If you are interested in business development in the Gannawarra, please don't hesitate to contact Council's Economic Development team on 0417 370 950.

COUNCIL PRESENTS TO VHM MINERAL SANDS PROJECT INQUIRY AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Council recently presented to the VHM Mineral Sands and Rare Earths Inquiry and Advisory Committee during its series of hearing at Swan Hill, highlighting the need to bring more economic activity to the Mallee region.

To be built at Goschen, the mine will source mineral sands, which are used in the manufacturing of mobile phones, x-rays and medical equipment, dental equipment, paints, jet engines, televisions and GSP units for machinery.

Council believes that projects such as the VHM Mineral Sands and Rare Earths project will benefit the Gannawarra thanks to the forecast 400 operational jobs that will be created. This will give a significant boost to the Gannawarra's economy, benefiting our retail, hospitality and service sectors and giving our younger generation of residents new employment opportunities.

Council also believes that mining and agriculture can co-exist, with all mining proposed for this project to occur on private land.

Many of the critical issues, such as dust management, roads and traffic, noise and rehabilitation have been identified in the Environmental Effects Statement, which were on public display late last year and earlier this year.

COUNCIL INFORMATION

YOUR COUNCILLORS AVOCA WARD



Cr Charlie Gillingham
(Deputy Mayor)
0457 719 874
charlie.gillingham@gsc.vic.gov.au

MURRAY WARD



Cr Ross Stanton
(Mayor)
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PATCHELL WARD



Cr Kelvin Burt
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Cr Travis Collier
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Cr Jane Ogden
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YARRAN WARD



Cr Keith Link
0427 564 138
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Cr Garner Smith
0418 871 054
garner.smith@gsc.vic.gov.au



COUNCIL MEETING DETAILS

The **May 2024 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 15 May at 6pm. The **June 2024 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 26 June at 6pm.

Meetings are usually held at the Kerang Senior Citizens Centre, located at 169 Boundary Street, Kerang, with a recording available to view 24 hours after the meeting at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/meetings. Changes to meeting details and times will be promoted via *Gannawarra News* and Council's Facebook page.

All Council Meetings are recorded, with a recording available to view 24 hours after the meeting at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/meetings.

Agendas for Meetings of Council are available online at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/meetings two days prior to each 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

BY MAIL

PO Box 287
Kerang VIC 3579

ONLINE

Lodge a request at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/request

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook – www.facebook.com/gannawarra
X (Twitter) – www.twitter.com/GannawarraShire