

GANNAWARRA *CONNECT*



October-December 2024

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FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Voting for who will represent you for the next four years on Council will occur this month.



The 2024 elections will be the first time that Gannawarra Shire will be operating under an unsubdivided structure, meaning that eligible enrolled voters will be voting for elected representatives from across the municipality.

The Victorian Electoral Commission will send ballot packs to all enrolled voters from Monday, 7 October, with completed ballots needing to be returned by post or to the election office, located at 36 Victoria Street, Kerang before 6pm Friday, 25 October.

For more information regarding the election, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/election

Regards,
Geoff Rollinson

THE GLASSHOUSE @ THE GANNAWARRA CONSTRUCTION BEGINS THIS MONTH

Visitors to Kerang's Sir John Gorton Library and motorists travelling along Wellington Street will soon notice work occurring at *The Glasshouse @ The Gannawarra* site, with construction work to begin this month.

The \$3.07 million project, supported by funding from the State Government's Living Libraries Infrastructure Program and the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, will involve construction of a public meeting space for groups and event organisers seeking space larger than current local senior citizens centres and community hall supper rooms, but smaller than the Cohuna and Kerang memorial halls. This space will also incorporate 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, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/glasshouse



COMMUNITY NEWS

WHAT'S ON

13 OCTOBER

The Unbreakable Farmer at
Cohuna

26 OCTOBER

Kerang Community Market

26 OCTOBER

Quambatook Show, Car Boot
Sale and Silo Cinema

27 OCTOBER

Cohuna Farmers & Makers
Market

2 NOVEMBER

Murrabit Country Market

3 NOVEMBER

Cohuna Farmers & Makers
Market

8 NOVEMBER

Music on the Green, Cohuna

13 NOVEMBER

Positive Green Spaces lunch,
Kerang

20 NOVEMBER

Living With Water dinner,
Cohuna

23 NOVEMBER

Kerang Community Market

24 NOVEMBER

Cohuna Farmers & Makers
Market

24 NOVEMBER

Groove on the Green, Kerang

7 DECEMBER

Murrabit Country Market

14 DECEMBER

Kerang Community Market

22 DECEMBER

Cohuna Farmers & Makers
Market

For details, visit

www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events

To add your event to Council's
calendar of events, visit

www.gsc.vic.gov.au/events

DON'T DUMP HOUSEHOLD RUBBISH AT CAMPSITE WASTE DISPOSAL SITES

Campers will be able to dispose of their waste by
visiting various locations Council will set up between
late December and mid-January.

Residents are reminded that these locations are not to be used to dispose of household or
other general waste. These items can be taken to any of Council's transfer stations for
disposal. Details regarding transfer station locations and operating hours is available
under the Transfer Stations heading at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/waste



IMMUNISATION SESSIONS BY APPOINTMENT

OCTOBER 2024

Wednesday, 16 October

Cohuna
(10.30am - 12 noon)
Kerang
(4pm - 5.30pm)

NOVEMBER 2024

Wednesday, 6 November

Kerang
(10.30am - 12 noon)

Wednesday, 20 November

Cohuna
(10.30am - 12 noon)
Kerang
(4pm - 5.30pm)

DECEMBER 2024

Wednesday, 4 December

Kerang
(10.30am - 12 noon)

Wednesday, 18 December

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

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

This publication is certified in accordance with Gannawarra Shire Council's Governance Rules.

*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.*



HELP COUNCIL RECOGNISE OUR COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

Nominations for two of Gannawarra Shire Council's prestigious community awards will open later this month.

As part of Australia Day 2025 celebrations, Council will award its Citizen of the Year and Young Person of the Year awards, which honour residents who make the Gannawarra a great place to live.

The 2025 Citizen of the Year will be awarded to a Gannawarra Shire resident aged 25 years and older as of Sunday, 26 January 2025.

The 2025 Young Person of the Year will be awarded to a Gannawarra Shire resident aged 15-24 years as of Sunday, 26 January 2024.

Residents will be able to nominate people for these awards online at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/Australia_Day_Awards or by collecting a nomination form from Council's Customer Service Centres.

Information regarding when nominations open and need to be completed will be published in *Gannawarra News*, on Council's website and on its Facebook page.

Pictured is Mayor Ross Stanton with 2024 Gannawarra Shire Council Citizen of the Year, Jacqueline Hibbert (top, right) and Young Citizen of the Year, Fifi White (above, right).



LET US KNOW HOW WE ARE PERFORMING

Independent market research agency, National Field Services will be conducting the second stage of the annual Community Satisfaction Survey from 31 October.

One hundred residents over the age of 18 will be contacted by telephone to assess Council's overall performance. This includes how Council engages with the community, services provided and the condition of locally-managed roads.

Anyone who has any queries about the Community Satisfaction Survey is encouraged to contact Council on (03) 5450 9333.

SWIMMING POOLS OPEN 11 NOVEMBER

The Cohuna and Kerang outdoor swimming pools will open for the 2024/25 season at 3pm Monday, 11 November.

Both venues will be open between 3pm-7pm daily until Saturday, 30 November, with arrangements for the remainder of the season to be announced in November.

Operating hours may also be extended on days of extreme heat, with changes to be promoted via Council's Facebook page and at both venues.

Please note Council's outdoor pools will be closed on days the Bureau of Meteorology weather forecast for either town is 23 degrees Celsius or below.

For more information about both pools, as well as community-managed facilities at Koondrook, Leitchville and Quambatook, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/pools

CHRISTMAS CLOSURES

Council's Customer Service Centres and Gannawarra Library Service branches will be closed for the Christmas-New Year holidays from 2pm Tuesday, 24 December to 8.30am Thursday, 2 January.

Other service changes will be in place during the Christmas-New Year period, which Council will promote via local newspapers, signage at its facilities and online at www.gsc.vic.gov.au by early December.

Victorian Seniors Festival 2024

Events will be held throughout the Gannawarra this October as part of the Victorian Seniors Festival 2024.

The theme for the 2024 program is 'Explore. Engage. Evolve.' – encouraging older Victorians to stay curious and connected by exploring new activities, meeting new people, and changing how we think of ageing.

Local events include:

- The Seniors' Creekside Lunch, occurring at Tree Tops Scout Camp (Spences Bridge Road) on Wednesday, 9 October from 12 noon.
- The Tri-a Trishaw event, occurring in Victoria Square, Kerang on Thursday, 10 October from 10am-2pm.
- A Morning Tea and Mugs session, occurring at the Cohuna Library on Wednesday, 16 October from 10.30am.
- An afternoon tea and performance by the Gay Charmers at the Kerang Memorial Hall on Friday, 18 October from 2pm.
- Northern District Community Health's Social Meals program, occurring at various locations throughout the Gannawarra.

For information on each of these events, call into your local Gannawarra Library Service branch or Council Customer Service Centre, or visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/seniorsfestival

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE WEATHER PROGRAM

Residents are able to join a conversation about the impacts of extreme weather during two special events occurring during November.



Council is working with Make a Change Australia and various local partner organisations to coordinate the *Let's Talk About the Weather* program, which aims to facilitate a community-wide discussion about the impact of extreme weather events on residents and communities and prompt new ideas, solutions and approaches for the future.

As part of the program, two free community events will be held:

- A Positive Green Spaces lunch, occurring at the Grow Collective Garden, Kerang on Wednesday, 13 November from 12.30pm-2pm.
- A Living With Water dinner, occurring at The Big Cohuna Stockyard on Wednesday, 20 November from 6pm-7.30pm.

Both events will feature various guest speakers who will focus on various topics, including local initiatives. Details regarding who will be presenting at these events will be promoted via *Gannawarra News*, Council's website and Council's Facebook page in mid-October. For bookings, please visit <https://makeachange.org.au/gannawarra/>

Residents can also share their thoughts, experiences and ideas on the weather, its direct impact and local solutions via the online survey available at <https://makeachange.org.au/gannawarra/>

The *Let's Talk About the Weather* program is an initiative of the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee and supported by Victorian and Commonwealth Governments under the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) as part of the Gannawarra Community Flood Recovery Program.

APEX PARK ROAD, KERVINS ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT WORKS TO BEGIN

Work to replace two of Council's timber bridges will begin in November.

As part of Council's 2024/25 capital works program, Murray Constructions will replace the Apex Park Road bridge with a new concrete structure that will span Washpen Creek near Reedy Lake. This new structure will enable people to access the popular Apex Park facilities and campsite, which have not been accessible after the original bridge collapsed in July 2023 (right).



Work will also occur later this year to replace the Kervins Road bridge, located east of Cohuna, with a new concrete structure after inspections found the current structure was suffering from defects.

A 30-tonne load limit is currently in place until a new structure is constructed, with motorists whose loads are larger than 30 tonnes requested to use Cohuna-McMillans Road, Western Road and Murray Valley Highway to access either side of Kervins Road.

Changes to road access whilst these works are occurring will be promoted via Council's website, *Gannawarra News* and Council's Facebook page.

Both projects are supported by the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.

ACT NOW TO REDUCE YOUR PROPERTY'S FIRE RISK

Residents are encouraged to act now to reduce fire risks on their properties.

With the weather to warm up during the next 2-3 months, the next few weeks is the ideal time to reduce fine fuels on your property, including bark, leaves, twigs and long grass.



Council will soon begin its fire hazard inspection program, which will identify properties which need to be cleared of fire risks.

Properties deemed to be a high fire risk (e.g. long uncut grass) will be issued with a Fire Prevention Notice instructing the landholder to carry out works to reduce the risk.

For more information, including what you are required to do if you receive a Fire Prevention Notice, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/fires

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Council's Annual Report 2024 (right) celebrates many of the community's achievements that occurred between July 2023 and June 2024.



You can view Council's Annual Report 2024 online at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/Annual-Reports or at Council's Customer Service Centres from Thursday, 17 October.



HAVE YOUR SAY ON COUNCIL ITEMS

With a new Council term beginning in November, Council will spend late 2024 and early to mid- 2025 seeking your views on numerous strategies, documents and community issues.

One of the first major documents we will be asking your help with developing is the next version of our Council Plan and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan. Developed every four years, these plans reflect the needs of our communities and help guide the goals Council will achieve from late 2025 to mid-2029.

You can keep up to date with upcoming engagement activities by visiting our Have Your Say page, located at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/yoursay

Once the outcome of the 2024 Gannawarra Shire Council election is determined, this page will feature details regarding current matters Council is seeking input from the community on.

This page also outlines previous matters that have included a community engagement process.

KEEPING ACTIVE WITH YOUR PETS

With the weather warming up, residents are encouraged to adhere to rules in place when walking their dogs.

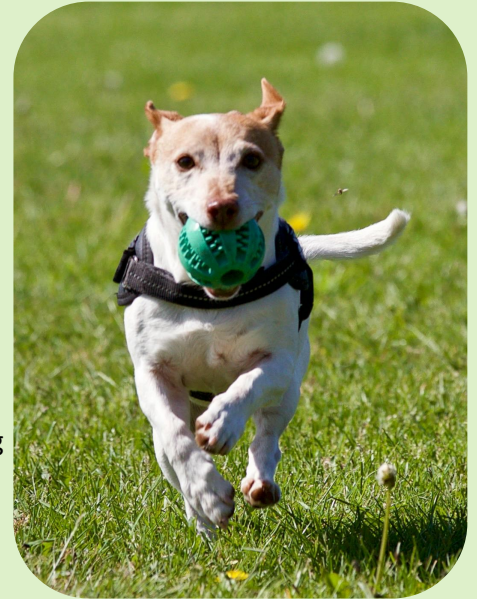
It is the animal owner's responsibility to ensure dogs are on a leash and are controlled at all times.

Dogs must be kept on a leash at all recreation reserves when a sporting fixture is taking place, at playgrounds and parks where children's play equipment is installed, and at the following parks:

- Apex Park, Garden Park and Gilrule Park at Cohuna.
- Atkinson Park at Kerang.
- Gorton Point at Kangaroo Lake.

Dogs can be walked off leash on private property, at recreation reserves when a sporting fixture is not taking place and parks not listed in Council *Policy 68 - Dogs and Cats*.

Dogs off leash in approved areas must be under effective voice control, meaning you must be able to control your dog by the second call.



REPAIRS TO FLOOD-DAMAGED ROADS CONTINUE

Work continues to repair Council-managed roads damaged by the 2022 floods.

As of mid-September, repairs to roads within the Murrabit West and Capels Crossings areas have been completed, and have commenced throughout the north of Kerang before turning to the Tragowel area.

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

The repair 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



FREE RANGE POULTRY PROJECT PROGRESSING

Construction of Kinross Farms' Kerang East large-scale free-range egg project at Kerang East has commenced.

Work has occurred during the past 1-2 months to develop the pads that will form the 160-metre long and 19-metre wide rearing sheds, as well as the 288-metre long and 23-metre wide main sheds.

Once operational, the egg project will employ 25 staff and provide more diversity into the local agricultural sector.

Kinross Farms is one of Victoria's largest egg producers, with the Euroa-based company renowned for managing every step of its egg production, from brooding day-old chicks to feed milling, grading and value adding.

HOUSING UPDATE

In preparation for increased job opportunities, Council staff have undertaken the following tasks to develop further local housing and workforce accommodation options:

- Advocating to the Minister for Housing to accelerate housing projects, especially rezoning of land for residential accommodation.
- Working with local accommodation businesses to provide greater capacity for workforce accommodation options.
- Connecting local landowners to housing developers and workforce accommodation providers.
- Advertising to entice more developers into the rental market.
- Assisting businesses with funding applications for electricity, water and sewerage improvements.

PROMOTING THE GANNAWARRA TO THE REGION

If you watched WIN TV during September, you may have seen the updated Gannawarra advertising campaign. Featuring local residents, these advertisements aim to appeal to visitors and people looking for a lifestyle change.



Council will also re-run its Gannawarra relocation advertising campaign, which will promote local employment, housing and population growth, to maintain the messaging around jobs, housing and population growth. Gannawarra Shire is one of very few rural councils to be recording population growth, and with around 2,300 construction jobs looming, this growth will help bring benefits to the local business sectors, as well as schools and community groups.

MAJOR PROJECT UPDATES

- Transmission Company Victoria staff have been meeting local landowners and conducting property inspections along the proposed VNI West corridor, with the 100-metre easement for the multi-state electricity transmission line to be confirmed soon.
- A Victorian Ministerial decision regarding VHM's Goschen Mineral Sands Project is nearing. Mineral sands are used extensively in a range of modern products.
- Work has started to convert Kerang's former ten-pin bowling alley into The Reject Shop.

COUNCIL INFORMATION

YOUR COUNCILLORS

(2020-2024)

AVOCA WARD



Cr Charlie Gillingham
(Deputy Mayor)
0457 719 874

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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YARRAN WARD



Cr Keith Link
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Cr Garner Smith
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COUNCIL MEETING DETAILS

The **October 2024 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 16 October at the Cohuna Community Meeting Room (23 King Edward Street) at 6pm.

The **November 2024 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 27 November at the Kerang Senior Citizens Centre (169 Boundary Street) at 6pm.

The **December 2024 Meeting of Council** will be held on Wednesday, 18 December at the Kerang Senior Citizens Centre (169 Boundary Street) at 6pm.

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 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.

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 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

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