



GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

# **ATTACHMENTS**

**Under Separate Cover  
Council Meeting**

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**6.00pm Tuesday 25 May 2021**



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## Results of Public Holiday Consultation held between 24 February 2021 and 18 April 2021

#	Submitted Date	Suburb/Town	Do you think that a local day of significance should be observed as a public holiday in Golden Plains Shire instead of Melbourne Cup Day?	If yes, which day do you propose would be the most suitable alternative?	Please provide a reason for your preference
1	24/02/2021	Bannockburn	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Cup Day	Personal preference as local stores will be open on Melbourne cup day
2	24/02/2021	Inverleigh	No		The whole State should be consistent particularly when many GPS residents travel to Melbourne for work
3	24/02/2021	Inverleigh	No		most families try to arrange a four day break over Melbourne Cup Weekend.
4	24/02/2021	Teesdale	No		Family in Melbourne are off on cup day.
5	24/02/2021	BANNOCKBURN	No		
6	24/02/2021	bannockburn	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Cup Day	We're not melbourne. Most people work outside the shire, so try and be consistent with your local large shires and large shire holidays
7	24/02/2021	Bannockburn	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	The local shows need support and the show day holiday allows families to attend these events. The cup day holiday is only relevant to Melbourne.
8	24/02/2021	Linton	No		Working parents are not able to take Ballarat show day off
9	24/02/2021	Scarsdale	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	<p>If there is a need for local government to set a local public holiday, then it would make sense that it is for a local event -- not an event of national (or international?) significance like the Melbourne Cup (supposedly the race that stops a nation but surely not worth an entire day off for something that lasts a few minutes?).</p> <p>The purpose of a holiday is recreation/leisure so for me, having a holiday to coincide with a public event that is more community focused and family friendly, and not associated with gambling is a strong preference (i.e. I prefer show day). But many people are not interested in or cannot afford to attend their local show.</p> <p>It does seem a little bizarre to have a public holiday for an event that is not held in the shire. And many people live across shires for work, study or other reasons -- for example, children attending high school in an adjoining shire; the high school would close for the relevant holiday which could be different to that set by Golden Plains (so parents would have a different public holiday to children; and children attending different schools -- within and outside the shire -- would have different LGA-set public holidays).</p> <p>This could be problematic for parents who work outside the shire, if they don't have the same public holiday as their children.</p> <p>All other things being equal, the impact to local business or wider community interests should hold more weight than the opinions of people like me -- realistically I am unlikely to attend any of the events (local cup/show day, Melbourne Cup). But I would definitely prefer to see a local public holiday designated for a 'local' public event.</p> <p>Or maybe we could have our own 'Shire Day' to celebrate being part of local community. In such a globalised world, it would be good to counter-balance our non-localness, with a greater sense of connection to the place we live.</p> <p>SUMMARY: I have a personal preference for a local show day holiday, but my overall preference is for the shire to choose the option that best suits community needs and interests overall.</p> <p>Thanks</p>
10	24/02/2021	Smythesdale	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	Long weekends make much more sense. Can spend more money in local areas or travel and stay away longer. I also do not support horse racing so there's that to factor in.
11	24/02/2021	Inverleigh	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	My kids are home Geelong show day so it suits
12	24/02/2021	Bannockburn	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	Heavily involved with the Geelong Show. On the board of management as a councillor.
13	24/02/2021	NEWTOWN	No		Most businesses will observe Melbourne Cup day as a public holiday in substitution for local public holidays. Easier to be in line greater Melbourne
14	24/02/2021	Bannockburn	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Cup Day	Alot of businesses in Geelong observe Geelong Cup public holiday. This would allow me to spend the public holiday in Oct with the kids and not have to arrange a day off/care outside the public holiday my employer observes.
15	24/02/2021	Cambrian Hill	No	Both	Give us both public holidays.
16	24/02/2021	Teesdale	No		Keep as Melbourne Cup holiday with the rest of Victoria. We are as one.
17	24/02/2021	Meredith	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	Ballarat and Geelong Show days are more suited to families. Family days are important.
18	24/02/2021	INVERLEIGH	No		Its far more convenient to be on the same day as everyone else
19	24/02/2021	Smythes Creek	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	This would align with the Ballarat city council to have the Ballarat show day as a public holiday.
20	24/02/2021	TEESDALE	No		State Holidays should remain state holidays. Very challenging having Melbourne Metro on a Holiday, when Geelong are not and vice versa. Especially when Geelong is still so close to Melbourne.

## Results of Public Holiday Consultation held between 24 February 2021 and 18 April 2021

#	Submitted Date	Suburb/Town	Do you think that a local day of significance should be observed as a public holiday in Golden Plains Shire instead of Melbourne Cup Day?	If yes, which day do you propose would be the most suitable alternative?	Please provide a reason for your preference
21	24/02/2021	Bannockburn	No		To be inline with the rest of Melbourne
22	24/02/2021	Smythesdale	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	Useful for me in the North of the shire to work in with Ballarat, since my workplace is in ballarat. And we would make use of the Holiday to go to the Ballarat show.
23	24/02/2021	Linton	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	live close to, and work in Ballarat. Cup Day represents horse cruelty and gambling. Show day is social, community based and orientated.
24	24/02/2021	Batesford	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	I personally think horse racing is unethical, so I don't support the idea of celebrating it. Show days a far more family orientated and relevant in a high vibrating community.
25	24/02/2021	Teesdale	No - not counted		VOTE NOT COUNTED: Resident voted twice, with two different responses. Neither response has been counted. Having two separate days (Geelong cup/Ballarat cup) makes it incredibly difficult for parent s who have kids at school in one part of the shire whilst they work in another part eg. Work Meredith, school Bannockburn. It effectively means they have to juggle two public holidays rather than one.
26	24/02/2021	Napoleons	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	Ballarat Show Day has been the public holiday that falls in line with another special event that my family have always attended. I personally do not follow the horse racing/ Melbourne Cup and Ballarat Cup was moved to a Saturday many years ago so would not be a public holiday.
27	24/02/2021	Ross Creek	No		As a family that reside close to Ballarat, kids school in local area but work in Geelong the split public holidays between shires is more disruptive
28	24/02/2021	Teesdale	No		different day off - State Govt should just rein in and standardize all the regional schools and councils and be done with it!
29	24/02/2021	Teesdale	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	We are a farming community, the opportunity to go to the Royal Geelong Show should be paramount for the Shire.
30	24/02/2021	Inverleigh	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	If local shire don't support show day which are put aside for children and usually have children's events on those days we will loose them for future generations and also cost the agriculture society of Geelong.I think part of living in rural area we should be supporting and educating all things agricultural.I also think we should be supporting our local Cup days.thank you
31	24/02/2021	Bannockburn	No		Melbourne cup is easiest for everyone no matter where they live or work. Most of Victoria does melb cup. We should also put on some shite events!
32	24/02/2021	ROSS CREEK	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	Yes
33	24/02/2021	Bannockburn	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	Melbourne cup day off does not benefit the local community in any way. Geelong Show day being observed will continue to keep the Royal Show alive and provides any opportunity for families to attend a community event together. Horse racing is generally reserved for adults only and has very little local connection or relevance.
34	24/02/2021	Smythesdale	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	Children
35	24/02/2021	Bannockburn	No		Stay in line with Melbourne. Biggest race in the country.
36	24/02/2021	Scarsdale	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	Because we don't live in Melbourne
37	24/02/2021	Berringa	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	Because we should support local.
38	25/02/2021	Smythes Creek	No	Melbourne Cup	Melbourne cup day should be accepted at the public holiday due to the confusion caused throughout the state with multiple days observed. With the current setup we have 2-3 days in which business' may be closed without however it is extremely ad-hoc. Joining the rest of the state makes sense
39	25/02/2021	Smythesdale	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Cup Day	I am much more in favor of supporting local events. In saying that, when Cupday falls on a weekend and people would be able to go without missing work, it kind of defeats the purpose. In which case, Melbourne Cup day is often a fantastic way to bring people together (which is what I am mostly in favor of). For example, before the Cape pub closed they would have a "Ladies day", wear fabulous things on their heads, and it was great. More of this type of thing is needed, especially where local meeting places have diminished. Perhaps the GPCouncil could put something on in Smythesdale and subsidise a bus trip for the Cape Clear ladies (via Linton, Scarsdale, etc) to attend.
40	25/02/2021	Bannockburn	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	The local schools in the area I live and work get Geelong Show Day and because I live in bannockburn and work in Lethbridge which are closer to Geelong, I feel that this is the most significant day.
41	25/02/2021	Batesford	No		Melbourne Cup Day should be observed
42	25/02/2021	ENFIELD	No		Not everyone takes the substitute days, although we work in Ballarat it is central highlands located so across that Moorabool take Melbourne cup, st patricks college take melb cup and so do some other schools.
43	25/02/2021	Ross Creek	No		These gazetted holidays should be state wide.
44	25/02/2021	Bannockburn	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Cup Day	Businesses take either cup days, only schools take show day. Pull all into line with cup days
45	25/02/2021	Dereel	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	We would be more likely to take the Monday off and travel and spend more money. Being in sync with the whole state would be helpful for businesses too.
46	25/02/2021	Meredith	No		None

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47	25/02/2021	Scarsdale	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	Local shows are a key part of our community and need to be supported. Having a public holiday enables more people to attend. Also, Council should NOT base its decision making on the extraordinary circumstances caused by COVID-19 in 2020. That type of thinking is very short term
48	25/02/2021	Bannockburn	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	I would prefer to have a long weekend and support and local event. I don't attended Melbourne Cup.
49	25/02/2021	Berringa	No		Keep it uniform with the rest of Victoria/Melbourne. Makes life much easier for working parents juggling kids being off school!
50	25/02/2021	Meredith	No		Keep in line with rest of Victoria
51	25/02/2021	Shelford	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	Show day is a Family holiday, and supports a local non gambling event. Cup day encompasses drinking and gambling and I don't believe we should promote that
52	25/02/2021	Bannockburn	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	Because public holidays are for families to spend time together. Cup days are either about horseracing and betting or alcohol and fashion. The family tradition of the past isnt really there any more. Show days are still for families. Anyone wanting to go to melbourne cup would probably still book a day off work, but doesnt require the whole family to have time off. Plus we are a rural community so we should perhaps support show days.
53	26/02/2021	Bannockburn	No		As a teacher in the area, most people still take their children out of school on Cup Day because they have it. Plus need to find a someone to take care of the kids on show day.
54	26/02/2021	Inverleigh	No		One day out of school is better than two.
55	27/02/2021	Inverleigh	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Cup Day	Majority of my family have Melbourne Cup as a public holiday and it allows me to spend time with them.
56	28/02/2021	Bannockburn	No		Retain the local significance
57	28/02/2021	Scarsdale	No		Streamline to be melb cup most places are closed
58	1/03/2021	Bannockburn	No		My preference is for individuals/businesses/schools etc to decide which day, if any, to observe. Living in the north of the shire means that most residents' employment is outside of GPS, so any decision on GPS's part seems moot to me, as employers decide. Plus, the likely days you suggest, are for events outside of GPS, so why mandate a specific day? It seems to me that the only residents who need the clarification could be those employed by GPS. Most businesses in our shire will remain open regardless of the day, and residents have learned to be flexible with any business closures. So I guess, pick a day, if you really must, but I have a feeling GPSers, especially north dwellers, will do their own thing anyway. Thanks for allowing me to submit my point of view.
59	1/03/2021	Napoleons	No		Melbourne Cup to spend time with family that also have this day off.
60	2/03/2021	Belmont	No		As a school connected with the Ballarat Region (Department of Education), it is difficult to have different gazetted holidays to schools less than 10 kms away. Consistency is best for families, therefore we prefer to observe the Melb Cup Holiday along with our school counterparts in the Ballarat Shire
61	3/03/2021	Cape Clear	No		Melbourne Cup day so I can share day off with family
62	4/03/2021	Gheringhap	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	Consistency across the shire
63	4/03/2021	Bannockburn	No	Observe Melbourne Cup Day as per Metro	Support of local events is important for them to survive, so school children and parents can attend the Show together.
64	4/03/2021	Linton	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	As the Meredith Community Centre sits right in the middle of Ballarat and Geelong, it affects our families on both days. It would be more beneficial to observe the same day across the shire to eliminate this.
65	4/03/2021	Bannockburn	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Cup Day	We are Government school and I don't believe we should be promoting gambling by supporting the Racing public holidays. Also, if parents like racing, they can attend without their children.
66	8/03/2021	Inverleigh	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	My work observes Geelong Cup day and my children go to the local daycare centre. If the daycare change away from the current Geelong Cup holiday, I won't have care available for my children.
67	9/03/2021	Sutherlands Creek	No		Need to support local agriculture especially for children, rather than encouraging adult entertainment such as gambling. Shire could encourage local hero's to enter and support.
68	15/03/2021	Ross Creek	No		Melbourne Cup as to encourage residents from the City to come and stay or visit regional areas. Plus there should only be one race that stops the Nation and it will assist businesses with rostering staff etc.
69	16/03/2021	Teesdale	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	It makes more sense to have the same day as Melbourne, due to lots of workplaces being connected to Melbourne by a head office.
70	28/03/2021	Bannockburn	No		The Geelong/Ballarat Show work towards positive family values and time; learning about our different aspects in and with our community; and the ability for participation within event from all ages.
71	31/03/2021	Dereel	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	In line with Geelong.
					My preference would be with what that local school follow (Rokewood). Would be nice to have consistency as last year kinder had ballarat cup day and school had melbourne cup day. We were unable to use the day to get out as a family as two kids had different days off.

## Results of Public Holiday Consultation held between 24 February 2021 and 18 April 2021

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72	31/03/2021	Berrigna	Yes - not counted	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	DUPLICATE SUBMISSION: Initial response received on 24/02/21. Supporting local economy and business is more important than a centralised economy
73	2/04/2021	Barunah Park	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	Over many years the municipality has supported the show days this in turn allows many local residents the opportunity of exhibiting and competing at the shows. GPS remains a rurally based municipality and providing recognition of that and the economic boost to our communities from and by agriculture by supporting the local shows is an excellent policy. The Melbourne cup is for the people of Melbourne to enjoy but is does not support people in Golden Plains
74	4/04/2021	Bannockburn	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	Bannockburn is close to Geelong, it allows families to take their school aged kids to the show. It also gives residents of the shire another long weekend with their children, compared to Geelong Cup and Melbourne Cup.
75	6/04/2021	Smythes Creek	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	I have no interest in watching or attending a boring horse race. At least Show Day means a long weekend.
76	7/04/2021	INVERLEIGH	No		Both my husband and I get Melbourne Cup as one works in a public hospital and the other in Melbourne.
77	7/04/2021	Bannockburn	No		Most large workplaces observe Melbourne Cup day
78	8/04/2021	Grenville	No		Melbourne Cup day holiday No need for any other day
79	8/04/2021	Bannockburn	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	What has Melbourne got to do with Geelong? We all live here because we chose NOT to live there. A rural shire ought to be observing a local rural occasion. And the local show probably appeals to a wider cross-section of people than a horse race.
80	8/04/2021	Bannockburn	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Cup Day	We are closer to geelong and it therefore gives more people the opportunity to attend
81	9/04/2021	Lethbridge	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	Spending a fun day with family !!
82	9/04/2021	Lethbridge	No		I feel we have so many residents travelling for work anyway, it makes sense. Geelong is still open for business plus they have the sidewalk sale so brings in more cash locally.
83	9/04/2021	Teesdale	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Cup Day	To participate in the event.
84	10/04/2021	Linton	No		I work in Pyrenees shire and they observe Melbourne cup, my husband works in Ballarat and his union observe Melbourne cup so to me it is Melbourne cup.
85	10/04/2021	Enfield	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	Never going to go to Melbourne cup. Would much prefer to take family to the show.
86	10/04/2021	Scythes creek	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	Because we live closer to Ballarat and we have the same day off together (show day)
87	10/04/2021	Bannockburn	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Cup Day	Everything was closed in golden plains for melbourne cup day last year. Was hard as both my kids couldn't attend their care out here as both school/daycare were closed but I was working in Geelong. I think Geelong cup is a better alternative since we are a part of geelong.
88	10/04/2021	Teesdale	No		I work in Melbourne and get Melbourne cup off. With 3 kids it would be easier for me to have a day off the same day as them.
89	10/04/2021	Bannockburn	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	As a regional area Melb cup is not relevant and the opportunity to support a regional show with attendance and being able to compete in various competitions is a much better use of a public holiday.
90	11/04/2021	Teesdale	Yes - not counted	Geelong / Ballarat Cup Day	VOTE NOT COUNTED: Resident voted twice, with two different responses. Neither response has been counted. I think we should remember that we are not just another part of Melbourne. We are a shire local to Geelong and ballarat and should celebrate a day that is significant to our area, not just cater a public holiday to suit those working in Melbourne and Melbourne focussed business.
91	11/04/2021	Elaine	No		Working in the areas and family working in geelong, would be great if schools and families workplace could have the same days off. Allow for family holidays.
92	11/04/2021	Wendouree	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	I feel that there is far more local attendance and involvement in the Ballarat Show (than in the Melb Cup), and having a public holiday on the Friday of the show increases this.  I find that having the public holiday on the Melb Cup day is very inconvenient as many businesses allow their employees to also take a leave day on the Monday, which then results in a lot of people going away for a four-day weekend. The final result is less businesses open, and less customers around to use the businesses that are open.  I also choose not to watch any horse racing because of the horse deaths and injuries I have observed the few times I have watched it in the past. So I don't want to waste a public holiday on something I can't support.
93	11/04/2021	Bannockburn	No		The local shows are about going out and spending time with family / friends. Horse racing is about odds, gambling, drinking alcohol, and animal cruelty. By getting Melbourne cup p/h it's the same as my husband gets. Otherwise we get different days off.

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94	12/04/2021	Magpie	Yes	The Day of the Kangaroo - October 24	We need to acknowledge those who first walked upon our land, as we do not have a day where we take time off to celebrate the Aboriginals of our country. The kangaroo symbolises our unity and as a native animal it represents our beliefs in Australia, and therefore in Ballarat. It is crucial that we have a day to appreciate the Indigenous and remember those who we lost, and the equality we hope to work towards in the future. We are arguing over whether to celebrate Show day or Cup day, when we still do not have a day taken off in Ballarat to think of those residents whose ancestors' land have been taken and children have been stolen, whose people have been mistreated and killed. Celebration of The Day of the Kangaroo would display Ballarat's dedication to appreciate the Indigenous and strive for equality in our city.
95	13/04/2021	Inverleigh	No		Most people in the community work in Melbourne therefore aligning with Melbourne will allow families time together rather than a split household. All Public holidays should align with those of Melbourne.
96	14/04/2021	Inverleigh	No - not counted		DUPLICATE SUBMISSION: Initial response received on 24/02/21 Keep the public holiday consistent across the whole state
97	16/04/2021	Batesford	No		Would prefer that public holidays are consistent with rest of Victoria. We are part of Victoria. We spend holidays with family and friends and some do not live in Golden Plains Shire and makes it difficult if the public holidays are inconsistent. If a local public holiday is desired then it can be an additional locally celebrated event and holiday.
98	16/04/2021	Dereel	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	1. Very few people actually go to either race meeting; it's just a day off for the sake of having a day off. 2. Those with children would rather go to the Show than a horse race, and certainly the children would.
99	16/04/2021	dereel	Yes	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	extra holidays should be local(ish) events
100	17/04/2021	Scarsdale	Yes - not counted	Geelong / Ballarat Show Day	DUPLICATE SUBMISSION. Initial response received on 25/02/21. The Show days provide an opportunity for families to something together horse racing is really only for adults







**Public Holiday Consultation - Communications and Engagement  
24 February to 18 April, 2021**

**Website**

From 24 February to 18 April, the Golden Plains Shire Council website homepage featured a Public Holiday Consultation banner, that linked to the consultations Have Your Say page.

The [Public Holiday Consultation Have Your Say](#) page contained all details of the consultation, including a link to complete the survey. This page remains and will be updated with new information as the project continues.

**Media release**

A [media release](#), titled 'Council seeking public holiday feedback', was sent on 24 February to Golden Plains Shire Council's full media contact list, it was also shared on the Golden Plains Shire Council website.

The story was featured in the 4 March edition of the Golden Plains Times.

**Advertising**

The Public Holiday consultation period was also featured in four Golden Plains Shire Council News ads in the Golden Plains Times. The 4 and 25 March and 8 and 15 April editions included the ads.

**Council newsletter**

The Public Holiday consultation was also featured in Issue 2 of the Golden Plains Gazette, Council's newsletter which is distributed to every household in the Shire six times a year.

**Business News**

The Public Holiday consultation featured in the March edition of Golden Plains Business News which was distributed to an audience of 663. The newsletter had an open rate of 23%.

**Community Engagement Register**

A direct email communication was distributed to Council's Community Engagement Register, which has an audience of 263.



23/04/2021

Public Holiday Consultation | Golden Plains Shire Council



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# PUBLIC HOLIDAY CONSULTATION

Listen

Council is reviewing its current Spring Public Holiday arrangements for the next four years to ensure it still best represents the interests of local residents and businesses. Thank you to everyone who shared their feedback during the recent consultation period.



## ABOUT

In Victoria, Melbourne Cup Day is observed as a public holiday unless an alternate local holiday has been arranged by a non-metro council. In previous years, Council has requested part-shire arrangements as an alternative to Melbourne Cup Day, with the north of the Shire observing Ballarat Show Day in November and the south of the Shire observing Geelong Show Day in October. This was informed by community consultation undertaken in 2011 that the community wished to observe a relevant Show Day. The dividing line between the two public holiday areas follows Wingeel Road, Gumley-Mt Mercer Road and Meredith-Mt Mercer Road.

In 2020, both the Ballarat and Geelong Show Days were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic initiating a discussion around reverting the holiday for all parts of the Shire to Melbourne Cup Day. Golden Plains Shire still observed these days, due to insufficient time for community consultation and a Council resolution to change the dates. In recent years there has been a steady decline in councils observing an alternate public holiday to Melbourne Cup Day, with only seven of Victoria's 79 councils not marking the first Tuesday in November last year.

### TIMELINE

**24 February 2021**  
Submissions open

**18 April 2021**  
Submissions close

**25 May 2021**  
Council Meeting to consider submissions

**22 June 2021**  
Council Meeting to make final decision

### CONTACT INFORMATION



23/04/2021

Public Holiday Consultation | Golden Plains Shire Council

Together with last year's cancellations, the majority of other regional councils are now observing Melbourne Cup Day, and as 10 years have passed since consultation was undertaken, Council is considering whether change is required to its Spring Public Holiday arrangements.

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## HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED

Local community members and businesses were invited to have their say on the future of the Spring Public Holiday arrangements for Golden Plains Shire. Submissions were open from Wednesday 24 February, 2021 until Sunday 18 April, 2021. Options for consideration included:

- Continue recent arrangement (part-shire observation of Geelong and Ballarat Show Days)
- Request an alternative local holiday, such as Geelong Cup Day
- Observe the Melbourne Cup Holiday in all parts of the Shire

Written submissions were able to be provided by completing an online form, by email or mail.

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Now that the consultation period has ended, all submissions will be collated and presented to Council at its May Council Meeting for consideration. A final Council decision will be made at the June meeting, before sending a request for alternative arrangements (if required) to the Victorian Minister for Employment, Small Business, Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy.

Sign up to the Community Engagement Register to stay informed about opportunities relevant to you: [SIGN UP](#)

### MORE INFORMATION

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If you have any queries, concerns, requests or complaints please feel free to contact Customer Service.



## GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL MEDIA RELEASE

Date: Wednesday 24 February, 2021

### COUNCIL SEEKING PUBLIC HOLIDAY FEEDBACK

**At last night's meeting, Council resolved to seek community feedback on whether Golden Plains Shire should observe the Melbourne Cup Public Holiday or an alternative local holiday for the next four years.**

In Victoria, Melbourne Cup Day is observed as a public holiday unless an alternate local holiday has been arranged by a non-metro council. In previous years, Council has requested part-shire arrangements as an alternative to Melbourne Cup Day, with the north of the Shire observing Ballarat Show Day in November and the south of the Shire observing Geelong Show Day in October. This was informed by community consultation undertaken in 2011 that the community wished to observe a relevant Show Day.

In 2020, both the Ballarat and Geelong Show Days were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, initiating a discussion around reverting the holiday for all parts of the Shire to Melbourne Cup Day. Golden Plains Shire still observed these days, due to insufficient time for community consultation and a Council resolution to change the dates. In recent years there has been a steady decline in councils observing an alternate public holiday to Melbourne Cup Day, with only seven of Victoria's 79 councils not marking the first Tuesday in November last year.

Local community members and businesses are now invited to have their say on the future of the spring public holiday arrangements for Golden Plains Shire. Submissions are open until 5pm, Sunday 18 April, 2021. Options for consideration include continuing part-shire observation of Geelong and Ballarat Show Days, requesting an alternative local holiday, or observing the Melbourne Cup Holiday in all parts of the Shire.

Submissions can be provided by:

- Completing an online form at [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations)
- Emailing [enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au)
- Mail to the Chief Executive Officer, Golden Plains Shire Council, PO Box 111, Bannockburn, VIC 3331 - marked 'Urgent - submission'

Golden Plains Shire Mayor Cr Helena Kirby encouraged all local residents and businesses to share their preference on which public holiday Golden Plains Shire should observe in spring.

"Together with last year's cancellations, the majority of our fellow regional councils are now observing Melbourne Cup Day, and as 10 years have passed since consultation was undertaken, we are considering whether change is required to our spring public holiday arrangements.

"Golden Plains is a geographically large Shire, with many of our residents connected through work or education to Ballarat or Geelong, and we want to make sure that our spring public holiday, whether it be Melbourne Cup Day or another local or regional day, best represents the interests of our local residents and businesses.

"I know there are some passionate views around these events and days, and I hope many community members take this chance to share their public holiday preference with us over the next two months."

Following the close of submissions, Council will review the feedback received and is anticipated to make a final decision on the spring public holiday at the June Council Meeting.

– ENDS –

Released by: **Eric Braslis**, CEO, Golden Plains Shire Council

Media contact: **Susan Talpey**, Coordinator Communications, Engagement and Advocacy, Golden Plains Shire Council

P. 5220 7147 | M. 0421 923 399 | E. [susan.talpey@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:susan.talpey@gplains.vic.gov.au)



04 MAR, 2021

## Future of Shire public holiday up for grabs

Golden Plains, Ballarat

Page 1 of 2

# Future of Shire public holiday up for grabs

**BY ALISTAIR FINLAY**

GOLDEN Plains Shire's municipally gazetted public holiday is currently under review and your input is wanted.

For the last 10 years the Shire has been split in half with the south taking Geelong Cup Day in October and the north observing Ballarat Show Day in November.

One proposal under consideration is that the whole of Golden Plains observe Melbourne Cup Day in 2021, currently set for Tuesday, 2 November.

"I know there are some passionate views around these events and days, and I hope many community members take this chance to share their public holiday preference with us over the next two months," said mayor Cr Helena Kirby.

In 2020, seven of the states 79 local government areas observed Melbourne Cup Day, although many regional and rural councils, including the City of Ballarat, changed their gazetted public holidays when COVID meant the event linked to the regional date couldn't go ahead.

Golden Plains Shire was one of the seven not to go with Melbourne Cup Day as a push to change the date came too late.

The result was people in the north got time off for Ballarat Show, and the south Geelong Cup, even though those two events were either cancelled or not open to the public.

"Together with last year's cancellations, the majority of our fellow regional councils are now observing Melbourne Cup Day,

and as 10 years have passed since consultation was undertaken, we are considering whether change is required to our spring public holiday arrangements," Cr Kirby said.

"Golden Plains is a geographically large Shire, with many of our residents connected through work or education to Ballarat or Geelong, and we want to make sure that our spring public holiday, whether it be Melbourne Cup Day or another local or regional day, best represents the interests of our local residents and businesses."

Feedback on which day, or days, the Shire's public holiday should fall on is being taken until 5pm, on Sunday, 18 April.

You can have your say by visiting [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations), emailing [enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au),

or via post to Chief Executive Officer, Golden Plains Shire Council, PO Box 111, Bannockburn, 3331 - with 'urgent - submission' marked on your input.

It's expected council will make a final decision on the public holiday at its 22 June regular meeting.





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04 MAR, 2021

## Future of Shire public holiday up for grabs

Golden Plains, Ballarat

Page 2 of 2



Fair's fair: The northern part of Golden Plains Shire has taken Ballarat Show Day as its public holiday in recent year. Photo: FILE

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04/05/2021

Melbourne Cup Day date for November public holiday | City of Ballarat



[Home](#) > [News](#) > Melbourne Cup Day date for November public holiday

# Melbourne Cup Day date for November public holiday

🕒 28 April 2021 8:22pm



Ballarat City Council has voted to make Melbourne Cup Day the public holiday for November, 2021-2024.

Due to extensive community consultation, Ballarat Show Day was voted as the November public holiday for 2017-2020 but last year Melbourne Cup Day was gazetted instead due to COVID-19 causing the show's cancellation.

However, feedback from the Ballarat Agricultural and Pastoral Society – who run the Ballarat Show - indicated they will not be seeking Ballarat Show Day as the public holiday for the foreseeable future.

Given Ballarat Show Day community support in previous consultations as the first preference, with Melbourne Cup as second choice, it is expected there will be community support for the Tuesday 2 November holiday, given the Ballarat Agricultural and Pastoral Society feedback.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

# Public Holiday CONSULTATION

## HAVE YOUR SAY!

### What public holiday would you like to celebrate?

Council is seeking community feedback on whether Golden Plains Shire should observe the Melbourne Cup Public Holiday or an alternative local holiday for the next four years.

In Victoria, Melbourne Cup Day is observed as a public holiday unless an alternate local holiday has been arranged by a non-metro council. In previous years, Council has requested part-shire arrangements as an alternative to Melbourne Cup Day, with the north of the Shire observing Ballarat Show Day in November and the south of the Shire observing Geelong Show Day in October.

In recent years there has been a steady decline in councils observing an alternate public holiday to Melbourne Cup Day, with only seven of Victoria's 79 councils not marking the first Tuesday in November last year.

Local community members and businesses are now invited to have their say on the future of the spring public holiday arrangements for Golden Plains Shire. Options for consideration include continuing part-shire observation of Geelong and Ballarat Show Days, requesting an alternative local holiday, or observing the Melbourne Cup Holiday in all parts of the Shire.

To make a submission:

- Complete an online form at [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations)
- Email [enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au)
- Mail to the Chief Executive Officer, Golden Plains Shire Council, PO Box 111, Bannockburn, VIC 3331 - marked 'Urgent - submission'

Submissions close at 5pm, Sunday 18 April, 2021. Council will review the feedback and is anticipated to make a final decision on the spring public holiday at the June Council Meeting.

# COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING GRANTS ROUND ONE 2021



## Community Grants 2021: Apply Now

**Is your community group looking for funding for a project or program?**

Applications are open for the first round of Golden Plains Shire Council's Community Strengthening Grants Program 2021.

Grants of up to \$10,000 are available in four categories:

- **Healthy Active Living** – to support recreation, sport, health and wellbeing projects
- **Creative Community** – to support arts and culture projects
- **Environment and Sustainability** – to support projects that improve the environment
- **Community Safety** – to support projects that equip communities to be safe and resilient

Groups must match the amount of funding sought, either in cash or through in-kind contributions, such as volunteer work on the project. Applications are open until 5pm, Friday 30 April, 2021.

In 2020, Council awarded \$146,212 to 33 Golden Plains community groups in two rounds of the Community Strengthening Grants Program. The funding supported a diverse range of valuable projects including improving community facilities, protecting biodiversity in local reserves and helping local children deal with the impacts of family violence trauma.

For more information and to apply for a Community Strengthening Grant, visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/grants](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/grants) or contact Council's Community Partnerships Officer at 5220 7220 or [communitygrants@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:communitygrants@gplains.vic.gov.au).



# Public Holiday CONSULTATION

## HAVE YOUR SAY!



Council is seeking community feedback on whether our community should observe the Melbourne Cup Public Holiday or an alternative local holiday for the next four years.

In Victoria, Melbourne Cup Day is observed as a public holiday unless an alternate local holiday has been arranged by a non-metro council. Since 2011, Council has requested part-shire arrangements as an alternative to Melbourne Cup Day, with the north of the Shire observing Ballarat Show Day in November and the south of the Shire observing Geelong Show Day in October.

Now, Council wants to hear from local residents, schools, businesses and organisations to see if Golden Plains Shire should stick with this arrangement, observe another local holiday or join most councils and take Melbourne Cup Day as the public holiday.

### How You Can Be Involved

Submissions on our Public Holiday Consultation are now open until 5pm, Sunday 18 April, 2021. Written submissions can be provided by:

- Completing the online form at [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations)
- Emailing [enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au)
- Mail to the Chief Executive Officer, Golden Plains Shire Council, PO Box 111, Bannockburn, VIC 3331 - marked 'Urgent - submission'.

### NEW STRATEGIES ADOPTED

Council adopted its Active Ageing & Inclusion Plan 2020-2024 and Community Engagement Policy at its February Council Meeting last week.

The Active Ageing & Inclusion Plan 2020-2024 provides the framework to address active ageing, disability access and inclusion issues across all areas of Council's operations and identifies access barriers or opportunities and outlines 51 actions. The Plan was informed by extensive consultation in 2019 and again in December 2020 and January 2021. Changes were made based on some of the 33 submissions Council received during the most recent consultation period.

Council's new Community Engagement Policy provides a clear and succinct process that improves its existing practices to ensure deliberative engagement opportunities are well planned, inclusive, accessible and appropriate. Council sought public feedback on its Draft Community Engagement Policy from 26 November 2020 to 11 January 2021. As no submissions were received during this time, the final Community Engagement Policy was adopted without change by Council.

Both documents are now available at [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/strategies](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/strategies).



### RESULTS ARE IN FOR PLAY SPACE NAME

At last week's meeting, Council received the voting results of the Inverleigh Play Space Naming consultation.

Following voting in December and January, 115 valid votes were received, with **Yerram Yaluk Bun** receiving the most votes:

- Yerram Yaluk Bun: 35 (translation: bank of the morning river)
- Leigh River Park: 34
- Inverleigh Play Park: 24
- Inverleigh Community Park: 22

Council will now consider the voting results in accordance with the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998* and will make a final determination on the name at its March 2021 Council Meeting.

### COVID-19 UPDATE

### COVID-19 UPDATE

The health of our community, Council's employees and volunteers is Golden Plains Shire Council's top priority.

In line with current restrictions, all visitors to indoor Council facilities, including Customer Service Centres, must practice 1.5m physical distancing. If distance cannot be maintained, customers will need to wear a fitted face mask.

To stay up-to-date with changes to Council's services, facilities and events as restrictions change, visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/coronavirus), or follow Council on social media.

For the latest health advice and current Victorian Government restrictions, visit [dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](https://dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus) or call the 24-hour COVID-19 hotline on 1800 675 398.

*This information is current as of 1 March 2021.*



### LABOUR DAY CLOSURE

Council's Customer Service Centres and offices will be closed on Monday 8 March for the Labour Day public holiday.

General phone and online enquiries will be unavailable during this time. Community members seeking after-hours support can call 5220 7111 and listen carefully to the prompts.

Kerbside bin collection on Monday 8 March is not affected and will go-ahead as per the normal schedule.

Customer Service Centres and offices will reopen at 8.30am on Tuesday 9 March.

### JOIN THE ENGAGEMENT REGISTER

[goldenplains.vic.gov.au/community-engagement-register](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/community-engagement-register)



2 Pope Street, Bannockburn, VIC 3331  
19 Heales Street, Smythesdale, VIC 3351

5220 7111  
[enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au)  
[goldenplains.vic.gov.au](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au)

@GPSCouncilNews GoldenPlainsShire  
lovegoldenplains GoldenPlainsMayor





## GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

## NEWS

GOLDEN PLAINS  
YOUTH  
SURVEY

Council has launched its Golden Plains Youth Survey and wants to hear from you!

There are two surveys with questions tailored for local young people, and parents, carers, residents and service providers. To have your say:

- Complete the online survey at **goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations**
- Pick up a paper survey at the Bannockburn or Smythesdale Customer Service Centre:

Completed paper surveys can be emailed to [enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au) or mailed to Golden Plains Shire Council, PO Box 111, Bannockburn, VIC 3331 – marked 'Urgent – submission'.

Survey closes at 5pm, Monday 3 May, 2021.

COVID-19  
QUICK RESPONSE  
COMMUNITY GRANTS

Applications are currently open for the second round of Council's COVID-19 Quick Response Community Grants Program.

Supported by the Victorian Government, the grants will assist community groups adapt and recover from the changes brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. Grants are available in two categories:

- Operating in COVID Environment Grant
- Community Engage, Connect and Recover Initiatives

Applications close at 5pm, 5 April 2021 or until all funds are allocated. Guidelines and details on how to apply is available at **goldenplains.vic.gov.au/grants**, or by calling 5220 7109 or emailing [communitygrants@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:communitygrants@gplains.vic.gov.au).

Public Holiday  
CONSULTATION

What public holiday would you like to celebrate in Golden Plains Shire?

Council is seeking community feedback on whether Golden Plains Shire should observe the Melbourne Cup Public Holiday or an alternative local holiday for the next four years.

Local community members and businesses can have their say by:

- Completing an online form at **goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations**
- Emailing [enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au)
- Mail to Golden Plains Shire Council, PO Box 111, Bannockburn, VIC 3331 – marked 'Urgent – submission'

Submissions close 5pm, 18 April 2021. For more information, visit **goldenplains.vic.gov.au** or call 5220 7111.



2 Pope Street, Bannockburn, VIC 3331  
19 Heales Street, Smythesdale, VIC 3351

☎ 5220 7111

@ enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au

🌐 goldenplains.vic.gov.au

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📷 lovegoldenplains

👤 GoldenPlainsMayor

## GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

## NEWS

## LETHBRIDGE ROAD NAME

Have Your Say

Have your say on Council's intention to name an un-named road, Capron Lane.

Council received a request from a resident to name the unmade road, which will allow it to be added to our road registry for maintenance, and better assist postal and emergency services. The name has received in-principle support from the Office of Geographic Names due to its historic connection to the area.

Share your feedback:

- Online at [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations)
- By email to [enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au)

Feedback can also be mailed to the Chief Executive Officer, Golden Plains Shire Council, PO Box 111, Bannockburn VIC 3331.

## APRIL SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Join the fun this school holidays with the following free events and activities:

**Scoot and Skate Clinic**

1 to 2pm and 2 to 3pm, Tuesday 13 April  
Enfield Skate Park

**FReeZA Summit 2021**

Wednesday 14 April  
Excursion to Collingwood for free event training for young people by the Push.

**Accredited Food Handlers Course**

10am to 4pm, Thursday 15 April  
Haddon Community Learning Centre

**Barista Skills Training**

3.30 to 7.30pm, Friday 16 April  
Coco's Espresso Crew, 2/19 High Street, Bannockburn

To sign up for these school holiday programs, call 5220 7177 or email [karl.kasbach@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:karl.kasbach@gplains.vic.gov.au). For more details, visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/events](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/events)

Public Holiday  
CONSULTATION

HAVE YOUR SAY!

What public holiday would you like to celebrate in Golden Plains Shire?

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Submissions close 5pm, 18 April 2021. For more information, visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au) or call 5220 7111.



2 Pope Street, Bannockburn, VIC 3331  
19 Heales Street, Smythesdale, VIC 3351

5220 7111

[enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au)

[goldenplains.vic.gov.au](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au)

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[GoldenPlainsShire](https://www.facebook.com/GoldenPlainsShire)

[GoldenPlainsMayor](https://www.facebook.com/GoldenPlainsMayor)



## COMMEMORATING ANZAC DAY IN GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

After a very different ANZAC Day in 2020, in-person services will return to Golden Plains Shire this year.



This year, residents are invited to remember and honour the sacrifice of those who have served the nation by attending one of the nine COVID-Safe services across the Shire on Sunday 25 April:

### Corindhap

6am, Corindhap Memorial Park, 4 Hall Road. Dawn service and Gunfire Breakfast.

### Bannockburn

6am, Bannockburn Monuments, High Street. Small parade with Memorial Service and laying of floral tributes.

### Teesdale

7am, Teesdale Monument, Shelford-Bannockburn Road. Memorial Service and laying of floral tributes.

### Shelford

7.45am, Shelford Monument, Shelford-Bannockburn Road. Memorial Service and laying of floral tributes.

### Inverleigh

9.15am, Inverleigh RSL Sub-Branch Building, 10/6 West Street. March to the Inverleigh monuments for Memorial Service and laying of floral tributes.

### Meredith

10am, Meredith Memorial Hall, 61 Straughton Street. Memorial Service and laying of floral tributes.

### Smythesdale

10am, Smythesdale War Memorial, Garden Street. Service followed by morning tea at the Recreation Centre.

### Rokewood

10.45am, Rokewood RSL, 35 Hardie Street. March followed by Service at Rokewood Memorial.

### Haddon

11am, Memorial Park Cenotaph in Haddon, Sago Hill Road. Service and reading.

A Councillor will be in attendance at each service to pay their respects and lay a wreath on behalf of Golden Plains Shire Council and the community. To stay up to date with these events, visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/events](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/events).



Golden Plains Shire Council is supporting young people and communities across the Shire with its new initiative of Pop-Up Youth Spaces in 2021.

Inverleigh is set to host the first Pop-Up Youth Space in Term 2, open to young people aged 10 to 18 years, on Wednesday afternoons from 3.30pm to 6.30pm at the Inverleigh Public Hall, from 21 April to 23 June.

Inverleigh's Pop-Up Youth Space will be supervised by Council's Youth Development Staff and a range of activities will be offered, including gaming consoles, table tennis, board games and music equipment, as well as healthy food and drinks.

The Inverleigh Pop-Up Youth Space will run in conjunction with the existing Youth Groups in Bannockburn and Smythesdale during school terms. The Pop-Up Youth Space will operate in other Golden Plains Shire towns in Term 3 and Term 4, 2021.

To register for the Inverleigh Pop-Up Youth Space or for more information, contact Council's Youth Team at [youth@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:youth@gplains.vic.gov.au).

## INVERLEIGH LEIGH RIVER PUBLIC OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Inverleigh Leigh River Public Open Space Committee of Management is to be held at the Inverleigh Public Hall, 71 High St, Inverleigh on Thursday 22 April 2021 commencing at 7.30pm. Residents are encouraged to attend this important meeting.

## TENDER

### GPSC-RFT-01-2021

#### Meredith-Shelford Road Widening Stage 3

**Description:** Submissions are requested from suitably experienced organisations for the above mentioned tender.

**Obtaining Documentation:** Log on to [www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au/tenders](http://www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au/tenders) and register at Council's eTender portal.

**Lodgement of Tenders:** Submissions must be lodged via the Golden Plains Shire Council electronic eTender portal at [tendersearch.com.au/goldenplains](http://tendersearch.com.au/goldenplains)

**Closing Time: 12.00 noon AEST, Wednesday 28 April 2021**

where opportunities grow...

## Public Holiday CONSULTATION

HAVE YOUR SAY!

### Submissions on the Public Holiday consultation close this weekend.

Have your say on whether the Golden Plains Shire community should observe Melbourne Cup Day or an alternative local holiday for the next four years by 5pm, Sunday 18 April.

To find out more, and details on Council's other current engagement opportunities, visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations).



## SPLASH PAD CLOSED FOR WINTER

Following a summer of fun at the Bannockburn Heart, the splash pad is now closed until summer.

Following the end of the water play season on Saturday 10 April, the splash pad equipment will be changed over with a basketball hoop, ensuring the site remains an active site for recreation over the cooler months. The adventure playground, active recreation equipment, public toilets, seating and BBQs, and the new outdoor dining area will also remain open for the community to enjoy.

The splash pad will reopen in summer, with all the details to be published on Council's website, social media channels, the Gazette and Council News in the Golden Plains Times.





23/04/2021

Golden Plains Business News: March 2021

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## THIS MONTH

Golden Plains Shire Council is pleased to welcome **Peter Ridsdale** as our new Coordinator Economic Development who commenced with our team last week. Peter brings diverse experiences and knowledge to the team with a career to date spanning business development and training, retail operations, hospitality, property development, investment, manufacturing and agribusiness. Peter will be leading the team in developing the next four year Economic Development & Tourism Strategy, attracting new industry, investment and events, developing business support initiatives for new and existing businesses in the region, and supporting our rural enterprises in exploring innovation and diversification in the agricultural sector. Peter can be contacted on 5220 7111 or [peter.ridsdale@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:peter.ridsdale@gplains.vic.gov.au)

This month's edition features:

- [The new Digital Hub at The Well, Smythesdale](#)
- [Victorian Government support for businesses](#)
- [An update on the Bird Flu Control Area](#)
- [New Federal Government initiative for hotels and female founded startups](#)
- [An opportunity to have your say on the spring public holiday](#)
- [Training opportunities for farmers](#)
- [Information on the Agriculture Energy Investment Plan](#)
- [A COVID-19 update](#)

If you would like any further information on any of the articles, or would like your business profiled in an upcoming edition, please contact the Economic Development team on 5220 7111 or [business@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:business@gplains.vic.gov.au).

23/04/2021

Golden Plains Business News: March 2021

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## HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE SPRING PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Local businesses and community members are invited to have their say on the future of the Spring Public Holiday arrangements for Golden Plains Shire.

Submissions are now open until 5pm, Sunday 18 April, 2021. Options for consideration include:

- Continue recent arrangement (part-shire observation of Geelong and Ballarat Show Days)
- Request an alternative local holiday, such as Geelong Cup Day
- Observe the Melbourne Cup Holiday in all parts of the Shire

Written submissions can be provided by:

- Completing an [online form](#)
- Emailing [enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au)
- Mail to the Chief Executive Officer, Golden Plains Shire Council, PO Box 111, Bannockburn, VIC 3331 - marked 'Urgent - submission' below.

For more information regarding the Spring Public Holiday consultation, follow the link below.

[Read more](#)

Only a small Control Area now remains for near Bairnsdale, where restrictions are still in place – you cannot move poultry, poultry products or equipment there without a permit.

For more information visit [agriculture.vic.gov.au](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au)

[Read more](#)

## JOIN THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REGISTER

## JOIN THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REGISTER

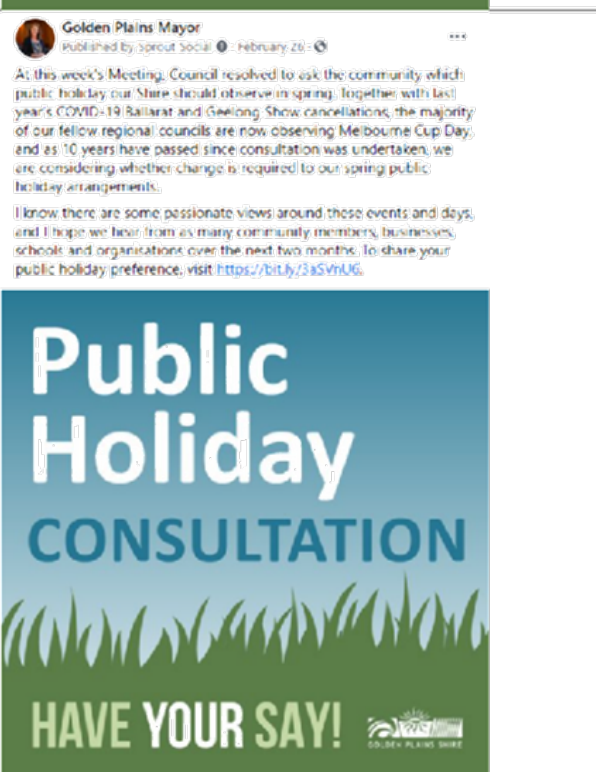

All residents are welcome to join Council's Community Engagement Register - a database of Golden Plains Shire community members who are interested in participating in community engagement activities.



Registered participants are informed directly by email of Council's many engagement opportunities including surveys, workshops, conversation posts and community reference groups.

In 2021, a new community engagement register newsletter will be launched and sent regularly to the full Community Engagement Register.



**Social media**

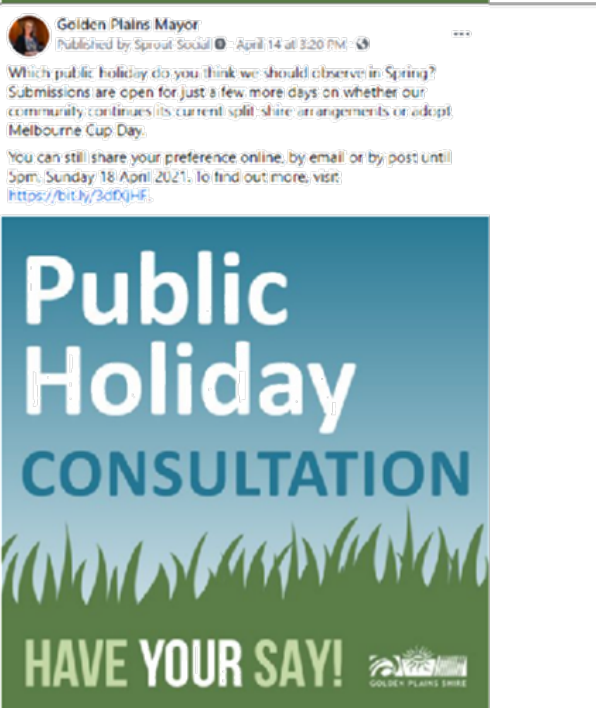

**Total posts:** 15  
**Total reach:** 4,770  
**Total engagement:** 161


<p><b>February 24</b></p> <p><b>Facebook</b>  <i>People reached:</i> 4,741  <i>Engagements:</i> 922</p> <p><b>LinkedIn:</b>  <i>People reached:</i> 166  <i>Engagements:</i> 4</p> <p><b>Twitter:</b>  <i>People reached:</i> 224  <i>Engagements:</i> 7</p> <p><b>Instagram:</b>  <i>People reached:</i> 190  <i>Engagements:</i> 6</p>	 <p><b>Golden Plains Shire Council</b>          Published by Sprout Social - February 24 -</p> <p>Should Golden Plains Shire observe the Melbourne Cup Public Holiday or an alternative local holiday for the next four years? That's the question we're asking residents.</p> <p>In Victoria, Melbourne Cup Day is observed as a public holiday unless an alternate local holiday has been arranged by a non-metro council. Since 2011, Council has requested part Shire arrangements as an alternative to Melbourne Cup Day, with Ballarat Show Day for the north of the Shire, and Geelong Show Day for the south of the Shire.</p> <p>Now, we want to hear from local residents and businesses to see if we should stick with this arrangement, observe another local holiday or join most councils and take Melbourne Cup Day as the public holiday. To have your say and share your public holiday preference, visit <a href="https://bit.ly/3kYsmJj">https://bit.ly/3kYsmJj</a>. Submissions are open until 18 April 2021.</p> 
<p><b>February 26</b></p> <p><b>Mayor's Facebook:</b>  <i>People reached:</i> 301  <i>Engagements:</i> 10</p>	 <p><b>Golden Plains Mayor</b>          Published by Sprout Social - February 26 -</p> <p>At this week's Meeting, Council resolved to ask the community which public holiday our Shire should observe in spring. Together with last year's COVID-19 Ballarat and Geelong Show cancellations, the majority of our fellow regional councils are now observing Melbourne Cup Day, and as 10 years have passed since consultation was undertaken, we are considering whether change is required to our spring public holiday arrangements.</p> <p>I know there are some passionate views around these events and days, and I hope we hear from as many community members, businesses, schools and organisations over the next two months. To share your public holiday preference, visit <a href="https://bit.ly/3kSVnUG">https://bit.ly/3kSVnUG</a>.</p> 

<p><b>March 4</b></p> <p><b>Facebook:</b>  <i>People reached: 454</i>  <i>Engagements: 3</i></p> <p><b>Twitter:</b>  <i>People reached: 183</i>  <i>Engagements: 9</i></p>	 <p><b>Golden Plains Shire Council</b>          Published by Sprout Social · March 4 ·</p> <p>Do you have a preference for which spring public holiday our community should observe over the next four years?</p> <p>We're reviewing the current arrangements and want to hear from you. Share your thoughts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>online at <a href="https://bit.ly/3kVNmJ">https://bit.ly/3kVNmJ</a></li> <li>email to <a href="mailto:enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au">enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au</a></li> <li>write to PO Box 111, Bannockburn VIC 3331</li> </ul> <p>Submissions are open until 18 April 2021. For all the details, visit <a href="https://bit.ly/3kVNmJ">https://bit.ly/3kVNmJ</a>.</p>
<p><b>March 16</b></p> <p><b>Facebook:</b>  <i>People reached: 439</i>  <i>Engagements: 5</i></p> <p><b>Twitter:</b>  <i>People reached: 157</i>  <i>Engagements: 3</i></p> <p><b>LinkedIn:</b>  <i>People reached: 115</i>  <i>Engagements: 1</i></p> <p><b>Instagram:</b>  <i>People reached: 203</i>  <i>Engagements: 3</i></p>	 <p><b>Golden Plains Shire Council</b>          Published by Sprout Social · March 16 ·</p> <p>We're seeking your feedback on whether Golden Plains Shire should observe the Melbourne Cup Public Holiday or an alternative local holiday for the next four years. Submissions are open until 18 April 2021, and you can have your say online, by email or by post. You can find all the details at <a href="https://bit.ly/3aSVnL6">https://bit.ly/3aSVnL6</a>.</p>



<p><b>March 31</b></p> <p><b>Facebook:</b>  <i>People reached: 418</i>  <i>Engagements: 4</i></p> <p><b>Twitter:</b>  <i>People reached: 140</i>  <i>Engagements: 3</i></p>	 <p>Golden Plains Shire Council  <small>Published by Sprout Social · March 31 at 7:00 PM ·</small></p> <p>Do you have a preference for which spring public holiday our community should observe over the next four years? We're reviewing our current arrangements and want to hear from you. Share your thoughts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>online at <a href="https://bit.ly/3sC0oru">https://bit.ly/3sC0oru</a></li> <li>email to <a href="mailto:enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au">enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au</a></li> <li>write to PO Box 111, Bannockburn VIC 3331</li> </ul> <p>Submissions are open until 18 April 2021. For all the details, visit: <a href="https://bit.ly/3sSVnU6">https://bit.ly/3sSVnU6</a>.</p>
<p><b>April 6</b></p> <p><b>Facebook:</b>  <i>People reached: 3,776</i>  <i>Engagements: 80</i>  <i>(Boosted Post: \$50)</i></p> <p><b>Twitter:</b>  <i>People reached: 313</i>  <i>Engagements: 3</i></p>	 <p>Golden Plains Shire Council  <small>Published by Sprout Social · April 6 at 7:00 PM ·</small></p> <p>Our public holiday consultation is closing in under two weeks. Have your say on whether the Golden Plains Shire community observes Melbourne Cup Day or an alternative local holiday for the next four years at <a href="https://bit.ly/3sSVnU6">https://bit.ly/3sSVnU6</a>. Submissions are open until Sunday 18 April, 2021.</p>

<p><b>April 12</b></p> <p><b>Facebook:</b>                  People reached: 829                  Engagements: 15</p> <p><b>Twitter:</b>                  People reached: 172                  Engagements: 3</p> <p><b>LinkedIn:</b>                  People reached: 167                  Engagements: 9</p>	 <p>Golden Plains Shire Council                  Published by Sprout Social · April 12 at 7:30 PM ·</p> <p>It's not too late to have your say on what public holiday our community should observe in spring. Feedback on whether to stick with split Show Day public holidays, observe another local holiday or mark Melbourne Cup Day closes this Sunday. Share your preference at <a href="https://bit.ly/32f0SHw">https://bit.ly/32f0SHw</a>.</p> <p><b>Public Holiday CONSULTATION</b></p> <p><b>HAVE YOUR SAY!</b></p> <p>GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE</p>
<p><b>April 14</b></p> <p><b>Mayor's Facebook:</b>                  People reached: 89                  Engagements: 0</p>	 <p>Golden Plains Mayor                  Published by Sprout Social · April 14 at 3:20 PM ·</p> <p>Which public holiday do you think we should observe in Spring? Submissions are open for just a few more days on whether our community continues its current split-share arrangements or adopt Melbourne Cup Day.</p> <p>You can still share your preference online, by email or by post until 5pm, Sunday 18 April 2021. To find out more, visit: <a href="https://bit.ly/32f0SHw">https://bit.ly/32f0SHw</a>.</p> <p><b>Public Holiday CONSULTATION</b></p> <p><b>HAVE YOUR SAY!</b></p> <p>GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE</p>
<p><b>April 14</b></p> <p><b>Instagram:</b>                  People reached: 225                  Engagements: 0</p>	 <p><b>Public Holiday CONSULTATION</b></p> <p><b>HAVE YOUR SAY!</b></p> <p>GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE</p> <p>lovegoldenplains</p> <p>lovegoldenplains It's not too late to have your say on what public holiday our community should observe in spring. Feedback on whether to stick with split Show Day public holidays, observe another local holiday or mark Melbourne Cup Day closes this Sunday. Share your preference at our website link in bio.</p> <p>lovegoldenplains #haveyoursayGPS #goldenplains #goldenshire</p> <p>Do the next to like this: 0</p> <p>ADD TAGS</p> <p>Add a comment...</p>

<p><b>April 16</b></p> <p><b>Facebook:</b>  <i>People reached: 485</i>  <i>Engagements: 7</i></p> <p><b>Twitter:</b>  <i>People reached: 169</i>  <i>Engagements: 3</i></p>	 <p>The screenshot shows a Facebook post from Golden Plains Shire Council. The post text reads: "Last chance to have your say on our spring public holiday consultation, with submissions closing at 5pm this Sunday, 18 April. Share your preference for keeping the Show Days, nominating another local day or switching to Melbourne Cup Day at <a href="https://bit.ly/3mCj9zX">https://bit.ly/3mCj9zX</a>." Below the text is a graphic with a blue background and green grass at the bottom. The graphic contains the text "Public Holiday CONSULTATION" in large white and blue letters, and "HAVE YOUR SAY!" in white letters on a green background. The Golden Plains Shire Council logo is in the bottom right corner of the graphic.</p>
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