



From the Mayor



It is my great honour and privilege to be elected Mayor of Golden Plains Shire for 2021/22.

I have a genuine passion for this Shire - its environment, its people, its diversity and its potential. And I feel excited

about the possibility to achieve great things for our community over the next year and our Council term.

I thank my fellow Councillor colleagues for their endorsement as Mayor, with special appreciation to Cr Helena Kirby, for her commitment and dedication in this role for the first year of our term. I congratulate Cr Kirby for her election as Deputy Mayor and look forward to continuing to work together this year.

Last year, our group of new and returning Councillors enjoyed visiting many townships and meeting residents across the Shire, which was valuable engagement into our Council Plan 2021-2025. Our second year is sure to be busy, too, as we move forward on delivering on these commitments for the people of Golden Plains and advocate for our Shire in the upcoming Federal and State elections.

Following a challenging year with the COVID-19 pandemic, I join Council in wishing all residents a very Merry Christmas and a happy, relaxing New Year. On behalf of the Councillors, we look forward with excitement to meeting more of the many outstanding people who live in our Shire and working together to represent all residents in the year ahead.

Cr Gavin Gamble – Mayor of Golden Plains Shire Council



New State Electoral Boundaries

The new Victorian state electoral boundaries announced in October will see Golden Plains Shire in three different electorates.

The new boundaries confirmed by the Electoral Boundaries Commission have resulted in Golden Plains Shire being represented in the next Victorian Parliament by the Members for Ripon, Geelong and the new seat of Eureka. Currently, Golden Plains Shire is split between the Districts of Buninyong and Polwarth.

Communities in the Shire's north including Linton, Scarsdale, Smythesdale, Haddon, Ross Creek and Napoleons will move out of the abolished seat of Buninyong into the District of Ripon. While the south-eastern growth area around Bannockburn, Russells Bridge

and Gheringhap will sit in the District of Geelong after shifting out of the District of Polwarth.

The remainder of the Shire which is currently split between the seats of Buninyong and Polwarth will now be joined together in the new District of Eureka. This includes Wallinduc, Rokewood, Shelford, Teesdale, Inverleigh, Dereel, Enfield, Meredith and Lethbridge.

The new boundaries will come into effect at the next Victorian State Election in November 2022. For more information on the redistribution, visit ebc.vic.gov.au

TURTLE BEND RESERVE UPGRADE PROJECT

Teesdale’s Turtle Bend Reserve is now an even better place to bring the community together, following the completion of an extensive upgrade project.

Over two years, the \$480,400 project has delivered a suite of new and improved facilities at the popular recreation and events precinct.

The upgrade included the installation of a wider pedestrian bridge connecting the reserve’s two playgrounds, a new public toilet block with a disabled toilet and baby change facilities, additional play space elements and seating, and a new multi-sport space with a half court for netball and basketball.

The project also featured a power upgrade for the site, the installation of a new septic system, and improved fencing to better support large community events.

The Teesdale Turtle Bend Reserve Upgrade was a partnership project, funded by \$222,000 from the Australian Government’s Building Better Regions Round 3 program; \$202,000 from Global Power Generation, the proponents of the Berrybank Wind Farm; and \$56,411 from Golden Plains Shire Council.

The reserve is a valuable social meeting space for the Teesdale community and surrounding towns, attracting people to the open recreation area and outdoor events. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the site attracted visitors from across the State to community events such as the Teesdale Christmas Carols, Live @ Turtle Bend Music Festival, Teesdale Community Harvest Markets and Teesdale Roots Culture Festival.



Mayor 2020/21 Cr Helena Kirby, Senator the Hon Sarah Henderson and Berrybank Wind Farm Community Engagement Officer Nathan Micallef at the upgraded Teesdale Turtle Bend Reserve.





Ready to play in Garibaldi

The Garibaldi Community Park Playground is open for play!



This year, Council's Playground Upgrade Program has delivered upgrades to playgrounds in Rokewood, Dereel and Haddon, and works were completed in September on the playground at Hardies Hill Road, Garibaldi.

The \$84,000 upgrade of the popular play space included replacing the existing slide as well as the old swing set with a new bird nest combo swing unit; installing a new shade sail; introducing a height measurement frame; natural play elements and seating; refreshing the soft fall material; and installing new perimeter edging.

The upgrade of Garibaldi Community Park Playground was fully funded by the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program. Council received \$240,455 from Round One of the program to upgrade the playgrounds in Garibaldi, Dereel, Haddon, and Linton. In addition, Council funded the upgrade of the Rokewood playground in 2021. Works at the Linton Recreation Reserve are scheduled to commence in early 2022.

**COMING SOON:
NEW ENFIELD PLAYGROUND**



Construction is underway on a new playground at Harrison Reserve in Enfield.

Funded by \$250,000 from the second round of the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program, the playground will feature a bird nest swing, new slide and dynamic climbing features for children of a range of ages. With construction already underway, the brand new playground is expected to open prior to Christmas, to be enjoyed during the summer holidays.

While the playground site is closed in Enfield, residents are encouraged to visit the Napoleons Recreation Reserve playground or the newly-upgraded playgrounds at Dereel or Garibaldi.

HOWZAT!

Investing in Local Cricket Infrastructure

Council is committed to improving the community's sporting infrastructure as it continues to work alongside its Victorian Government and Federal Government partners to increase participation and health and wellbeing in Golden Plains Shire.

LINTON CRICKET FACILITY

Works on a new three-bay cricket training facility at the Linton Recreation Reserve started in November.



On completion, the project will allow for increased training capacity at Linton Cricket Club and provide non-structured training opportunities for the Linton community.

The Linton Cricket Club is home to an active junior program and several senior cricket sides which participate in the Grenville Cricket Association. The Club undertakes an Under 8s development series as well.

The \$202,550 initiative is a partnership project, with the Victorian Government contributing \$100,000 from its 2019-2020 Community Cricket Program – Community Facilities Fund. Council invested \$72,500 and secured a grant from the Australian Cricket Infrastructure Fund for \$30,000.

The new cricket facility at Linton Recreation Reserve is scheduled to open in January 2022.

Mayor 2020/21 Cr Helena Kirby and Member for Buninyong Michaela Settle MP joined junior players Jye Gibbs, Lincoln Smith and Hunter McDonald to inspect the start of construction.

LETHBRIDGE CRICKET NET UPGRADE



Construction of the Lethbridge Cricket Net Upgrade Project is almost completed, delivering an outdoor cricket training facility with three synthetic pitches at the Lethbridge Recreation Reserve.

The facility is a \$170,000 partnership project, including \$100,000 from the Victorian Government's Community Cricket Program and \$20,000 from the Lethbridge Cricket Club.

The new cricket facility in Lethbridge is scheduled to open in January 2022.



NEW WICKETS FOR THE CRICKET SEASON

Keen cricketers in Shelford and Bannockburn have access to new hard wickets in time for the cricket season – with a third wicket in Ross Creek on the way.

The \$75,000 Hard Wicket Replacement Program is fully funded by Council and includes the two completed wickets at the Shelford Recreation Reserve and Oval 2 at Victoria Park in Bannockburn, alongside a third to be installed at Ross Creek Recreation Reserve.

Works on the wicket in Ross Creek have been delayed due to wet weather and the project is expected to commence over the cricket season's Christmas break.

In addition to the new hard wickets in Shelford, Bannockburn and Ross Creek, Council previously replaced the hard wickets at the Inverleigh Sporting Complex, Rokewood Recreation Reserve and Linton Recreation Reserve.

Mayor 2020/21 Cr Helena Kirby joined Shelford Cricket Club members Robert Rice, Jordan Clancy and William Green at Shelford Recreation Reserve to test the upgraded wicket.

Powering Community Buildings With The Sun



Community buildings in Meredith, Scarsdale, Inverleigh, Haddon, Teesdale and Bannockburn are now powered by solar energy.

Council- and community-owned facilities, including the Meredith Community Centre, Woody Yaloak Kindergarten, Northern Community Centre, Inverleigh Early Learning Centre, Haddon Kindergarten, Teesdale Children’s Centre and Bannockburn Family Services Centre, have all had solar panels installed as part of the Berrybank Wind Farm’s Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing Plan.

The 195 panels across the seven sites are expected to reduce the carbon footprint of the community buildings by 98.5 tonnes per year. The \$170,500 solar program from Berrybank Wind Farm’s developers Global Power Generation Australia (GPG) will also see solar systems installed on low-income housing in Golden Plains Shire.



Mayor 2020/21 Cr Helena Kirby, Off-Grid Energy Australia Manager – Victoria & Tasmania Aaron Lewtas, and Berrybank Wind Farm’s Nathan Micallef recently visited the Meredith Community Centre to see the final installation works. The Centre houses Council’s Meredith Kindergarten, as well as an Occasional Care program, playgroup and neighbourhood house services operated by the Meredith Community Centre Inc.

Community Idea Gets Water Connected

The Maude Recreation Reserve, home of the Bunjil Lookout, has been connected to reticulated water supply, thanks to advocacy from the local community.

During Golden Plains Shire Council’s 2020/21 Budget consultation process, the Maude Recreation Reserve Committee of Management made a budget submission requesting the site be connected to Barwon Water’s system.



The camping area and toilet block are now connected to the town’s reticulated water supply, having previously been reliant on a rainwater tank.

With funding made available through the Australian Government’s Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program, Council was able to deliver the project. The project was funded with \$15,500 from the \$1.3 million allocated to Council from the first round of the LRCI Program and \$18,500 from Golden Plains Shire Council.

An important cultural site to the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners, Council prepared a Cultural Heritage Management Plan and the project’s construction team, Council staff and community members undertook cultural heritage training with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation prior to the start of construction.

Maude Recreation Reserve Committee of Management Chairperson Murray Satchell, Committee member and Maude local Catherine Schurmann and Mayor 2020/21 Cr Helena Kirby at the Recreation Reserve.

Buy Local

THIS FESTIVE SEASON

Golden Plains Shire Council is proud to support the local business community and encourages residents to keep their money in the Shire to help the economic recovery this festive season.



For more on Council's *Buy Local This Festive Season* campaign, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au



Council wishes you
MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a
HAPPY NEW YEAR



On behalf of all Councillors and Council staff,
Golden Plains Shire Council wishes all residents and visitors a Merry Christmas and a safe, Happy New Year.

Golden Plains Shire Council will have altered hours during the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

The Customer Service Centres and Council offices at Bannockburn and Smythesdale will close at 1pm, Friday 24 December 2021, and will re-open at 8.30am, Tuesday 4 January, 2022.

Essential services will be available in this period, in case of an emergency. If you need urgent assistance, please call 5220 7111 and follow the prompts.

For more information on holiday operations and services including aged care and Maternal Health and Child Health, please visit Council's website in mid-December: goldenplains.vic.gov.au

RUBBISH AND RECYCLING COLLECTION

There are no changes to Council's waste and recycling collection service over the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

As always, please remember to place your bins out the night before your collection day.

ROKEWOOD TRANSFER STATION

The Rokewood Resource Recovery Centre will be closed on Sunday 26 December, 2021 and re-open for normal operational hours on Sunday 2 January, 2022.

STAY FIRE READY

The warmer months have arrived and everyone has an important responsibility to help reduce the risk of fire to their own property and the entire community, keeping Golden Plains Shire safe this fire season.

BE PREPARED. STAY PREPARED.

A well-prepared property is more likely to survive a fire. A key part of being fire ready is to reduce fine fuels on private properties, which is the main driver of fire intensity and spread.

Every resident and property owner has a role to play to protect the community. Landowners in Golden Plains Shire are required to keep grass on their properties cut so it is no higher than 100mm during the Fire Danger Period. On properties more than two hectares, grass must be kept below 100mm, up to a minimum of 20 metres from a house or outbuilding.

Under State Government legislation, Council must conduct fire hazard inspections of private property. Inspections started in November, and a total of 275 Fire Prevention Notices were issued to non-compliant properties.

Landowners who received a notice are required to complete specified works by early December; or risk a \$1,817 infringement notice and Council organising a contractor to complete the works at an additional cost.

BE INFORMED. STAY SAFE.

To stay informed this fire season, download the VicEmergency App on a phone or smart device. The official Victorian Government app features community information and warnings for all types of emergencies in Victoria.

Keep your family safe by confirming your emergency plan and sharing it with all occupants and any holiday visitors. Remember to review and restock your emergency kit every fire season.

COUNCIL FIRE PREVENTION

In October, Council began its own fire prevention works, commencing the annual roadside slashing program of all sealed roads and strategic fire breaks to reduce fuel loads. Council is anticipating another 470kms of roadsides will be slashed in the lead up to the Christmas period.

This year, Council is trialling a program to slash unsealed roadsides deemed suitable by its Environment and Sustainability Team. Council also conducts a burning of selected reserves to remove fire hazards. This program commences in the drier south of the Shire before moving north, with the program to be completed by Christmas.

EXTENSION FOR POOL AND SPA REGISTRATIONS

Property owners in Golden Plains Shire now have until 1 June 2022 to ensure pool and spa safety barriers have been installed, inspected and certified.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Victorian Government recently announced the extension of the certification deadline, to ensure compliance under its new swimming pool and spa safety laws.

Registration can be completed online at Council's website and includes a \$32.30 registration fee to cover

Council's costs administering this Victorian Government requirement.

Pool and spa owners can access the online registration link and more information on the Victorian Government's regulations at Council's website: goldenplains.vic.gov.au/pool-registration or call Council at 5220 7111.



A SAFE BRIDGE APPROACH

New signage is helping to keep drivers safe crossing Sharp Road Bridge in She Oaks.

Works were completed earlier this year on the project which installed flashing warning signage on the approaches to the single-lane Sharp Road Bridge as it crosses the Moorabool River. The solar powered LED warning signs sense approaching traffic and provide drivers with extra warning of oncoming vehicles.

Supported by the local Maude-She Oaks-Steiglitz Community Planning Group, the installation was a partnership project, with \$17,360 from the Victorian Government's Flexible Local Transport Solutions Program and \$10,000 from Council.

Mayor 2020/21 Cr Helena Kirby and Michaela Settle MP visited the new safety works at Sharp Road Bridge in She Oaks.

The road projects in She Oaks and Meredith add to the significant safety improvements Council has already completed in the area in recent years, including the new Coopers Bridge on Meredith-Steiglitz Road and \$1.48 million widening of 3km of Maude-She Oaks Road that were both completed in 2020, as well as the \$2.3 million replacement of the nearby Slate Quarry Road Bridge in Meredith.

BLACK SPOT FUNDING FOR BRIDGE APPROACH

The western approach to Coopers Bridge is set for a safety upgrade, funded by the Australian Government's Black Spot Program.

The project will deliver a safety barrier with motorcycle rub rail and enhancements to the reverse curves on the west approach to the bridge over the Moorabool River. Similar flashing warning signs to the ones installed at Sharp Road Bridge will also be installed at the nearby intersection of Pioneer Ridge Road and Meredith-Steiglitz Road.

Council has secured \$274,512 from the 2021-22 Black Spot Program to fully fund the project in Meredith. In addition, Council received \$360,000 under the same funding program for a 1.4km safety upgrade on Craddocks Road in Smythesdale. These valuable projects will be delivered in 2022.

The \$1.6 million Coopers Bridge on Meredith-Steiglitz Road was completed in 2020, replacing the old single-lane, load limited bridge with a stronger and wider two-lane structure.



The Golden Plains Twilight Market is back and bigger than ever with a relaxing evening of food, fun and fine crafts, just before Christmas.

Join in the festivities from **4 to 9pm on Thursday 16 December** at the Bannockburn Heart, corner of Milton and High Streets, Bannockburn. Support local growers and makers as you stock up on farm-fresh produce for your festive feasts, choose unique, handcrafted gifts for your Christmas stockings and enjoy a chilled craft beer, a glass of local wine or even a cocktail, while enjoying live music and great food.

Proudly sponsored by Bannockburn & District Grants, the Golden Plains Twilight Market is a one-stop shop for all your Christmas needs – fresh fruit and vegetables, flowers, free range meats, vegan treats and bespoke gifts direct from the farmers, makers, artists and gourmet providers of our region.

COVID-safe measures will be in place at the event, with more information available at goldenplains.vic.gov.au.



Following a disrupted 2021 due to COVID-19, the Golden Plains Farmers' Market is set for its best year yet in 2022.

Enjoy a morning out with family and friends on the first Saturday of the month with the Golden Plains Farmers' Market. The market showcases the very best the region has to offer amidst a relaxed, friendly environment from 8.30am to 12.30pm at the corner of Milton and High Streets, Bannockburn. You'll find local growers and makers offering, fresh produce, meats, cheese, wine, artisan breads, honey, olives, flowers, plants, natural personal products, unique art, bespoke gifts and much, much more!

Mark the calendar with the 2022 market dates:
5 February, 5 March, 2 April, 7 May, 4 June, 2 July, 6 August, 3 September, 1 October, 5 November and 3 December. The 2022 Twilight Market is on 15 December.

To stay up-to-date with the latest from the Golden Plains Farmers' Market, follow the market on Facebook: facebook.com/goldenplainsfarmersmarket.

**SIGN-UP
TO RECEIVE
COUNCIL'S**



Sign-up to receive Council's *eGazette* email newsletter, published in between editions of the *Gazette* community magazine.

To receive the next edition of the *eGazette* in January:

-  Complete the simple web form at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/egazette
-  Email communityengagement@gplains.vic.gov.au

NORTHERN STREETSAPES: HAVE YOUR SAY



Council is seeking feedback on the concept designs for the Northern Streetscapes Project to improve the main streetscapes of Smythesdale, Scarsdale and Linton.

Following community consultation on the Northern Streetscapes Project earlier this year, Council has developed the Draft Streetscape Framework Plan.

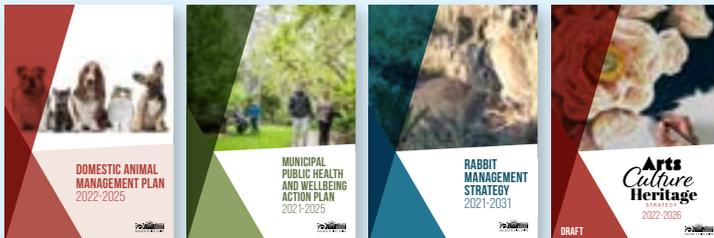
The concept designs propose a broad range of upgrades and smaller scale changes for the streetscapes of each township. Potential features highlighted in the concept designs include increasing accessible street crossing areas, modification of parking arrangements, installation of public art features and town banners, street tree succession planning, planting of additional roadside vegetation and road safety improvements.

The Northern Streetscape Project consultation is open from 11 November to 14 December 2021.

The digital survey is available for completion or download at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations; and paper surveys are also available at Council's Customer Service Centres, 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn or The Well, 19 Heales Street, Smythesdale.

MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TO GOLDEN PLAINS

Over the past few months, Council has sought community feedback on several important plans, strategies and projects.



Following community feedback, Council recently adopted its Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Action Plan 2021-2025, Long-Term Financial Plan 2021/22-2030/31, updated Governance Rules and Mobile Traders Policy, as well as endorsed the G21 and AFL Barwon Towards 2030: Strategy.

Community members also had their say on the Sebastopol-Smythesdale Road Speed Review, Draft Rabbit Management Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2031, Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan, and Draft Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy 2022-2026.

Thank you to the many locals who have made a positive contribution to our communities by having their say and sharing their ideas.

If you want to have your say, sign-up for Council's *Engage* e-newsletter or keep informed about Council consultations at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations.

COUNCIL BUDGET 2022/23 ENGAGEMENT

The Council Budget 2022/23 will deliver on Council's commitment to services, projects and programs over the next financial year, under the guidance of the Council Plan 2021-2025, Golden Plains Shire Community Vision 2040 and Long-Term Financial Plan 2021/22-2030/31.

To support the preparation of the next Budget, a community survey will be open to all Golden Plains Shire residents, seeking feedback on the priorities for the 2022/23 financial plan.

Council will also hold open community workshops in February 2022:

- Tuesday 8 February: Golden Plains Civic Centre, 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn and livestreamed on YouTube
- Thursday 10 February: The Well, 19 Heales Street, Smythesdale

The workshop will include a financial presentation on the Council Budget and the 2022/23 commitment of the Council Plan 2021-2025, as well as a Q&A session.

More information on the Budget consultation will be available in January 2022 at Council's website: goldenplains.vic.gov.au. Or sign up to Council's Community Engagement Register at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/community-engagement-register

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD



Customer Service

BANNOCKBURN

8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday
2 Pope Street, Bannockburn
Victoria, 3331.

SMYTHESDALE

8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday
19 Heales Street, Smythesdale
Victoria, 3351.

PHONE

P: 5220 7111

F: 5220 7100

POSTAL ADDRESS

Golden Plains Shire Council
PO Box 111, Bannockburn,
Victoria 3331.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

P: 1300 363 036

P: 5220 7111 (24 Hours)

To receive a copy of the *Gazette*
in large print, call 5220 7111.

**Council's Customer Service Centres
and offices will be closed at 1pm,
Friday 24 December, 2021 and
will reopen at 8.30am, Tuesday
4 January, 2022. The centres and
offices will also be closed for the
Australia Day Public Holiday on
Wednesday 26 January, 2022.**



*COVER: Young
Golden Plains
Shire residents
Stella and Liv
crossed the
bridge while
exploring at
upgraded
Teesdale Turtle
Bend Reserve.*

RATES PAYMENT

All Golden Plains Shire ratepayers received their 2021/22 Rates Notices in the mail in August.

Thank you to all the ratepayers who have signed up to the monthly payment programs, with those payments due on the 15th of the month through to June 2022.

For residents who signed up to pay their rates by instalments, the third payment is due on 28 February 2022. Full payment of the Rates Notice is due on 15 February 2022.

At its meeting on 28 July, Council extended its COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy with additional support for 2021/22 rates payments. To apply for Council's COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy or discuss your rates payment, please call the Rates team for a confidential conversation at 5220 7111.



FREE SKIN SCREENING IN INVERLEIGH

The Lions Club of Inverleigh-Leigh Valley is hosting a free skin screening service for community members from 9.30am to 3.30pm on Friday and Saturday, 21 and 22 January, 2022.

The skin screening van is operated by fully trained and certificated volunteer dermoscopists who will provide skin checks and issue referrals to a GP, if there are any skin lesions that require further attention. The volunteers will also be able to support the community with important information about skin care and self-checking techniques.

Bookings open on 16 December; contact Lion John Crowe at 0414 674 156 or john.crowe1@bigpond.com.

JOIN THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REGISTER



Join the Community Engagement Register to receive *Engage*, Council's monthly engagement e-newsletter.



Complete the simple web form at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/community-engagement-register



Email communityengagement@GPLains.vic.gov.au

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