



From the Mayor



As the weather starts to warm up and the golden wattles are blooming across the Shire, it's an exciting time in Golden Plains. We have a range of new and returning programs taking place and the community events calendar is beginning to fill up for the warmer months.

Council is delighted to be working alongside community groups and local organisations to offer the Active Golden Plains: Spring into Summer program and a fantastic calendar of events for Seniors Festival this month (page 11).

Each year, the Golden Plains Shire Council Community Awards provide a fantastic opportunity to recognise the important contributions community members and groups make across Golden Plains Shire. Nominations are opening for this year's Awards, with opportunities to acknowledge community groups and individual citizens (page 10). There are many categories and I encourage all residents to reflect and nominate people they know in their community, town or club that have had a positive impact and deserve to have their voluntary contribution recognised.

In the last edition of the Gazette, we were pleased to share the results of our advocacy in the first half of the year, with projects funded through the Federal Election and a range of Victorian Government funding programs. As we prepare for the upcoming State Election, you'll be able to read about some of the projects we'll be advocating for and our partnerships with regional local government alliances (page 7, 8 and 9). While there may not be a project for every town on these lists, every community in Golden Plains benefits from the funding Council secures, as it allows us to put Council's Budget into unfunded projects in our smaller towns.

In this Gazette, we are also celebrating the official launch of the Living Sculptures art project in Linton (page 3) and the completion of a number of road and footpath upgrades (page 4 and 5).

In the coming months we look forward to welcoming the Great Vic Bike Ride to Golden Plains, alongside the return of the Meredith Music Festival, and local events including the Golden Plains Farmers' Market, Smythesdale Country Market, the Creators and Craft Market, and the Meredith Car Show (page 11).

Cr Gavin Gamble – Mayor of Golden Plains Shire Council

CHANGES TO CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION SERVICE

Council's childhood immunisation service delivered by City of Ballarat in the Shire is changing.

Due to staff shortages and low attendance in some areas of the Shire, the contracted service will be reduced from four to two monthly immunisation sessions for the remainder of 2022.

Throughout this year, there have been significant staff shortages across the health sector which have impacted the delivery of the childhood immunisation service in Golden Plains Shire, resulting in the cancellation of a number of sessions.

To ensure the continuity of childhood immunisation services for the rest of 2022, Council has worked with City of Ballarat to update the service schedule with new locations, days and times, including an additional session in the north and centre of the Shire in November.

Following low attendance in Bannockburn throughout 2022 and the availability of bulk-billing options in the south of the shire, the childhood immunisation service will no longer be available at the Bannockburn Family Services Centre. The service will continue in the north and centre of the Shire, with clinics at Rokewood and the new location of Smythesdale, a change from the previous offerings at Linton and Haddon.

Childhood immunisations will be available from 10 to 10.30am at Rokewood Community Health Centre, 57 Ferrars Street, and from 11.30am to 12.15pm at The Well, 19 Heales Street Smythesdale on Thursdays 6 October, 10 November and 8 December.

All sessions are drop-in, with no bookings required. Parents are reminded to please bring their Medicare Card and the child's Health Record Book to the session.



Art Comes to Life in Linton

Living Sculptures Project Officially Launched!



Mayor Cr Gavin Gamble officially launched the artwork project on Saturday 3 September, alongside Malcolm Sanders of Regional Arts Victoria, Linton local Kylie Turville, Wadawurrung artist Kait James and settler artist Forest Keegel. Wadawurrung storyteller and song man Barry Gilson performed a traditional Smoking Ceremony to Welcome to Country the Living Sculptures.

The Linton community were heavily involved in the development of the art project, which saw the creation of a 13 metre buniya (eel) and a 23 metre kadak (large snake) at Edinburgh Reserve, to honour Wadawurrung culture.

Community workshops were held earlier this year to develop the themes of the living artwork, and the artists worked closely with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners to refine these ideas into the concept for the final artwork, which was planted by the community.

The Living Sculptures project was funded by a \$30,000 grant from the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund provided through Regional Arts Australia, administered by Regional Arts Victoria, and \$14,940 from Council.



RECOGNISING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF WOMEN

Work is underway on a new public artwork to recognise Dr Vera Scantlebury OBE.

Funded by \$116,811 from the Victorian Government's Victorian Women's Public Art Program and \$39,575 (including \$9,680 in-kind) from Council, the 1.75m bronze sculpture will celebrate the contributions of Linton-born war surgeon and Director of Infant and Maternal Health, Dr Vera Scantlebury OBE.

Local artist Lucy McEachern is creating the statue, which will be sited in the memorial Avenue of Honour in Linton and sit opposite an existing memorial of men who served in World War 1, becoming the first public artwork in the township recognising or representing women.

On the Road in Golden Plains



BLACK SPOT UPGRADES COMPLETE

Drivers in Smythesdale and Meredith are benefitting from a safer drive following the completion of safety upgrade works.

A total of 1.4 kilometres of Craddocks Road was upgraded as part of the project, with the installation of safety barriers on the road's curves between Short Road and Whites Road. New and upgraded signage was also installed, including an advisory speed limit of 60 km/h on the road's three curves, and Give Way signs at the intersection with Turnbull Court.

Similar works were completed at Meredith-Steiglitz Road, with the installation of guard rails and steep incline warning signs with flashing lights, as well as upgraded line markings.

The \$268,000 safety upgrades were fully funded by the Australian Government's 2021-22 Black Spot Program.

SAFER INTERSECTIONS IN BERRINGA AND GARIBALDI

Safety upgrade works have been recently completed on two key intersections in Berringa and Garibaldi.

Works to widen and seal approximately 100m of Staffordshire Reef Road, Snowgum Road and 50m of Derwent Jack Road in Berringa were undertaken following community requests, with works beginning in May 2022 and completed in September 2022.

Upgrades in Garibaldi included road asphalt resurfacing and shoulder improvement works to increase safety on the busy Buninyong–Mt Mercer Road and Hardies Hill Road intersection.

The \$1.1 million safety upgrades were fully funded by the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Fund.



MEREDITH-SHELFORD ROAD UPGRADE SET FOR COMPLETION

At its July meeting, Council awarded the tender for the completion of Stage 4 and 5 of the Meredith-Shelford Road Widening Project.

Stage 4 and 5 will include the widening of approximately 4.65 kilometres of Meredith-Shelford Road south of Meredith, alongside major culvert upgrade works and the installation of guard fencing, completing the staged upgrade of the road.

The Meredith-Shelford Road Widening Project commenced in 2020, with three stages of works undertaken to widen and resurface approximately 6-kilometres of Meredith-Shelford Road throughout 2020 and 2021.

SAFER WALKWAYS FOR THE SHIRE

Footpath upgrades were recently completed in Linton, Lethbridge and Teesdale as part of Council's Footpath Renewal Program.

The recent works included the upgrade of high foot traffic areas in Linton and Lethbridge, with the footpaths at Linton Primary School and 96-92 Sussex Street,

Linton sealed, and drainage improvements and sealing works completed at 39-43 Russell Street, Lethbridge.

In Teesdale, a completed footpath extension at a new estate located at 11 Caladenia Street will allow for increased traffic movement.

The \$97,766.83 footpath upgrade project was fully funded by Council.



BOWLED OVER IN BANNOCKBURN

On 19 July, the Bannockburn & District Bowls Club came together to celebrate the official opening of their new bowling green.

With a crowd of local bowlers, the \$760,270 Bannockburn & District Bowls Club Greens Upgrade project was officially opened by Member for Geelong Christine Couzens, Golden Plains Shire Mayor Cr Gavin Gamble and Bannockburn & District Bowls Club President Les McInerney.

The upgrade project involved the installation of a new bowling green, alongside the installation of high-quality lighting, landscaping, paths, new seating and shelters at the Bannockburn & District Bowls Club.

The \$760,270 partnership project was funded by \$370,670 from Golden Plains Shire Council, \$250,000 from Sport and Recreation Victoria and \$140,000 from the Bannockburn & District Bowls Club.


Advocating for Golden Plains

Golden Plains Shire Council welcomes the State Government Election to be held on Saturday 26 November, 2022.

In the lead up to the election, Council has been advocating for bi-partisan commitments for valuable community infrastructure and important services across the Shire. The new boundaries released in 2021 have placed the townships of Golden Plains Shire in three state electorates: Eureka, Ripon and Geelong.

Following an election campaign, each electorate receives funding to deliver the promises on the political party who forms government, regardless of the aligned party of the newly-elected member of parliament.

With 56 communities in Golden Plains Shire, State Election commitments won't reach all the corners of the municipality, but every dollar of government investment that's secured saves money in Council's budget. This allows more money to be redirected to improving roads and delivering works in smaller townships that don't get election commitments.



New State Electoral Boundaries

The new boundaries confirmed by the Electoral Boundaries Commission in 2021 will see Golden Plains Shire 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. Other communities outside Golden Plains Shire in Ripon will include the western and northern outskirts of Ballarat, Ararat, Beaufort, St Arnaud and Maryborough.

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. Outside of Golden Plains Shire, the District of Geelong includes Fyansford and Geelong's inner suburbs and CBD.

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 District of Eureka will also include Ballarat's eastern suburbs, Buninyong, Gordon, Ballan and Bacchus Marsh.

STAY UP-TO-DATE

To stay up-to-date with State Election promises in Golden Plains, read Council News in the *Golden Plains Times* and Council's website: goldenplains.vic.gov.au. Or follow Golden Plains Shire Council on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram.

STATE ELECTION: EUREKA ELECTORATE



In 2022, the Golden Plains Shire townships in the new electorate of Eureka include Wallinduc, Rokewood, Shelford, Teesdale, Inverleigh, Dereel, Enfield, Meredith and Lethbridge.

In 2022, Council has advocated for commitments for the following priority projects in the Eureka electorate:

Teesdale Changerooms Upgrade:

\$2.75 million to build two new, female friendly changerrooms at Don Wallace Reserve in Teesdale, inclusive of amenities that meet the minimum AFL Victoria requirements for a local level facility.

Inverleigh Recreation Reserve Lighting Upgrade:

\$420,000 to fund 150 lux lighting and drainage on oval 2, supporting greater participation and training at Inverleigh Recreation Reserve.

Maude Community Hub:

\$350,000 to deliver a new pavilion at Maude Recreation Reserve, featuring a large social room suitable for

community events, functions and meetings, as well as a viewing deck at this new accessible location.

Lethbridge Changerooms Upgrade:

\$2.75 million to build two new, female friendly changerrooms at Lethbridge Recreation Reserve, inclusive of amenities that meet the minimum AFL Victoria Requirements for a local level facility.

Meredith Cricket Nets:

\$250,000 to construct a new cricket training facility at Meredith Recreation Reserve, inclusive of three new training pitches, fencing, and the provision of power to support club activities.

Lethbridge Play Space Upgrade:

\$400,000 to upgrade the existing Lethbridge Recreation Reserve play space, including play elements, street furniture, paths and landscaping.

STATE ELECTION: GEELONG ELECTORATE



In 2022, the south-eastern growth area of Golden Plains Shire joins the electorate of Geelong, with residents in Bannockburn, Russells Bridge and Gheringhap now voting to elect the Member for Geelong for the next term.

In the electorate of Geelong, Council has advocated for commitments for the following priority projects:

Midland Highway Duplication:

\$275 million for the duplication of the Midland Highway from Bannockburn to the Geelong Ring Road.

Bannockburn Family Services Centre Expansion:

\$750,000 to expand the Bannockburn Family Children's Services Centre to support an additional 60 kindergarten places in the growing south of the Shire.

Bannockburn Skate and Pump Track:

\$550,000 for a new BMX/pump track at the skate park in Bannockburn, home to the Shire's only high school and a rapidly growing youth population.

Inverleigh Recreation Reserve Lighting Upgrade:

\$420,000 to fund 150 lux lighting and drainage on oval 2, supporting greater participation and training at Inverleigh Recreation Reserve.

Bannockburn Recreation Precinct Upgrade:

\$4.65 million to deliver a new synthetic junior sports oval for junior football (soccer), Australian Rules, Little Athletics, hockey and cricket.

Regional Partnerships

Council is working closely with a number of regional alliances to advocate for the services and infrastructure needed to support the growing population of the region.

As part of the Peri-Urban Councils Victoria, Council works alongside other peri-urban councils in Victoria to gain greater support and investment to accommodate the significant population growth in regional areas that border major cities.

Council also works closely with neighbouring Council's in the G21 Regional Alliance and Central Highlands Councils alliance, to advocate for solutions to the common issues faced in the region.

In the lead up to the State Election, Mayor Cr Gavin Gamble recently visited Victorian Parliament, alongside



representatives from the G21 Regional Alliance. Over two days the group held 15 meeting with Members of Parliament, including Ministers and Shadow Ministers, discussing the impact of the region's rapid growth on transport, housing and the workforce.

STATE ELECTION: RIPON ELECTORATE



In 2022, communities in the Shire's north including Linton, Scarsdale, Smythesdale, Haddon, Ross Creek and Napoleons will move out of the former seat of Buninyong into the District of Ripon.

In the electorate of Ripon, Council has advocated for commitments for the following priority projects:

Smythesdale Sub-Regional Play Space:

\$2.2 million for a new play space featuring age-diverse play elements, street furniture, barbeques, shade structure and accessible public toilets, co-located with the Smythesdale Skate Park.

24-Hour Ambulance Station:

A new 24-hour ambulance station to better serve the northern townships of Golden Plains Shire, who currently experience notably poor ambulance response times.

Northern Streetscapes Project:

\$1.3 million to deliver Stage Two of the Northern Streetscapes Project to beautify the town centres of Linton, Scarsdale and Smythesdale, increasing visitation to the northern corridor of the Shire.

Linton Library Restoration:

\$475,000 to deliver the restoration of the historic Linton library.

Public Bus Network:

A commitment to extend Ballarat's public bus service to Smythes Creek, Smythesdale and Scarsdale, providing greater access to public transport in the north of Golden Plains Shire.

On 1 June, the Liberal Party announced an election funding commitment to extend the bus network from Ballarat to Smythesdale and Haddon, if the Coalition is elected at the State Election in November.

SIGN-UP TO RECEIVE COUNCIL'S eGAZETTE



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 November:



Complete the simple web form at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/egazette.



Email communityengagement@gplains.vic.gov.au.

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.

GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL COMMUNITY AWARDS 2022



RECOGNISING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SHIRE RESIDENTS

The Golden Plains Shire Council Community Awards will return in 2022, providing an opportunity to formally acknowledge extraordinary individuals and community groups who make an outstanding contribution to Golden Plains Shire.

The 2022 Awards will be presented to three individuals: Citizen of the Year, Senior Citizen of the Year, and Young Citizen of the Year. In addition, the Community Impact Award recognises the valuable contribution of a community event, project, group or team.

Nominee achievements are welcome in fields including community service, arts and culture, environment, business, economic development and sport.

Nominations are open from Monday 3 October to 5pm, Monday 14 November, with nomination forms available online at goldenplains.vic.gov.au, or in hard copy at Council's Customer Hubs in Bannockburn and Smythesdale.

A ceremony will be held in January to recognise nominees and announce the Community Award winners.

The Great Vic Bike Ride is Coming to Golden Plains

The Great Vic Bike Ride (the Ride) is set to roll through Golden Plains later this year, with an overnight stay in Inverleigh on Saturday 3 December.

Beginning in Koroit on Saturday 26 November, the Ride will make its way to Inverleigh over eight days, through Timboon, Birregurra, Apollo Bay and Anglesea, before travelling through Golden Plains to Buninyong.

The Ride will see approximately 3,000 riders and 800 support people set up camp overnight at the Inverleigh Recreation Reserve, bringing fundraising opportunities for local community groups and a boost in visitation for local businesses.

Council has worked closely with event organisers to bring the Ride to Golden Plains and in June, awarded Bicycle Network a \$5,000 Community Strengthening Grant to support the event's overnight stay in the Shire.



Active GOLDEN PLAINS

SPRING INTO SUMMER

SPRING INTO SUMMER

Council's new Active Golden Plains 'Spring into Summer' program is helping residents find new ways to stay active, with a range of physical activities and wellbeing events across the Shire.

Council has partnered with community groups, sporting clubs, gyms, fitness instructors and residents from across the Shire to create a calendar of activities delivered by experienced local health, fitness and sport professionals with options suitable for all ages, interests and fitness levels.

To find out more, and see the full calendar, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/spring-into-summer.

Love to support local events?

Visit Council's events calendar to plan a great weekend out and about in Golden Plains: goldenplains.vic.gov.au/events; or follow Golden Plains Shire Council on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram for what's on in the Shire.

If you'd like to advertise your community event for free on Council's event calendar, visit: goldenplains.vic.gov.au/forms/event-registration.

SENIORS FESTIVAL

Victorian Seniors Festival 40 Years 2022

Takin' it Easy

SENIORS FESTIVAL RETURNS

Council is encouraging seniors in the Shire to get out and about during the 2022 Victorian Seniors Festival.

In partnership with the Victorian Seniors Festival and local organisations and community groups, Council's Positive Ageing team have developed a calendar of events for local seniors, with free or low-cost events and activities taking place across the Shire.

The calendar includes opportunities for participants to get active with walking groups, soft tennis, or the Steady Feet over 60s exercise program; get out and about with trips to the Geelong Art Gallery as well as a Mystery Outing; and engage with other seniors in the Shire at weekly sewing and quilters groups or over delicious morning teas and lunches while enjoying music, games and other activities.

Bookings are essential. Transport is available for Council facilitated events. To find out more, visit: goldenplains.vic.gov.au or contact Council's Positive Ageing team 5220 7111 or ageingandinclusion@gplains.vic.gov.au.

What's On: October and November



Golden Plains Farmers' Market – From 8.30am to 12.30pm on the first Saturday of the month at the Bannockburn Heart, corner of Milton and High Streets, Bannockburn.

Smythesdale Country Market – From 10am to 2pm on the third Saturday of the month at the Smythesdale Historic Precinct, Brooke Street, Smythesdale.

Meredith Car Show – 10am to 3pm on Sunday 20 November at Meredith Recreation Reserve, Wilson Street, Meredith.

Bunjil Lookout Creatives Gathering – 10am to 2pm on Sunday 23 October at Bunjil Lookout, 1795 Steiglitz Road, Maude.

Creators and Craft Market – 10am to 2pm on Sunday 27 November at Lions Park Reserve, Bannockburn.

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.

*COVER: Local residents in Linton
participate in a traditional smoking
ceremony as part of the official
launch of the Living Sculptures Art
Project at Edinburgh Reserve..*

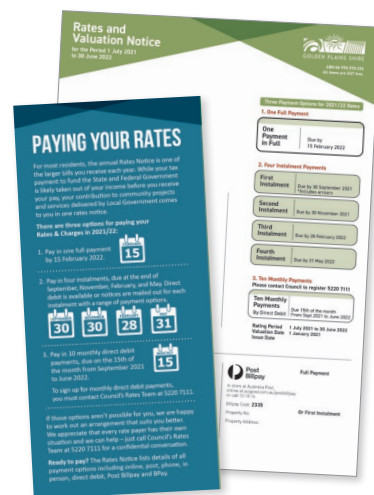
RATES PAYMENT

All Golden Plains Shire ratepayers received their 2022-23 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 2023.

For residents who signed up to pay their rates by instalments, the second payment is due on 30 November 2022. Full payment of the Rates Notice is due on 15 February 2023.

To discuss your rates payment, please call our Rates team for a confidential conversation at 5220 7111.



KEEP SOFT PLASTICS SEPARATE

Did you know soft plastics are not accepted in kerbside yellow-top recycling bins?

Soft plastics cannot be processed at Material Recovery Facilities because they jam the automated sorting machines, meaning they are a contaminate in your recycling bin.

To dispose of soft plastics, please drop them at a REDcycle collection point at your local Woolworths or Coles, or place them in the garbage bin. Do not put them in your kerbside recycling bin.

To be recycled at a REDcycle collection point, the plastic must be dry and empty but small bits of paper such as price stickers and labels can be left on.

For more information on what can and can't go in your yellow-lid recycling bin, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/waste.

AUSTRALIA'S NEW FIRE DANGER RATING SYSTEM

On 1 September 2022, fire danger ratings changed in every state and territory to the new Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS).

With the new system now in place, Fire Danger Rating signs across Golden Plains Shire, and the state, are being updated. Instead of displaying six Fire Danger Rating levels, the new signs will have just four categories, ranging from moderate to catastrophic.

To find out more about the new AFDRS, visit emergency.vic.gov.au/firedangerratings.



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