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From the Mayor

It is an honour and a privilege to be elected as Mayor of Golden Plains Shire for 2022/23.

I am passionate about the local communities in Golden Plains and I look forward to continuing to work and serve the residents of Golden Plains, now in the position of Mayor.

I believe we live in one of the best Shires in the land and I pledge to continue to deliver for the community and address future challenges as they arise.

I am dedicated to strengthening confidence in Council and building community support through transparency and engagement and am focused on delivering services and support across the Shire, attracting new business and investment while managing the Shire's growth, and advocating for funding for local roads and improved maintenance of facilities.

Over the past twelve months, myself and my fellow Councillors have enjoyed visiting many townships across the Shire and meeting residents and we can't wait to continue to get out and about in the community in the New Year.

I look forward to working with my fellow Councillors over the next twelve months to deliver for the residents of Golden Plains and I join Council in wishing all residents a very Merry Christmas and a happy, relaxing New Year.

Cr Brett Cunningham – Mayor of Golden Plains Shire Council

ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22 OUT NOW

Council's Annual Report 2021/22 is an accurate and detailed report of the operations and services of Council in the past financial year, as well as a strategic account of the Council's achievements and challenges in 2021/22.

The Annual Report 2021/22 shares the story of Council's major highlights and achievements from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

The Annual Report 2021/22 is available to view online and download on Council's website: goldenplains.vic.gov.au.

Printed copies of the Annual Report 2021/22 are available to view at Council's Customer Service Centres at 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn and 19 Heales Street, Smythesdale.



Council Welcomes \$2.2 million in State Funding

Golden Plains Shire Council has welcomed the allocation of \$2,292,587 from the Victorian Government’s Growing Suburbs Fund for the Inverleigh Active Youth Space and Stage 2 of the Bannockburn Skate Park Upgrade.



INVERLEIGH ACTIVE YOUTH SPACE

Member for Geelong Christine Couzens MP was joined by Mayor 2021/22 Cr Gavin Gamble and local young people on Monday 3 October to announce \$805,000 for Stage 2 of the Bannockburn Skate Park Upgrade.

The second stage of the upgrade project will include the construction of a skate bowl, alongside supporting infrastructure including lighting, furniture, landscaping and shelter.

The project will extend the current skate park to cater to intermediate and advanced skaters, while providing a space for young people in the Shire to stay active, healthy and engaged.

This is the fourth consecutive round of Growing Suburbs Fund support for Golden Plains Shire, with close to \$6.5 million secured through the program since 2020, resulting in nearly \$8.5 million in community infrastructure. Delivery is underway on the Rokewood Community Hub and the Ross Creek Play and Active Rec Upgrade. The Golden Plains Youth Hub was completed and officially opened in April 2022.

BANNOCKBURN SKATE PARK UPGRADE

Member for Buninyong Michaela Settle MP and Mayor 2021/22 Cr Gavin Gamble visited Inverleigh on Friday 7 October to announce \$1,487,587 in funding for the Inverleigh Active Youth Space

The project will expand and develop the Yerram Yaluk Bun Play Space in Inverleigh to an active recreation and community space, with the upgraded facility to include a new skate park, BMX pump track, social basketball courts, seating, shade and shelters, alongside lighting and beautification works.

The Active Youth Space designs seek to provide increased opportunities for young people in the growing township of Inverleigh to be physically active, build social connections and encourage positive behaviours.

In addition to the announcement, the Australian Government has committed \$700,000 and Council will contribute \$150,000 to complete the funding for this partnership project.



FUNDING FOR A NEW MOBILE LIBRARY IN GOLDEN PLAINS

Council has secured a \$111,599 funding grant from the Victorian's Governments Living Libraries Infrastructure program to purchase and fit out a new mobile library van.

Member for Buninyong Michaela Settle MP announced the grant with Golden Plains Shire Deputy Mayor 2021/22 Cr Helena Kirby and Golden Plains Shire Cr and Geelong Regional Libraries Board Member Owen Sharkey at the scheduled weekly mobile library visit in Meredith in October.

The grant will see the purchase and fit out of a new mobile library van to replace the existing mobile library, which is no longer suitable for the service and expensive to run. The new van will enhance the current service offering, providing greater flexibility and reach in locations, service offerings and staffing, and being more economical to run. The smaller van will be accessible, with a wheelchair hoist to be included in the fit out of the van, alongside shelving, equipment and library resources.

In addition to the Living Libraries Infrastructure funding grant, Council will contribute \$37,000 to deliver the purchase and fit out of the new mobile library.

Council partners with Geelong Regional Libraries Corporation to deliver the mobile library service across nine townships in Golden Plains Shire. The Mobile Library provides residents with access to a variety of books, audiobooks, DVDs and magazines, as well as the ability to access any of Geelong Regional Libraries' 400,000 library items by requesting a hold through the online catalogue.

FUNDING FOR LETHBRIDGE PLAY SPACE UPGRADE



Council has secured \$200,000 funding from the Victorian Government's Living Local Fund towards the Lethbridge Play Space Upgrade.

In addition to the Living Local funding, Council will contribute \$200,000 to fully fund and deliver the project.

Member for Buninyong Michaela Settle MP announced the funding with Golden Plains Shire Mayor 2021/22 Cr Gavin Gamble at the existing Lethbridge play space in October.

The funding will support upgrades to the existing play elements, street furniture, paths, and landscaping at the Lethbridge Play Space, with the aim to encourage physical activity, social connection and increase township visitation.

HEALTH SERVICES RETURN TO SMYTHESDALE



Council has secured \$50,000 in funding from the Victorian Government’s Living Local Regional Fund alongside a \$50,000 co-contribution from Global Power Generation Australia (GPG) to ensure health services can return to Smythesdale and surrounding townships in the north of the Shire.

These funds will see the fit out of the clinic rooms located at The Well in Smythesdale with specialist medical equipment and furnishing, removing a significant financial barrier for the incoming general practitioners.

The clinic will have two medical practitioners and support staff, with the gradual addition of allied health services including a podiatry service. With the pharmacy co-located at the facility, The Well is becoming a valuable medical hub to serve the Golden Plains community.

Picture (L-R) Hari Fuentes Cabrera from Global Power Generation Australia, Member for Buninyong Michaela Settle and Golden Plains Shire Mayor 2021/22 Cr Gavin Gamble.

FUNDING FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY UPGRADE

Council has welcomed \$44,155 from the Victorian Government’s New Energy Jobs Fund to fund the installation of solar and battery power at two emergency relief and recovery centres in the Shire.

In addition to the grant funding, Council will contribute \$44,155 to fully fund and deliver the project.

The project will install solar panels and a battery at the Haddon Recreation Centre and the installation of additional solar panels and a battery at The Well in Smythesdale.

Both the Haddon Recreation Centre and The Well are connected to the grid with no generators and are susceptible to power outages during extreme weather events.



MOORABOOL RIVER RESERVE MASTERPLAN

Council has secured \$60,000 through the Victorian Government's Barwon and Waterways of the West Grant Program to develop a Masterplan for the newly acquired Moorabool River Reserve in Batesford.



The Reserve encompasses 17 hectares of public open space along 2.5 kilometres of the Moorabool River at the Riverstone Estate in Batesford.

Rich in biodiversity and cultural significance, the Reserve provides habitat for native wildlife while providing valuable open space for the community.

Council's Environment and Sustainability team will work with stakeholders and the local community to develop the Masterplan which will guide the management and use of the Reserve into the future.

GOLDFIELD'S WORLD HERITAGE BID RECEIVES FUNDING

Council is delighted to welcome \$500,000 funding from the Victorian Government's Regional Development Victoria's Investment Fast-Track Fund to advance the Goldfields World Heritage Bid.

In partnership with 13 Councils across the Goldfields region, including Golden Plains, the campaign aims to raise the profile of the Central Victorian Goldfields, accelerate regional recovery and provide long-term economic, social and cultural benefits for the region.

This funding will enable critical work to be commissioned. Golden Plains will continue to work alongside the 13 councils across the Goldfields region to advocate for the Goldfields World Heritage Bid.



WATER PLAY SEASON 2022/23 BEGINS

The Bannockburn Heart's water playspace is scheduled to reopen for the 2022/23 season on Thursday 1 December, 2022 until Sunday 2 April, 2023.

The splash pads will operate from 9am to 9pm, seven days a week for the summer season.

The popular community facility is also home to an adventure playspace with accessible play elements, active recreation equipment, seating, BBQs and shade sails.

For more information about the Bannockburn Heart, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au.



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.



Buy

Celebrate

Gift

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



Council wishes you a
MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a
HAPPY NEW YEAR



**On behalf of 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.

Councils Customer Hubs and Council offices at Bannockburn and Smythesdale will close at 1pm, Friday 23 December 2021, and will re-open at 8.30am, Tuesday 3 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 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 25 December, 2022 and Sunday 1 January, 2023. It will re-open for normal operational hours on Sunday 7 January, 2023.

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.

For more information about fire preparation and prevention, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/fire

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 long 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. Due to the recent wet weather, fire hazard inspections have been delayed and are scheduled to begin in early December.

Properties deemed to be a high fire risk (e.g. long uncut grass) to either themselves or their immediate neighbours will be issued with a Fire Prevention Notice instructing the landholder to carry out certain works to reduce the risk. If these works are not completed, Council will engage a contractor to complete the works and invoice the land owner for the costs.

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

Due to recent wet weather and further forecasted rain, Council's annual fire prevention program has been delayed until the first week of December to allow for parts of the Shire that are too wet to slash or mow, to dry out.

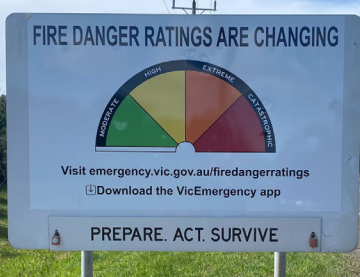
Council also conducts a burning of selected reserves to remove fire hazards. This program commences in the drier south of the Shire before moving north.

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.





golden plains twilight market

fun • food • fine crafts

golden plains farmers' market

LOCAL GROWERS & MAKERS

The Golden Plains Twilight Market is back in 2022 for all your Christmas needs.

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 fabulous, fruity cocktail!

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

Join in the festivities from 4 to 9pm on Thursday 15 December at the Bannockburn Heart, corner of Milton and High Streets Bannockburn.

The Golden Plains Farmers Market is back bigger than ever in 2023.

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 more.

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

Mark the calendar with the 2023 market dates:
4 February, 4 March, 1 April, 6 May, 3 June, 1 July, 5 August, 2 September, 7 October, 4 November and 2 December.

Council's Active Ageing & Inclusion team continue to support older residents and people with a disability in Golden Plains Shire to age well, remain connected and meaningfully participate in the community.

Since transitioning out of the delivery of aged and disability care on 1 July 2022, Council's Active Ageing & Inclusion team continues to provide support for Golden Plains Shire community members to understand the aged and disability sector.

As part of this transition the Plains Connector will now feature in each issue of the Gazette.

THE PLAINS Connector

The new areas of focus for Active Ageing & Inclusion in Golden Plains include positive ageing; social connections; access and inclusion; and assessment and service navigation.

To speak with a member of Council's Active Ageing and Inclusion Team please call 5220 7151 or email: ageingandinclusion@GPLAINS.VIC.GOV.AU.

Upcoming EVENTS

Create and Connect

Council has partnered with Geelong Regional Libraries to deliver the Create and Connect Program for Golden Plains community members who are living with dementia or experiencing early onset dementia and to help support their carers or companions.

Specially curated to promote brain health and social connection, the Create and Connect program will feature a series of Storytelling Sessions and Art Sessions, held across three locations in Golden Plains in Dereel, Meredith and Bannockburn until Thursday 9 March, 2023.

For further information, visit Council's Events page: goldenplains.vic.gov.au/events.

Wiser Driver Program - A refresher course for responsible older drivers

Bannockburn Cultural Centre,

25-27 High Street, Bannockburn*

Thursday 9, 16, 23 and 30 March 2023 from 10am to 12pm.

An informative, informal, and friendly refresher course, to upgrade your knowledge and build on your experience to keep you driving safely.

- Times are a 'changing: Challenges for today's drivers
- Using the rules of the road & staying roadworthy
- My roadworthy self
- Retaining our License's & planning for the future

*Transport is available on request. Contact Council's Active Ageing and Inclusion team on 5220 7151 or email: ageingandinclusion@GPLAINS.VIC.GOV.AU.

Escape the Summer Heat

Tuesday 11 January, 2023 from 10 to 12pm at The Well, 19 Heales Street, Smythesdale

Tuesday 18 January, 2023 from 10 to 12pm at the Bannockburn Cultural Centre, 25-27 High Street, Bannockburn

Escape the heat and relax in a cool space while enjoying light refreshments and activities.

OTHER SERVICES

Need some extra support or information? These free services might be of interest:

Older Persons COVID-19

Support Line

1800 171 866

My Aged Care

1800 200 422

LifeLine

13 11 14

FriendLine

9663 2740

Older Persons

Advocacy Network

1800 700 600

Disability Information Helpline

1800 643 787

Home Library Service

To speak to the Home Library Coordinator, phone: 0427 300 107

National Dementia Helpline

1800 100 500

Carer Advisory Line

1800 514 845

Carer Gateway

1800 422 737



Customer Hubs

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: Young Golden Plains Shire
residents enjoy the water play splash
pad at Bannockburn Heart*



We love seeing your pictures of
Golden Plains. Share your pics
with us on social media and tag
#LoveGoldenPlains for your
chance to be featured.

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 third installment payment is due on 30 November 2022. Full payment of the Rates Notice is due on 15 February 2023.

For more information or any questions about rates, please call Council's Rates team at 5220 7111.



SNAKE AWARENESS

As the weather warms up, snake sightings are expected to increase across Golden Plains with residents advised to keep their distance.

Golden Plains is known to have a high population of snakes with most species seen in and around residential areas in Golden Plains Shire being venomous. Whilst it's rare for them to bite people, it's advised that you stay well away.

To reduce the chance of snakes coming onto your property, and to make snakes more visible, please ensure you:

- Clean up around the house. Snakes are attracted to shelter such as piles of rocks and timber, sheets of metal, or building materials.
- Cut your lawns regularly.
- Try to reduce the numbers of pests such as rats and mice which provide food for snakes.

If you do see a snake, there are some simple things you can do to stay safe:

- Keep calm and try to move away from the snake.
- Stay well away from the snake and ensure children and pets also keep their distance.
- Never try to touch, capture or kill the snake.
- If bitten, apply first aid and seek medical help immediately by calling 000.

Call 136 186 if you need advice or a trained snake-catcher to remove a snake.

If you are the owner of vacant land, please think of your future neighbours and keep your block maintained, not just in summer but throughout the year.

For information about relocating native snakes, phone the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning on 136 186.