

# GAZETTE



# Vayor's MESSAGE

Welcome to the August edition of the Gazette and I hope this edition finds you all in good health and high spirits.

I would like to take a moment to express my gratitude for your unwavering support and cooperation in making our community thrive. Our dedicated council, staff and community have worked tirelessly to ensure the continued growth and prosperity of our wonderful Shire.

Throughout this edition, you will gain an insight into a number of fantastic projects that have come to fruition after many months of engagement, collaboration and partnership with a broad range of stakeholders.

A highlight was certainly the opening of the Meredith Multi Playspace, which was a wonderful example of a community driven project and will be enjoyed by families, children, and young people of all ages.

Of significant importance for the Teesdale community is the recent allocation of \$250K from the Victorian Government's 2022/23 Country Football and Netball Program for the much-anticipated upgrade of the oval at Don Wallace Recreation Reserve in Teesdale.

Member for Eureka Michaela Settle MP visited Teesdale on Wednesday 28 June to announce \$250,000 for the oval upgrade in addition to \$1.5 million from the State Budget for the development of new female-friendly changerooms at the reserve. Council will also contribute \$400,000 to the oval upgrade and there are exciting times ahead as that project takes shape.

**COUNCIL EXTENDS FREE RAT PROGRAM** Council will continue its Community Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) program until January 2024 to enhance testing capacity and detect COVID-19 cases quickly, contributing to community health management and control measures. Supported by the Victorian State Government, the program provides free RATs to all community members. For more information or to learn more about how you can access RATs across the Shire, please contact Council's



Council also recently adopted its 2023/24 Budget. With this milestone, Council is poised to embark on delivering its planned commitments and the Budget will ensure that key services, infrastructure projects and community programs receive the necessary funding, benefiting residents and promoting growth within the Shire, now and into the future.

Thank you for your ongoing support and trust in Golden Plains Shire Council. We invite you to explore this newsletter, which highlights our achievements, advocacy, community engagement, infusion of funding and grants opportunities, all of which set the stage for an exciting future.

Together, let us continue to shape the Golden Plains Shire into a shining example of community excellence.

**Cr Brett Cunningham** Mayor

# **SCOOP CLEARING DRAINS ACROSS GOLDEN PLAINS**

Council's new Komatsu PC78 excavator (also known as

Scoop) has been busy over the past few months, clearing out drains across Golden Plains Shire.

Scoop has recently worked on widening out a drain to our engineers' specifications at Exchequer Road in Cape Clear and has cleared out drains in Clyde Road, Bannockburn.

The ongoing drainage work aims to increase open drain capacity and minimise overland and over-road flooding at flood-prone locations within the Shire.

For more info visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/resident/roads



Customer Experience Team on

5220 7111.

# **COUNCIL AWARDS** \$4 MILLION OF TENDERS

**Golden Plains Shire Council has awarded nearly** \$4 million of tenders at its 25 July Council meeting.

- Kopkes Road, Haddon Road Improvements to Begbies Contracting for \$932K
- Cape Clear-Rokewood Road, Rokewood Junction Road Improvements to Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd for \$450K
- Linton-Piggoreet Road, Piggoreet Bridge Replacement to Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd for the sum of \$1.2m
- Linton Oval Reconstruction to Global Turf Projects Ltd for the cost of \$1.2m
- Panel of Suppliers-Plumbing Maintenance Services to Plumbing-Logistics Pty Ltd, Complete-plumbing Construction Concepts Pty Ltd and Total-Plumbing-Solutions
- Panel of Suppliers-General Maintenance Services to Burkhan Pty Ltd T/AS Dolls Cleaning Services, Mr T At Work and Zantagra Group.

The awarding of these tenders progresses significant road improvement projects which supports Council's commitment to maintaining Golden Plains Shire's extensive road network.

# **INAUGURAL GOLDEN PLAINS CAREERS EXPO A SUCCESS**

More than 400 young people across Golden Plains and surrounding areas attended the inaugural Golden Plains Careers Expo at the Bannockburn Cultural Centre on Saturday 24 June.

The Golden Plains Careers Expo (the Expo) was a one-day event fostering local talent and empowering young individuals with valuable career insights.

Showcasing a range of education and training pathways and career opportunities, and with more than 30 exhibitors in attendance including universities, TAFEs, skills and training providers and local industry and employers, the event was a fantastic opportunity for youth to explore and connect with employers and industry professionals.

Hosted by Golden Plains Shire Mayor Cr Brett Cunningham, the Expo was officially opened by Member for Geelong, Christine Couzens MP, following a Welcome to Country performed by Wadawurrung traditional owner Ash Skinner.



# MOWER GIFT HELPS LINTON GROUP

Council has gifted a Kubota ride-on mower to the **Linton & District Progress Association to assist with** maintenance activities in public spaces.

The mower was gifted to the Progress Association to help keep the parklands neat and tidy, following Council's Asset Disposal Policy guidelines, instead of going through the typical trade-in process.

Parks and gardens in Linton can become inaccessible between mowing schedules due to increased growth. The Kubota ride-on mower will allow the Progress Association to undertake more regular maintenance to keep grass growth under control and make the town more visually appealing to tourists and locals alike.



Special guest speakers, including Victoria Police Senior Sergeant Craig Grant, Director of Meredith Dairy Julie Cameron, YMCA Youth Parliament Coordinator and former Golden Plains Young Citizen of the Year Alisha Nurnaitis, Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Ash Skinner and Associate Director, Partnerships and Growth at Federation University Bill Mundy provided insight into specific career pathways and shared their experiences.

Thank you to the Bannockburn College P-12 Senior Band for entertaining participants with lively music, setting the perfect atmosphere for an enjoyable event.

Thank you to all who attended on the day.

The Golden Plains Careers Expo was an initiative of Council's Crime Prevention Project, which is funded by a \$299,000 grant from the Victorian Government's Building Safer Communities program.

# COMMUNITY NEWS



# MINISTER VISITS BANNOCKBURN **EARLY LEARNING CENTRE**

Children and educators at Kardinia Early Learning in Bannockburn enjoyed a visit from Minister for Early Childhood Education and Minister for Youth the Hon Dr Anne Aly MP.

Dr Aly is a renowned advocate for early childhood education and the empowerment of young minds, and she brought her passion and expertise to the forefront during her visit alongside Corangamite MP Libby Coker and Golden Plains Shire Mayor Cr Brett Cunningham.



# **TEESDALE CHANGE ROOMS** AND OVAL UPGRADE

Golden Plains Shire Council has welcomed the allocation of \$250,000 from the Victorian Government's 2022-23 Country Football and Netball Program for the much-anticipated upgrade of the oval at Don Wallace Recreation Reserve in Teesdale.

Member for Eureka Michaela Settle MP announced \$250,000 for the oval upgrade in addition to \$1.5 million from the State Budget for the development of new female-friendly changerooms at the Don Wallace Recreation Reserve.

Council will contribute \$400,000 to complete the oval upgrade which is projected to be completed in late 2024. The funding will support the milestones set out in the Don Wallace Recreation Reserve Teesdale Masterplan 2022.



# MEREDITH MULTI PLAYSPACE **OPENS IN MEREDITH**

The Meredith Multi Playspace, featuring an upgraded skate park and new BMX track, was officially opened by Member for Eureka Michaela Settle MP, Golden Plains Shire Mayor Cr Brett Cunningham and Meredith resident Harley Murfitt on Saturday 1 July.

This exciting community-driven project included an upgrade of the existing skate park, the development of a new BMX track, a new play space, basketball tower and installation of pathways, seating, a drinking fountain, shelter and landscaping.

The Meredith Multi Playspace is a partnership project, funded by \$420,000 from the Victorian Government and \$480,000 from Golden Plains Shire Council.

# **GROWING PLACES STRATEGY TAKING SHAPE**

Residents and community members have helped inform the ongoing development of a scenario for growth in Golden Plains known as the Growing **Places Strategy.** 

The Growing Places Strategy is about carefully planning for where more housing could go up to 2050 and potentially beyond, while balancing the benefits of population growth with the importance of preserving Golden Plains' unique character.

Throughout June and July, residents attended **Growing Places Information Sessions at locations** across the Shire (and online) where they heard about our plan for growth, provided input and learned more from Council officers about potential growth and change in local communities. Thank you to everyone who attended a session and provided valuable input into the growth planning process.

This is the first round of consultation and we will continue to engage with the Golden Plains community and stakeholders as we move into more detailed planning.

A summary report of the community consultation findings will soon be available on the Growing Places consultation page. This information will be used by Council to help inform the full draft Growing Places Strategy which will be made available for further community review and feedback later this year.

We encourage you to watch a short video and learn more about the Growing Places Strategy by visiting goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations





# **SMYTHESDALE SUB-REGIONAL** PLAY SPACE CONCEPT DESIGN **FINALISED**

The Smythesdale Sub-Regional Play Space concept design has been finalised following community exhibition of the draft concept design.

As part of extensive consultation with the community, residents were invited to have their say on what they would like to see as part of the design through a community survey which was open to the public in September 2022.

Features included in the concept design that were identified as important to users of the Play Space and the broader community include a play tower and multi play unit, range of swings and flying fox, natural and sensory play elements, spinning, jumping and climbing play equipment, exercise equipment, sand play area, scooter circuit trail, seating and shade areas, accessible barbeques and picnic facilities and a central accessible path.

The concept design also includes amenities such as a toilet facility, accessible path connection to the Woady Yaloak Recreation Reserve & Ballarat-Skipton Rail Trail, safe crossing points, accessible carparking spaces, bike maintenance station, wayfinding signage and security lighting.

Thank you to all community members who provided feedback on the concept design and participated in the consultation process. Council will now advocate at a State and Federal level for funding to progress the project to detailed design and construction.

To view the concept design, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations

**JOIN THE 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

# **ADOPTED**



# **GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL**

# BUDGET 2023/24

Council adopted the Golden Plains Shire Council Budget 2023/24 (the Budget) at its meeting on 27 June 2023, locking in more than \$49 million to deliver more than 70 services to the Golden Plains community.

The Budget reflects Council's commitment to striking a balance between rate revenue and the long-term financial sustainability of Golden Plains, whilst maintaining and improving services that are valued by our community, within the 3.5% maximum rate cap as set by the Minister for Local Government.

Mayor Cr Brett Cunningham said Council was proud to adopt the Budget following extensive community engagement and looks forward to delivering the initiatives detailed in the financial plan over the next 12 months (from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024).

In February this year, Council launched a comprehensive engagement program with a community survey and online forums with Councillors and Council Officers. The Draft Budget was subsequently endorsed in April for public exhibition and was open for submissions throughout the month of May.

- \$49.1m to deliver more than 70 services to the Golden Plains community
- \$22.5m continued investment in capital assets
- \$1.1m for resealing local roads
- \$900k for improvements to local roads
- \$800k for local gravel roads resheeting
- \$200k for kerb and channel projects
- \$856k for community safety
- \$758k for community development

- \$75k for LED street lighting
- \$1.9m for bridge renewal and replacement
- \$500k for emergency drainage
- \$400k for drainage program
- \$809k for stormwater drainage improvements
- \$468k on economic development
- \$478k on youth development
- \$50k for community and recreation facility beautification/safety works
- 3.50% rates cap in 2023/24

# PROJECTS:

**Inverleigh Active Youth Space** 

Teesdale Don Wallace Rec Reserve

Bannockburn Vic Park Netball **Pavilion** 

Bannockburn **Skate Park** 

# **KEY OPERATIONAL PROGRAMS:**

- Preparation of an Open Space Strategy for the Shire
- Continuation of the Community Strengthening Grants Program
- Funding for six more communities to progress through the Community **Planning Program**
- Commence implementation of Climate **Emergency Plan actions**
- Completion and community consultation on Waste Services transition to reflect State mandated 4 bin service
- Development of 2 recreation reserve masterplans for the Smythesdale Gardens/Brewery Dam and Woady Yaloak Equestrian Centre to guide future development

- Completion and adoption of the Tracks and Trails Strategy
- Completion and adoption of the Footpath Strategy
- Development and implementation of the Safety & Wellbeing Strategy
- Completion and adoption of Moorabool River Reserve Masterplan
- Continued development and implementation of the Core Systems **Transformation Project**
- Implementation of new Learning and Development and Performance Management Strategy
- Funding for various programs to support active ageing, youth development, and the general health, wellbeing and inclusion of all cohorts across the community

**Woady Yaloak** (Smythesdale) Lighting

Bannockburn **Family Services Centre extension** 

Maude **Community Hall** 

# 123/24

**3.50**% **RATE CAP** 

**Rate Rebate to** assist customers in need

PER HOUSEHOLD

**Waste Management** Charge

# COUNCIL LISTENING **POSTS 2023**

Residents will have more opportunities to share their views with Councillors at upcoming Council Listening Posts.

Following sessions at Inverleigh and Linton earlier this year, residents can join Councillors at Listening Posts in Bannockburn on 7 October and Smythesdale on 18 November.

More information visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/events

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**



# **CELEBRATING YOUNG PEOPLE** IN OUR SHIRE

Do you know an outstanding young person aged between 12 and 25 in Golden Plains? Nominate them for the Youth Recognition Program!

Delivered in partnership with the Department of Justice and Community Safety and the Victorian Government's Engage! Program, the Youth Recognition Program aims to recognise the achievements and contributions of young people in our community and celebrate their accomplishments.

Each month, a young person will be celebrated on the Council's website and social media channels as Young Person of the Month.

To learn more and make a nomination, visit: goldenplains.vic.gov.au/youth-recognition-program.



# **ADOPTED** DOMESTIC WASTEWATER

MANAGEMENT PLAN

**Golden Plains Shire Council adopted its Domestic** Wastewater Management Plan 2023 at its Council meeting on Tuesday 27 June.

The previous Domestic Wastewater Management Plan (the Plan), adopted in 2015, was reviewed and updated to reflect current legislative requirements and policy changes as well as growth within the Shire.

As the population of Golden Plains Shire continues to grow, ensuring effective management of domestic wastewater becomes crucial for preserving the environment and safeguarding public health. The newly adopted Plan sets out a strategic framework that not only addresses current needs but also accounts for future challenges and developments.

Developed following input from stakeholders, including the community, the Domestic Wastewater Management Plan 2023 was partially funded by a \$20,000 grant from the Victorian State Government's Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (formerly known as the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning).

# Join THE GOLDEN PLAINS YOUTH ACTIVATION COMMITTEE

Young people who are emerging leaders, are community minded, are advocacy focused or those that just want to make a positive difference for young people in their community are invited to apply to join the Golden Plains Youth Activation Committee. To apply, visit: goldenplains. vic.gov.au/youth-activation-committee





# **Open Friday 1 September 2023**

Community groups are invited to apply for funds to help deliver community projects and events with grants of up to \$10,000 available in four streams:

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

# **FREE COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING**

**Council has partnered with Non Profit Training (NPT)** to deliver free Community Capacity Building Training workshops for Golden Plains Shire residents.

The program will include a series of five workshops, with each session exploring a different topic in relation to Community Capacity Building. The program will run until Tuesday 12 March, 2024.

All workshops are free and will be available either in person, online or both.

#### Details of the remaining sessions are:

- Project Planning & Development Tuesday 12 September from 6 to 8.30pm, online only.
- Teamwork and Problem Solving Monday 30 October from 10am to 12.30pm, Council Chambers at the Golden Plains Civic Centre, 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn, in person and online.
- Advocacy Wednesday 21 February 2024 from 10am to 12.30pm, Council Chambers at the Golden Plains Civic Centre, 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn, in person and online.

# **SECOND ROUND OF COMMUNITY** STRENGTHENING GRANTS TO OPEN **IN SEPTEMBER**

Applications for the second round of Council's **Community Strengthening Grants Program for 2023** are set to open to local community groups on Friday 1 September, 2023.

In the first round of Community Strengthening Grants for 2023, Council awarded a combined \$30,241 to eight successful community groups to deliver eight projects with a combined total project value of \$64,757 (across the eight projects including in-kind contributions) to local communities across Golden Plains.

To learn more about Council's Community Strengthening Grants program, visit: goldenplains.vic.gov.au/grants



Building Community with Social Media – Tuesday 12 March 2024 from 6 to 8.30pm, online only.

The workshops are open to residents involved with Council's Community Planning Program, volunteers, clubs, groups and associations who share a vision for their local community.

Register and learn more:

goldenplains.vic.gov.au/events

# SUPPORT YOUNG LOCAL TALENT AT BATTLE OF THE BANDS!

Community members are invited to attend the Golden Plains Youth Battle of the Bands competition on Saturday 26 August at the Inverleigh Public Hall, 71 High Street, Inverleigh from 1 to 5pm.

Presented by the FReeZA Youth Events Crew, Battle of the Bands is a showcase of young up and coming artists, inclusive of all genres, with bands, soloists, duo performances and digital artists.

The event is designed to support emerging musicians by providing a safe and inclusive opportunity to perform in front of a live audience.

To learn more, visit:

goldenplains.vic.gov.au/events/battle-bands





Jean Hailes National Women's Health Week will held from Monday 4 to Friday 8 September and is Australia's largest event dedicated to the health and wellbeing of all women, girls and gender-diverse people.

To celebrate Jean Hailes National Women's Health Week, Golden Plains Shire Council has partnered with Cancer Council, Women's Health in the South East (WHISE) and Hesse Rural Health to host a series of free online activities to promote and support Women's Health.

#### The series of free activities will include:

- Tree of Life Activity Online Creative Therapy on Monday 4 September from 10.30am to 12pm
- Cervical Screening, Self-Collection, Bowel Screening and Early Detection
   Online Info Session on Tuesday 5 September from 7pm to 8pm
- Perimenopause and Menopause Online Info Session on Wednesday 6 September from 12pm to 1.30pm

To learn more and to register, visit: goldenplains.vic.gov.au/Events



# SPRING INTO SUMMER RETURNS TO THE SHIRE

The Active Golden Plains 'Spring into Summer' four-week program will be held from Monday 18 September to Friday 15 October.

The program offers a range of physical activities and wellbeing events to be delivered across Golden Plains by experienced local health, fitness and sport professionals with options suitable for all ages, interests and fitness levels.

The program allows community members to explore new ways to move with a range of different activities that encourage movement and social connection.

To learn more, visit:

goldenplains.vic.gov.au/Spring-into-Summer

# **Winter Safety Tips**

# **Fire Safety**

- It is essential to install smoke alarms throughout your home and test them every month. Change the batteries every year. Remember the saying when daylight savings starts 'change your clock and change your smoke alarm batteries'.
- If you have a fireplace in your home, make sure the chimney is clean and not blocked. Always place a screen in front of a fireplace when it's being used.
- No matter what type of heater you have, you should check every winter that it is safe to use.
- Faulty electric blankets can overheat, cause an electric shock, spark and potentially cause a fire. You should always roll your blanket up to store it because folding it can damage element wires inside the blanket. When you take it out of storage and use it for the first time, lay it flat on the bed and check for hot spots as it heats up.

#### Hot water bottles

- Use only warm water to fill your hot water bottle and examine the bottle for leaks before you use it. Replace your hot water bottle as soon as it starts to look cracked or worn or every two years.
- Remember that the rubber can perish from the inside so you may not be able to see if it's worn out.
- Hot water bottles can cause burns if you place them directly on your skin. Place a towel or fabric cover over the bottle.

#### **Heat packs**

Caution is needed when using heat packs as they can cause burns or fires related to:

- Being heated and placed on or in bedding
- Being heated in the microwave for longer than the time specified by the manufacturer
- Being reheated before they have cooled properly
- Being old and so the filling has dried out and become combustible

For more detailed information, visit healthdirect.gov.au/winter-health-hazards-at-home



# THE PLAINS Connector

# **Escape the Cold**

Community members of Golden Plains Shire "Escaped the Cold" to attend an information session regarding My Aged Care and Access and Inclusion in the Community.



Attendees received a Winter Survival Pack which included winter safety tips and some accessories including warm socks kindly donated by Cotton On.

Haddon Community Learning Centre and Meredith Community Centre supported the sessions offering home-made hot soup and friendly and warm space to host the events.

For more information on any future planned events please contact Active Ageing & Inclusion: Ph: 52207151 or email: ageingandinclusion@gplains.vic.gov.au

# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### Victorian Seniors Festival 2023

The Victorian Seniors Festival is held every year in October and will be celebrated with a week of free or low-cost activities and events offered throughout Golden Plains.

For more information to get involved visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/events for our Events Calendar

## **Red Cross Patient Transport**

**Red Cross Patient Transport provides transport for** eligible persons who are travelling to hospital, specialist or essential medical appointments.

#### How can I access this service?

Speak with your health professional to book through the online portal. For more information about accessing or booking online call Central Bookings on 8327 7878.

# **GET IN TOUCH**

If you have any suggestions for future editions or comments you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact Council's Active Ageing and Inclusion Department on the following numbers:

**Golden Plains Shire Council Active Ageing and Inclusion** 

team (during business hours): 5220 7151

Email: ageingandinclusion@gplains.vic.gov.au

# **COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD**



#### **Customer Hubs**

#### **BANNOCKBURN (CIVIC CENTRE)**

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

#### **SMYTHESDALE (THE WELL)**

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

#### **PHONE**

P: 5220 7111

#### **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: Council staff member Carly Menzel and Golden Plains Shire Mayor Cr Brett Cunningham with the new Komatsu excavator.

# KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE **EGAZETTE**

Scan to sign up now!



# **CONSIDER MONTHLY RATES PAYMENTS**

All Golden Plains Shire ratepayers will receive their 2023-24 Rates Notice in the mail in August.

Thank you to all the ratepayers who have signed up to the monthly payments programs, with those payments due on the 15th of the month through to June 2024.

For residents who signed up to pay their rates by instalments, the second payment is due on 30 November 2023. Full payment of Rates Notice is due on 15 February 2024.

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



# REDUCED SPEED LIMITS TO IMPROVE SAFETY





The speed limit reduction works were undertaken by Council's Town Maintenance team, and funded by VicRoads, following Council applying to the Department of Transport and Planning for the limit reductions.

New reduced speed limits in townships include:

- Bannockburn: Geelong Road from the Midland Highway to High Street,
  Bannockburn speed limit reduced from 80kph to 60kph across the entire stretch of Geelong Road.
- Teesdale: Bannockburn Shelford Road from Tolson Street to east of Mercer Street – speed limit reduced from 80kph to 60kph.
- Linton: Sussex Street from Gillespie Street to Grant Street speed limit reduced from 60kph to 50kph.
- Smythesdale: Brooke Street from Verdon Street to Heales Street speed limit reduced from 60kph to 50kph.

# **UPDATED WASTE CALENDAR**

Council's Waste Collection Calendar for the 2023/24 financial year is now available.

Printed copies are available at Council's Customer Hubs in Bannockburn and Smythesdale.

For more information about waste collection in Golden Plains visit **goldenplains.vic.gov.au/resident/waste-management** 



