

OCTOBER, 2023



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for Fire Season



As the vibrant colours of Spring paint our beloved Golden Plains with renewed energy and enthusiasm, I am thrilled to connect with you through the pages of the October edition of the Gazette.

Our community is the heart and soul of Golden Plains. As the season changes, so too do the opportunities for growth and progress within our Shire. It's my privilege to share with you some of the exciting developments on the horizon.

**Infrastructure for tomorrow:** We are committed to enhancing our infrastructure to meet the evolving needs of our residents. In the coming months, we will embark on several key projects, including road improvements, expanded recreational facilities, and enhancements to public spaces that will make Golden Plains an even more attractive place to live, visit and socialise.

**Sustainable initiatives:** Sustainability remains a top priority for us. Council continues to work diligently to implement eco-friendly practices and policies, from renewable energy projects to waste reduction initiatives. Together, we're ensuring that the beauty of our Shire endures for generations to come.

**Community engagement:** Your voice matters to us. We have a number of community events and engagement opportunities throughout the season. From the Moorabool River Reserve Masterplan to the Tracks and Trails Strategy,

we are keen to hear your ideas, concerns, and aspirations for Golden Plains. Your input is invaluable in shaping our future, so head to our website and have your say on our exciting projects.

**Celebrating our local heroes:** Our Shire is a tapestry of local heroes and I'd like to announce the Golden Plains Shire Awards 2023 are now open for nominations. These awards recognise outstanding individuals and community groups who have made significant contributions to Golden Plains Shire. Further information on the awards can be found at [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations)

We encourage community members to nominate local leaders, neighbours, colleagues, and peers who have enriched Golden Plains throughout 2023.

**Cr Brett Cunningham**  
Mayor

## DELIVERING MORE KINDER PLACES IN GOLDEN PLAINS

**The Victorian Government is partnering with Golden Plains Shire Council to deliver a multi-million dollar pipeline of early childhood infrastructure projects, giving local children access to world-class facilities close to home.**

On Tuesday 12 September, Minister for Early Childhood Education and Pre-Prep Ingrid Stitt announced a Building Blocks Partnership with Golden Plains Shire, which includes up to \$5 million for two modular kindergarten projects, creating approximately 140 additional early education places from early 2024.

The partnership includes an expansion to the Haddon Pre-School Centre and an expansion of the sessional kindergarten facilities at the Bannockburn Family Services Centre. These two projects are in addition to the delivery of a new kindergarten to open at Napoleons Primary School next year.

Golden Plains Shire Council Mayor Cr Brett Cunningham welcomed the support of the Victorian Government to expand kindergarten programs in Golden Plains Shire.

"Peri Urban Councils like Golden Plains would not be able to meet community expectations without the support of the Victorian State Government, and we thank them for their ongoing funding commitments to expand these crucial kindergarten places," he said.

"Following the development of Council's Kindergarten Infrastructure Services Plan, Council Officers have been working in partnership with the Department of Education on the Best Start, Best Life Reform.

"This partnership is the accumulation of a lot of hard work and commitment by staff and ensures Golden Plains Shire residents have ongoing access to quality early childhood education, delivered through funded three-year-old and four-year-old Kindergarten including Pre-Prep, now and into the future."

To read more about this announcement, visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/news](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/news)



## BATTLE OF THE BANDS ROCKS OUT IN INVERLEIGH

Nearly 150 individuals gathered at Inverleigh Public Hall on Saturday 26 August to enthusiastically support the local community event – the Golden Plains Youth Battle of the Bands competition. This event was presented by the FReeZA Youth program, which empowers young people to plan, develop and execute music, cultural, and recreational events within their community.

This year's Battle of the Bands event marked a significant success and represented the FreeZA Youth group's inaugural endeavour in organising and managing a large-scale event. Notably, **Horse Under the Radar** clinched the top prize, securing a full day recording studio session at Oxygen Music College. **Mr. Hyde** secured second place, earning a photography branding shoot, while **The Shags** claimed third place, along with a Music Workshop voucher.

## RIDE-ON MOWER GIFTED TO SMYTHESDALE GROUP

The Smythesdale Progress Association is the proud new owner of a Kubota ride-on mower.

Council gifted the ride-on mower to the group which manages Smythesdale Gardens and Brewery Dam Reserve. Both reserves require a considerable amount of regular mowing, and the commercial-size mower is a welcome addition to gardening and maintenance efforts.

The gifting followed Council's Asset Disposal Policy guidelines, instead of going through the typical trade-in process.

Council also gifted a Kubota ride-on mower to the Linton & District Progress Association in July to assist with similar maintenance activities in local public spaces.



**Wild Gloriosa** headlined the event with her unique soulful sound and first-time performers the **School Yard Misfits** from Inverleigh Primary School opened the show, providing a magical touch as the opening.

A big thank you to competition judges Golden Plains Shire Mayor Cr Brett Cunningham, Bannockburn College arts teacher Alex Colston-Ing and Golden Plains singer songwriter Shan Curry from music project **SheisArjuna**.

## YOUTH HUB REOPENS FOR MORE YOUNG PEOPLE

The Golden Plains Youth Hub reopened in August following the completion of minor facility upgrade works.

The upgrade works included the installation of an all gender, ambulant toilet, and the venue's capacity has increased from 20 people to 75 people.

Golden Plains Shire Mayor Cr Brett Cunningham stopped by the Youth Hub to check out the upgrade and he spoke to young people and Council staff about the importance of the facility.

The Golden Plains Youth Hub is a safe space for all young people regardless of their race, culture, gender, sexuality or ability. There are ongoing programs at the venue four days a week during school term including youth art, cooking sessions, Youth Activation Committee (YAC) meetings, Robotics sessions and FReeZA youth events crew initiatives.

The Youth Hub also hosts school holiday activities and drop-in sessions where young people can socialise in a safe space.

Learn more about Council's youth programs by visiting [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/resident/youth](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/resident/youth)



## INSTILLING PRIDE IN OUR CUSTOMERS IN GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

**Golden Plains Shire Council takes pride in offering a wide array of services to benefit our residents and communities.**

Our dedicated Council staff are unwavering in their commitment to providing exceptional service and ensuring a positive experience for all our customers.

At the heart of our customer support efforts lies the Customer Experience Team. Their sole purpose is to assist, prioritise, and resolve customer enquiries, requests, complaints and feedback. Whether you reach out by phone, in person, or through digital channels, our Customer Experience Team is readily available to assist you.

From helping you register your pet to supporting your application for an accessible parking permit and keeping you informed about community events, the team is here to assist you.

Whenever possible, our goal is to resolve your enquiries at the initial point of contact.

For more complex issues or reports, the team will efficiently escalate the matter to the appropriate department and keep you informed about all updates and progress.

Our unwavering commitment is *“to make customers proud to be part of Golden Plains Shire by consistently delivering exceptional customer experiences every day”*.

To get in touch with the Customer Experience team, call 5220 7111 or visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/contact-us](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/contact-us)



## REUSABLE PRODUCTS REBATE PROGRAM

**Golden Plains Shire Council is thrilled to announce the launch of its innovative Reusable Products Rebate Program, which empowers residents to make eco-conscious choices. Residents will soon be able to claim a 50% rebate up to \$100 on a range of eligible reusable products.**

The program has been designed to inspire environmentally friendly purchasing decisions across four essential product categories: reusable nappy products, reusable sanitary products, reusable incontinence products and reusable portable drinking containers. Eligible products must be purchased from an Australian supplier on or after Monday 25 September.



Successful applicants will enjoy a 50% rebate of the purchase price of eligible products. To ensure fairness, the following limits have been applied to each category:

- Category 1 - Nappy products up to \$100
- Category 2 - Sanitary products up to \$50
- Category 3 - Incontinence products up to \$50
- Category 4 - Portable drinking containers up to \$30

For a full list of categories, terms and conditions, and information on how to apply for a rebate visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/reusableproductsrebate](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/reusableproductsrebate)

# CEO Statement on Growing Suburbs Fund

The recent decision by the Victorian Government representatives to exclude Peri-Urban Councils (PUC), including Golden Plains Shire Council, from eligibility for funding support via the Growing Suburbs Fund (GSF) is a matter of deep concern.

The primary purpose of the Growing Suburbs Fund has been to provide vital financial support to councils facing substantial population growth.

Golden Plains Shire, along with our fellow Peri-Urban Councils, has experienced some of the most rapid population growth in Victoria. Our region has evolved and expanded, and our communities have faced increasing demands for infrastructure, services, and facilities to meet the needs of our residents now and into the future.

This decision comes at a time when Peri-Urban Councils like ours are more reliant than ever on State and Federal governments to address the challenges arising from this significant population growth.

In recognition of our unique circumstances, Peri-Urban Councils Victoria advocated vigorously for our eligibility for the fund back in 2020. We believed then, as we do now, that this funding was crucial for ensuring the sustainable development and well-being of our communities.

Please use the QR Code to read my full statement regarding this matter.

**Eric Braslis**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Golden Plains Shire Council



SCAN  
QR CODE  
TO VIEW FULL  
STATEMENT

## ROAD GRADING CALENDAR AVAILABLE ONLINE



**Council's road grading calendar is now included in the online events calendar, helping residents to easily track when maintenance will be done on unsealed roads.**

The annual Road Grading Program allows for grading of Council's unsealed road network in the Shire throughout the year. Council has committed to grading every road in the Shire's 714km unsealed Council road network at least once a year through its Unsealed Road Grading Maintenance Charter.

Residents can now visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/events](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/events) to see when Council's graders will be in which areas of the Shire. They can either use the search box to view road grading listings in their individual town or click on the calendar to search month by month.

Council acknowledges that ongoing road maintenance is one of the most important issues in Golden Plains Shire, and we want to take every opportunity to keep people informed on road maintenance activities across the Shire.

Residents can access detailed information about roads on Council's website including the road hierarchy, the road grading charter, road grading program and schedule plus a number of fact sheets and how to report a road issue. This information is available at [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/resident/roads](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/resident/roads)

## GREATER BALLARAT ALLIANCE OF COUNCILS



**In early September, Catherine King, the Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, and Local Government, inaugurated the Greater Ballarat Alliance of Councils (GBAC).**

This newly formed coalition replaces the Central Highlands Councils of Victoria and includes six rural and regional councils in and around Ballarat. The member councils of GBAC include: Golden Plains Shire Council, City of Ballarat, Central Goldfields Shire Council, Pyrenees Shire Council, Hepburn Shire Council and Moorabool Shire Council.

GBAC's primary aim is to advocate as a unified voice for its member councils, addressing common issues such as the infrastructure requirements of peri-urban growth areas and equitable access to Victorian and Commonwealth government funding for the Greater Ballarat region.

GBAC has identified three key priorities: improving public and private transportation, facilitating growth, and enhancing digital connectivity.



# GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL COMMUNITY AWARDS 2023



## CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE AND DEDICATION!

The Golden Plains Shire Council Community Awards are set to make a return in 2023, offering a formal platform to acknowledge and celebrate exceptional individuals and community organisations that greatly contribute to the Shire.

## GOLDEN PLAINS COMMUNITY IMPRESSED WITH CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Golden Plains Shire community members have given Council's Children's Services the tick of approval with positive results from the latest Children's Services User Satisfaction Survey.

The annual survey assesses Council's performance in its Kindergarten, Maternal and Child Health and Family Day Care programs. Of the nearly 200 respondents, more than 90 per cent expressed that these programs either met or exceeded their expectations.

The Survey revealed that Children's Services staff were commended for their professionalism, approachability, and deep understanding of individual children's needs.

Golden Plains Shire Council and its community provide a comprehensive range of services to support parents and carers in raising children. These services reflect the diverse interests, abilities and needs of children, while encouraging parental involvement in planning, learning and care.

To learn more about Council's Children's Services and to read the survey results visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/resident/child-and-family](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/resident/child-and-family)

In 2023, these awards will be awarded in three categories: Citizen of the Year, Senior Citizen of the Year, and Young Citizen of the Year. Furthermore, the Community Impact Award will be presented to acknowledge the significant contributions of a community event, project, group, or team.

Nominees are encouraged to showcase their achievements across a range of fields, encompassing community service, arts and culture, environmental initiatives, business, economic development, and sports.

For information regarding nomination deadlines, including access to online nomination forms, please visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations). If preferred, hard copy forms can be obtained at Council's Customer Hubs located in Bannockburn and Smythesdale.

An awards ceremony, scheduled for early 2024, will serve as the platform to recognise nominees and unveil the Community Award recipients.

## SPRING INTO SUMMER A SUCCESS



The Golden Plains Active 'Spring into Summer' program was an initiative led by Council's Recreation Team. Its goal was to provide a diverse range of physical activities and wellness events, encouraging residents to discover new ways to stay active.

Over the course of four weeks, nearly 200 activities were offered, carefully curated by local health, fitness and sports experts. These activities catered to people of all ages, interests, and fitness levels.

The program's initial two weeks focused on family-friendly activities, providing opportunities for quality time during the September school holidays. These activities not only promoted physical fitness but also encouraged community members to connect and socialize.

As we approach summer, it's time to gear up and stay active Golden Plains!

# Berrybank Wind Farm Community Grants Awarded



The latest round of Berrybank Wind Farm Community Grants were awarded to six community groups who will share in a combined \$115,000 over the next three years to help deliver a range of community projects and events.

The funding was available across two categories: Economic Development, Tourism Projects and Events, and Community Projects and Events over \$10,000, with one off and recurring funding available.

The successful community projects and events included:

**Shelford Duck Race** – \$10,100 total to be delivered over the next three years to support Shelford's largest community event.

**Bunjil Lookout Community Gathering** – \$13,800 over the next three years for the Maude She Oaks and Steiglitz Community Planning Group to support the community event following a successful pilot event in 2022.

**Shelford Public Hall Rejuvenation Project** – \$49,700 over the next two years for the Shelford Public Hall Reserve Committee of Management to support rejuvenation of this valuable community asset.

**Valentines Bush Dance and Winter Solstice Bonfire**

– \$15,850 over the next three years for Cape Clear Recreation Reserve to help run these annual events.

**Greens Lighting Upgrade** – \$15,700 for Inverleigh Bowls Club to support an upgrade to LED lighting and improve visibility over the playing surface.

**Spectator Shelter** – \$10,000 for the Inverleigh Sporting Complex to support its spectator shelter project.

Delivered in partnership with Berrybank Development Pty Ltd, the Berrybank Wind Farm Community Grants Program provides funding opportunities to support local events and projects in Golden Plains.

Keep an eye on Council's website to learn more about the next round of applications in 2024.

## EMPOWERING FUTURE WOMEN COUNCILLORS AND MAYORS

The Victorian Government is committed to achieving 50 per cent women Councillors and Mayors in local government by 2025. Women Leading Locally is one of the key initiatives to support this effort.

The program provides participants with resources and skills to campaign in the 2024 local government elections.

Women Leading Locally is being delivered by the Institute of Community Directors Australia (ICDA) in partnership with Women for Election. 125 women from across Victoria are participating in the program, with a focus on local government areas with the lowest female representation on council.

Participants were also selected from historically underrepresented groups including young women, women who are Aboriginal, live with a disability, are from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds or identify as LGBTIQI+.

**Women Leading Locally**

*Get the skills you need to run and succeed*

**Apply for a Fellowship**

INSTITUTE OF COMMUNITY DIRECTORS AUSTRALIA

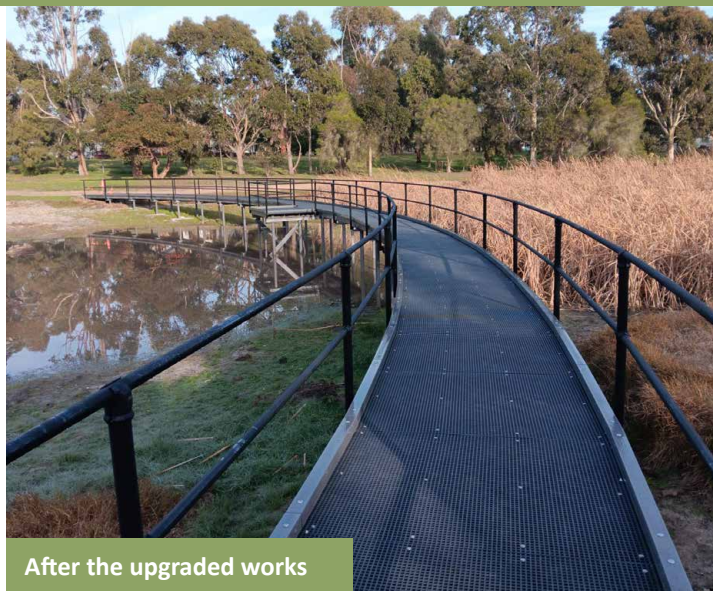
AN ENTERPRISE OF [ourcommunity.com.au](https://www.ourcommunity.com.au)

WOMEN FOR ELECTION

VICTORIA State Government

Sixty women graduated from the first round of the program in August 2023. A further sixty-five participants commenced the second round in July 2023.

To find out more about this program and to apply, visit [communitydirectors.com.au/training/women-lead](https://communitydirectors.com.au/training/women-lead)



After the upgraded works

## ENJOYABLE VIEWS FROM UPGRADED LETHBRIDGE LAKE BOARDWALK

Community members have been enjoying views from the new Lethbridge Lake Boardwalk following completion of an upgraded structure on the north-west end of the lake.

The new Boardwalk replaces the former ageing, wooden structure and is 57 metres in length, 1.5 metres wide, and sits up to 1.7 metres high (above the lakebed) to allow for seasonal variations in the water levels.

The Boardwalk structure includes Fibre Reinforced Polymer decking with concrete footings, concrete approaches installed on the embankments, and a 3 metre by 2 metre central viewing platform. The final phase of work included the recent installation of guardrails on both sides of the structure to enable safe, year-round community use.

The \$275,000 project was a joint venture funded by Golden Plains Shire Council (\$95,000) and the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program (\$180,000).

Before the upgraded works



## DO YOU HAVE A PAWFECT PET?

Microchipping of cats and dogs, as well as registration with your local Council, are legal requirements in Victoria.



A lot of pet owners forget to keep microchip details up to date or think that updating their microchip contact details is the same as registration with their local Council. These are however not linked, and both are crucial to help reuniting you and your pet if they get out.

When you register with Golden Plains Shire Council you provide your pet's microchip number and if your pet gets out our Community Safety Officers can scan your pet and quickly find out who the owner is.

Upon registering, you also get a tag with a unique number linked to your pet. If someone else finds your pet and calls Council's Community Safety Officers, we can still look up your details remotely. This tag is the most effective way to make sure you are reunited with your furry family member as soon as possible! Unfortunately, if we can't find you, your pet will need to be taken to an animal shelter.

Your registration is beneficial for more than just helping to reunite furry family members.

Pet registration fees also allow the Community Safety Officers in Golden Plains Shire to provide a broad range of important services. This includes for example: investigating dog attacks, dealing with nuisance problems like barking dogs and unowned animals, and monitoring animal welfare standards at boarding kennels, catteries, breeding and training businesses.

Learn more at [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/resident/pets-and-animals](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/resident/pets-and-animals)





## golden plains farmers' market

LOCAL GROWERS & MAKERS

The Golden Plains Farmers' Market is preparing for another exciting year of food, fun and activities in 2024.

Held on the first Saturday of every month, the market is a great way to catch up with family and friends while engaging with the very best the region has to offer.

Whether you're checking out the latest from local growers and makers or looking for that perfect gift for a loved one, the Golden Plains Farmers' Market has something for everyone to enjoy. Come along and see fresh produce, meats, cheeses, wine, artisan breads, honey, olives, flowers, plants, unique art, bespoke gifts and so much more!

To stay up-to-date with the latest from the Golden Plains Farmers' Market, follow our Facebook page [facebook.com/goldenplainsfarmersmarket](https://facebook.com/goldenplainsfarmersmarket)

Mark the calendar with the 2024 market dates:  
3 February, 2 March, 6 April, 4 May, 1 June, 6 July, 3 August,  
7 September, 5 October, 2 November and 7 December.

## LISTENING POST IN SMYTHESDALE

**Residents are invited to the final Council Listening Post at Smythesdale Country Market on Saturday 18 November 2023.**

Council's whole-of-council commitment to community engagement focuses on encouraging the community to understand, be understood and learn from each other through productive and inclusive exchange of views.

Listening Posts are a great way to connect with Councillors in person and have residents' voices heard on issues and topics that matter to Golden Plains local communities.

The Smythesdale Listening Post follows similar events in Linton, Inverleigh and Bannockburn.

## Golden Plains Twilight Market

The Golden Plains Twilight Market is back in 2023 for all your Christmas needs.

Experience a delightful evening at the Golden Plains Twilight Market, surrounded by family and friends. This market is your ultimate destination for all your Christmas shopping needs. Savour a refreshing craft beer, a glass of local wine or indulge in a fantastic fruity cocktail.

Discover unique handcrafted items and customised gifts perfect for your Christmas stockings. Additionally, explore fresh farm produce from the Golden Plains region for your festive feasts. The Golden Plains Twilight Market is a vibrant gathering of local growers, artists, artisans, and gourmet producers.

Come join and relax to some wonderful music during the festivities from 4 to 9pm on 14 December 2023 at the Bannockburn Heart, situated at the corner of Milton and High Streets in Bannockburn.



# STAY FIRE READY

The weather is improving, the warmer months have arrived and so has El Nino. The Bureau of Meteorology has declared that we are in an El Nino weather pattern where we will see an increase in fire risk in the Shire. 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/community/fire-flood-and-emergencies](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/community/fire-flood-and-emergencies)

### 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. These inspections will begin in early November.

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 then invoice the landowner for the costs.

Failing to undertake the work stipulated in the Fire Prevention Notice will result in a fine of \$1923 as well as contractor 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.

## SNAKE AWARENESS IN GOLDEN PLAINS

**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, cut your lawns regularly and 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.

For information about relocating native snakes, phone the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action on 136 186. Please be mindful snakes are protected under the Wildlife Act 1975, and it's illegal to capture, kill or harm them.



## Accessibility

### Accessible Parking Permits

If you have a significant disability or injury you may be eligible for an Accessible Parking Permit.

Golden Plains Shire Council now processes Accessible Parking Permit (APP) applications and renewals online through the accessible parking Portal - or you may also see our Customer Experience team in the Bannockburn or Smythesdale office to collect an application form.

For more information and to apply online visit [accessibleparking.vic.gov.au/permits](https://accessibleparking.vic.gov.au/permits) or see your local GP to assist in completing an online application form.

### Key Access to Public Accessibility toilets

The Master Locksmiths Access Key (MLAK) system is a unique and innovative system that uses a universal lock and key to allow people with special needs to access dedicated public facilities 24 hours a day.

The MLAK system is used for Changing Places facilities. Changing Places provide suitable facilities for people who cannot use standard accessible toilets. They allow people with high support needs to fully participate in the community.

MLAK keys can only be purchased from MLAA locksmiths, or the MLAA Support Office. To find an MLAA locksmith who sells the MLAK, visit [masterlocksmiths.com.au](https://masterlocksmiths.com.au), enter your suburb or postcode in the Find A Master Locksmith box, and look for the words Master Locksmiths Access Key.

To purchase a key from the MLAA Support Office, please visit [masterlocksmiths.com.au/mlak](https://masterlocksmiths.com.au/mlak)

### Dying to Know Day

Council's Active Ageing and Inclusion team partnered with Justice Connect to present a: 'Conversation Guide' to prepare for the future.

The interactive workshop was facilitated by Seniors Lawyer, Anna Smith, who provided extensive knowledge and created informative discussion about 'what you want your older life to look like'.

Discussion topics included: the role of a Power of Attorney document, who is a Medical treatment decision maker or Financial decision maker, when do these roles take effect, what decisions do you need to make and who can you talk to about your decisions.

To find out more, visit [justiceconnect.org.au/resources/preparing-for-your-future-a-conversation-guide](https://justiceconnect.org.au/resources/preparing-for-your-future-a-conversation-guide)

### Wellbeing Sessions

Council's Active Ageing and Inclusion team collaborated with Hesse Rural Health and Golden Plains Shire Council Maternal Child Health Nurse, Raelene Alexander, to host informative sessions about Nutrition and Diabetes.

These sessions in Inverleigh and Rokewood encouraged members to ask questions and engage in discussion surrounding the topics of interest. Raelene also provided attendees with helpful booklets and flyers to take away and use as further reference points.



Inverleigh wellness session

## 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 details:

**Golden Plains Shire Council Active Ageing and Inclusion team** (during business hours): 5220 7151

Email: [ageingandinclusion@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto: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: Children playing at Haddon  
Kindergarten in Haddon*

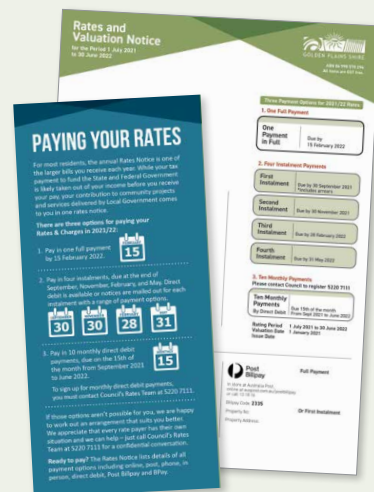
## RATES PAYMENT

All Golden Plains Shire ratepayers received their  
2023-24 Rates Notices in August.

Thank you to all ratepayers who have signed up  
to the monthly payment 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 by 30  
November 2023. Full payment of the 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.

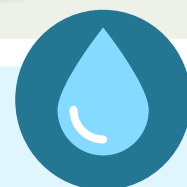


## CHOOSE WATER

Council has an ongoing partnership with the G21 Geelong  
Regional Alliance to promote the 'Choose Water Every Day' initiative.  
This campaign aims to encourage physical activity, healthy eating,  
and the preference for tap water over sugary drinks across the region.

Various activities have taken place within the Shire, including the sharing of  
helpful tips on Council's social media platforms, fostering a collective effort to  
enhance our community's health and wellbeing.

When it comes to drinking water – tap water is the best choice for your  
health and the environment!



## SPEED LIMIT REVIEW TO IMPROVE SAFETY

Council recently completed community engagement on a proposal  
to lower the speed limits on a number of roads across the Shire.

Lowering these speed limits is part of Council's commitment to improve road  
safety for all road users and pedestrians in the Shire.

Council proposed to lower the speed limits on:

- Wilsons Road, Haddon
- Teesdale-Inverleigh Road, Inverleigh
- Vaggs Road, Ross Creek
- Bowes Road, Ross Creek
- Scotchmans Lead Road, Napoleons
- Clyde Road, Bannockburn
- Thomas Road, Haddon
- Kelly Road, Bannockburn
- Sebastopol-Smythesdale Road, Smythesdale

For an update on this consultation including the next steps, visit  
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