

DECEMBER, 2023





Another Exciting Year in Golden Plains Shire

As 2023 comes to a close, Council is proud to reflect on the past 12 months of achievements and challenges, whilst also looking ahead to another exciting year in 2024.

Through tireless dedication, collaboration, and innovative solutions, we have strived to enhance quality of life, foster sustainable development, and address pressing challenges. Council is proud to celebrate another impactful year of positive transformation.

2023 was a year of review, consolidation and innovation for Golden Plains Shire Council. Our community continued to bounce back as we transitioned out of the COVID-19 pandemic and returning to a new way of going about our business each and every day.

We have witnessed remarkable achievements and faced unprecedented challenges. Through collaboration, determination, and unwavering dedication, our Council, staff, and community have come together to navigate these uncertain times with resilience and strength.

In November, Council hosted Mayoral elections and you can hear from the Mayor and their aspirations for the Golden Plains community over the final year of this Councillor term by visiting goldenplains.vic.gov.au/news

In 2024, Council is excited to continue to deliver community services and programs that help people achieve meaningful outcomes.

Take the time to read through the pages of this edition and learn about the latest consultations, engagements, community news, events and important information about Council services.



ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23 OUT NOW!

Council's Annual Report 2022/23 provides a comprehensive overview of our achievements and performance in the 2022/23 financial year against the five community outcome areas as set out in the Council Plan 2021-2025.

The Annual Report 2022/23 focuses on highlights and challenges, operational performance, and provides a detailed overview of financial performance and expenditure.

The Annual Report 2022/23 is available to view online and download on Council's website goldenplains.vic.gov.au

Printed copies of the Annual Report 2022/23 are available to view at Council's Customer Hubs at 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn and 19 Heales Street, Smythesdale.

Road Works Continue in Golden Plains Shire

Road works on Council managed roads continue across Golden Plains Shire with significant works recently completed to repair roads and bridges

Council is committed to ongoing maintenance and repair of roads on a priority basis and acknowledges that road maintenance is one of the most important issues in Golden Plains Shire. We are committed to keeping residents informed on road works in their area, and our road grading calendar for unsealed roads is available at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/events

Golden Plains Shire Council manages, in accordance with its Road Management Plan 2021-2025, the roads for which it has responsibility pursuant to the *Road Management Act 2004*.

For more information about roads in Golden Plains Shire, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/resident/roads



Before



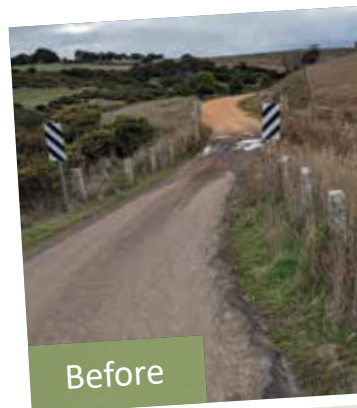
After

UPGRADES TO PARKERS ROAD AT RUSSELLS BRIDGE

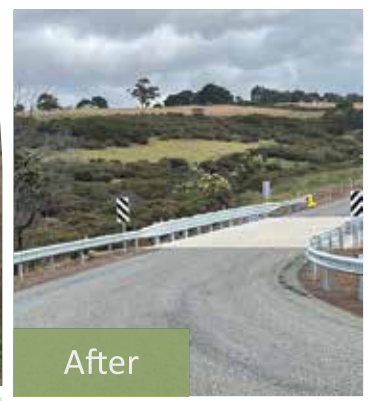
Work to repair sections of Parkers Road in Russells Bridge has recently been completed, following significant damage to the road due to flooding in 2022. The new deck consists of reinforced concrete with steel rods tied into the existing structure.

FRENCHMANS ROAD BRIDGES REPLACED IN CORINDHAP

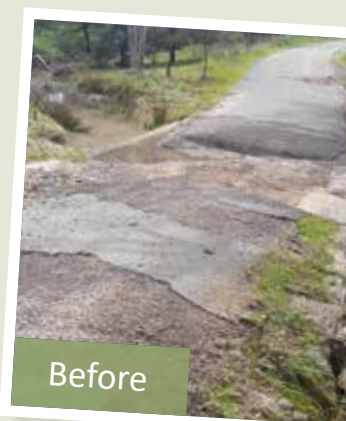
Two new two-lane, unrestricted-load concrete bridges have replaced two single-lane, 20 tonne load-limited bridges which were in poor condition. A 240-metre unsealed section of Frenchmans Road was also reconstructed and upgraded to a sealed road with improved roadside drainage.



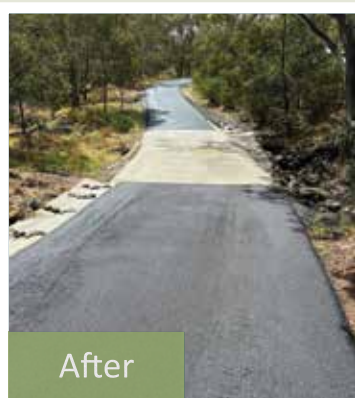
Before



After



Before



After

UPGRADES TO RIDDLES ROAD IN BANNOCKBURN

Riddles Road in Bannockburn has undergone flood damage repair work. The causeway surface has been replaced with a reinforced concrete deck.

GROWING PLACES STRATEGY

Extensive Community Input Informs Growing Places Strategy

Council continues to develop a full draft of its Growing Places Strategy following extensive community engagement which informed and tested the future growth scenario.

The Growing Places Strategy will set the overall direction for housing and population growth in Golden Plains Shire into the future. The strategy has been informed by independent studies and research over the past two years, strongly guided by the key objectives of the Community Vision 2040.

From May to July 2023, there were over 800 visits to the Growing Places consultation webpage, and social media and newspaper promotion reached over 30,000 people. More than 80 people attended Community Information Sessions which were held at locations across the Shire, and Council received many emails and phone calls during the consultation period. Up to 25 key organisations have also been briefed on the Growing Places Strategy including agencies, Local Government and State Government departments.

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback, attended an online or in-person information session or got in touch with us about the development of the Growing Places Strategy. Your feedback has been invaluable in shaping our future plan for growth.

The community will have another opportunity to review the full draft of the Growing Places Strategy which is expected to be available in mid-2024.

For the latest update, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations

LINTON OVAL REDEVELOPMENT WELL UNDERWAY



The Linton Oval Redevelopment is well underway, with work on the \$1.2 million construction progressing through contractor Global Turf Projects.

Site establishment and demolition of existing infrastructure have been completed, with major earthworks well underway. Irrigation and drainage works have progressed throughout November, with the installation of infrastructure including perimeter fencing, concrete spoon drain, automated oval irrigation system, sub-surface drainage and new goal posts and coaches shelters to follow.

Sprigging of Santa Ana couch turf is scheduled for early February 2024, with the establishment period requiring the oval to be out of use for the 2024 AFL season and the first half of the 2024/25 cricket season.

The redevelopment will address long-standing issues with the playing surface and drainage at Linton Recreation Reserve. All users will benefit from a greatly improved oval surface that can be better utilised year-round to support current and future sports participation, scheduling and social use.

Further updates will be provided at goldenplains.vic.gov.au

Do you have a pawfect pet? Be a responsible pet owner

Being a responsible pet owner means being respectful and considerate of your neighbours and the community overall, and making sure that your pet does not impact on others in an unreasonable way. Cleaning up after your pet is an important part of being a responsible pet owner.

Droppings from dogs, in particular around footpaths and reserves, is unpleasant and unacceptable to the community. It's annoying for pedestrians, for bike riders and anyone walking with a pram. It's very unpleasant for sports people, whether children or adults, when it is left on recreational reserves.

Dog droppings can contain harmful bacteria or worms which can be passed onto humans. Those using recreational reserves are most at risk of this being passed onto them, as users of these grounds where they run and may fall directly onto droppings.

In Golden Plains Shire, anyone in control of an animal in a public place is required to carry an appropriate receptacle to be able to remove droppings of their animal. A fine can be issued both for failure to carry an appropriate receptacle and for not removing the droppings.



With the weather now warmer, and school holidays coming up, there is an increase in people walking their dogs - especially on sporting ovals and reserves.

Council's community safety officers will increase patrols in these areas to educate pet owners of the impact of leaving droppings behind. Warnings may also be issued to anyone who are observed not collecting their animal's droppings.

Being a pet owner is a privilege and comes with many responsibilities to ensure your pet is well looked after but it also comes with responsibilities towards your neighbours and the community overall. Council strongly encourages pet owners to be responsible and considerate to those around them.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION IN BANNOCKBURN NOW FULLY OPERATIONAL



Works to install an electronic vehicle (EV) charging station on High Street in Bannockburn are now complete, with the charging station fully operational.

The charging station has been installed across three existing parking bays at 29 High Street, Bannockburn, near the entrance to the Bannockburn Library.

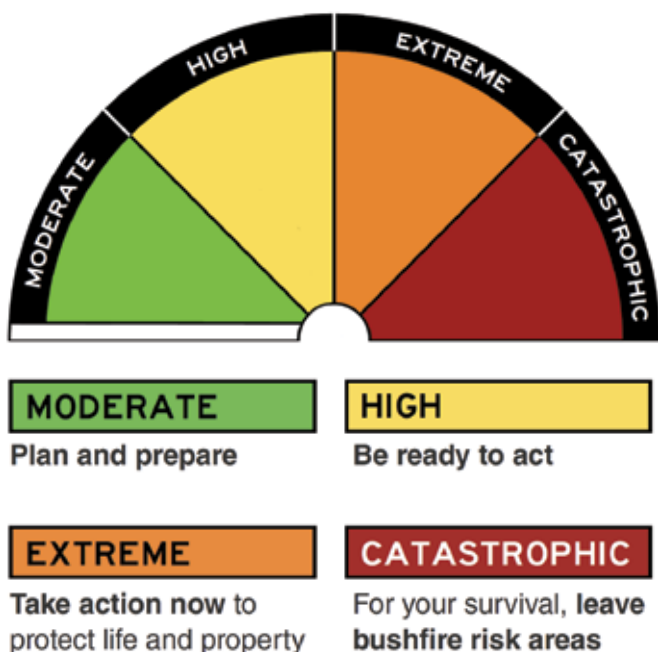
Situated at the heart of Bannockburn, the charging station is funded from the Victorian State Government's Destination Charging Across Victoria initiative by Evie Networks.

Evie Networks also installed an EV charging station in Meredith earlier this year.

Fire Danger Period/Fire Danger Rating System

This Summer will see extreme heat, dry conditions and increased fire danger. The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) has declared two major climate drivers; El Nino and a positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) that will impact our weather this season. It's important to not only prepare for yourself and family, but also learn how you can support your community.

To help prepare and familiarise yourself, visit
goldenplains.vic.gov.au/community/fire-flood-and-emergencies



FIRE DANGER RATING SYSTEM

The new Fire Danger Rating System was introduced in 2022. In the new system, there are four categories ranging from moderate to catastrophic.

Fire Danger Ratings provide information so people in affected areas can take action to protect themselves and others. The higher the fire danger, the more dangerous conditions and the greater the impact will be if a fire starts.

Residents are encouraged to keep an eye on the Fire Danger Rating signs across the Shire this fire season and have a plan in place for fire events.

FIRE DANGER PERIOD IN GOLDEN PLAINS

Golden Plains Shire entered the Fire Danger Period (FDP) at 1am on Monday 20 November 2023, with fire restrictions in force until the Country Fire Authority (CFA) announces the end of the fire season.

During the FDP, there are a number of restrictions that residents must adhere to and landowners are required to maintain the levels of fine fuels on their properties.

Landowners in Golden Plains are required to keep grass on their residential 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.

Council commenced its Fire Hazard Inspection Program on Monday 13 November 2023. If you believe you have been issued with a Fire Prevention Notice but have not received one, please contact Council at enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au or call 5220 7111.

Residents who have been issued with a Fire Prevention Notice are required to complete necessary works to limit hazards by 4 weeks after the date of issue.



Community Strengthening Grants awarded to community projects across the Shire

Council's Community Strengthening Grants are a valuable source of financial support for local events, projects and programs in Golden Plains. Applications for the second round of this year's program were open during September and Council is delighted to award over \$78,000 to 13 Golden Plains community projects.

The recipients of the second round of Council's Community Strengthening Grants 2023 are:

Creative Community Grants



Smythesdale Community Arts and Music Fiesta 2024
\$6,877.50

The Bop Arts Co-op Ltd
Reactive The BOP Workshops
\$10,000

Environment and Sustainability Grants



Trust for Nature (Victoria)

'Working together to heal Country - Dog Rocks Reserve'
\$10,000

Healthy Active Living Grants



Smythesdale Craft and Cuppa Program 2024

\$1,500

Inverleigh Senior Citizens Club Inc.

Inverleigh Seniors Community Engagement
\$7,000

Haddon Community Learning Centre Inc.

Chairs, Tables, and Trolley Replacement and Upgrade
\$7,170

Golden Plains VEX Robotics Club

'Golden Plains VEX Robotics Club' \$8,082

Golden Oldies Mens Activity Group

Golden Oldies Mens Activity Group \$7,000

Shelford Community Garden

Shelford Community Garden \$1,936

Meredith Community Centre Inc.

Seniors Out and About \$7,000

Community Safety



Smythesdale Cemetery Trust

Safety Barriers at Smythesdale Cemetery
\$920

Shelford Recreation Reserve Committee of Management

Carpark Undergrowth Clean Up \$8,646

Cape Clear Recreation Reserve

Extreme Weather Days
\$1,971



For more information about Council's Community Strengthening Grants program visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au or contact Council's Community Development and Grants Officer at 5220 7111 or communitygrants@gplains.vic.gov.au

Buy Local

THIS FESTIVE SEASON



Buy



Gift



Celebrate

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



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



Council wishes you a

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**
and a
**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**



Scan the QR code to view the collection calendar.



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.

Council's Customer Hub at 19 Heales Street, Smythesdale will close at 5pm, Thursday 21 December. The Customer Experience Team will be available by phone and in-person at the Customer Hub at 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn on Friday 22 December until 12pm before closing for the holiday period.

Customer Hubs will reopen at 8.30am, Tuesday 2 January 2024.

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

RUBBISH AND RECYCLE COLLECTION

From Monday 25 December, all collections will be completed one day later than usual.

For further information, scan the QR code on the left to view the collection calendar.

ROKEWOOD TRANSFER STATION

The Rokewood Resource Recovery Centre will be closed on Sunday 24 December 2023. It will re-open on Sunday 31 December 2023 from 10am to 3pm.

Community Planning Program 2023

Council's Community Planning Program for 2023 launched in August, with six towns having their first individual inception meeting with mentors Non Profit Training.

Towns included Cape Clear-Illabrook-Rokewood Junction, Linton, Meredith, Bannockburn and Garibaldi and over the next three to six months, these towns will develop a four-year Community Plan that will identify key priorities.

Community Coordinators, Project Champions and volunteers will then help deliver projects, initiatives, activities and advocacy that improve the liveability and quality of life for their residents.

Upon completion of the plan, Council further supports communities by providing a Community Planning Seed Funding program with funds up to \$10,000 per town available to assist the implementation of priority projects. This funding can also be used to leverage or source additional funding through State and Federal Governments, philanthropic organisations or provide funds to undertake further fundraising opportunities.

Teesdale, Inverleigh, Shelford, Maude-She Oaks-Steiglitz, Dereel and Batesford participated in the 2022 program and have started implementing their Community Plans.

To learn more, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/community/community-planning

Are you passionate about your community? Want to make a difference to improve the social wellbeing of your town?

Golden Plains Shire Council's Community Planning Program builds a community's capacity to identify, design and implement their own Community Plan.

The program provides the connection between community and local government and is a process where communities identify their goals for improving the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of their town.

If you would like to learn more about becoming a Community Coordinator, Project Champion or general volunteer in the delivery of Community Plans for your town, contact communityplanning@gplains.vic.gov.au



GOLDEN PLAINS FARMERS MARKET RETURNS IN 2024

The first Golden Plains Farmers' Market for 2024 is not far away and we're gearing up for a bumper year of food, festivities and fun times.

Whether you're checking out the latest from local growers and makers or looking for that perfect gift for a friend or family member, the Golden Plains Farmers Market is the place to be.

Come along for the fresh produce, meats, cheese, wine, artisan bread, honeys, olives, flowers, plants, unique art, bespoke gifts and so much more.

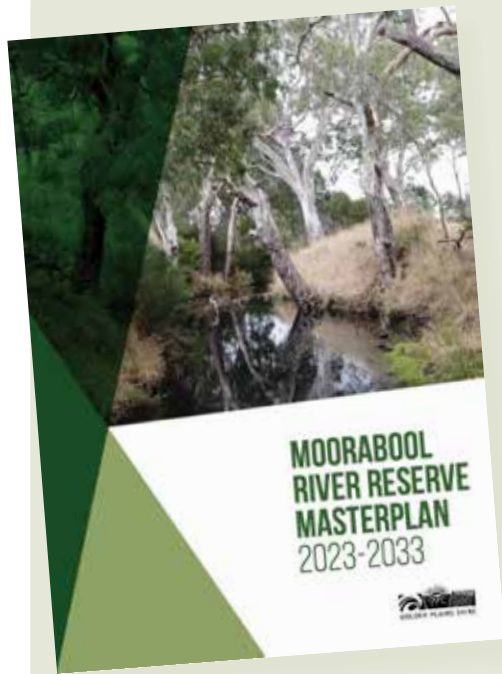
Beginning in February, the market is held on the first Saturday of every month at the corner of Milton and High Streets, Bannockburn.

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.

ADOPTED: MOORABOOL RIVER RESERVE MASTERPLAN 2023-2033

The Moorabool River Reserve Masterplan (the Masterplan) will help guide environmental conservation, rehabilitation and passive recreation at the Reserve for the next 10 years after Council adopted the Masterplan at its October 2023 meeting.



The Masterplan was developed following extensive community consultation over the past 12 months. Responses from community members included information on the Reserve's natural assets, key issues, preferred uses and recreational opportunities. Consultation with Wadawurrung traditional owners was also undertaken to understand traditional custodian interests and opportunities regarding the future care and health of Country.

Council's Environment and Sustainability Team obtained grant funds through the State Government's Iconic Urban Waterways Grants Program to develop the Masterplan. Council has also been granted \$175,000 to progress the Moorabool River Reserve Masterplan key actions to "shovel ready" through the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority's Kitjarra dja bul Bullarto langi-ut project.

The Masterplan can be viewed online at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations or hard copies can be collected from Council's Customer Hub at 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn or The Well, 19 Heales Street, Smythesdale.

ADOPTED: SMYTHESDALE GARDENS AND BREWERY DAM RESERVE MASTERPLAN

Council adopted the Smythesdale Gardens and Brewery Dam Reserve Masterplan (the Masterplan) at its September 2023 meeting.



The Masterplan was developed following an extensive community engagement process which included in-person consultations with the Smythesdale Progress Association/Committee of Management (CoM) and online community consultation from Wednesday 26 July to Wednesday 23 August.

Key objectives of the Masterplan include improving and enhancing the reserve landscape, establishing options for additional facilities and infrastructure, improving recreational opportunities for reserve users and resolving access issues.

The Masterplan also identifies current and future needs and issues while also providing clear direction for the responsible development of each reserve within resource constraints.

The Masterplan can be viewed online at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations



THE PLAINS Connector

Seniors Festival October 2023

This year's Victorian Seniors Festival theme was "Learn, Love, Live – your best life" so in celebration of Golden Plains Shire's seniors, the Community Inclusion team partnered with local stakeholders and community groups to offer a suite of 22 activities and events for our senior population.

With activity hosts ranging from Council, Linton Men's Shed, Linton & District Art Group and the Bannockburn Library, our community was able to register to attend any of the sessions on offer to build social connection, learn new skills or get out and about within their local township.

Upcoming EVENTS



Wiser Driver 2024

The Community Inclusion team has been offered the opportunity to host another Wiser Driver class within the first half of 2024.

To register your interest, please contact Council's Social Connections Officer at rachel.power@gplains.vic.gov.au or call our team on 5220 7111.

Key events that Council hosted included the Ageism Awareness morning tea, Sing Australia Ballarat Choir performance, NBN 101 Digital Technology made easy, and two outings; the Great Ocean Road Chocolaterie and the Ballarat Town Hall tour. The two outings were both well attended, with feedback from participants advising they thoroughly enjoyed socialising over good food, the chance to connect with others and the entertainment provided by tour guides.

Council also hosted a four-week Wiser Driver course that provided 10 participants with an opportunity to refine their knowledge and awareness of the Victorian road rules and enhance self confidence in their driving ability, as well as receiving a certificate of completion at the end of the course.

Escape the Heat 2024

The Community Inclusion team is once again running their annual Escape the Heat morning tea sessions.

The aim of this event is to educate our older residents on heat awareness and fire safety, and to encourage them to take care of one another during the dangerous heatwaves in the summer months. A list of safe venues to visit when wishing to escape the heat will also be provided.

Sessions will be held at two separate venues, please see details below:

Date: Tuesday 16 January 2024

Location: Bannockburn Cultural Centre

Time: 10am – 12pm

Date: Tuesday 23 January 2024

Location: The Well, Smythesdale

Time: 10am – 12pm

Morning tea will be provided. Transport is available but spaces will be limited.

To book, please contact Council's Social Connections Officer at rachel.power@gplains.vic.gov.au or call our team on 5220 7111.

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

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD



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

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: CFA volunteers.

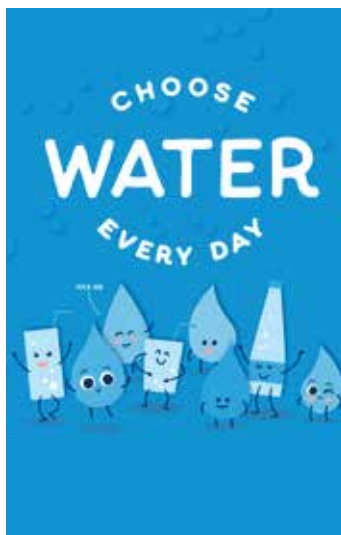
RATES PAYMENT

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 third payment is due by 28
February 2024. Full payment of your 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 THIS SUMMER

Summer has arrived and it's going
to be hot!

If you're outdoors, double your water intake and stay
hydrated. And don't forget your pets, make sure they
have access to shade and water.

Did you know your body is 70% water? Dehydration
reduces your attention and ability to concentrate.
Drinking six to eight glasses of tap water a day keeps
you in top shape!

BEYOND THE VALLEY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Beyond the Valley will be held from Thursday
28 December 2023 to Monday 1 January
2024 at Barunah Plains in Hesse.

Residents are advised that there will be increased traffic
along the Hamilton Highway in the days of the festival,
with traffic management in place to assist traffic flow.

Patrons exiting the festival will be able to travel via
Bannockburn, Winchelsea and Inverleigh to return home.

For more information regarding the festival, visit
www.beyondthevalley.com.au/information



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