

THE POWER OF VOLUNTEERS

The Trailblazers community walking program is one of many community activities which rely on volunteers.

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Local Law

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Leadership
Program

10 | H30 Challenge
now open

Bannockburn Customer Service Centre

2 Pope Street, Bannockburn, Victoria, 3331.

Linton Customer Service Centre

68 Sussex Street, Linton Victoria, 3360.

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)

Bannockburn Cultural Centre

27 High Street, Bannockburn
P: 5220 7260

The Well, Smythesdale Business, Health & Community Hub

19 Heales Street,
Smythesdale
P: 5321 1500

Northern Community Centre

Sago Hill Road, Haddon
P: 5342 7000

Bannockburn Family Services Centre

2a Pope Street,
Bannockburn
P: 5220 7230



FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to the April Gazette.

At the first Council meeting for 2017 a new Local Law was adopted. This will bring changes for residents, particularly in terms of dog-on-lead areas, use of shipping containers on private property, and operation of recreational motor vehicles. More details are available on page 3.

Golden Plains Shire Council values the important role that volunteers play in contributing to many Council activities, including Meals on Wheels, community transport and the L2P Program. It's estimated our volunteers contribute over \$4m each year in economic value to the Shire and I encourage you to read more on page 6.

Thank you to the almost 400 residents who provided direct feedback on our Council Plan process. The Community Reference Group is now in place and the draft Plan will be available in May for further community feedback. You can learn more on page 8.

Cr Des Phelan – Mayor



FROM THE CEO

Greetings to all and I hope your year is off to a productive start.

For those in the north of the Shire with a Friday waste collection, please be advised that waste and recycling bins normally collected on Friday 14 April 2017 (Good Friday) will be collected on Saturday 15 April 2017. We ask residents to ensure bins are placed out the evening before the scheduled collection day.

15 Golden Plains young people have embarked on an exciting adventure – the Western Bulldogs Youth Leadership program. Council is partnering with the club to offer opportunities for participants to develop their leadership, teamwork and communication skills. More details on page 5.

Council is working hard to offer more training and networking opportunities for local businesses. Our recent networking event was held at the Meredith Music Festival site, offering a great chance for business operators to network in a relaxed atmosphere while hearing from a great guest speaker. I encourage businesses to register for future opportunities – further information is available on page 9.

Rod Nicholls – Chief Executive Officer



LOCAL LAW CHANGES

After a substantial review of the previous Golden Plains Shire Council Local Law, Council adopted the new Local Law No.2 – General Public Amenity in January 2017.

Council's Local Laws have a significant effect on the communities we live in. Key to the objectives of the new Local Law is to provide a safe and healthy environment so that residents of the Shire can enjoy a quality of life that enhances their wellbeing.

This is achieved by facilitating public services and regulating various activities. Over the coming year, residents may be contacted while the community transitions into complying with the new Local Law. It is important to note that Council officers will continue to work closely with the community to ensure that new Local Law requirements are clearly understood. A particular emphasis will be placed on education and awareness activities to help ensure a smooth transition during this time.

Some specific Local Laws that will have a direct effect on the community include:

- Prescribed dog on lead areas have been defined in the townships of Bannockburn, Inverleigh, Lethbridge, Linton, Meredith, Napoleons, Rokewood, Smythesdale and Teesdale. Signage will be placed in relevant

areas where dogs are to remain on leads with further information available on Council's website.

- Council will be conducting a review of the locations and numbers of shipping containers across the Shire. Individual residents will be contacted regarding arrangements to ensure compliance with the Local Law.
- Various restrictions have been put in place around the allowed use of motorised recreational vehicles in residential and rural areas. Council officers will be working directly with residents to resolve any issues.

To find out more about the Local Laws and how they may affect you, download a copy from Council's website at: www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au/local-laws.

Alternatively you may view a hard copy at the Council Customer Service Centres in Bannockburn or Linton. If you wish to discuss a particular aspect of the Local Law please contact Council's Environment Services Team on 5220 7111.

WHAT'S ON IN GOLDEN PLAINS?

APRIL



1ST

Golden Plains Farmers' Market

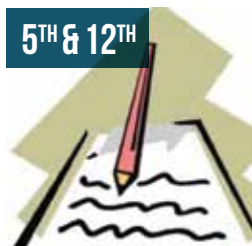
8.30am – 12.30pm. Cnr High & Milton Streets, Bannockburn. Farm fresh produce, free parking, free entry and kids' activities. More info: goldenplainsfarmersmarket.com.au



5TH & 12TH

Come and Try – Balloon Football

10.30am – 11.30am YMCA Bannockburn. Balloon Football is a version of AFL that has been modified to suit the needs of people in a wheelchair. More info: Mark De Campo 5220 7111 mark.decampo@gplains.vic.gov.au



5TH & 12TH

Introduction to Creative Writing

1.30pm – 2.30pm Bannockburn Cultural Centre. This session will show you some basic tools that will help you to develop a story. Particularly helpful for NDIS clients. More info: Mark De Campo 5220 7111 mark.decampo@gplains.vic.gov.au



14TH

good Friday appeal
THE ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Inverleigh Good Friday Appeal

11am to 5pm Victoria Park Inverleigh. Live entertainment including the Mik Maks, kids rides, market, classic cars and more. More info: email ihdgfa@outlook.com



15TH

Smythesdale Country Market

9.00am – 1.00pm 35A Brooke Street, Smythesdale. More info: Woody Yaloak Historical Society 5342 8754



22TH - 23TH

Smythesdale and District Pony Club Horse Trials

9.00am – 5.00pm Woody Yaloak Horse Trails. A weekend of competition encompassing dressage, cross country and show jumping. More info Janet Jackson 0429 402 047 djackson59@bigpond.com

MAY



6TH

Golden Plains Farmers' Market

8.30am – 12.30pm. Cnr High & Milton Streets Bannockburn. Farm fresh produce, free parking, free entry and kids' activities. More info: goldenplainsfarmersmarket.com.au



7TH

Creators and Craft Market

10.00am – 2.00pm Cnr High & Milton Streets, Bannockburn. This popular market showcases the work of local craftspeople and artisans. More info: Noeline Trevor 0427 923 934 cbbanno@bigpond.com



20TH

Smythesdale Country Market

9.00am – 1.00pm 35A Brooke Street, Smythesdale. Also running 15 April. More info: Woody Yaloak Historical Society 5342 8754



21ST

Teesdale Country Markets

9.00am – 1.00pm Turtle Bend Teesdale. Homegrown, Handmade and Vintage Country Markets. More info: Geoff Wild 0407 835 731 gswild@bigpond.com



28TH

Inverleigh 8km Handicap

9.00am – 10.30am Lawson Reserve Inverleigh. An 8km footrace where runners are handicapped according to their abilities. More info: Jeff Walker 5229 4304 jeffkathw@gmail.com



BULLDOGS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Council is partnering with the Western Bulldogs to deliver a dynamic youth leadership program.

This intensive program will provide 15 young people in Golden Plains with hands on opportunities to build capacities in leadership, teamwork and communication while growing as leaders in their community.

The participants will attend workshops in the Shire during 2017 as well as participate in other development opportunities.

Cr Joanne Gilbert took the opportunity to meet Bulldogs players and past participants at the program launch recently.



GRENVILLE TENNIS COURT OPENING

Over 100 locals turned out in February for the opening of the new Grenville tennis courts.

Works included the construction of two new tennis courts, tree removal, drainage and fencing works.

Interest in tennis has grown considerably in the region with 32 young people now registered.

If you're interested in joining the Club contact Hayley Quach on 0403 668 029 or email hayleyquach@gmail.com.



2017 BUSINESS SURVEY NOW OPEN

Council invites businesses in the Shire to complete the 2017 Golden Plains Business Survey.

This annual survey will help gauge the state of the region's economy and industry, as well as guide Council's economic development activities. Your input will also assist Council in lobbying for improved infrastructure, telecommunications and other services.

To complete the survey or see the results of the 2016 survey visit www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations or for more information contact Helena on 5220 7102 or email invest@gplains.vic.gov.au. The survey will be available until 31 May.





THE POWER OF VOLUNTEERS

The best way to describe volunteering is ‘an activity where people freely give their time and energy to benefit another individual, group or community’.

It’s a way for people to become involved in their community in a interesting, satisfying and fun way.

The most recent study by Geelong Region Alliance (G21) on volunteering in Golden Plains Shire, calculated the contribution of volunteering in our Shire.

3,182 volunteers (22% of the Shire population) provide at least one hour per week of volunteering. At \$29 per hour, equals \$4,243,324 in economic value. This is a conservative estimate as some of our volunteers contribute many more hours than this.

In addition to the economic value, the social value of volunteering is hard to measure. If a volunteer provides a lonely person a friendly chat, what is that worth? If a community club gives a disadvantaged person the opportunity to build relationships, what is that worth?

A variety of services

Volunteers in Golden Plains Shire are involved in the following activities:

- Meals on Wheels – delivering meals once per week to Health and Community Care eligible clients
- Planned Activity Groups – helping the aged and those with disabilities to participate in social and recreational activities that promote independence and wellbeing
- Community Transport – providing safe transportation for the aged and disabled to attend doctor and specialist appointments, go shopping and pay bills
- Trailblazers – walk volunteers and drivers provide assistance with our community walking program
- L2P Learner Mentor program – volunteer drivers are matched with young people learning to drive. Both mentor training and car are provided.

- Chat and Chew community meals – each month a team of volunteers work with Council to provide a two course nutritious meal for between 30 and 40 residents.

The role of a volunteer

Arthur, pictured above, generously devotes his time as a volunteer driver, transporting people who are old, frail or disabled to medical appointments. He’s one of the many dedicated volunteers who makes Golden Plains Shire a great place to live.

Arthur says that he loves being able to give back to the community and help people in need. He enjoys meeting new people and learning more about the Shire.

Find out more

Council welcomes volunteers, whether to gain valuable work skills, give back to the community or to make new social connections.

All you need to do is to contact Council’s Volunteer Coordinator and we will assist in finding the role that suits you.

Contact 5220 7216 or enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au for more information.



WOMEN IN SPORT SURVEY

Council seeks feedback from women and girls in the north of the Shire to assist with the future development of recreation facilities and programs.

Women and girls aged 15 years and over are invited to take the survey on the Have Your Say section of Council's website. Hard copies of the survey will also be available at local community centres.

Survey feedback will assist Council in planning future programs and activities by allowing us to identify what physical activity initiatives will encourage residents to get active. We will also identify infrastructure improvements that aim to encourage and support women to use community facilities.

COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021

In late 2016 and early 2017, almost 400 residents took the opportunity to have their say through a community survey, listening posts and community workshops across the Shire.

The Community Reference Group is made up of residents from across the Shire. They will provide input and feedback on the key findings and the draft Council Plan.

Throughout May 2017, the draft Council Plan will be available for review and comment on the Council website and in hard copy at Council's Customer Service Centres in Linton and Bannockburn. We welcome your feedback during this time.



SHELFORD FLOOD GUIDE

Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) recently produced a Local Flood Guide for Shelford in conjunction with Golden Plains Shire, the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority and the local community.

This enables Shelford residents to prepare their families and properties for future flood events.

In January 2011, Shelford was affected by flooding when the Leigh River peaked at 7.90 metres.

The Local Flood Guide is available online from the VICSES website at www.ses.vic.gov.au and hard copies are available from the Shire Customer Service Centres and Bannockburn SES.



ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY REVIEW

Council is set to review its current Environment Strategy.

Adopted in 2011, the Strategy has guided Council's environmental program over the past six years. Key issues include water use, emissions management, biodiversity, fire, pest plants & animals and sustainable farming.

With increased interest in sustainability issues within the community, Council will ensure the new Strategy provides clear direction for the future.

Information will be made available soon regarding community input on this review.

For more information, contact the Environment Services Team Leader on 5220 7111.



WANT TO GROW WITH US?

Staff at Smythesdale Well are looking for people interested in helping with planting and watering the community garden.

No experience is required – just an interest in growing, learning and sharing. A small donation of your time is all that is required. Produce is grown for all to share at the 'Food is Free' table at the Well.

For more information contact 5321 1500 / 5342 7050 or thewell@gplains.vic.gov.au.



GOLDEN PLAINS BUSINESS AFTER 5

Over 40 business leaders attended the Golden Plains Business After 5 Networking Event on 9 March at the Meredith Music Festival site.

Greg Peele, co-founder of the Meredith and Golden Plains music festivals told the inspirational story of how the festivals grew to become iconic events on the Australian music scene.

The next Golden Plains Business Networking Event will be held in August as part of the Small Business Festival Victoria. If you are interested in attending, contact Mick, Economic Development Officer on 5220 7201 or email invest@gplains.vic.gov.au.



TRAILBLAZERS

Do you want to meet new people while getting fresh air and exercise in some great locations around Golden Plains?

Trailblazers provides great opportunities to participate in group walks – just turn up to take part. We even have a bus to get you there!

Walks are held on the first Thursday of the month at various locations around the Shire. Distances are usually around 5km with some moderate inclines. Tea, coffee and light morning tea will be provided after walks where possible.

For walk locations, search 'Trailblazers' at www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au. To travel on the bus to and from the walk location, contact Jacinta on 5321 1500 or jacinta.walsh@gplains.vic.gov.au.



TAKE THE H3O CHALLENGE

Council has received funding to promote VicHealth's H3O Challenge to help improve the health of our communities.

The H3O Challenge encourages people to make a simple 30-day pledge to replace every sugary drink they would normally drink, with water.

As part of the campaign we are offering people who live, work or play sport in Golden Plains Shire, the chance to win some great prizes by participating in the Challenge including a Smartwatch (\$400 value) or one of four Rebel Sport vouchers (\$200, \$150, \$100 and \$50). Sign up to take the Challenge at www.h30challenge.com.au/lga/goldenplains by Friday 28 April. For more information contact Belinda, Golden Plains Shire Council on 5342 7111 or bhynes@gplains.vic.gov.au.



BRINGING STORIES TO LIFE

Council's innovative intergenerational program 'Tech, Tea and Tales' is closing the gap between the young and old.

16 young job seekers have been paired with 32 senior residents to teach them how to use technology devices as a way to connect better with their interests, friends and family.

By matching the strengths of young people with the interests of older people, Council is addressing the employment challenges of young people as well as recording the life stories of their senior pupils.

Highlights of these stories will be screened at a community celebration event in April. For more information about the program or the event contact Sarah on 5220 7111 or youth@gplains.vic.gov.au.



RESIDENTIAL REGULATIONS EXPLAINED

Living in a shed is often seen as a cost-effective and practical option while building a house, camping on the weekends or for living in permanently.

However, it is illegal to occupy a shed for residential purposes unless building and planning permit approvals have been obtained. The use of a shed for accommodation without relevant permits can be dangerous as safe building regulations have not been met.

In the upcoming months, Council Officers will be conducting extensive compliance inspections on sheds and illegal structures being used for accommodation.

The use of a non-habitable structure for accommodation is an offence under the Building Act 1993 and the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

For further information, please call Matthew in Council's Development team on 5220 7111.



COMMUNITY PLANNING ACROSS GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

Communities across Golden Plains Shire have continued to deliver projects and activities related to their Community Plans, including the Shelford Duck Race and the Cape Clear Inland Yacht Race.

A number of other projects are also being progressed including the Shelford community garden, a Replica Hut in Barunah Park, town entrance signs in Inverleigh and Napoleons, and the Scarsdale Rail Trail Precinct project.

In Bannockburn, a community planning survey was distributed in February and received 156 responses. The results were presented to the community on 7 March at the Bannockburn Cultural Centre. Those in attendance voted on projects, put their name down to volunteer, and self-nominated as Community Coordinators. The group is now finalising the Community Plan and determining seed funding allocation.

To find out more about the Community Planning Program and how you can get involved in your town please visit the Council website or contact the Community Development team on 5220 7111.

Alternative formats

If you are interested in receiving a copy of the Gazette in large print please contact Customer Service on 5220 7111 or 1300 363 036.

The Golden Plains Gazette is published six times per year and is delivered to all households and mail collection centres and is also available on Council's website.

June deadline

Please note, the deadline for the June edition is Thursday 11 May 2017. Send your copy with "Gazette News" in the subject line to: richard.troeth@gplains.vic.gov.au
Fax: 5220 7100 or post PO Box 111, Bannockburn 3331.

Rokewood Resource Recovery Facility

Hours of operation:
Sunday 10am till 3pm.

The Golden Plains Gazette is produced on stock which is FSC Certified; 100% recycled post consumer waste, Process Chlorine Free environment, 100% FSC certified fibre and ISO 14001 EMS accredited.

FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAM

Financial Security for Women in Business



Financial Security for Women in Business is a unique program designed to help women create and maintain their own financial wellbeing.

The program is open to participants with some business experience and will assist to put in place processes to ensure their ongoing financial stability.

The Program consists of two workshops followed by private support sessions to help with implementation plus a 6 month follow up to ensure processes are still in place and working.

A \$75 fee applies for this program which is subsidised by Financial Literacy Australia. Register on-line at www.tsbi.com.au/shop/financial-security-women-business/

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Council monitors building development throughout the Shire to ensure new building estates are planned and delivered in line with community expectations.

This includes consideration of the surrounding natural environment to ensure a balance between the built environment and native flora and fauna.

The above photos show 'before and after' rehabilitation of a small wetland at Bruce Creek Bannockburn, carried out by the developers in consultation with Council's Works department.

