

# GAZETTE



## REGISTER YOUR PET TODAY

RENEWAL FOR ALL DOGS AND CATS

**DUE ON 10 APRIL 2019**

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## FROM THE MAYOR



**As a fast-growing regional municipality in a rate-capping environment, Council is keenly aware that public and private investment is necessary to deliver critical infrastructure and vital projects in Golden Plains.**

In this issue of the Gazette we share several funding success stories including \$500,000 for the Bannockburn Oval Lighting Project, \$222,000 for the Teesdale Turtle Bend Reserve Upgrade, and \$943,000 for the construction of Tall Tree Road. There's also an impressive spread of valuable sport and recreation projects that Council is delivering this year and every one of these projects has something in common: funded grants from State or Federal Government.

Council is committed to making our budget stretch and every grant we secure means we can deliver better projects and more services across the Shire. So, if we attract outside investment to fund a project in Bannockburn because it's a growing town, we can put our money into another worthy project in one of our smaller communities. That's how we get the best for all residents and together build the success of Golden Plains Shire.

**Cr Owen Sharkey – Mayor**



## REGISTER YOUR PET TODAY

**All dog and cat registration renewals are due on Monday 10 April.**

**Renewing a pet registration?** Take the renewal notice you received in the mail and pay the registration cost by any of the ways listed on the notice. That's it: your pet is registered for 2019. If your pet was registered last year and you did not receive a notice in the mail, call 5220 7111.

**How much does pet registration cost?** The full annual registration fee is \$130 per animal but most people have paid the discounted registration of \$45, available to pets that are microchipped and desexed. For a detailed list of discounted options, visit Council's website.

**No longer own the pet on your notice?** If your pet has died or does not live at your property for any reason, please notify Council and the registration will be updated. This simple action will save you and Council the time and effort of sorting out an old registration down the track.

**Why are dogs and cats registered?** First, it's the law in every municipality in Victoria for all dogs and cats over three months of age to be registered with Council and wear registration tags. Failure to register or renew the registration of a dog or cat over the age of 3 months is an offence with a current fine of \$322. Second, when registered pets are lost or stray from home, it's easy for Council to safely and quickly reunite the pet and their family.

Finally, pet registration fees cover part of the cost of Council's animal management services including rescuing stray animals, providing shelter care, and investigating situations of aggressive animals or owner neglect. The remainder of the service cost is recovered through user-pays fines to the pet owners. For example, the cost of impounding a cat or dog is \$250 plus officer time and vehicles costs.

**Registering a pet for the first time?** If you have a dog or cat that is unregistered, visit a Council Customer Service Centre and we will help you complete the registration. Remember to bring paperwork to show your pet is microchipped and desexed to qualify for the discounted fee.

**How many animals can I own?** Golden Plains Shire has a limit of two dogs and two cats per property. There are also limits on other animals, such as chickens and horses; particularly in residential parts of towns. Council's Community Protection Officers will be actively auditing properties to ensure compliance. If you wish to keep more animals than listed in Council's Local Law No. 2 General Public Amenity, you will need permission from Council.

**Want to know more?** For answers to your questions or to register your pet, call 5220 7111; visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au](http://goldenplains.vic.gov.au); or visit a Council Customer Service Centre: 2 Pope St, Bannockburn; 19 Heales St, Smythesdale; or 68 Sussex St, Linton.



# SUCCESS! FUNDING GRANTS APPROVED

Council has successfully secured two significant Federal Government funding grants.

## VICTORIA PARK SPORTS OVAL LIGHTING UPGRADE: \$500,000

The Victoria Park Recreation Reserve is a busy sport and activity facility with more than 5,000 residents regularly enjoying the football/cricket oval, netball courts, skate park and playground.

### The Project:

New lighting on both ovals at the Bannockburn Victoria Park Recreation Reserve will meet the AFL standard for community football and surpass the minimum requirements for local football training and matches. The Bannockburn Football Netball Club and Bannockburn Cricket Club look forward to growing their membership and scheduling more matches, training and events.

The lighting upgrade will complement the dedicated change facilities for men and women, the redeveloped cricket training facility at the Reserve, and the current works on the netball facilities.

### The Funding Commitment:

Council successfully secured \$500,000, the maximum amount of funding available through the Federal Government's Community Sport Infrastructure Round 2 grant program, to fund new lights on both ovals.

## TEESDALE TURTLE BEND RESERVE UPGRADE: \$222,000

### The Project:

The Teesdale Turtle Bend Reserve is a popular recreation and events precinct that is a valuable social meeting space for the Teesdale community and attracts visitors from across the State. User groups include the Teesdale Turtle Bend Events Committee, Teesdale Community Events Committee, Teesdale Primary School, Teesdale Kindergarten, CFA, Teesdale CWA, FReeZA youth leadership program, Inverleigh Leigh Valley Lions Club, Teesdale Community Co-ordinators, and Bannockburn and District Connected Communities.

Features of the Teesdale Turtle Bend Reserve Upgrade include the power upgrade of the event site; widening of the pedestrian bridge; toilets upgrade including a disabled toilet and baby change facilities; additional play space elements and seating; new multi-sport space including half court for netball and basketball; improved fencing and sealing the driveway.

### The Funding Commitment:

The \$222,000 Federal Government grant from the Building Better Regions Fund will cover half the cost of this long-awaited project. A partnership with Council and Global Power Generation, the proponents of the Berrybank Wind Farm, will support delivery of the full Teesdale Turtle Bend Reserve Upgrade.



# KICKING GOALS IN GOLDEN PLAINS

To grow and support healthy and active communities across the Shire, Golden Plains Shire Council is delivering premier sport and recreation facilities in 2019.



## SMYTHESDALE SKATE PARK

**The Project:** Redesign and redevelopment of the existing skate park in Smythesdale to create a first-class regional skate facility.

**Funding Commitment:** A \$250,000 project with a \$100,000 grant from the Sport and Recreation Victoria Community Sports Infrastructure Fund 2018-19 and \$150,000 from Council.

**Construction Timeline:** Construction to commence March 2019 with planned completion by May 2019.



## BANNOCKBURN VICTORIA PARK NETBALL COURTS

**The Project:** Full rebuild of two competition netball courts and construction of a new multi-sport court area, installation of new fencing, undercover benches for players/officials, and storage space.

**Funding Commitment:** A \$500,000 project with a \$100,000 grant from the Sport and Recreation Victoria Country Football and Netball Program 2018-19 and \$400,000 from Council.

**User Groups:** Bannockburn Football Netball Club and Bannockburn Cricket Club.

**Project Timeline:** Construction commenced in November 2018, with completion planned by the end of April 2019.



## LINTON OVAL LIGHTING

**The Project:** Upgrade of sports oval lighting at Linton Recreation Reserve, delivering increased opportunities for sports programming and recreational activity.

**Funding Commitment:** A \$255,000 project, funded as an election commitment through the Sport and Recreation Victoria Community Sports Infrastructure Fund 2018-19.

**User Groups:** Carngham Linton Football Netball Club and Linton Cricket Club.

**Construction Timeline:** Construction commenced in January 2019, with completion planned for May 2019.

### PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Council is developing a Recreation Strategy to inform Council's policy and planning frameworks and the development and delivery of sport and active recreation infrastructure, programming and services for the period 2020-2030. There is also a Play Space Strategy in the works, to identify the current and future need for outdoor play spaces, including BMX and skate parks across Golden Plains Shire. Future projects include exploring options for lighting at the Lethbridge Recreation Reserve.

# SPORT & RECREATION 2019/20 PROJECTS

## BANNOCKBURN BOWLS UPGRADE

**The Project:** Upgrade and installation of lighting on one green and construction of a new green with universally designed shade structures, fencing, paths and seating.

**Funding Commitment:** A \$614,000 project with a \$250,000 grant from the Sport and Recreation Victoria Community Sports Infrastructure Fund 2019-20, \$274,400 from Council and \$90,000 from the Bannockburn Bowls Club.

**User Group:** Bannockburn Bowls Club.

## INVERLEIGH NETBALL COURTS

**The Project:** Reconstruction of two non-compliant asphalt netball courts and the relocation and upgrade of court lighting, delivering two new flood-lit acrylic courts.

**Funding Commitment:** A \$375,000 project with a \$250,000 grant from the Sport and Recreation Victoria Female Friendly Facilities Fund 2018-19 and \$125,000 from Council.

**User Groups:** Inverleigh Football Netball Club and Inverleigh Cricket Club.

## ROKEWOOD LIGHTING UPGRADE

**The Project:** Upgrade of sports oval lighting at Rokewood Recreation Reserve.

**Funding Commitment:** A \$254,257 project with a \$169,257 grant from the Sport and Recreation Victoria Community Sports Infrastructure Fund 2019-20 and \$85,000 from Council.

**User Groups:** Rokewood Football Netball Club and Rokewood Cricket Club.

## BANNOCKBURN OVAL LIGHTING

**The Project:** Upgrade of sports oval lighting on both ovals at the Bannockburn Victoria Park Recreation Reserve, providing increased opportunities to program sporting and community activities.

## TEESDALE TURTLE BEND RESERVE

**The Project:** Upgrade of the Reserve including power upgrade of the event site, widening of the pedestrian bridge, toilets upgrade, play space elements, seating, new multi-sport space, improved fencing and sealed driveway.

## COMPLETED PROJECTS



### Inverleigh Oval Lighting

The upgrade of sports oval lighting at the Inverleigh Sporting Complex to meet AFL Victoria Guidelines was completed early last year. Delivered with a \$220,000 Federal Government grant, the Inverleigh Football Netball Club and the Inverleigh Cricket Club have directly benefited from the new lighting.



### Rokewood Cricket Nets

Funded by a State Government grant, Council and the community, the Rokewood Cricket Club now enjoy the new cricket training facility with three new training pitches.



### Smythesdale Courthouse

Works to the Smythesdale Courthouse were completed in February 2019 including replacing fascia boards, repairing brick work, window frames and other maintenance using traditional methods to ensure the building remains a valuable community asset. This project was fully funded with a State Government Living Heritage Grant.

The Golden Plains Food Production Precinct is a 4,000 hectare area of privately owned farm-zoned land, located west of Lethbridge. Whilst the project is established and investment is progressing, further Government funding is required to ensure the site reaches its full potential.

The precinct is strategically located close to the Port of Geelong, Avalon and Lethbridge Airports, Melbourne, Geelong and Ballarat.

Council is committed to supporting and growing intensive agriculture in Golden Plains Shire, and has established a food production precinct in Lethbridge. Ten years of strategic work has fed into the development of the Precinct; this included a business case that identified lack of water as a key inhibitor to expansion of intensive agriculture within the Precinct.

In 2016, following years of investigations, planning and lobbying, the Precinct was supplied with an 18km town water pipeline thanks to an investment by the Federal Government (\$4.17 million), State Government (\$2.94 million), Barwon Water (\$3.44 million) and Council (\$1.23 million).

Further infrastructure will help develop Intensive Agriculture Industries in Golden Plains Shire, maximising our current competitive advantage, supporting future growth, and playing a significant role in creating new jobs and advancing economic development.

### Benefits of the Food Production Precinct

- Creates jobs – the Precinct’s business case calculated that the development of key infrastructure will enable \$160 million in investment and create more than 700 jobs over 10 years.
- Attracts investment – \$50 million in direct investment has already been approved for development, including free-range egg farms and a \$20 million fertiliser plant that will manufacture biological fertiliser from organic waste, including waste from poultry operations in the Precinct.

## WHAT WE NEED

Council secured significant State Government funding to deliver the \$1.4 million Tall Tree Road project, providing the critical gateway to the Precinct. Council is now lobbying government for improved telecommunications in the Precinct.

## BUILDING THE GATEWAY TO THE PRECINCT

Construction work has started on the \$1.4M project to widen, replace and seal Tall Tree Road, the gateway to the Golden Plains Food Production Precinct in Lethbridge.

Golden Plains Shire Council has invested \$472,000 into this significant works project and successfully secured a \$943,000 grant from the State Government’s Local Roads to Market funding program.

As the primary entry to the Precinct, the construction of Tall Tree Road is a critically important major project that will support further investment and job creation in the Shire.

Works will be completed on the 5.7km section of Tall Tree Road from the existing end of the sealed road to Meredith-Shelford Road in 2019. The project will seal an existing 3.5km section of unsealed road that is currently unsuitable for heavy vehicles and regularly requires maintenance, particularly following wet weather. A further 2.2km of narrow sealed road will be widened and replaced, improving safety and smooth flow of traffic along the busy road.

As part of the works, Council will also complete 27 new property entrances for residences and businesses on Tall Tree Road, including new pipes and safety headwalls for improved drainage.



In January and February 2019, Council's Works Department completed a range of infrastructure maintenance and construction projects across the Shire including:



## HADDON SCHOOL CROSSING

Haddon Primary School has a new school crossing on Sago Hill Road, **Haddon**, with safety improvements including new line marking, pedestrian crossing, and new crossing poles and flags. Monitored by school staff, the new crossing provides a safe access point to cross to the new carpark installed a year ago.

## HENDERSONS ROAD BRIDGE

Council recently repaired four steel column sections on Hendersons Road Bridge, **Bamganie**. These works will ensure public safety as Council investigates options for future improvements to the bridge.



## NAPOLEONS SCHOOL CROSSING

Council upgraded the **Napoleons** Primary School carpark, with new line marking, pedestrian crossing, signage and bus stop. A new bus shelter will be installed in the carpark in Term 1. These additions have improved safety for the children and staff at Napoleons.

## LETHBRIDGE PLAYGROUND

Council completed recent upgrades to active play items within the existing playground at **Lethbridge** Reserve including a new slide, rope climb and clatter bridge. The new play elements are sure to be popular with Lethbridge's youngest residents!



## WINGEEL ROAD CULVERT REPLACEMENT

Council replaced four cross road culverts located on Wingeel Road, **Hesse**, south of the Hamilton Highway. Works Engineers assessed each existing culvert to determine appropriate sizing for water to be conveyed from one side of the road to the other, resulting in a positive outcome for the project.



## NEW GUARDRAIL ON ARTHURS LANE

Council has installed a new guardrail on Arthurs Lane in **Mount Mercer**, replacing the old safety barrier over the creek culvert. The new guardrail will ensure the safety of drivers on this narrow stretch of road and is an example of regular maintenance works undertaken by Council on our Shire's country roads.



# WHAT'S THE LATEST WITH...

## ...RECYCLING COLLECTION?



Golden Plains Shire was one of many Victorian municipalities that experienced a significant disruption to its recycling services, when Council was notified on 20 February that SKM Recycling had reached its maximum storage capacity and temporarily closed its Geelong facility.

This event followed on from EPA Victoria issuing the SKM sites in Laverton and Coolaroo with a notice to stop accepting materials due to non-compliance with stockpile regulations.

On 13 March, Council was informed that the SKM site in Laverton was compliant and reopened, with the Geelong site again accepting recyclable material. All recycling material collected in Golden Plains is now being processed as usual.

## ...THE WASTE STRATEGY?



With the recycling issue dominating headlines across Victoria and affecting services in Golden Plains, a detailed and innovative Waste Management Strategy is critical now more than ever.

Council is working on this new strategic plan and is committed to delivering a Waste Strategy that improves our waste management services now and in the future.

Planned community consultation on the Strategy in April has been set aside and will now be held later in the year.

To keep updated on the Waste Strategy, read the Gazette and the Golden Plains Times; visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au](http://goldenplains.vic.gov.au); and follow Golden Plains on social media.

## ...INVERLEIGH STREETSCAPE DRAFT MASTERPLAN?



The Inverleigh Streetscape Draft Masterplan is a beautification and development plan for the busy centre of this growing town.

The proposed project includes new trees and plantings, improved car parking for safety, new street furniture, and shared paths for pedestrians and cyclists.

Following a community meeting on 25 February, the month-long consultation on Option 2 of the Inverleigh Streetscape Draft Masterplan closed on 25 March. All feedback will inform the development of the plan that will be presented to Council at its Ordinary Meeting on 28 May.

## ...PERMITS TO BURN?



A Permit to Burn allows land owners or their representatives to conduct stubble burning for agricultural purposes during the Fire Danger Period.

Last year, Golden Plains Shire Council joined many other municipalities across the state in transferring the sign-off responsibilities of these Schedule 13 permits, due to the risk of injury and property damage, and has engaged CFA to finalise the process. During the transition period, residents will continue to submit their application as usual and Council will coordinate the sign-off with CFA. There may be delays in the process and residents are advised to lodge applications early.

Got questions? Contact the Municipal Fire Prevention Officer on 5220 7111.



## COMMUNITY GRANTS 2019/20

Organisations can apply now for up to \$5,000 for projects, programs and opportunities that benefit Golden Plains Shire residents.

Applications are open from Monday 1 April to Tuesday 30 April 2019. This year, Council has simplified the submission process by adopting the easy-to-use SmartyGrants online application system.

**Want to know more or apply for a grant?** Contact Council's Community Partnership Officer on 5220 7220 or [tyson.macilwain@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:tyson.macilwain@gplains.vic.gov.au); or visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/residents/my-community/grants/community-grants-program-201920](http://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/residents/my-community/grants/community-grants-program-201920)

## HEAL GRANTS 2019/20

Golden Plains Shire Council's Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL) grants of \$500 are available to community groups to fund valuable projects across the Shire.

Grants applications are open year round for community groups who are incorporated or have an auspice community group who can manage the funds on behalf of the applicant.

Community initiatives funded by HEAL grants include:

- Inverleigh Country Women's Association (CWA): Group Fitness Classes
- Lethbridge Recreation Reserve: Come and Try Fishing
- Linton and District Men's Shed: Community Meal Program
- Ross Creek Community Coordinators: Fitbit Cardio Tennis
- Scarsdale Exercise Station Bicycle Repair Kit.



**Want to know more or apply for a grant?** For grant guidelines and case studies of successful applications, call Council's Health and Wellbeing team on 5220 7111 or visit Council's website: [goldenplains.vic.gov.au](http://goldenplains.vic.gov.au)



## WANTED: VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

Want to make a positive difference in your community?  
Looking for a rewarding volunteer position?

Golden Plains Shire Council is seeking volunteer drivers to assist older people and people with disabilities access vital appointment and activities in their local community, as part of the Community Transport Program. Council is looking for drivers to support the community living in the North and South of the Shire. Volunteers drive a Council vehicle with petrol supplied, and are covered by Public Liability Insurance. Interested in becoming a volunteer driver? Contact Council's Community Partnership Officer on 5220 7220 or [communitygrants@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:communitygrants@gplains.vic.gov.au)

## HAVE YOUR SAY TODAY

### CHAT WITH YOUR COUNCILLORS

Got a question you want answered? Or an issue you want to raise?

Stop by a Council Conversation Post and speak directly with Golden Plains Shire Councillors and Council staff.

8.30am to 12.30pm, Saturday 6 April

**Golden Plains Farmers' Market**, 22 Byron St, Bannockburn

10am to 2pm, Saturday 13 April

**Rokewood Recreation Reserve**, McMillan Rd, Rokewood

12.30pm to 4pm, Thursday 25 April (ANZAC Day)

**Inverleigh Football Club** - Inverleigh v Bannockburn match

More Council Conversation Posts will be scheduled in locations across the Shire in 2019. To keep updated, read the Gazette or follow Council on social media.

### VEC REPRESENTATION REVIEW



The Victorian Electoral Commission is undertaking an electoral representation review of Golden Plains Shire Council to ensure all voters in a local council area have their concerns and interests fairly represented by their council.

The review examines:

- Whether a local council has the appropriate number of councillors;
- Whether the local council should be unsubdivided, with councillors elected from the whole local council, or subdivided into wards; and
- If subdivided, the number of wards, ward boundaries and the number of councillors per ward.

Following public information sessions in Smythesdale and Bannockburn in January, the preliminary report has been released and response submissions are open until 5pm, Wednesday 24 April 2019.

A public hearing will be held at 6.30pm, Wednesday 1 May followed by the scheduled release of the final report on Wednesday 22 May. For more information or to have your say, visit [vec.vic.gov.au/reviews](http://vec.vic.gov.au/reviews)

### LOCAL LAW NO. 1



Ever wondered what rules govern a Council meeting? Or how the Mayor is elected?

Council has a local law that details these procedures which is set to expire in May 2019, and the community is invited to have a say on the new draft law.

The draft Local Law No. 1 of 2019 – Council Meeting Procedures & Common Seal, accompanied by the draft revised Council Policy 4.4 – Public Participation in Council Meetings (Question Time, Presentations & Submissions, Petitions & Joint Letters) was endorsed by Council at its February meeting. Proposed changes include a public question time at Council's monthly Ordinary Meetings, as well as future live-streaming of the meetings.

Submissions and comments on the proposed law are welcome in writing and via the consultations page of Council's website. Feedback closes on Sunday 7 April and Council will consider adoption of Local Law No. 1 of 2019 at its April Ordinary Meeting.

### BUSINESS SURVEY



**Businesses in Golden Plains Shire are invited to complete the 2019 Golden Plains Business Survey.**

Survey results will help gauge the state of the region's economy, businesses and industry, as well as guide Council's future economic development activities. Further insight into local businesses will also assist Council in lobbying and seeking funding for improved infrastructure, telecommunications and services in Golden Plains Shire.

The survey is available on the Have Your Say section of Council's website and is open until 5pm, Friday 17 May 2019.

## EVENTS IN GOLDEN PLAINS



**5 APRIL**

### Barwon South West Skate Clinic

4pm – 9pm. Bannockburn Skate Park, Moore St.

More info: Karl Kasbach at 5220 7177 or [karl.kasbach@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:karl.kasbach@gplains.vic.gov.au)



**6 APRIL & 4 MAY**

### Golden Plains Farmers' Market

8.30am – 12.30pm. 22 Byron St, Bannockburn.

Farm fresh produce, free parking, free entry and kids' activities.

More info: [goldenplainsfarmersmarket.com.au](http://goldenplainsfarmersmarket.com.au)



**13 & 14 APRIL**

### Lethbridge Equestrian Centre Show Jumping Festival

8am – 6pm. Lethbridge Equestrian Centre, 20 Ackland Rd.

Indoor show jumping festival with official Equestrian Victoria competitions.

More info: 0408 572 403 or [lethbridgeequestriancentre@gmail.com](mailto:lethbridgeequestriancentre@gmail.com)



**19 APRIL**

### Inverleigh & Districts Good Friday Appeal

11am – 5pm. Victoria Park, Inverleigh.

Raffles, pony rides, face painting, lucky dips, animal farm, spinning wheel, food & drinks, live entertainment, variety of rides & market stalls.

Fun for the whole family.

More info: [ihdga@outlook.com](mailto:ihdga@outlook.com)



**20 APRIL & 18 MAY**

### Smythesdale Country Market

9am – 1pm. 35A Brooke St, Smythesdale.

A country Saturday market featuring a variety of goods and craft stalls.

More info: Woody Yaloak Historical Society at 5342 8754.



**25 APRIL**

### ANZAC Day Ceremonies

Commencing with a 6am Dawn Service in Bannockburn, memorial services in Teesdale, Shelford, Inverleigh and Meredith will follow.

More info: [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/events](http://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/events)



**4 & 5 MAY**

### Golden Plains Community Arts Trail

10am – 4pm. Various locations.

Visit talented local artists in their studios across Golden Plains Shire.

More info: 04043 030 185 or [gpartsinc11@gmail.com](mailto:gpartsinc11@gmail.com)



**5 MAY**

### Creators and Craft Market

10am – 2pm. Lions Park, Bannockburn.

This popular market showcases the work of local craftspeople and artisans.

More info: Noeline Trevor at 0427 923 934 or [ccbanno@bigpond.com](mailto:ccbanno@bigpond.com)



**15 MAY**

### Winning Government Business

9.30am – 1pm. Bannockburn Cultural Centre, 27 High St.

A Small Business Victoria Workshop. Learn to become a supplier to local, state and federal governments; understand how the public sector buys goods and services; communicate and engage with government departments; and apply for tenders and submit bids.

Cost: \$20. For info and to register: [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/business](http://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/business)



Winners of the Golden Plains Shire 2019 Australia Day Awards (left to right): Anthony Walker, Malcolm Johns; Presenter Mayor Cr Owen Sharkey; Luke Getsom, and Margaret Cooper of Meredith History Interest Group.

## AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD-WINNERS

### Congratulations to the Golden Plains Shire 2019 Australia Day Award-winners.

Mayor Cr Owen Sharkey presented the following awards at a special ceremony on 22 January at the Bannockburn Cultural Centre in front of an enthusiastic crowd.

**Citizen of the Year:** Anthony Walker of Linton

**Senior Citizen of the Year:** Malcolm Johns of Teesdale

**Young Citizen of the Year:** Luke Getsom of Piggoreet

**Community Group of the Year:** Meredith History Interest Group

### Know someone who deserves an Australia Day Award?

Nominations will open in late 2019 and we encourage residents to nominate their friend, colleague, neighbour or community group that makes Golden Plains such a wonderful place to live.

## Customer Service Centres:

### Bannockburn

2 Pope Street, Bannockburn  
Victoria, 3331.

### Linton

68 Sussex Street, Linton  
Victoria, 3360.

### Smythesdale

19 Heales Street, Smythesdale  
Victoria, 3351.

### Phone

P: 5220 7111

F: 5220 7100

### Council's Customer Service Centres will be closed on the following dates:

Good Friday: 19 April

Easter Monday: 22 April

ANZAC Day: 25 April

### 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.

The Golden Plains Shire Council website has a text-to-voice option. The audio is generated using ReadSpeaker text-to-speech technology and will read the content out loud.

The deadline for the June issue of the *Gazette* is 9am, Monday 6 May. Email: [news@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:news@gplains.vic.gov.au) or post to PO Box 111, Bannockburn 3331.

The Golden Plains Gazette is produced on stock which is FSC Certified; 100% recycled post consumer waste.

## JOIN BANNOCKBURN COLLEGE IN 2020



**In 2019, Bannockburn College is providing students from Prep through Year 9 from across Golden Plains Shire with quality educational opportunities in state-of-the-art facilities and purposefully designed learning spaces.**

In Year 9 students choose their units of study along with Academy Projects, which are extended investigations with a real world focus; while instrumental music lessons and the College Band program recently commenced at the school.

Bannockburn College is planning for new enrolments and Year 10 in 2020 as the school continues to grow, with a vision to inspire a passion for learning and a commitment to excellence, providing students with the tools needed for 'Learning for Life'. For more information, visit [bannockburnp12.vic.edu.au](http://bannockburnp12.vic.edu.au)

## MEREDITH COMMUNITY CENTRE



**Meredith Community Centre delivers a wide range of courses, services and activities to provide for the educational, social, recreational and health needs of all members of our community.**

Classes encourage community based learning in a friendly and welcoming environment.

Meredith Community Centre has two rooms available for hire to local community groups and not-for-profit groups, as well as training sites for local and commercial organisations. There is also a computer lab for training purposes. Want to know more or hire a room? Contact Leah Phillips at 5286 0700; visit [meredithcommunitycentre.com.au](http://meredithcommunitycentre.com.au); or stop by the Centre, 4 Russell St, from 9am to 3pm, Monday to Thursday.

## A SAFE HAVEN

**Golden Plains Shire is proud to be a Safe Haven for special visa holders.**

All postcodes within the Shire have now been classified as "regional" under the Safe Haven Enterprise Visa program. This means residents living in the Shire with Safe Haven Enterprise Visas (SHEV) are eligible to apply for permanent visas after three and a half years of working or studying without income support. Council petitioned the Federal Government last year to include all Shire postcodes in response to a new resident who had emigrated from Afghanistan and learned that years spent working in postcodes not designated in the SHEV program were not recognised for future visa eligibility.

## CONNECT WITH GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL



GoldenPlainsShire



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@GPCouncilNews



[goldenplains.vic.gov.au](http://goldenplains.vic.gov.au)