

GAZETTE

MEET YOUR NEW COUNCIL

The new 2016-2020 Golden Plains Shire Council was officially inducted in November.

> Learn about them on page 6



3 Find out the exciting events happening near you

5 Fantastic funding successes for Golden Plains

10 Staying safe in Golden Plains this summer

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

On behalf of the new Golden Plains Shire Council, thank you for taking the time to have your say in the future of our Shire. The 2016-2020 Council will include three returning councillors and four new faces: Cr Joanne Gilbert, Cr Owen Sharkey, Cr David Evans, Cr Les Rowe, Cr Helena Kirby, Cr Nathan Hansford and myself.

We have already started an extensive induction program including Municipal Association of Victoria sessions on 'Working together to deliver'. While there is a great deal to learn, particularly for new Councillors, we are all committed to getting up to speed as soon as possible.

The power of a Council lies in great teamwork and strategic thinking and we are dedicated to shaping the bright future of Golden Plains, along with Council management and staff. For myself, it is an honour and a privilege to represent and serve my community as Mayor and I look forward to the next year.

Cr Des Phelan – Mayor



FROM THE CEO

I'd like to congratulate all Councillors on their election to Golden Plains Shire Council for the next four years. It is a privilege to be chosen to represent your community and our Councillors carry this honour with pride – find out more about your new Councillors on page 6.

A key deliverable of the new Council is its four year Council Plan. The Plan will guide how Council will deliver projects, facilities and services to make the Shire an even better place to live. To make sure we are heading in the right direction, we'll work with you to capture your longer term priorities – find out how you can be involved on page 7.

Lobbying the government is an integral Council function and we have had two great successes recently – over \$2 million in funding for four of our road blackspots, and \$1.2 million from the Federal Government towards the Bannockburn Civic Heart. Find out more on page 5.

Rod Nicholls – CEO

WHAT'S ON IN GOLDEN PLAINS?

DECEMBER

4TH**Smythesdale Community Christmas Carols**

6.00pm – 9.00pm Smythesdale Gardens (or Recreation Hall if inclement weather) Annual Carols and Christmas celebration. More info: Linda Mink 0428 945 010.

17TH**Smythesdale Country Market**

9.00am – 1.00pm 35A Brooke St, Smythesdale. Also running 18 February. More info: Di Moylan 0419 394 784.

22ND**Twilight Market and Carols**

4pm – Dark Turtle Bend Teesdale. Perfect for that last minute gift, evening carols and fireworks. More info: Geoff Wild 5281 5354. gswild@bigpond.com.

31ST - 1ST**Bluestone Blues Festival**

6.00pm – 5.00pm Murgheboluc Public Reserve. Annual two-day family oriented blues music festival presented by the Sleepy Hollow Blues Club. More info: Andy Rubans 0409 018 029.

JANUARY

5TH**Cycling Australia Road National Championships**

9.00am – 5.00pm Buninyong - Mount Mercer Road and Dereel – Mount Mercer Road. Road closures in place as Australia's finest battle it out for the title of National Champion. Info: GTR Events 0402 142 243.

7TH**Golden Plains Farmers' Market**

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

22ND**Travels with My Black Dog**

11.30am – 12.30pm The Well, Smythesdale. Presented by Tripwire Theatre. A family comedy with a heart of gold. More info: Megan Riedl 0429 933 106. info@tripwire.org.au.

22ND**Teesdale Country Market**

8.30am – 12.30pm. Turtle Bend Teesdale. Home-grown, handmade and vintage market. More info: Geoff Wild 5281 5354. gswild@bigpond.com.

FEBRUARY

4TH**Golden Plains Farmers' Market**

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

26TH**Teesdale Country Market**

8.30am – 12.30pm. Turtle Bend Teesdale. Home-grown, handmade and vintage market. More info: Geoff Wild 5281 5354. gswild@bigpond.com.

26TH**Shelford Community Duck Race**

10.00am – 5.00pm Shelford Recreation Reserve. Fun for all ages with live entertainment, market stalls, activities and of course 'The Duck Race'. The race will commence at 3.30pm, and run along the course of the Leigh River. You can adopt a Duck but get in early as they do go quickly. More info: Rebecca Jenkinson 0417 519 116 beckjenko@bigpond.com



FESTIVE SEASON OPENING HOURS

Our Customer Service Centres will close at 1.00pm on Friday 23 December 2016 and re-open at 8.30am on Tuesday 3 January 2017.

Kerbside waste and recycling collection service

Council's waste and recycling collection service will not experience changes over the Christmas and New Year period. Please ensure bins are placed out the evening before your ordinary scheduled collection day.

Rokewood Landfill/Transfer Station

The Rokewood Landfill/Transfer Station will be closed on Christmas and New Year's Day. Please note the site will also be closed on days declared as a Total Fire Ban or Code Red Day.



NBN SWITCHES ON IN BANNOCKBURN

Bannockburn households and businesses can now enjoy the benefits of fast broadband with the switching on of the nbn™ network for about 1,600 premises within the township.

People interested in switching to the nbn should talk with their phone or internet company to find a plan that best suits their needs.

While the nbn network in Bannockburn is being delivered via a fixed line (fibre) service, many outlying areas can already connect via a fixed wireless or satellite service. Further information is available at www.nbnco.com.au.



WANTED: ARTS TRAIL VOLUNTEERS!

Golden Plains Shire Council is calling for volunteers to help at the 2017 Golden Plains Arts Trail on 25 and 26 March 2017.

The weekend will see visitors enjoy self-guided tours of artwork and demonstrations from over 60 artists at open studios and creative spaces across Golden Plains. The Trail is a free, family friendly event and includes hands-on activities for children.

Volunteers get the chance to share their skills and learn new ones, be a part of the Trail, meet new people and get their hands on a bundle of volunteer goodies.

For more information about volunteering for the Arts Trail, go to www.artstrail.com.au/volunteer-registration.



FEDERAL FUNDING GETS BANNOCKBURN HEART BEATING

Council has been successful in securing \$1.2 million in Federal Government funding for the Bannockburn Civic Heart Precinct.

The funding, announced by Sarah Henderson MP, Federal Member for Corangamite on 5 October, will help create a vibrant community space next to the existing Bannockburn Library and Cultural Centre. The Heart will include an adventure play space including water play features for children and families, a paved plaza for events and gatherings, public toilets and a BBQ area and much more.

The community will have an opportunity to provide input into what the Heart will look like once the community consultation starts in 2017.

For more information on this exciting community project visit our website and search 'Bannockburn Civic Heart'.



\$2M FUNDING FOR ROAD SAFETY UPGRADES

The Federal Government has confirmed Golden Plains Shire Council will receive \$2.075 million in blackspot funding.

The funding is being provided under the Federal Government's Infrastructure Investment Program and will address four projects which were identified by Council through road reviews and community feedback.

The road safety projects to be carried out in Golden Plains are a 700m section of Ross Creek-Haddon Road, a 3.4km section of Smythesdale-Snake Valley Road, 2.5km section of Sebastopol-Smythesdale Road and a 2.3km section of Meredith Steiglitz Road.

Council is pleased that Golden Plains' voice has been heard; this funding confirms the value of our comprehensive lobbying and advocacy with the Federal Government.

To find out more, visit our website and search 'road safety upgrades'.



Left to right: Cr David Evans, Cr Helena Kirby, Cr Owen Sharkey, Cr Les Rowe, Cr Des Phelan – Mayor, Cr Joanne Gilbert, Cr Nathan Hansford.

MEET YOUR NEW COUNCIL

Members of your new look Council for Golden Plains Shire took their Oath of Office on Tuesday 8 November following the Victorian Electoral Commission's official declaration of the 2016 Local Government election results on 2 November.

At the same meeting, Councillors voted Cr Des Phelan to lead them as Mayor for the next year.

The make-up of Golden Plains Shire Council's elected representatives will include three returning councillors and four new faces.

Cr Joanne Gilbert (new)

Joanne believes community consultation is paramount and is strongly committed to improving infrastructure and services. Born and raised in Napoleons, Joanne lives in Cambrian Hill with her family and is an active member of her community.

Cr Owen Sharkey (new)

Owen lives with his family in Batesford, where he is involved in the community, and works in Bannockburn. He would like to be seen as an approachable councillor whose decisions benefit the whole of the Shire.

Cr Helena Kirby (returning)

Helena is a longstanding Councillor, living and working in Rokewood. She is a voice for the whole of the Shire and has helped achieve many positive outcomes. Helena's key priorities are to improve infrastructure and keep rates at a minimum.

Cr David Evans (new)

David is a Bannockburn resident and is passionate about making Golden Plains' rates fair and equitable and is interested in making budgetary cost savings, wherever possible.

Cr Nathan Hansford (returning)

Nathan is returning as a Councillor for his second term. Nathan lives in Bannockburn with his family, owns a local business and is committed to making the Shire an even greater place, and is focused on ensuring services are maintained or improved.

Cr Des Phelan (Mayor, returning)

A farmer from Springdallah, Des has represented the community as Mayor for the last two years. Des is committed to enhancing opportunities for community consultation and keeping rates at a minimum whilst maintaining roads at optimal levels.

Cr Les Rowe (new)

A life-long Golden Plains resident, Les owns and operates a business in Sutherlands Creek. Les is active in his community and lobbied for the new Bannockburn K-12 school. Les is committed to supporting Golden Plains residents, ratepayers and community organisations.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION TO DEVELOP THE COUNCIL PLAN

It's time for Council to develop a new Council Plan 2017-2021 and we want to work with the Golden Plains community to determine our strategic directions and objectives for the next four years.

What Councils do

Councils provide a wide variety of services to their municipalities and also enforce various federal, state and local laws for their communities.

These services include public health, traffic, parking and animal management.

What the Council Plan will do

The Council Plan describes Council's strategic objectives, ways to achieve the objectives, indicators for measuring progress and the resources required to implement the plan for at least four years.

We will use the Plan to guide how Golden Plains Shire Council will deliver projects, facilities and services over the next four years to make the Shire an even better place to live.

Join the conversation – have your say

Community feedback and other information gathered will be used to help Council develop the Council Plan for 2017-2021.

Join the initial conversation and share your future aspirations for the Shire by participating in a range of opportunities to be involved.

How to participate

Complete a survey

December 2016 – 15 January 2017

You will receive a survey in the post early December or you can complete an online survey at www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations from late November 2016 - 15 January 2017. Hard copies of surveys will also be available at Council's Customer Service Centres, Community Centres, Family Services Centres, and the Bannockburn Cultural Centre.

Participate in a community workshop

- **The Well**
19 Heales St, Smythesdale
6.30-8pm
Tuesday 17 January
- **Rokewood Memorial Hall**
66 Ferrars St, Rokewood
6.30-8pm
Wednesday 18 January
- **Bannockburn Cultural Centre**
27 High St, Bannockburn
6.30-8pm
Thursday 19 January

If you would like to attend one of these sessions, please email enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au and include your full name, contact details and the session you'd like to attend.

Join a Community Reference Group

A community reference group will be established to enable a representative group of residents to input and feedback to Council at key stages of the development of the Community Engagement Strategy – including a meeting in February 2017 and May 2017.

We'll keep you informed

As we move through this process, we will keep you informed so you know what's happening. This will include information in future editions of the Gazette, on our website and social media platforms, updates in Community Newsletters, posters, as well as at the workshops as you can see above.

Find out more

A full timetable for the development of the Plan and further information about opportunities to be involved can be found online at www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations.

For further information please contact Mike Barrow, Manager Executive Unit on 5220 7111.

**We want to hear from you so
please get involved!**



OUR COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

Applications for Council's Community Grants Program for 2017/18 will open on 1 February 2017.

Community groups are eligible to apply for funding up to \$5,000 for projects that provide outcomes for the benefit of the community. Applications can be made through Council's website: www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au/residents/my-community/grants-funding-opportunities after 1 February.

The last round of Community Grants saw a total value of \$144,966 awarded to 47 different community groups across the Shire.

For more information about the program please contact Council's Community Recreation Officer on 5220 7111.

VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Golden Plains Shire experienced a major community trauma on 27 March 2013 with a destructive bushfire in Dereel.

The subsequent response would not have been possible without the contribution of volunteers and it became clear the Shire was not prepared for an event of this scale.

We have now established a Volunteer Emergency Management Plan – find out more by searching 'Volunteer Emergency Management' on our website.

If you would like to volunteer in a future emergency, then register your interest on HelpOut at volunteeringvictoria.org.au/emergency-volunteering/



IMPROVING FOOD ACCESS UPDATE

Council's Health and Wellbeing Team is supporting local community members to help improve food access within the Shire.

The groups continue to meet and work on these projects and identify additional opportunities to strengthen our local food access system. New members and ideas are welcome, if you would like to be involved in these projects or if you would like to start your own project please contact Jacinta on 5321 1500 or email jacinta.walsh@gplains.vic.gov.au.

The next meeting is Wednesday 7 December 2016 at the Dereel Hall at 7pm. To RSVP or more information contact Jacinta on the details above.



PEOPLE OF GOLDEN PLAINS AGEING DIFFERENTLY

When the younger and older generations get together, beautiful and often surprising things unfold.

On Tuesday 18 October the young and old came together at an event that encouraged conversation, the sharing of stories and the chance for everyone to be heard.

Organised by the 'People of Golden Plains' youth organising committee, the event saw the younger and older generations sharing conversations and making a lantern for the recent Live @ Turtle Bend Lantern Parade.

Find out more on our website or contact Sarah Dalton, Youth Development Officer on 5220 7111.



CHILDREN'S WEEK 2016 CELEBRATIONS

Children's Week celebrates the rights of children to enjoy childhood.

This annual event focuses on empowering children to have a voice in the community as well as giving children the chance to demonstrate their talents and abilities.

This year we had a phenomenal attendance to our event which featured the Geelong based Children's band 'The Mik Maks'. Approximately 300 families attended activities including jumping castle, children's games, obstacle course, nature play, balloon sculpting, storytelling and more.

We would like to thank the families of Golden Plains for coming along and making the day such a success.



NEW MANAGEMENT AT DEREEL HALL & COMMUNITY CENTRE

Council is pleased to advise that Ballarat District Nursing and Healthcare (BDNH Group) have been appointed to manage the Dereel Hall & Community Centre.

Community Wellbeing Officer, Lucy Osmond, is available on Mondays, Tuesdays and alternate Wednesdays to provide assistance.

In addition to managing the facility BDNH also provide a wellbeing program in Dereel to support current community groups, facilitate health and wellbeing sessions and provide health checks. To make a facility booking please call BDNH on 5334 1500 or email commhealth@bdnh.com.au.

SURVIVE THE HEAT

HELP KIDS SURVIVE THE HEAT

It's important to consider how you can look after yourself and your kids with summer approaching.

The risk of heat stress is higher for young children, as they sweat more quickly than adults and they are less likely to be able to tell you they are dehydrated.

Make sure they are drinking water rather than sugary drinks and if you're worried they might be dehydrated, ask when they last went to the toilet. A few hours means they're not drinking enough, over six hours means they are likely to be dehydrated.

If you know extreme heat is on the way, plan ahead or visit betterhealth.vic.gov.au/heat for more information.



BUSHFIRE SMOKE CAN AFFECT YOUR HEALTH

Bushfire smoke reduces air quality and may affect people's health.

How smoke affects you depends on your age, existing medical conditions such as asthma or heart disease, and the length of time you are exposed to the smoke. Signs of smoke irritation can include itchy eyes, sore throat, runny nose, coughing and wheezing. Healthy adults who have a short exposure to smoke usually find that these symptoms clear up once they are away from the smoke.

There are actions that you can take to avoid or reduce potential health effects; to find out more visit betterhealth.vic.gov.au and search for 'bushfire smoke'.



COUNCIL'S ROLE IN EMERGENCY RELIEF AND RECOVERY

The relief phase of an emergency aims to provide the essential needs to individuals, families and communities in the immediate aftermath of the emergency.

The recovery phase aims to assist people and communities affected by emergencies to function effectively.

Council will take the lead in delivering 'on the ground' relief and recovery services as we are the closest to an affected community.

Non-government organisations and volunteers also play vital roles in supporting affected communities, utilising their pre-established community connections to deliver services during and immediately after emergencies.



INVERLEIGH AND MEREDITH SKATE PARKS REFRESH

Calling all skateboarders, scooterers, BMX riders and budding young artists.

Council has engaged a talented artist to work with members of each community to turn these skate parks into pieces of art – join us in designing and painting the artwork!

Meredith Skate Park: Design workshop: 13 December 5pm – 6:30pm. Paint the park: 19-20 January 10am – 3pm

Inverleigh Skate Park: Design workshop: 15 December 5pm – 6:30pm. Paint the park: 23-24 January 10am – 3pm

Council thanks the Victorian Government's Community Crime Prevention Program for their support of this project.

WEEDS: CHILEAN NEEDLE GRASS

Chilean Needle Grass (*Nassella neesiana*) is one of Australia's worst weeds.

The species is difficult to identify and the best time to identify the species is in spring when its distinctive purple seed heads are visible.

Needle Grass can be confused with native grass species which have a similar appearance and so care must be taken to ensure the correct identification. For more information check out the Chilean Needle Grass website at www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/Chileanneedlegrass/

If you are unsure whether you have Chilean Needle Grass on your property, contact Council's Natural Resources Officer on 5220 7111.



ANIMALS IN EMERGENCIES

The Victorian Emergency Animal Welfare Plan (VEAWP) has recently been reviewed and updated.

The VEAWP was updated to ensure it provides a strong framework for responding to animal welfare emergency needs in Victoria. The Plan:

- contributes to enhanced public safety and community resilience
- ensures animals and animal welfare is better considered before during and immediately after emergencies, and
- applies to all hazards across the State, in line with the new emergency management framework for Victoria.

For more information please call 136 186 or visit www.agriculture.vic.gov.au.

Alternative formats

If you are interested in receiving a copy of the Gazette in large print or on audio tape 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.

February deadline

Please note, the deadline for the February edition is Thursday 12 January 2017. Send your copy with "Gazette News" in the subject line to: Ann.Card@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.

VICTRACK AND RDV SEEKING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR LETHBRIDGE STATION



VicTrack, and Regional Development Victoria are seeking expressions of interest for potential future uses for the Lethbridge Bluestone Station and Shed, with a potential to secure funding for refurbishment works. For more information contact Dean, Council's Recreation Team Leader on 5220 7111 or email enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au before 22 December.

GOLDEN PLAINS BUSINESS NETWORKING EVENT — SAVE THE DATE



Save the date for the next Golden Plains Business Networking Event on Thursday 9 March in Meredith. Businesses will hear from one of the most famous and iconic music festivals in Golden Plains, and the world. Contact Mick Cosgriff from Council's Economic Development Team on 5220 7111 or email invest@gplains.vic.gov.au.

LETHBRIDGE AIRPORT FUEL UPGRADE



Lethbridge Airport now has a permanent aviation fuel supply thanks to a \$225,000 grant from the Federal Government's National Stronger Regions Program. The \$450,000 project, which has delivered 4 new fuel tanks, 3 self-service bowsters and a self-service payment unit, was officially opened by Sarah Henderson MP, Federal Member for Corangamite on 5 September.

The new fuel supply supports an already growing aviation industry at Lethbridge Airport as well as providing further opportunities for businesses in commercial aviation, tourism and other support industries.

The project means that the airport now has the capability to supply fuel to both Air Ambulance and CFA aircraft, boosting the ability of these aircraft to service Western Victoria.

For further information about services offered at the airport, including joy flights and pilot training, or to discuss business opportunities, contact the airport at air.park@bigpond.com or phone 03 5281 7495.

FIND US EVERYWHERE!



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