



REGISTER FOR KINDERGARTEN 2020

Enrol in Council-managed kindergartens in Bannockburn, Inverleigh, Meredith, Rokewood and Teesdale.

> Find out more on page 7

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for Golden Plains Shire

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Bannockburn
Heart

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Community Grants
2019/20

FROM THE MAYOR



With a new parliament settled in Spring Street and the next Federal election looming large, Council is passionate about sharing the story of Golden Plains. For more information on Council's Priority Projects and our work to secure future investment from State and Federal Government, see page 4 and 5.

As Mayor, a real focus for me is the young people of our Shire – how we can best work together to support and engage youth so they enjoy and find success growing up in our communities. Council is actively partnering with local stakeholders to strengthen youth development in our Shire and we are excited to deliver some great projects in 2019, such as the Bannockburn Heart precinct.

We'll be keeping our community updated on all our projects and news in 2019 and your ideas and feedback shape these decisions. Please make it a New Year's resolution to stay connected with Council – read the *Gazette* and the *Golden Plains Times*, visit Council's website, have your say on our projects and programs, and follow Council on social media.

Cr Owen Sharkey – Mayor

HAVE YOUR SAY TODAY



Council is welcoming community feedback on its Draft Communications and Marketing Strategy 2019-2021.

As part of the Strategy's community engagement, more than 230 people shared their ideas and thoughts on how they would like to be informed of Council activities and operations, and be more engaged with what is happening in the Shire. The *Gazette* and Council's social media were community favourites and in the future, residents want to hear more about community events, local infrastructure and Council projects.

The Draft Communications and Marketing Strategy 2019-2021 is now online at goldenplains.vic.gov.au, with hard copies available at Council's Customer Service Centres. Feedback may be sent by email to news@gplains.vic.gov.au or through the Customer Service Portal on the Council website.

Residents are encouraged to provide feedback by 5pm, Monday 11 February. All comments will be considered and incorporated into the final strategy, which will return to Council for adoption in March.

COUNCIL MEETINGS 2019



Residents and members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of Council which are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6pm.

Meetings are held at Bannockburn Shire Hall, 12 High Street and the Linton Customer Service Centre, 68 Sussex Street.

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS

26 February	Linton
26 March	Bannockburn
23 April	Linton
28 May	Bannockburn
25 June	Linton
23 July	Bannockburn
27 August	Linton
24 September	Bannockburn
22 October	Linton
26 November	Bannockburn
17 December	Linton

SPECIAL ANNUAL MEETINGS

Tuesday, 11 June - Budget submissions	Bannockburn
Wednesday, 6 November - Mayoral Election	Bannockburn

The agenda is available on Friday afternoon prior to the Ordinary Council Meeting on Council's website: goldenplains.vic.gov.au



THE FUTURE OF WASTE MANAGEMENT

The Draft Consultation Paper for the Waste Management Strategy will be available for community feedback in mid-March. We encourage all residents to have their say on the future of waste in Golden Plains.

In October 2018, Council launched its Waste Management Survey and more than 1,200 residents shared their thoughts and ideas. The community feedback supported the development of the Draft Consultation Paper, which includes a summary of the survey data, a future vision for waste management and service options for the community to consider.

Following the release of the Draft Consultation Paper, there are several ways to have your say:

- Pick up a copy of the Draft Consultation Paper at a Council Customer Service Centre: 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn; 68 Sussex Street, Linton; or The Well, 19 Heales Street, Smythesdale.
- Visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations

- Chat with us at a Council Conversation Post:

8.30am to 12.30pm, Saturday 6 April
Golden Plains Farmers' Market, 23 High Street, Bannockburn

5pm to 7pm, Tuesday 9 April
Smythesdale CFA, 74 Brooke Street, Smythesdale

10am to 2pm, Saturday 13 April
Rokewood Recreation Reserve, McMillan Road, Rokewood

9am to 1pm, Saturday 27 April
Meredith General Store, 17 Wallace Street, Meredith

Stay updated with the Waste Strategy

To be directly notified when the Draft Consultation Paper is available, sign up to the Community Engagement Register at Council's website: goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations. Stay connected with the release of the paper and community engagement opportunities at Council's website, the *Golden Plains Times*, and at facebook.com/GoldenPlainsShire



DETOX YOUR HOME

Detox Your Home is a safe, free and easy-to-use service to dispose of common household chemicals without harming your health or the environment.

Presented by Sustainability Victoria, residents can drop off unwanted chemicals including cooking oil, fertiliser, weed killer, detergents, motor fluids and fuels, at the following collection:

9am to 3pm, Saturday 9 February
Corio Operations Centre, 299 Anakie Road, Lovely Banks

For a full list of collected items, visit sustainability.vic.gov.au/detoxyourhome or call 1300 363 744.

MAKING GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE THE TOP PRIORITY

With rates capped and the cost of many services and projects rising, Council is committed to keep a tight rein on the budget and making every dollar count - but we know there are important and valuable projects our communities want, need and deserve.

That's why we are working hard to lobby State and Federal Government for investment in our transport, telecommunications, economic development and community infrastructure including recreation facilities, schools, libraries and health centres that strengthen our active and connected communities.

What are the Priority Projects?

With significant community engagement, we have developed a list of key projects that will secure our great lifestyle and make Golden Plains a premier place to live for the future. Some projects are fully funded and for others we are working to secure significant investment commitments. Every visit to Spring Street or to Canberra, every meeting with a Minister or private investors, Council is talking about these Priority Projects and developing partnerships to get the job done.

This year, we'll feature our Priority Projects in the *Gazette*, updating the community on our big picture developments, the commitments that have been secured, and how our partners can help make these valuable projects a reality for the people of Golden Plains. On page 5 and 6 of this issue, we take a look at Bannockburn Heart and the Golden Plains Community and Civic Centre, two funded projects that will be delivered in 2019.

PRIORITY PROJECTS IN GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

- Bannockburn Heart
- Emergency Services Precinct, Bannockburn
- Bannockburn Township Entrance Safety Project
- Milton Street Bridge, Bannockburn
- Golden Plains Food Production Precinct, Lethbridge
- Coopers Bridge, Meredith-Steiglitz Road
- Haddon Stadium Floor Project
- Bannockburn South West Precinct
- Inverleigh Streetscape Upgrade
- Country Township Sewerage Program
- Gheringhap Employment Precinct
- Telecommunications Upgrade Project
- Living Moorabool Trail Project
- Renewable Energy Development
- Northern Settlement Strategy
- Golden Plains Community and Civic Centre

Sport and Recreation Projects including:

- Rokewood Change Rooms Pavilion
- Teesdale Turtle Bend
- Maude Pavilion Upgrade
- Bannockburn Bowls Greens Upgrade
- Bannockburn Oval Lighting Upgrade
- Bannockburn Soccer Change Rooms
- Inverleigh Change Rooms

Transport Connectivity Projects including:

- Fyansford-Gheringhap Road Upgrade
- Duplication of the Midland Highway
- Investigation of Passenger Rail Between Geelong and Ballarat



BANNOCKBURN HEART

The Bannockburn Heart Precinct project will create an attractive and welcoming community civic space that celebrates the region's heritage and culture through public performances, functions and events in the centre of Bannockburn.

Constructed over two stages, the Precinct will transform and activate the CBD of Bannockburn, a town with a population growing by 8.5 percent every year, improving liveability, retail spending and amenity.

Stage One of the Precinct

- New shed for the Bannockburn Scouts
- Water and adventure play
- Active recreation equipment
- Public toilet and seating
- BBQ facilities and shade
- New car park
- Upgraded site for the Golden Plains Farmers' Market
- Paved plaza, lighting and landscaping
- Relocation of Playgroup
- Power upgrade at site

Building Stage One with the Community

Many community members shared their ideas for the Precinct at four Council Conversation Posts in Bannockburn and through the Vision Plan engagement process. There was also a positive response to the online survey on Council's Have Your Say webpage.

Children from Bannockburn Primary School tested playground equipment at other sites and gave their seal of approval to these popular playground elements: bird's nest swing, flying fox and universal spinner.

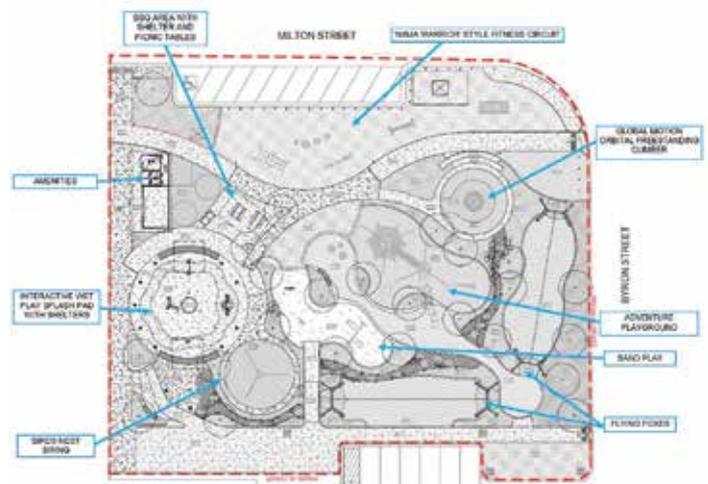
The overwhelming feedback was that the community wanted a natural look at the precinct, a new public toilet, and a fun fitness circuit – and these features are all included in the final Precinct plans.

Benefits of the Precinct

- Creates 22 jobs during construction
- Drives \$6M in additional retail spend every year
- Generates 28 more events in the town centre, attracting 12,650 additional visitors every year
- More civic space for the community, linked with the Bannockburn Library and Cultural Centre
- Increases spending in town
- Grows the Golden Plains Farmers' Market
- Encourages physical activity and positive health and wellbeing outcomes.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Stage One works will cost \$3M and the project is fully funded by Council, a \$1.2M Federal Government grant, and \$566,500 in grants from the State Government. Construction starts in early 2019 and is scheduled for completion in early 2020.



Images are concepts only. The final program and scope of this project is subject to Council approval.

WHAT WE NEED

With Stage One fully funded and underway, Council is seeking \$1.5 million for Stage Two of the Bannockburn Heart, including the cost to purchase the land.

Stage Two works include a village green, performance space and an extension of the Farmers' Market site. These works cannot proceed until the Bannockburn CFA and SES relocate to a new site – a Priority Project called the Emergency Services Precinct that Council is lobbying State Government to fund.



The final program and scope of this project is subject to Council approval.

Images are concepts only.

THE GOLDEN PLAINS COMMUNITY & CIVIC CENTRE

Golden Plains Shire Council is extending and improving the Bannockburn Customer Service Centre for residents, Councillors and staff. The redeveloped offices will be known as the Golden Plains Community and Civic Centre.

The project is a redevelopment of existing offices to meet current and future needs including:

- An accessible, modern and welcoming customer service area for the community
- Private meeting rooms for residents to meet with Councillors and Council staff
- New Council Chambers with more seating for residents, new technology to ensure excellent sound quality and the equipment required to offer live-streaming of Council meetings
- A Municipal Emergency Coordination Centre
- Flexible and efficient working spaces to better perform functions and deliver services

- An environmentally sensitive design
- Accessibility for people of all abilities (Disability Discrimination Act compliance) that allows Council to engage and employ people from diverse backgrounds.

Project Budget

The budget for the Golden Plains Community and Civic Centre is \$9.5M. The cost of the project will not result in any increase in rates. The project will be funded from Council borrowings to be repaid over a 30-year period and will be managed within Council's annual expenditure forecasts.

Project Timeline

The redevelopment of the Centre went out to tender in November 2018, with construction anticipated to commence in early 2019 with completion in mid-2020.

Want to know more?

Call 5220 7111, email enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au, or visit Council's website at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/news/golden-plains-community-and-civic-centre-faqs.

A NEW HOME FOR HADDON HOUSE

The first stage for the redevelopment involved the relocation of staff from Haddon House portable into the main office building. In December, Haddon House moved to its new home at the Linton Recreation Reserve where it will be repurposed as female change rooms for the Linton netball club.





KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 2020

Is your child turning 3 or 4 years before 30 April 2020?

Registrations for Council-managed kindergarten programs in 2020 for both three and four year olds are now open.

Council offers kindergarten programs at Bannockburn Children's Service, Inverleigh Kindergarten, Meredith Kindergarten, Rokewood Kindergarten and Teesdale Kindergarten.

Register Now

For families not currently attending a Council-managed kindergarten service, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/residents/my-family/young-family/kindergarten-and-care-enrolment and create an account through My Family Lounge. Select a booking request for the service you want to attend.

Families already attending a Council-managed kindergarten service can log in to their My Family Lounge account and make a new booking request.

Want to know more?

Visit the Bannockburn Family Services Centre, 2a Pope St, call 5220 7230, or email earlyyears@gplains.vic.gov.au.



FAREWELL TO NURSE IRENA

After more than 14 years supporting young families in the north of Golden Plains Shire, Maternal and Child Health nurse Irena Kempski has retired.

A dedicated and caring professional, Irena will be missed by many residents and staff members, and we wish her well in the future.

Council welcomes Ali Rodwell who will continue to deliver Council's quality Maternal and Child Health Service in Haddon, Smythesdale, Meredith and Rokewood.

BUILD YOUR BUSINESS IN 2019

Make your business resolutions a reality and sign up for Council's Business Training and Mentoring programs in 2019.

Free Small Business Clinic

Presented by the Small Business Mentoring Service
10am, Thursday 14 February
Dereel Community Centre, 14 Swamp Road

Marketing your Business: How to get it right the first time

Cost: \$20

9:30am to 12:30pm, Wednesday 20 February
The Well, 19 Heales Street, Smythesdale

To register for these events, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/events.



APPLY NOW FOR COMMUNITY GRANTS

Applications for Golden Plains Shire Council's Community Grants Program 2019/20 will open on Monday 1 April. The Community Grants Program supports community groups to deliver valuable programs, events and projects in partnership with Council.

Grants of up to \$5,000 are available to community groups for projects that positively benefit the community, such as local events, purchase of equipment, new community programs and facility improvement projects.

Funding is provided by Council, matched dollar for dollar by the community group either contributed in cash or in-kind.

Planning a Grant Application

Not sure how to get started on the application? Council is hosting free workshops to help community members plan community projects, find grants, identify requirements of the Community Grant application and answer questions about the process.

Grant Writing Workshop and Information Sessions

6 to 8 pm, Wednesday 13 March
The Well, 19 Heales Street,
Smythesdale

6 to 8 pm, Thursday 14 March
Bannockburn Cultural Centre,
27 High Street

Light refreshments are provided.
Registration for both workshops close
on Friday 1 March.

Applications close Tuesday 30 April, and may be submitted online or a hard copy can be provided on request.

Want to know more?

For more information or to register for a Grant Writing Workshop, contact Council's Community Partnerships Officer Tyson Macilwain on 5220 7220 or communitygrants@gplains.vic.gov.au.



In November and December 2018, Council's Works Department **completed** a range of infrastructure maintenance and construction projects across the Shire including:



SHARPS ROAD BRIDGE BARRIER

A new VicRoads-approved barrier was installed on the Sharps Road Bridge in **She Oaks** with works completed ahead of schedule. The new barrier will improve safety for all motorists on the single-lane bridge.

NEW LINTON-NARINGHIL ROAD BRIDGE

The old 2.5 tonne load-limited structure on the Linton-Naringhil Road in **Mannibadar** was replaced with a new bridge that has an unrestricted load limit, providing safe travel for heavy vehicles. Council also completed culvert replacement works on this road, providing an improved waterway for the creek flow and minimising the chance of flooding during heavier rain events. The new approaches have two traffic lanes extending up to 30m each side of the culvert and new guardrails to improve the safety of the road.



HADDON SCHOOL ROAD

Drainage excavation works were completed on **Haddon School Road**. Council's engineers assessed the concerns of local residents about stagnant water on the road and excavated to ensure it free drained, which included the upgrade of an existing cross-road culvert to a larger diameter.

VICTORIA PARK NETBALL COURTS

The old netball courts at Victoria Park in **Bannockburn** were removed, making way for a new facility featuring two netball courts, a warm up and multi sports zone, installation of undercover benches for players and officials, new fencing and sports lighting.

The old scorer/timekeeper box located at oval two at the reserve was also removed, following a structural safety assessment and consultation with community and sporting representatives.



BARWON PARK ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

Council completed reconstruction works on Barwon Park Road, **Inverleigh**. The road has been sealed to a width of 7metres, which will require less ongoing maintenance than the former gravel shoulders. Council is also lobbying Australian Rail Track Corporation to increase the width of the rail crossing in this area to complement the road upgrade.



SAFER SOLUTION FOR ANIMALS

Council has updated its animal collection system in line with other rural councils across the State to ensure the best management of all creatures in our care.

Last year Council impounded 200 dogs and 300 cats, as well as farm animals, and the new adaptable hydraulic K9 pod is fitted to the 4WD ute for common off-road collections.

Importantly, this system removes the need to manually lift heavy, sometimes aggressive animals into the tray. The vehicle is tailored to our Shire's rural environment and also has stock trailer towing capacity.

BUILDING ACTIVITY IN 2018

From 1 January to 1 December 2018, Council issued 554 building permits including 188 new dwellings; 88 dwelling extensions, including verandahs and decks; 6 dependent person's units; 46 swimming pools and enclosures; 209 garages, sheds and carports; and 17 commercial permits including child care centre, amenities block and men's shed.

Legislative requirements included: 66 Council reports and consents; 2 places of public entertainment occupancy permits - Meredith Music Festival and Golden Plains Festival; 1 temporary siting permit - Bluestone Blues Festival; and 482 property information responses. There were also 9 Emergency Orders (4 fire damaged/destroyed dwellings); and 23 Building Notices and Minor Work Orders.



STAY FIRE READY

The Fire Danger Period continues in the Shire and all residents are responsible for making sure their property is well prepared.

This includes cleaning up all fine fuels such as leaves, twigs and long grass close to the home and having a clear fire plan for everyone in your home, including visitors.

In December, Council completed its second round of fire inspections. Of the 368 notices issued, the Municipal Fire Prevention Officer identified 21 non-compliant properties. Contractors have been engaged to eradicate these fire hazards and Council will continue property checks in 2019. More information is available at cfa.vic.gov.au or goldenplains.vic.gov.au/residents

EVENTS IN GOLDEN PLAINS

2 FEB & 2 MARCH**Golden Plains Farmers' Market**

8.30am – 12.30pm. Byron St, Bannockburn.

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

More info: goldenplainsfarmersmarket.com.au**16 FEB & 16 MARCH****Smythesdale Country Market**

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

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

More info: Woody Yaloak Historical Society at 5342 8754.

**16 & 27 FEB AND
16 & 27 MARCH****Community Meal**

12.30pm – 1.30pm. Linton and District Men's Shed, 2 Grant St.

Community members are invited to join the 'shedders' for lunch on the third Saturday and last Wednesday of every month.

More info: lintonmensshed@gmail.com**17 FEB & 17 MARCH****Inverleigh Produce & Lifestyle Market**

9am – 1pm. Lawsons Park, Inverleigh.

Local producers, artists and professionals deliver the very best our thriving region has to offer at this popular Sunday market.

More info: inverleighmarket@outlook.com**23 FEB****Rockin' Rokewood with the Arts**

9am – 4pm. Rokewood Hall, 66 Ferrars St.

Annual art show, crafts and art market, children's entertainment, food, music and family fun.

More info: Michelle de Groot at mde17978@hotmail.com**24 FEB****Shelford Community Duck Race**

10am – 5pm. Shelford Recreation Reserve.

Fun for all ages with live entertainment, market stalls, activities and of course, The Duck Race.

More info: shelfordduckrace@gmail.com**3 MARCH****Inverleigh Dachshund Derby**

10am – 3.30pm. Victoria Park, Inverleigh.

A fun day for the family and their dogs. Register your dachshund for the big race!

More info: Carol Perrett at 0401 161 470.

EVERY SATURDAY**Bannockburn Park Run**

8am – 9am. Bannockburn Bush.

5km Timed Run. Free event, all welcome.

More info: owensharkey@gmail.com**TWILIGHT MARKET REPEATS SUCCESS**

The second annual Golden Plains Twilight Market attracted thousands of locals and visitors who enjoyed shopping for farm-fresh produce, handcrafted gifts and artwork in the week before Christmas, as well as live music and delicious food shared with family and friends.

In 2019, the monthly Golden Plains Farmers' Market has a new home at the Bannockburn Playgroup carpark in Byron Street. This temporary move makes way for the redevelopment of the Bannockburn Heart precinct, with the Market to return to the bigger and better site in 2020.

For a full list of market dates, see the calendar with a handy fridge magnet delivered with this magazine.

Keep updated with all the Market news at [facebook.com/goldenplainsfarmersmarket](https://www.facebook.com/goldenplainsfarmersmarket) or goldenplainsfarmersmarket.com.au

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

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.

To activate the text-to-voice feature, move
over website text and click on the Listen
button. Visit the settings on the Listen
button or the text-to-voice toolbar to make
adjustments including the language and
reading speed.

The deadline for the April
issue of the *Gazette* is 9am,
Thursday 7 March. Email:
news@gplains.vic.gov.au
or post to PO Box 111,
Bannockburn 3331.

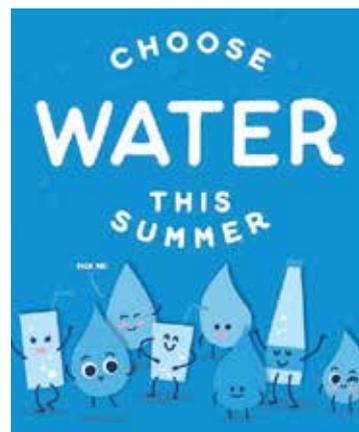
The Golden Plains Gazette is produced on
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recycled post consumer waste.

CHOOSE WATER THIS SUMMER

Council supports G21 Geelong Regional
Alliance's promotion of water as a drink of
choice to reduce the consumption of
sugary drinks.

Water is the best option to keep the body
hydrated, it has no kilojoules and is freely
available, while soft drinks can damage teeth
and contribute to weight gain.

Remember: Stay healthy, stay hydrated!



NEW SCREEN AT HADDON FIRE BRIGADE



The Haddon Fire Brigade recently installed an LED screen on the front of the station and would like to thank all local residents, businesses and community groups who made a donation and the CFA for a grant to fund the \$1,500 project. The screen will be used to share Brigade messages and community notices.

Haddon Fire Brigade was established in 1978 and currently has a membership of 54 people. The brigade undertakes local fire suppression works, supports neighbouring brigades, and is involved in strike team duties in the area locally and interstate. To submit a notice for the screen or make a donation to the brigade, call the secretary at 0409 954 393 or the captain at 0409 171 115.

TOP HONOURS FOR SES MEMBERS



Rob Timms (left) with Michael Harper.



Hugh Mitchell (left) with Michael Harper.

Community members Rob Timms and Hugh Mitchell have been recognised for their dedication to the Bannockburn State Emergency Service (SES) unit.

The two men were presented with life memberships by acting regional manager for South West Region Michael Harper at a special ceremony in Bannockburn in December. Rob and Hugh have more than 40 years of service each, attending thousands of call-outs in their time. Their commitment to leadership and development, as well as practical knowledge and application, was acknowledged at the presentation. For more information about the Victoria SES, visit ses.vic.gov.au

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