

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Like many of you, I have been confronted by the news and growing reality of the Coronavirus pandemic, both overseas and in Australia.

Understandably, this is a confusing and distressing time for many people, especially those with health concerns and loved ones overseas. As I write this message, new travel and border restrictions have been put in place and the supermarket shelves are running bare – and it's hard to know what next week or month will bring.

At times like these, it's important that as a community, we come together in spirit – even if we are separated physically. Let's be kind, caring and considerate as we help each other through this unprecedented crisis; to come from a place of compassion and care rather than anger and fear. This means being respectful to supermarket staff, assisting our elderly neighbours or calling a friend to make sure they're okay – at this overwhelming time, these are simple measures we can take that means a great deal. Golden Plains is a special place to live – and we have 56 wonderful townships with community-minded residents who we know will rise to meet the moment.

The health and well-being of our community, staff and volunteers is Golden Plains Shire Council's top priority. In this fast-changing environment, it has been necessary for Council to make changes to some of its services, operations and events – and there may be more changes in the future. We thank our customers, clients and community for their understanding and patience, as Council continues to do its very best to support and care for the people of Golden Plains Shire.

Finally, I would urge our residents to always seek correct and reliable information as this crisis unfolds. There's a great deal of misinformation circulating online and via word of mouth that may be untrue and upsetting, so please source your news from reputable sources, such as the ABC and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Golden Plains is full of supportive people and strong communities, and I know that together we can get through these difficult times.

Stay safe and connected, be kind and take care.

Cr Owen Sharkey, Mayor of Golden Plains Shire Council

REGISTER YOUR PET TODAY



Pet-owning residents have received their annual animal registration renewal notices in the mail.

Under the Victorian Government's *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, all dogs and cats over the age of three months must be registered, or have their registration renewed by Friday 10 April, 2020. Please note that this due date falls on a public holiday this year.

With Council's Customer Service Centres closed for face-to-face interactions, there are a number of other ways for residents to pay their renewal notices:

- BPAY
- Over the phone at 5220 7111
- Mail by posting cheque and payment slip to PO Box 111, Bannockburn VIC 3331
- Post Billpay
- In person at an Australia Post outlet

Animal Rego Notice: BPay Change

Please note that the BPay Biller Code on the 2020 Animal Registration Renewal Notice was incorrect.

Correct Biller Code

BILLER CODE: 35238

Council apologises for any inconvenience. If you have any questions about the Biller Code or paying your animal registration renewal notice, please call Council's Customer Service team at 5220 7111.

Coronavirus update

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Golden Plains Shire Council has implemented a number of changes to its operations to reduce the risks to residents, staff and volunteers.

Council's Bannockburn, Linton and Smythesdale Customer Service Centres are closed for face-to-face interactions. Customers are still able to contact the Customer Service team by:

Phone: **5220 7111**

Email: enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au

Online: goldenplains.vic.gov.au/forms/portal

Essential services of Council that require physical contact including immunisation, Maternal and Child Health Services, Delivered Meals (Meals on Wheels), childcare, Community Care, and food safety inspections will continue to operate on a priority basis and subject to staff availability. The Bannockburn Family Service Centre and Bannockburn Children's Service remain open and operating for the community. Council's waste collection services will continue as usual.

The Bannockburn Library and Golden Plains Mobile Library run by the Geelong Regional Library Corporation are closed until at least Tuesday 14 April 2020. For more information on the library closures, visit grlc.vic.gov.au/coronavirus.

Planning Panels Victoria has advised that the panel hearing for the Golden Plains Planning Scheme Amendment C87: Inverleigh Structure Plan has been postponed until further notice. Residents with questions can contact Council's Strategic Planning Team Leader at 5220 7271 or email laura.wilks@gplains.vic.gov.au.

VicHealth have advised that This Girl Can Week has been postponed indefinitely, and all This Girl Can events in Golden Plains Shire this week have been cancelled.

The following Council events have also been cancelled:

- Haddon Small Business Victoria workshop – 26 March
- The Barwon South West Skate, Scoot and BMX Competition – 27 March
- Golden Plains Community Vision Bannockburn Conversation Post – 27 March
- Golden Plains Community Vision Meredith Conversation Post – 28 March
- The Golden Plains Farmers' Market – 4 April
- Council's weekly youth groups in Smythesdale and Bannockburn

This information is current as of 24 March 2020. For up-to-date information on the status of Council's services, operations and events, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/coronavirus, or follow Council on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

WATERPLAY CLOSED FOR WINTER

It's been a fun-filled first season at the Bannockburn Heart, and with the weather cooling, the waterplay component will now close until next summer.

Keep an eye on Council's website, social media channels, the *Gazette* and Council News in the *Golden Plains Times* later in the year for details on when the waterplay space will re-open.

While the splashpad is now closed, the adventure playground, active recreation equipment, public toilets, seating and BBQs remain open, however, residents are reminded to practice social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic.



TENDERS

GPSC-RFT-06-2020 Handyman Maintenance Services

and

GPSC-RFT-07-2020 - Plumbing Maintenance Services

Description: Submissions are requested from suitably experienced organisations for the abovementioned tenders

Obtaining Documentation: Log on to goldenplains.vic.gov.au/tenders and register at Council's eTender portal.

Lodgement of Tenders: Submissions must be lodged via the Golden Plains Shire Council electronic eTender portal at tendersearch.com.au/goldenplains.

For both tenders, Closing Time: 12 noon, Wednesday 15 April 2020
where opportunities grow...