



## From the Mayor's Desk



**As we mark the one-year anniversary since the COVID-19 pandemic became a feature of our everyday lives, it's remarkable to reflect on how much has changed and how far we've travelled on this journey.**

From wearing a mask while grocery shopping to cancelled travel plans to home school and lockdowns, we've all had experiences we never thought we'd face but we did it together. Now, we are slowly emerging on the other side, Council is very pleased that the Bannockburn Shire Hall will become a vaccination clinic for the people of Golden Plains, a valuable health service to be delivered by the Bannockburn Surgery. More on this great announcement below.

April is a busy month and if your community group has a great project or program in the works, applications for

Council's popular Community Strengthening Grants are now open. We look forward to receiving grant requests for some quality local events, projects and programs, and sharing this financial support with our many wonderful Golden Plains communities. See page 8 for details.

During the election, we heard from many residents that they wanted to see their Councillors out and about more in our local communities. In February, our Councillor group started a new engagement initiative, Coffee with your Councillors, and we thank all the residents who met up with us in Haddon, Ross Creek, Linton, Meredith, Cape Clear, Napoleons, Teesdale, Inverleigh and Lethbridge, as well as our first Councillor Conversation Post in Smythesdale. In May, the Councillors will visit another nine towns across the Shire and hold the next Conservation Post and we welcome all community members to stop by for a chat. We hope to see you there!

**Cr Helena Kirby – Mayor of Golden Plains Shire Council**

## A New Purpose for the Shire Hall

Golden Plains Shire residents have a new reason to visit the Bannockburn Shire Hall, with a dedicated COVID-19 vaccination service established in the iconic building.

The vaccination service is operated by Bannockburn Surgery, which has been appointed by the Australian Government as a registered COVID-19 Vaccination Facility, as part of the nation's mass vaccine roll out program.

### COVID-19 Vaccination in Golden Plains

Anticipating the first vaccine doses by Easter, the Bannockburn Surgery will open the clinic when doses are available and increase appointments as the Australian production of vaccine delivers stronger supplies. The availability of vaccination to different groups based on age and health will be in line with the Australian Government's roll out plan.

Vaccination appointments cannot be booked over the phone, due to consent requirements. To make a vaccination appointment with Bannockburn Surgery, please visit the online portal at [bannockburnsurgery.com.au](http://bannockburnsurgery.com.au) and complete the booking form.

If you are having trouble booking an appointment or have any questions relating to the COVID-19 vaccination, please contact Bannockburn Surgery at 5281 1481 to book a consultation with a GP.



*Mayor Cr Helena Kirby recently met with Bannockburn Surgery Director Dr John Henderson and Manager Renee Trotter to hand over the keys to the Bannockburn Shire Hall.*

### A New Lease on Life

Bannockburn Surgery's new COVID-19 vaccination clinic is a welcome tenant at the Bannockburn Shire Hall and Council is pleased to support this valuable initiative to bring a critical health service to Golden Plains Shire, making it easier and more convenient for local residents to receive COVID-19 vaccinations.

Council offered the Bannockburn Shire Hall for lease through an Expression of Interest process, following the relocation of Council Meetings to the Golden Plains Civic Centre, to ensure the key CBD location was activated.

The new clinic will invigorate the location and bring more people to Bannockburn's centre, supporting local cafes and retail outlets. It is anticipated the vaccination clinic will be open at Bannockburn Shire Hall until late 2021.



## Out and About Across the Shire

It's been a busy start to the year and the new Golden Plains Shire Councillors have kicked off their new program of Councillor Engagement, keen to deliver on their commitment to strengthen community engagement and meet regularly with residents across the Shire.



### COUNCILLOR CONVERSATION POSTS

On 7 February, all Councillors attended the first Councillor Conversation Post at the Smythesdale Arts & Music Fiesta. Stop by for a chat at the next Councillor Conversation Post on **Saturday 1 May**, from 8.30am to 12.30pm, at the Golden Plains Farmers' Market in Bannockburn. At the engagement, Councillors and Council staff will be talking to residents about the Draft Council Plan 2021-2025 and the Draft Council Budget 2021-2022.

Last month, Councillors held their first online Councillor Conversation Post and will host another online engagement session in August.

### COMMUNITY GROUP MEETINGS

An Expression of Interest process will be open to local progress associations, community service groups (Lions, Rotary, etc.), interest groups (environmental, Landcare, historical societies, etc.), and community activity groups (Scouts, Probus, CWA, etc.) to request attendance of Councillors at a meeting between June and December 2021. Attending Councillors will report back to Council on the group and their engagement experience.

### Want to stay connected with Councillor Engagement in 2021?

To stay up-to-date, join the Community Engagement Register at [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/community-engagement-register](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/community-engagement-register); read the *Golden Plains Times* and *Gazette*; or follow Council on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn or Instagram.

### COFFEE WITH YOUR COUNCILLORS

At the first Coffee with your Councillors day on 20 February, almost 100 residents met directly with Crs Sharkey and Gamble in Haddon, Ross Creek and Linton, Crs Kirby and Cunningham in Napoleons, Cape Clear and Meredith; and Crs Rowe and Whitfield in Lethbridge, Teesdale and Inverleigh.

On **Saturday 8 May**, the next Coffee with your Councillors day will visit the following locations:

#### 9 to 10.30am:

- General Store, Main Road, Scarsdale
- Community Hall, 58 Briardale Avenue, Enfield
- Shelford Public Hall, 16 Mercer Street, Shelford

#### 11am to 12.30pm:

- Through the Gate Café, 42 Brooke Street, Smythesdale
- Dereel Hall, 14 Swamp Road, Dereel
- Murgheboluc Hall, Hamilton Highway, Murgheboluc

#### 1.30 to 3pm:

- Public Hall, Hardies Hill Road, Garibaldi
- Rokewood Memorial Hall, 66 Ferrars Street, Rokewood
- Batesford Community Play Space, Tolloora Way, Batesford

The Coffee with your Councillor day coincides with the feedback period for the Draft Council Plan 2021-2025 and the Draft Council Budget 2021-2022.

# Building Bridges in Golden Plains



## SLATE QUARRY ROAD BRIDGE IN MEREDITH

Crossing the Moorabool River, Slate Quarry Road is the major link between the Midland Highway and Geelong-Ballan Road. The existing bridge is currently load limited to 15 tonne on a road network that connects many local businesses.

The new unrestricted bridge will eliminate a 20km detour for an estimated 25 heavy vehicles per day, equating to 130,000km saved each year. With bushland to the northeast of Meredith, the new unrestricted bridge will provide greater access to this important route for response vehicles, significantly reducing travel times in emergencies.

The \$2.3 million new Slate Quarry Road bridge is jointly funded by Council and the Australian Government's Round 5 Bridges Renewal Program, and is scheduled to open in mid- to late-2021.



## GEGGIES ROAD BRIDGE IN ROKEWOOD

Located three kilometres east of the township, the current single-lane bridge across Kuruc A Ruc Creek is load-limited to 2.5 tonnes, which prohibits future expansion of existing livestock businesses in the area and means a 10km detour for the local school bus.

Works are underway to construct a new two-lane unlimited concrete bridge that will benefit approximately 30 primarily farming and grazing properties, allowing light and heavy vehicles full access to these important work sites.

The new bridge is funded equally by Council and the Australian Government from its Round 5 Bridges Renewal Program. At its December 2020 meeting, Council awarded the \$390,857 construction contract for the new bridge to Golden Plains-based Begbies Contracting. The new bridge is expected to open in mid-2021.



## RESERVE ROAD BRIDGE IN ROKEWOOD

This bridge replacement project will see the aged, single-lane timber bridge replaced with a new unrestricted, double-lane concrete bridge on an improved road alignment. Fully funded by the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program, works are almost complete and the new Reserve Road Bridge is scheduled to open in April 2021.

## SAFETY WORKS IN SHE OAKS

Drivers will experience safer travel across the Sharp Road Bridge in She Oaks, thanks to new flashing warning signage, funded by \$17,360 from the Victorian Government and \$10,000 from Council.

Solar-powered LED warning signs will be installed at the approaches to the single-lane Sharp Road Bridge as it crosses the Moorabool River in She Oaks, sensing approaching traffic and providing drivers with extra warning of oncoming vehicles.

The installation of the warning signage will add to the significant safety improvements Council has already completed in the area in recent years, including the \$1.6 million new Coopers Bridge on Meredith-Steiglitz Road and \$1.4 million widening of 3km of Maude-She Oaks Road that were both completed in 2020, as well as the \$2.3 million replacement of the nearby Slate Quarry Road Bridge in Meredith. This latest project is supported by the local Maude-She Oaks-Steiglitz Community Planning Group.

## On the Road in Golden Plains



### SHELFORD-MOUNT MERCER ROAD

In February, road safety works began on a section of Shelford-Mt Mercer Road in Mount Mercer.

The \$1.1 million upgrade of Shelford-Mt Mercer Road will see 3.5km of the road improved, with the road shoulder widened and sealed between Grahams Road and Rices Road. The project will also include the installation of guard fencing on the east side of the road, improved delineation, and replacement of damaged signs.

Council received \$1.1 million to complete the road safety works from the Australian Government's 2020-21 Black Spot Program. The project is anticipated to be completed by June 2021.

### MEREDITH-SHELFORD ROAD

This year, Council will complete Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Meredith-Shelford Road widening project.

Stage 1 works began in January to widen and seal 2km of the road between Hendersons Road in Bamganie and Lower Plains Road in Meredith. This \$1 million first stage is funded by Council's Roads to Recovery funding allocation from the Australian Government, and is scheduled for completion in April.

The second \$832,000 stage will widen a further 2km of Meredith-Shelford Road from the intersection with Lower Plains Road, and is fully funded by Council's 2020/2021 roads budget.

When completed, the upgraded Meredith-Shelford Road will support a safer transportation network to the nearby Golden Plains Food Production Precinct.

### OTHER ROAD UPGRADES

In 2021, Council will also deliver road upgrades on Russells Bridge Road in Russells Bridge, and intersection upgrades at Garibaldi's Buninyong-Mt Mercer Road/Hardies Hill Road intersection and Berringa's Derwent Jacks Road/Snow Gum Road/Reef Road/Chromes Road intersection.



### NEW FUNDING FOR COLAC-BALLARAT ROAD

Council has welcomed the \$1.89 million announcement that the Australian and Victorian Governments will upgrade an important section of Colac-Ballarat Road.

The Regional Roads Victoria-managed road will be upgraded between Enfield and Dereel, with the Federal Government contributing \$1,512,000 towards the project and the Victorian Government providing \$378,000. Works will include shoulder widening and sealing of the narrow road, and rumble strips and safety barrier installation on high-risk locations.

Colac-Ballaratt Road is an important transport link through the centre of Golden Plains Shire, connecting the Shire to Ballarat in the north and Colac in the south. As the population of the Shire continues to grow, Council has been active in lobbying for improvements to the Golden Plains Shire roads managed by the Victorian Government.



# Renew or register your pet by **10 APRIL**

**In March, pet-owners received their annual animal registration renewal notice 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 by Saturday 10 April, 2021.

### **Renewing a pet registration?**

Review the orange 2021 renewal notice that you received in the mail and pay the registration cost by any of the ways listed on the notice:

- In person at Council's Bannockburn or Smythesdale Customer Service Centres
- BPAY
- Over the phone at 5220 7111
- Post Billpay

You can also sign-up to a payment plan via BPAY to break up the cost of your pet registration. To sign-up, please call Council's Customer Service team at 5220 7111.

*That's it: your pet is registered for 2021!*

### **No longer own the pet on your notice?**

If your pet has died or does not live at your property for any reason, please complete and return the Statement of Change slip on the back of your renewal notice; or call 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.

Possibly due to COVID-19, a large number of pets did not have their registration renewed in 2020. To ensure pets are not missed and left unregistered this year, Council will send a renewal notice to all pet-owners who had an animal registered in 2019-20, unless otherwise advised.

### **Registering a pet for the first time?**

If you have a dog or cat that is unregistered, call Council's Customer Service team at 5220 7111 and we will help you complete the registration.

For more information on pet registration, visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/pet-registration](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/pet-registration).

## New Accessible Parking Permit Scheme

Golden Plains Shire is transitioning to the Victorian Government's new Accessible Parking Permit Scheme in 2021.

This year, Victorian councils will transition to the new online scheme, which will provide community members with an easier, fairer and more streamlined online application process, that is consistent across the state.

The Accessible Parking Permit Scheme includes a number of improvements to the existing system, including introducing 6, 12 and 24 month temporary permits, increasing permit lengths from 3 to 5 years, and removing the need for permit holders with a permanent medical condition or disability to undertake a medical assessment

when they renew their permits. Occupational Therapists will also now be able to assess applications, in addition to General Practitioners.

In line with the new scheme, Council will remove its \$10.20 fee, making the process easier and more affordable for Golden Plains Shire residents.

All existing disability permits remain valid until their expiry date and permit holders are not required to do anything until it's time to renew their existing permit. Council has already directly advised local residents with permits that are due to expire in April.

For more information about the new Accessible Parking Permit Scheme, call 5220 7111.



## Open for Play!

Three Golden Plains Shire playgrounds were recently upgraded and have received the seal of approval from local children and families.



### ROKEWOOD PLAYGROUND

Works were completed at the Rokewood Recreation Reserve Playground at 14 Mcmillan Street in January, which saw upgrades and new equipment installed at the site. A new cube climbing frame was installed alongside a new triple nest swing unit to replace the old swing set. Other works included replacing the soft-fall mulch and installing new sub-surface drainage at the site. The \$38,000 project was fully funded by Council as part of its annual Playground Renewal budget.



### DEREEL PLAYGROUND

The \$56,000 upgrade of the playground at the Dereel Hall and Recreation Centre, 14 Swamp Road, also included a number of new features installed and existing equipment upgraded. The project included the replacement of the old swings with a Birds Nest combo swing set, installing a natural play space item, re-staining of the combo unit, replacement of the old slide, new soft-fall material, installation of perimeter edging, as well as path upgrades and the replacement of the nearby synthetic cricket wicket.



### HADDON PLAYGROUND

The Centenary Lions Park Playground at 30 Racecourse Road, Haddon has received a \$64,000 upgrade including replacement of the old swings with a new Birds Nest combo swing unit, installation of a stepping trail of rocks and balancing logs, re-staining of the main combo unit, and replacement of one of the old slides. Other works included replacing the soft fall material, expanding the playground's footprint and installing new perimeter edging.

Dereel and Haddon playgrounds are two of five play spaces to receive funding from the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program. The three other playgrounds that will be upgraded this year are Linton Recreation Reserve, Garibaldi Public Hall Reserve and Enfield Harrison Reserve.



## Digital Hub at THE WELL

### Golden Plains Shire Council will open the Shire's first co-working space at The Well in Smythesdale.

The new Digital Hub will deliver a modern and accessible co-working space with fast and reliable NBN internet and strong mobile phone coverage, at the busy community facility in the north of Golden Plains Shire.

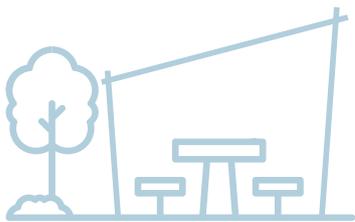
As part of Council's COVID-19 business support measures, Golden Plains Shire residents and businesses will have free access to the Digital Hub for the first 12 months of operation. With easy parking and open from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, the Digital Hub will offer a comfortable and contemporary alternative to working from home.

Council is committed to supporting local business and the Digital Hub is a viable workplace option for both home-based business operators and employees who have a long commute, particularly those seeking strong, reliable connectivity or wanting to collaborate with others in a bright, professional workspace.

In March, Council held community engagement, including two Open House sessions, with businesses and residents regarding their ideas for the space, as potential users. This feedback has informed the fit out of the space including the room lay out and furniture, ensuring a functional, well-used hub.

The new Digital Hub aims to improve community access to digital technology for residents in the Shire. The regular programs previously held in the Jubilee Room at the Well have been supported to relocate to other rooms or local facilities. There are still community spaces available for use at The Well as well as the library services, Ballarat Community Health, Woody Yaloak Historical Society, Smythesdale Pharmacy and Council's Customer Service Centre.

The project to transform an existing meeting room into the new Digital Hub, including technology and connectivity upgrades and new furniture was supported by the Victorian Government, with the new Digital Hub scheduled to open mid-2021.



## Dine out in Golden Plains

Four outdoor dining locations have been established in Golden Plains Shire, encouraging residents and visitors to purchase takeaway food from local businesses.

Thanks to a \$250,000 grant from the Victorian Government's Local Councils Outdoor Eating and Entertainment Package, Council has installed permanent outdoor dining locations in Bannockburn, Inverleigh and Meredith to encourage COVIDSafe outdoor dining. Another site in Smythesdale will be installed in April.

The new table settings in Bannockburn, Smythesdale and Inverleigh are all made of recycled plastic, and each site includes one table setting that is accessible for all abilities.

It's been a tough year for many local businesses, and with more areas for outdoor dining here to stay, it's the perfect time to support our local takeaway eateries recovering from COVID19 restrictions.

### **Bannockburn – Bannockburn Heart, corner High and Milton Streets**

- Three new shade sails and five recycled plastic table settings on a new synthetic turf

### **Inverleigh – New play space, East Street**

- A new shade sail and two recycled plastic table settings on a new synthetic turf

### **Meredith – Corner Staughton and Wallace Streets**

- Re-staining existing platforms, bench seats and furniture settings

### **Smythesdale – Smythesdale Town Green, Brooke Street**

- Two shade sails and four recycled plastic table settings on a new gravel pad

# Public Holiday CONSULTATION

## HAVE YOUR SAY!

### What public holiday would you like to celebrate?

Council is seeking community feedback on whether Golden Plains Shire should observe the Melbourne Cup Public Holiday or an alternative local holiday for the next four years.

In Victoria, Melbourne Cup Day is observed as a public holiday unless an alternate local holiday has been arranged by a non-metro council. In previous years, Council has requested part-shire arrangements as an alternative to Melbourne Cup Day, with the north of the Shire observing Ballarat Show Day in November and the south of the Shire observing Geelong Show Day in October.

In recent years there has been a steady decline in councils observing an alternate public holiday to Melbourne Cup Day, with only seven of Victoria's 79 councils not marking the first Tuesday in November last year.

Local community members and businesses are now invited to have their say on the future of the spring public holiday arrangements for Golden Plains Shire. Options for consideration include continuing part-shire observation of Geelong and Ballarat Show Days, requesting an alternative local holiday, or observing the Melbourne Cup Holiday in all parts of the Shire.

To make a submission:

- Complete an online form at [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations)
- Email [enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au)
- Mail to the Chief Executive Officer, Golden Plains Shire Council, PO Box 111, Bannockburn, VIC 3331 - marked 'Urgent - submission'

Submissions close at 5pm, Sunday 18 April, 2021. Council will review the feedback and is anticipated to make a final decision on the spring public holiday at the June Council Meeting.

## COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING GRANTS ROUND ONE 2021



### Community Grants 2021: Apply Now

**Is your community group looking for funding for a project or program?**

Applications are open for the first round of Golden Plains Shire Council's Community Strengthening Grants Program 2021.

Grants of up to \$10,000 are available in four categories:

- **Healthy Active Living** – to support recreation, sport, health and wellbeing projects
- **Creative Community** – to support arts and culture projects
- **Environment and Sustainability** – to support projects that improve the environment
- **Community Safety** – to support projects that equip communities to be safe and resilient

Groups must match the amount of funding sought, either in cash or through in-kind contributions, such as volunteer work on the project. Applications are open until 5pm, Friday 30 April, 2021.

In 2020, Council awarded \$146,212 to 33 Golden Plains community groups in two rounds of the Community Strengthening Grants Program. The funding supported a diverse range of valuable projects including improving community facilities, protecting biodiversity in local reserves and helping local children deal with the impacts of family violence trauma.

For more information and to apply for a Community Strengthening Grant, visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/grants](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/grants) or contact Council's Community Partnerships Officer at 5220 7220 or [communitygrants@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:communitygrants@gplains.vic.gov.au).

## GOLDEN PLAINS YOUTH SURVEY



## HAVE YOUR SAY ON YOUTH SERVICES

Council is developing its next Youth Development Strategy and to plan for youth services, projects and programs for the future, we want to hear from you!

There are two surveys with questions tailored for local youth and young people, and community members including parents, carers, residents and service providers. A broad range of perspectives and opinions are valuable to learn more about the needs and wants of local young people and their families and supporters.

To have your say on youth services in Golden Plains Shire:

- Complete an online form at [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations)
- Pick up a paper survey at a Council Customer Service Centre, 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn or 19 Heales Street, Smythesdale and:
  - Email completed survey to [enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au); or
  - Mail to Golden Plains Shire Council, PO Box 111, Bannockburn, VIC 3331 - marked 'Urgent - submission'

Submissions close at 5pm, Monday 3 May, 2021.



## NEW LGBTIQA+ PROGRAM

Council has secured a HEY grant to deliver LGBTIQA+ programs for young people in the Shire.

With the \$5,000 grant from the Victorian Government, Council will partner with Bannockburn P – 12 College to deliver a range of youth-informed and school-based initiatives to improve support for LGBTIQA+ young people. Initiatives will include anti-homophobia campaigns, training for students and staff, and the first social support group for LGBTIQA+ young people.

The initiatives will be supported by specialist agencies including Safe Schools, GASP and Headspace Geelong, and will be delivered at Bannockburn P – 12 College in Term 3 and 4, 2021.

## April School Holiday Activities

Join the fun this school holidays with the following free events and activities:

- **Scoot and Skate Clinic**
  - 1 to 2pm and 2 to 3pm, Tuesday 13 April
  - Enfield Skate Park
  - Ages 8 to 16 years
- **FReeZA Summit 2021**
  - Wednesday 14 April
  - Excursion to Collingwood for free event training for young people by the Push. Key topics include running COVIDSafe events, accessibility, network and live music performances.
- **Accredited Food Handlers Course**
  - 10am to 4pm, Thursday 15 April
  - Haddon Community Learning Centre
  - Ages 15 to 25 years
- **Barista Skills Training**
  - 3.30 to 7.30pm, Friday 16 April
  - Coco's Espresso Crew, 2/19 High Street, Bannockburn
  - Ages 15 to 25 years

To sign up for these school holiday programs, call 5220 7177 or email [youth@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:youth@gplains.vic.gov.au)  
For more youth events, visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/events](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/events) or follow Golden Plains Youth on Facebook.

# Events are Back in Golden Plains!

As COVID-19 restrictions have eased in Victoria and life is moving to the new normal, it's exciting to see events returning in Golden Plains.

This year, residents have enjoyed a fun range of local events including the Smythesdale Arts and Music Fiesta, Southern Open Studios, Rokewood Community Auction, Ross Creek-Smythes Creek Community Car Boot Sale and some busy Golden Plains Farmers' Markets.

## Organising a community event?

For advice or questions on planning a community event in Golden Plains Shire, call 5220 7111 and speak with

Council's Events and Engagement Officer. We understand that planning an event within COVIDSafe guidelines can be confusing and we're happy to help. We can also discuss event permits, traffic and event plans, and Council's support to promote your local event.

## Love to support local events?

Visit Council's events calendar to plan a great weekend out and about in Golden Plains: [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/events](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/events) or follow Golden Plains Shire Council on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram for what's on in the Shire. Adding a community event to the calendar is free: visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/forms/event-registration](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/forms/event-registration)

# Commemorate ANZAC Day 2021



After a very different ANZAC Day in 2020, in-person services will return to Golden Plains Shire this year. All residents are invited to attend services across the Shire on Sunday 25 April, 2021:

- 6am:** **Corindhap Memorial Park**, 4 Hall Road - Dawn Service and Gunfire Breakfast.
- 6am:** **Bannockburn Monuments**, High Street - Small Parade with Memorial Service and laying of floral tributes.
- 7am:** **Teesdale Monument**, Shelford-Bannockburn Road - Memorial Service and laying of floral tributes.
- 7.45am:** **Shelford Monument**, Shelford-Bannockburn Road - Memorial Service and laying of floral tributes.
- 9.15am:** **Inverleigh RSL Sub-Branch Building**, 10/6 West Street - March to the Inverleigh monuments for Memorial Service and laying of floral tributes.
- 10am:** **Meredith Memorial Hall**, 61 Staughton Street - Memorial Service including laying of floral tributes.
- 10am:** **Smythesdale War Memorial**, Garden Street - Service followed by morning tea at the Recreation Centre.
- 10.45am:** **Rokewood RSL**, 35 Hardie Street - March followed by Service at Rokewood Memorial.
- 11am:** **Memorial Park Cenotaph in Haddon**, Sago Hill Road - Service and reading.



*Last year, Cr Owen Sharkey laid wreaths at local monuments, including in Bannockburn, on ANZAC Day morning.*

This list was correct as of 18 March 2021. To stay up-to-date with these events, and others that are confirmed following this date, visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/events](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/events).



## Customer Service

### BANNOCKBURN

8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday  
2 Pope Street, Bannockburn  
Victoria, 3331.

### SMYTHESDALE

8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday  
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

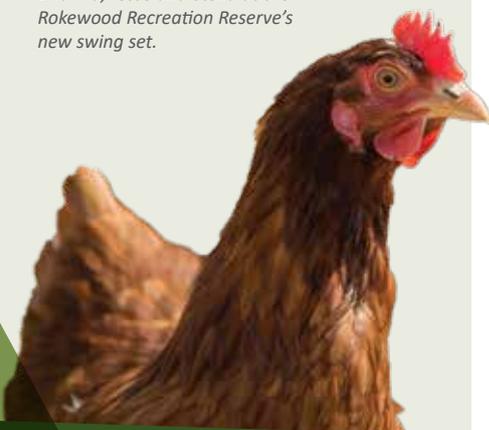
P: 1300 363 036  
P: 5220 7111 (24 Hours)

### GAZETTE CONTACT

P: 5220 7111  
E: [news@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:news@gplains.vic.gov.au)

To receive a copy of the *Gazette*  
in large print, call 5220 7111.

Cover: Mayor Cr Helena Kirby with  
Brianna, Jesse and Stella at the  
Rokewood Recreation Reserve's  
new swing set.

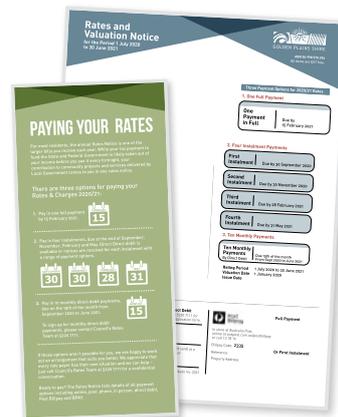


## RATES PAYMENT

All Golden Plains Shire ratepayers received their 2020-21 Rates Notices in the mail last year.

For residents who signed up to pay their rates by instalments, the fourth and final payment is due on 31 May 2021.

To apply for Council's COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy or discuss your rates payment, please call our Rates team for a confidential conversation at 5220 7111.



## IN-PERSON CONSULTATIONS AT COUNCIL

After a year-long break due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person meetings are returning for residents and applicants to meet with Council's Statutory and Strategic Planning, Community Safety, Environmental Health, Building Surveying, and Development Engineering teams.

A meeting room next to the Golden Plains Civic Centre's Customer Service desk is exclusively available for meetings with officers. In line with Council's COVIDSafe Plan, the capacity of the room is limited and all meeting rooms and surfaces are wiped down after each meeting. Online meetings will remain an option for general enquiries, consultation meetings and pre-application meetings with officers, should residents prefer to meet virtually.

If large pre-application meetings or general enquiries are needed, we encourage organisers are encouraged to contact the team at 5220 7111 in advance so an alternate location can be organised to accommodate all participants.

In-person meeting participants will need to practice social distancing, good hand hygiene, and will be required to sign-in at the front desk for contact tracing purposes.

## END TO AVIAN INFLUENZA RESTRICTIONS

In February, Agriculture Victoria announced the final avian influenza restrictions in Golden Plains Shire have been lifted.

Following surveillance activities finding no further detections of the disease, the Control Area around Lethbridge has been removed, and permits are no longer required for the movement of poultry, poultry products and vehicles involved in poultry production.

Thank you to all community members for following the Agriculture Victoria restrictions over the last 10 months. All bird owners should continue to follow good biosecurity practices in order to prevent a recurrence of avian influenza. Poultry owners are requested to continue monitoring their birds for signs of sickness and disease.

In July and August 2020, avian influenza was found at four poultry farms near Lethbridge, as well as properties in Bairnsdale and Kerang. Decontamination and depopulation works were carried out at all properties last year.

For more information, visit [agriculture.vic.gov.au/avianflu](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/avianflu).

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