



ARE YOU FIRE READY?

With summer fast approaching, now is the time to make sure you and your family are ready for the fire season.

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Local brigades conducting roadside fuel reduction burning. Photo credit: D Musgrove, Bannockburn CFA Brigade

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10 | Celebrating 15 years of Community Planning

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

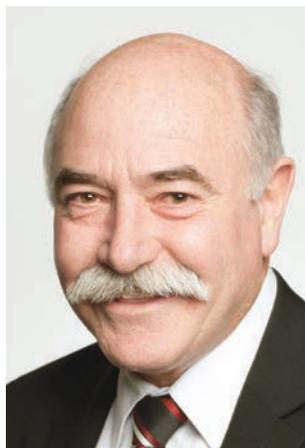
19 Heales Street,
Smythesdale
P: 5321 1500

Northern Community Centre

Sago Hill Road, Haddon
P: 5342 7000

Bannockburn Family Services Centre

2a Pope Street,
Bannockburn
P: 5220 7230



FROM THE CEO

I hope everyone is enjoying the change in the weather – there is no better time to enjoy all Golden Plains has to offer! See what events are coming up near you on page 5 and check out our community noticeboard on the back page.

You may notice some differences in this edition of the Gazette – as the Local Government elections are coming up, policies are in place to make sure that information shared with the community during the ‘caretaker period’ (the election lead up time) does not unduly affect the election result – that is why there is no message from the Mayor this month.

Lastly, I would like to encourage our older residents and their families to get involved in some of the fantastic Seniors Festival events being held throughout the Shire. Be active, crafty, creative or informed, pamper yourself or enjoy a fantastic morning tea or meal – all for little or no cost. Find out more on page 3.

Rod Nicholls – Chief Executive Officer

YOUR COUNCIL, YOUR VOTE: GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL 2016 ELECTION

The Golden Plains Shire Council election will be held this October.

General elections are held every four years and local councillors make decisions on a range of issues, including local roads and footpaths, parks and recreation facilities, planning and building regulations, and libraries and community centres.

Ballot packs were mailed last week for the Golden Plains Shire Council postal election. If you haven't received your pack by Wednesday 12 October or have any other enquiries, please contact the Returning Officer at Bannockburn Cultural Centre, 27 High Street, Bannockburn on 1300 587 451.

Golden Plains Shire Council strongly encourages all eligible voters to have their say at the 2016 council election—in fact, compulsory voting provisions apply and you may be fined by the Victorian Electoral Commission if you don't vote.

To find out more and check your enrolment, visit vec.vic.gov.au.



WINNERS AT LGPRO AWARDS

Golden Plains Shire Council's Aged and Disability team has won 'Outstanding program/project' award at the LGPro Aged And Disability Services 2016 Awards.

They won for the 'Walk about Australia and up the guts' program – an interactive, low cost, high impact, easy-to-follow program that targets the physical health and emotional wellbeing of participants by tracking steps towards a virtual walk around Australia.

All participants are provided with a pedometer where their weekly step count is recorded on a large map of Australia.

A huge congratulations to all involved, especially those who have made such great progress 'around Australia and up the guts'!



SENIORS FESTIVAL – OCTOBER 2016

Get out and about during Seniors Festival in Golden Plains Shire.

You can be active, crafty, creative or informed, pamper yourself or enjoy a fabulous morning tea or meal, all for little or no cost! Council, community groups and organisations have worked together to showcase their regular events and create a few more to provide a varied calendar of events during October.

Visit www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au or phone 5342 7000 or email NorthernCommunityCentre2@gplains.vic.gov.au for a brochure or to make any bookings.

For more information on the state wide Seniors Festival go to www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au or call Seniors Information Victoria on 1300 135 090.



REGISTER TO 'HELPOUT' DURING EMERGENCIES

Emergencies can become overwhelming for emergency services, who take hundreds of calls from people volunteering to help.

These offerings are a testament to our community spirit, however can be difficult to manage.

HelpOUT is an emergency volunteer database that helps relieve some of this pressure – it coordinates a list of volunteers who have registered to be contacted in future emergencies. So if an emergency happens, volunteers are already registered with HelpOUT. To register or find out more, please visit www.volunteeringvictoria.org.au/helpout



CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

Registrations for the Golden Plains Arts Trail on 25 & 26 March 2017 are now open.

Registration costs just \$30 and includes:

- Registration for the Trail
- Your artist profile on artstrail.com.au
- 12 month membership of GP Arts Inc.

Registrations close Friday 14 October. Go to artstrail.com.au to make sure you are a part of this great arts opportunity.

Not an artist but want to be involved?

If you would like to sponsor this year's event, would like your venue to feature on the trail or are interested in volunteering opportunities, please call 5220 7111 and ask for Michael Cosgriff, Economic Development Officer.



BATTLE OF BANNOCKBURN

Enjoy an exciting weekend of family fun with The Battle of Bannockburn Timeline festival.

Saturday 29 October – Sunday 30 October will be a weekend not to be missed. The Bannockburn Lions Club and Bannockburn Golf Club are excited to present the Festival, which will include 450 re-enactors covering all periods of history from early medieval through to World War II.

There will be endless entertainment for all the family to enjoy – from re-enactments, to live Celtic and pipe bands, Scottish clans, Scottish games and children's entertainment and much, much more. Don't miss out – gates open at 9.00am. Find out more at www.timeline.org.au.



SMALL BUSINESS BUS COMING TO GOLDEN PLAINS

Do you own a business and need expert advice on how to grow and thrive?

The Victorian Government's Small Business Bus is coming to Bannockburn and Smythesdale. The Small Business Bus offers free confidential mentoring and advice, provided by a small business specialist.

The bus will be in Bannockburn on 18 October and in Smythesdale on 10 November. Book a session and discover how the Small Business Bus can help you plan, start or grow your business. Visit business.vic.gov.au/sbb or call the Business Victoria Contact Centre on 13 22 15.

WHAT'S ON IN GOLDEN PLAINS?

OCTOBER

1ST**Golden Plains Farmers' Market**

8.30am – 12.30pm. Cnr High & Milton Sts Bannockburn
Farm fresh produce, free parking, free entry and kids' activities.
Also running Nov 5 & Dec 3
More info: goldenplainsfarmersmarket.com.au

2ND**Car Boot Sale**

9.00am – 1.00pm. 35A Brooke St, Smythesdale.
Browse and buy from the many recycled goods.
Also running 20 November 2016
More info: John Turnbull 5281 5068
john_turnbull@netspace.net.au

22ND**Smythesdale Pony Club Gymkhana**

9.00am – 4.00pm. Woody Yaloak Equestrian Centre
For riders of all ages. Show rings, show jumping and games.
More info: Janet Jackson 0429 402 047
djackson59@bigpond.com

23RD**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

29TH - 30TH**Battle of Bannockburn**

9.00am – 4.00pm at the Bannockburn Golf Club. Enjoy this country fair for the family incorporating live period re-enactments. Organised by Bannockburn Lions Club in conjunction with timeline festival.
More info: John McNamara 0412 584 188
jmcnamara1@bigpond.com

29TH - 30TH**Golden Plains Open Gardens**

9.00am – 4.00pm. Various in Inverleigh & Teesdale
View three of the region's best gardens.
More info: Ian Nash 0414 986 232
iannash@hotmail.com

NOVEMBER

5TH**Walking Home**

7.30am – 05.00pm. Skipton Rail Trail from Linton to Ballarat
Salvation Army event to raise awareness of homelessness.
More info: Janet White 53 291 105
janet.white@aus.salvationarmy.org

12TH**Shelford Primary School 150th Celebration**

11.00am – 5.00pm. Shelford Primary School
Celebrating 150 years. BBQ lunch, entertainment and Devonshire afternoon tea.
More info: Rebecca Jenkinson 0417 519 116
beckjenko@bigpond.com

26TH**Rokewood Rodeo**

1.00pm – 1.00am Elder Park Rokewood
Rodeo events, live music, stalls and rides.
More info: Jacquie Terry 0438 422 336
jacquieterry@hotmail.com

26TH**Inverleigh Farmers' Market**

9.00am – 1.00pm. 5 High St Inverleigh
Buy or swap produce with local producers
Also running Oct 29
More info: Bec Cameron 0400 966 126
Bec@farmersdaughterproduce.com.au

DECEMBER

17TH**Smythesdale Country Market**

9.00am – 1.00pm. 35A Brooke St, Smythesdale.
Also running Oct 22 & Nov 19
More info: Lin Hocking-Turnbull
(03) 5342 8751

22ND**Twilight Market and Carols**

4pm – Dark Turtle Bend Teesdale
Perfect for that last minute gift, evening carols and fireworks.
More info: Geoff Wild 52 815 354
gswild@bigpond.com



Photo credit: Kim Stanley-Eyles

ARE YOU FIRE READY?

As the fire season approaches, it is vital that our community prepares itself for a long, hot summer. Golden Plains Shire residents can do lots of things to prepare their property and family to reduce the bushfire risk.

HANDY RESOURCES

To see current incidents and warnings, visit emergency.vic.gov.au

For information on how to plan and prepare, check out cfa.vic.gov.au

Preparing and planning ahead can save you and your family from the stress, trauma and danger of being threatened by fire.

It is important to prepare before the fire season and Council is urging all residents to take the necessary steps to ensure they are Fire Ready. If you are in a high-risk bushfire area, know what to do, and when and where to go, on hot, dry, windy days.

Prepare your property

It is important that you reduce the fine fuels around your house. Fine fuels such as leaves, twigs, bark and grass are a primary driver of fire intensity and spread. A well prepared property is more likely to survive a fire. So:



Cut your grass around your house



Clean out the gutters on your house



Rake up leaves and twigs around your house

Check out the CFA Prepare your Property page at cfa.vic.gov.au.

Don't start fires

Careless actions on days of high fire danger can cause fires. On High Fire Danger days avoid:

- Mowing or slashing long dry grass
- Angle grinding or welding on the open
- Driving or parking in long dry grass
- Using power equipment that may cause sparks or overheat
- Having a fire in the open.



Check out the CFA 'Can I or Can't I' information at cfa.vic.gov.au

Council's fire season preparation

Golden Plains Shire does its part in preparing our community for the fire season by slashing long grass on roadsides and in reserves, conducting fire hazard inspections of private property and issuing Fire Prevention Notices and helping CFA brigades to burn roadsides and reserves.

PREPARE

- Prepare your property – clean up fine fuels
- Check your insurance – does it cover sheds and fences?
- Know the fire danger – fire danger rating, your fire district
- Prepare a Bushfire Plan – write it down and practice
- Prepare your family – does everyone know the plan?
- Download the CFA Fire Ready app.

ACT

- Stay aware of your surroundings on hot, dry, windy days
- Stay informed through ABC local radio, social media, emergency services websites and apps like Fire Ready and Emergency AUS
- Heed official warnings and act appropriately.

SURVIVE

- Know what to expect and act appropriately.

Fire hazard fines issued

Council issued 570 Fire Prevention Notices during the 2015/16 fire season directing landowners to cut their grass and clean up fine fuels around the home.

Unfortunately, 28 recipients failed to comply with their Fire Prevention Notice and were issued with fines in excess of \$1500 plus contractor cutting fees and administrative costs. Twelve cases have gone to court resulting in arrest warrants being issued, fines confirmed with legal costs and criminal conviction recorded.

Council's fire hazard inspections 2016

Council's Fire Prevention Officers will commence fire hazard inspections of private land in early November. Properties are inspected to ensure that residents have reduced fire hazards on their property by cutting long grass and cleaning up fine fuels (leaves, twigs, bark) in preparation for the coming fire season.

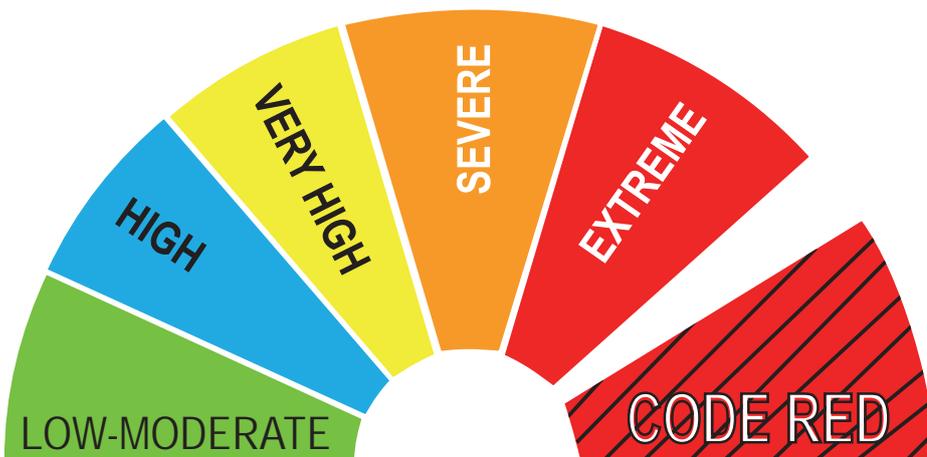
Council's Fire Prevention Officers focus on the management of fine fuels in the area immediately around a house and outbuildings, providing a level of protection to both the house and the residents who may seek shelter in it.

Fire Prevention Notices are issued to properties with a fire hazard instructing the owner to clean up the hazard. Non-compliance results in fines in excess of \$1500 and additional costs.



Know your fire danger ratings

Golden Plains Shire Council is in the 'Central' fire district.



FIRE DANGER RATING

CODE RED - the worst conditions for a bush or grass fire. Homes are not designed or constructed to withstand fires in these conditions, and the safest place to be is away from high risk bushfire areas.

EXTREME - if a fire starts and takes hold, it will be uncontrollable, unpredictable and fast moving.

SEVERE - if a fire starts and takes hold, it may be uncontrollable.

VERY HIGH, HIGH and LOW-MODERATE – if a fire starts, it can most likely be controlled in these conditions and homes can provide safety, but residents should stay aware as fires can still start and impact on homes quickly.



WEEDS IN FOCUS: GORSE

Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) is one of Australia's worst weeds.

Gorse is a dark green, dense, extremely spiny shrub that grows up to seven metres tall. Gorse infestation results in a decline in stock carrying capacity, reduces income for farmers, invades bushland and provides excellent habitat for foxes, feral cats and rabbits.

Management of Gorse is a long term project, but the most important element is follow up; continuing your control work every year basis until it is no longer a problem on your property.

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



NATIVE VEGETATION GRANTS

Funding is available from the National Landcare Program but hurry – registrations close 30 October 2016.

Landholders, Landcare and community groups are invited to register their interest to undertake biodiversity projects on the Victorian Volcanic Plains in the Corangamite Catchment Management region, through funding provided by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

Eligible projects include: remnant vegetation management, threatened species habitat protection, encouraging regeneration around native paddock trees, protection of natural wetlands and community engagement.

If you would like to find out more, contact Rob Bone at robert.bone@ccma.vic.gov.au, call 03 5232 9100 or visit the Corangamite CMA webpage at ccma.vic.gov.au.



RECYCLE YOUR TAKE-AWAY PLASTIC

Did you know empty take-away containers can be recycled?

Plastic take-away food containers, such as those you might get from a chicken shop serving take-away salads, are often recyclable. A quick scrape is all they need – no rinsing required!

You can also recycle plastic lids, shampoo bottles, biscuit trays, compact disc cases and even deodorant roll-ons, amongst many other things. Plastic bags, hazardous chemicals and batteries are not recyclable. To find out more about recycling visit thinkrecycling.com.au.



DETOX YOUR HOME BALLARAT

Detox your Home is a safe, free and easy-to-use service to dispose of common household chemicals.

This free mobile Household Chemical Collection Program is coming to Ballarat in December and residents are encouraged to do the right thing by their loved ones, the local community and the environment and get rid of unwanted – and potentially dangerous – household chemicals through Detox your Home.

Ballarat’s collection will be on Saturday 3 December from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm, at the Ballarat Transfer Station, Gillies Street South, Ballarat.

Find out more by visiting sustainability.vic.gov.au/detoxyourhome or calling 1300 363 744.



SWIMMING POOL SAFETY

Do you own a swimming pool or spa or are thinking of obtaining one?

Drowning is the most common cause of death for children under five years of age, and the most common location of these tragedies is the backyard swimming pool or spa. Make sure you:

1. Fence your pool or spa
2. Check the safety barrier regularly
3. Always supervise young children in and around water.

For further information contact the Victorian Building Authority or alternatively Council’s Building Services Unit on 5220 7111.



GREEN ARMY IN GOLDEN PLAINS

A Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) sponsored ‘Green Army’ has been helping the Environment Services team with some important environmental projects.

The very keen group of young participants have removed old fencing and installed rabbit resistant netting at the Old Batesford Cemetery. The team have also installed erosion control coir logs and matting, spread native seed and planted native tube stock at the De Motts Road gravel pit as part of ongoing revegetation efforts.

The Green Army is an Australian Government initiative and a great opportunity for young Australians aged 17-24 years to gain training and experience in environmental and heritage conservation fields.



RESIDENT SHORTLISTED FOR AWARD

Diane Lang from Lethbridge has been shortlisted for a Victorian Premier's Volunteer Champions Award.

This State Government awards program celebrates and recognises the extraordinary contributions of volunteers in Victoria.

Diane was nominated (and shortlisted!) for her tireless and enthusiastic commitment to making Lethbridge an even greater place to live. She is a Community Coordinator and involved in many committees and projects to develop the Lethbridge community.

We would like to thank Diane for her dedication and wish her all the best in the Awards. Recipients will be announced in October 2016.

BEAUTIFYING BANNOCKBURN

The Beautify Bannockburn Gardening Group spruces up High Street this Spring!

The main street in Bannockburn is looking more welcoming than ever, thanks to a group of wonderful volunteers. Committed to enhancing prominent areas in the community, the Beautify Bannockburn Group has donated many hours (and even their own plants) to create a more attractive Bannockburn.

The Group is working with Council to develop further beautification plans, and we cannot wait to see what these creative residents come up with! If you would like to assist with the transformation, please call Beth on 5281 1576.



Beautify Bannockburn Group members at work.



15 YEARS OF COMMUNITY PLANNING

In August, Community Coordinators came together to celebrate 15 years of Community Planning in Golden Plains.

The event highlighted the dedication and success of the many community members involved with Community Planning over the years.

Dr Fiona Gray inspired guests in her address, elaborating on 'place making' and community engagement, and program facilitators Fiona Reidy and Nicole Langtip showcased impressive new resources to assist Coordinators, and Council CEO Rod Nicholls shared project highlights.

Are you interested in getting involved in Community Planning? Visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au or contact our Community Development Team Leader on 5220 7111.

WALKING STICKS TO SELFIE STICKS

Local youth continue to bridge the gap between young and old.

The youth-led 'People of Golden Plains' Committee will host their Intergenerational Story Event on Tuesday 18 October at the Bannockburn Cultural Centre, from 6.30pm to help close the growing generation gap.

Earlier this year, the Committee used the digital space, including Facebook, to connect the community. More recently, they have developed a series of story-sharing community events to help bridge the gap between younger and older generations.

To find out more, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/news



2017 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS NOMINATIONS

The Australia Day Awards are an opportunity to formally acknowledge extraordinary individuals and community groups.

Celebrate those who make an outstanding contribution to the Golden Plains Shire in fields such as community service, arts and culture, environment, business and economic development.

All nominees must be an Australian Citizen, who either lives or works in

Golden Plains Shire, who has made a noteworthy contribution during the current year and/or given outstanding service to the local community over a number of years.

2016 Australia Day Award winners

- Citizen of the Year: David Bruce
- Senior Citizen of the Year: Jill Wheeler
- Young Citizen of the Year: Mathew Kinnia
- Community Event of the Year: Live at Turtle Bend 2015

How to nominate  Australia Day

Post this tear off to Events Officer, Golden Plains Shire Council, 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn 3331

Email a scan of this tear off to events@gplains.vic.gov.au

Online at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/forms/australia-day-awards-2017

More information: phone 5220 7245

Nominations must be received by 4pm, Wednesday 30 November 2016.



2017 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS NOMINATION FORM



Please list your details as the nominator:

Full name:.....

Contact telephone or email address:.....

Please select the category that best represents the person you are nominating:

- Citizen of the Year** (28 years of age or over) **Young Citizen of the Year** (Up to and including 27 years of age)
- Senior Citizen of the Year** (55 years of age or over) **Community Events of the Year** (An event staged within the past year)

Please list the details of the person/event you are nominating:

Full name:..... Email address:.....

Address:.....

Telephone:..... Mobile:.....

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.

December deadline

Please note, the deadline for the December edition is Thursday 3 November 2016. 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.

BACK TO STEIGLITZ FESTIVAL & REUNION



10.00am – 4.00pm, Sunday 23 October.

The Back to Steiglitz Festival & Reunion is a fabulous day of old-fashioned fun. Interested stall holders please contact us for more information and to register: www.backtosteiglitz.org.au or ring Ralph and Kathy on 03 5281 9301.

TEESDALE OPEN GARDEN



10.00am – 4.00pm, 29 and 30 October. Take the opportunity to view some of Golden Plains' best gardens: Art Rocks (on the Inverleigh Teesdale Rd, Inverleigh); Hidden Gully (17 Willis St, Teesdale); and Briar Hill (21 Sutherland St, Teesdale). \$5 per person per garden. For any enquiries, please contact Ian on 0414 986 232.

STALLHOLDERS WANTED - TEESDALE COMMUNITY EVENTS



9.00am – 1.00pm, 4th Sunday of the month (December 22 Twilight Market 4-8pm). Turtle Bend Reserve, Teesdale. Country markets, including handmade, home grown items, a variety of stalls, car boot sales, sausage sizzles and Devonshire tea. More information: email teesdalecommunityevents@gmail.com or call 5281 5354 or 0407 835 731.

FIND US EVERYWHERE!



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goldenplains.vic.gov.au



Smart Phone Apps



REASON FOR AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD NOMINATION

Summarize the reasons why your nominee should be considered. You may wish to include:

- Other significant contributions and achievements about your nominee/group/event
- Background information about your nominee/group/event



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If you require additional space, please write on a separate sheet and attach to this tear off.