

LODDON

BULLETIN

A PROSPEROUS
VIBRANT AND
ENGAGED COMMUNITY



Equipment helps healthy hearts



In a first for Loddon, the Healthy Heart of Victoria initiative, in partnership with Loddon Shire Council, launched new outdoor fitness equipment in Wedderburn and Boort in September.

The equipment, which is located on the Nardoo Trail in Wedderburn and in Nolen's Park Boort, was developed in

consultation with the community. The aim of the initiative is to provide locals with more opportunities for regular physical activity by increasing access to gym equipment after health concerns for the region were identified in 2016.

The fitness equipment installation and supporting activities in both locations has been funded by the Healthy Heart of Victoria initiative. The Wedderburn Development Association also allocated \$25,000 through Council's Community Planning program to purchase additional equipment and seating to be installed along the Nardoo Trail in Wedderburn.

The equipment was officially launched on 17 September by Mayor Cheryl McKinnon, and CEO Phil Pinyon in both locations.

South West Loddon Pipeline

Construction of the South West Loddon Pipeline network was completed in October and interim water supply is now available to many connected landowners.

Water supply is currently being offered as an unguaranteed interim supply while final system testing and commissioning is in progress. Landowners are being contacted directly by GWMWater once water supply is available to their property.

Once final system commissioning is completed (later in December), full supply at GWMWater's normal service standards will be available to connected landowners. Connected landowners will be notified directly by GWMWater once final system

commissioning is confirmed. GWMWater is grateful to landowners located throughout the pipeline project area for the cooperation shown during the delivery of this project.

Information provided by GWMWater



QUARTERLY BULLETIN

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A word from our Mayor



Tourism and Economic Development have been drivers for change over the past months in the Loddon Shire. Several Council strategies have been released for public comment that are designed to improve our economy and quality of life without losing any of Loddon's distinctive characteristics.

In October the new Official Visitor Guide was released along with exciting new social platforms that will promote our region and ensure that local operators are supported to boost tourism across the entire district.

In addition, a new regional tourism website was launched that builds on the aim of bringing increased visitors to enjoy experiences across the region.

Major events at Loddon are a highlight of our annual calendar, allowing us to showcase the region's natural wonders as well as gourmet food and wine, supported by live music and entertainment. The new website will complement the work done by our community to achieve our vision of a prosperous, vibrant and engaged community at Loddon.

Perhaps you will have the opportunity to take advantage of some of our many activities and natural attractions throughout the coming holiday season, particularly if you have family and friends staying. It is a great chance to enjoy water sports and our local swimming pools as well as shopping and dining locally.

On behalf of all of us here at Loddon Shire Council, I wish all residents a happy and safe Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Citizenship congratulations

At the end of August, Mayor Cheryl McKinnon presented the Shire's newest Australian citizens Xiaoyu Liu, originally from China and Peter Gargan, originally from Ireland, with their citizenship certificates during a ceremony at the Serpentine office.

Another ceremony in October formally welcomed new citizens Suwattana Chulakathappa, from Thailand and Esther Noemi Jacob Domingo and her son Von Marco Domingo Fernandez from the Philippines.



Xiaoyu Liu, Mayor Cheryl McKinnon and Peter Gargan

Council meetings 2020

Community members are always welcome to attend Council's monthly meetings to learn of issues affecting their community.

Meetings start at 3pm and are held at the Serpentine Council Chambers.

- Tuesday 10 December 2019 (please note change of date)
- Tuesday 28 January
- Tuesday 25 February
- Tuesday 24 March
- Tuesday 28 April
- Tuesday 26 May
- Tuesday 23 June
- Tuesday 28 July
- Tuesday 25 August
- Tuesday 22 September
- Tuesday 13 October
- Tuesday 24 November
- Tuesday 15 December

Australia Day celebrations

Australia Day celebrations will take place across our Shire with towns and communities hosting events.

Festivities will include speeches from our Australia Day ambassadors, sausage sizzles and free entries to the Council's swimming pools.

Australia Day Awards will be presented which celebrate the achievements and contributions made by outstanding members of our community who, through their efforts make us feel proud to be Australian.

Celebration details are subject to change. Please check with our website or Facebook closer to the day.



Arnold Hall

Nolens Park, Boort

J Sloan Park, Bridgewater

Eddington Community Centre

Inglewood Swimming Pool

RJ Phelan Reserve, Mitiamo

Newbridge Hall

Pyramid Hill Hall

Soldiers' Memorial Park, Wedderburn

Mayor elect

Terrick Ward Councillor Cheryl McKinnon has been re-elected Mayor of Loddon Shire for the next 12 months at a Statutory Meeting on Thursday 7 November at Pyramid Hill.

"I look forward to continuing my work with Council, its staff and the community to further enhance the prosperity and liveability of our Shire."

Volunteer support

Loddon Shire residents have a strong sense of self-reliance and community spirit. This is reflected in the rate of volunteerism. Almost 32% of the population volunteer their time; that amounts to 2,395 people. That is almost double the national average of 19%.

To help organisations who have volunteers, Council has appointed a Volunteer Support Officer who is in the process of updating the Volunteer Community Directory. Every community-based organisation within the Shire should be represented on the new website, so that people

looking for a particular activity or organisation can easily find the information they need.

If you are the secretary or contact person for a community, sporting or other activity within Loddon Shire Council, please contact the Volunteer Support Officer, Sue Devereaux, to update the details of your group.

If you want further information about how the Volunteer Support Officer can help your organisation, phone 5494 1277 or email sdevereaux@loddon.vic.gov.au.

Inglewood Swimming Pool upgrade

On 16 November, Council officially opened the Inglewood Swimming Pool Complex Upgrade. This corresponded with the opening of Council's five public swimming pools for the 2019/20 season.

The upgrade consisted of three projects to provide better access, new facilities and the installation of solar heating.

The first project was Inglewood Swimming Pool's upgrade to improve access, providing fully accessible change room facilities, aquatic lifts for swimming pool access and an upgrade of the toddlers' swimming pool.

The second project was the construction of female change rooms to cater for netball players and to provide joint usage with the Inglewood swimming pool.

The final project was the installation of solar heating which will provide lasting benefit to the community.

The official opening also celebrated the commissioning of the solar heating at all five of Council's public swimming pools. The solar heating provides the opportunity to extend programs such as lap swimming and water aerobics.

The projects, which together cost just under \$640,000, were financed by a combination of funding programs from the State Government Community Sport Infrastructure



program and Council funds, and will greatly extend the opportunities for the community to enjoy the facilities for health and recreation.

Loddon pools

There are five swimming pools within Loddon Shire: Boort, Inglewood, Mitiamo, Pyramid Hill and Wedderburn. They are all managed under contract by Unified Community Sports and Leisure.

The provision of outdoor swimming pools is an essential part of Council's commitment to enhance the liveability of the Loddon Shire.

Managed swimming pools are a safe place to cool off and provide a particularly good environment for children to learn to swim. They also provide excellent opportunities for social interaction as gathering places.

Entrance fees	Casual	Season tickets
Family (1-2 adults and children)	\$10	\$130
Adult	\$5	\$75
Child	\$2.50	\$50
There is no entry charge for non swimmers		

Opening hours	Boort, Inglewood and Wedderburn	Mitiamo	Pyramid Hill
Monday to Friday (non-school holidays)	3.30pm-7.00pm	4.00pm-7.30pm	3.30pm-7.00pm
Monday to Friday (school holidays)	2.00pm-7.00pm	2.00pm-7.00pm	3.00pm-8.00pm
Weekends and public holidays	2.00pm-7.00pm	2.00pm-7.00pm	3.00pm-8.00pm
These opening times may vary depending on weather conditions and are at the discretion of management. All pools are closed on Christmas Day.			

Enticing visitors to Loddon

In October, the new Loddon Valley Official Visitor Guide was launched by the Mayor before a gathering of local businesses. The guide is designed to entice potential visitors to consider the Loddon Valley region for their next holiday and help them find itinerary options, seasonal events and key tourism experiences. It will also strengthen the bonds between tourism operators and help to increase overnight stays.



From left Ms Shelby Hutchinson, Tourism and Marketing Assistant Loddon Shire Council, Councillor Cheryl McKinnon, Mayor of Loddon Shire, Mr Terry Karamaloudis, Manager Tourism and Major Events City of Greater Bendigo and Ms Lynne Habner, Manager Executive and Commercial Services Loddon Shire Council

Cr McKinnon also launched the Visit Loddon Valley Facebook and Instagram. These initiatives are designed to grow Loddon Valley's presence across digital platforms and give potential visitors information at their fingertips. Instagram is the perfect vehicle to showcase and share digital images of Loddon's natural beauty. Look for the hashtag #unearthloddonvalley.

A week later the Bendigo Regional Tourism launched a new regional tourism website to boost the tourism industry across the City of Greater Bendigo, Loddon, Mt Alexander and Goldfields region. The website is the perfect resource for visitors to plan their experience throughout the Bendigo Region and includes an online ticketing service and other features to assist visitors in planning their stay.

Free waste disposal days

The next free waste disposal days are scheduled for the following dates (check Council's website for times):

Saturday 15 February 2020

Inglewood Transfer Station

Sunday 16 February 2020

Wedderburn Transfer Station

Pyramid Hill Landfill

Dingee Transfer Station

Boort Landfill

Newbridge Landfill

You may dispose of up to four cubic metres of general domestic waste

free of charge. This includes green waste, mixed recyclables, general household waste, E-waste such as television and computer screens, home appliances and electronic items, refrigerators, freezers, microwaves and air conditioners. You can also dispose of battery operated products that have reached their end of life.

Charges still apply for tyres, bricks and concrete, and mattresses, as these items have additional third party costs associated with their disposal.

Community Reporting Tool

Council is committed to creating a safe and inclusive neighbourhood for all residents, so it is participating in the Community Reporting Tool trial, which has been developed by the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission (the Commission).

The Commission found that many people from other cultures and people who speak other languages had trouble understanding and standing up for their rights.

The Community Reporting Tool has been developed to provide a simple form that makes it easier for people to make short, direct and confidential reports about racism, discrimination, hate-speech and religious vilification.

The Community Reporting Tool may be accessed at the Council's website until the end of 2019 when the trial finishes.



Workplace equality and respect

Council was successful in obtaining funding through the Local Government Free from Violence Program to run the 'Leading Gender Equity' project. The project is the first stepping stone in changing the structures, social norms and practices which contribute towards gender inequality in the workplace and the greater community.

Throughout September all staff at Loddon Shire Council participated in Workplace Equality and Respect, and Bystander workshops. The aim of these workshops was to increase awareness and understanding of the extent and impact of gender inequality and its strong link to domestic violence. This was further to Loddon Shire's commitment to promoting workplace equality and respect, to build knowledge and skills within the organisation which can be expanded into the community.



From left Cr Colleen Condliffe (Program Manager, Keep Victoria Beautiful), Toni Shea and Fred Shea (Campbell's Forest & District Community Action Planning Group Inc.)

Tidy community

Congratulations Campbells Forest and District Community Action Planning Group Inc. for being named a finalist in the Keep Victoria Beautiful 2019 Tidy Towns – Sustainable Communities Awards.

The group has been working together since 2008 to ensure the long-term future of the community's farming families. Their vision is 'Community working together to achieve positive change and to maintain our rural appeal.'

The awards are an opportunity to acknowledge hard-working individuals for the valuable contribution they make to their communities. This good work is vital to keep our region vibrant and prosperous.

Works update

Every year Council allocates and spends significant funds on capital infrastructure projects.

Roads

- Works are well underway to carry out the resheeting of 21.8km of local gravel roads and local road gravel shoulders.
- Vegetation clearing has begun and pipes have been delivered for works to upgrade, widen and rehabilitate Echuca Serpentine Road and Bridgewater Raywood Road. The Fixing Country Roads program has also provided grants toward these two projects.
- Work has commenced on the upgrade of the approach guardrail on a bridge on Laanecoorie Newbridge Road.
- The intersection of Echuca Serpentine Road and Prairie Road is being upgraded and the adjacent road is being rehabilitated.
- Works continue to reseal and final seal approximately 30km of the sealed road network.



Sloans Road Bridge

Township improvement

- Work has commenced to replace and install new footpaths in Boort, Inglewood, Wedderburn and Bridgewater.
- Improvement of existing parks and replacement of critical township street trees has commenced.

Reservoir upgrades

- Inglewood Dam is currently undergoing a safety upgrade.
- Repairs are being made to Old Lead Dam.

Local bridge and culvert construction

- An upgrade of two culverts on Seven Months Creek, Pyramid Hill is underway.
- Works near completion on the installation of a drop structure to control erosion on Wedderburn-Brenanah Road.
- The tender for the replacement of Sloans Road Bridge has closed with construction expected in 2020. Half of the funding for this project will be from the Bridges Renewal Grant.

Laanecoorie boat ramp extension

The extension of the boat ramp at the Laanecoorie foreshore has been completed ahead of the warmer weather and is already in use. These works will make launching boats at the Laanecoorie boat ramp much easier without the worry of boat trailers dropping off the end of the launch pad.

The Laanecoorie Loddon River Recreation Reserve Committee of Management and Loddon Shire Council held an official opening on Friday 25 October to celebrate the completion of the boat ramp extension and the reopening of the Spillway Reserve.

Mitiamo Pipeline project

Construction is expected to start early next year on the Mitiamo Pipeline project which will supply water to 75,000 hectares near the townships of Mitiamo, Tennyson and Dingee. The new pipeline will provide a year round service to 180 customers with delivery of piped domestic and stock water. It will include 375km of pipeline, a pump station and 90ML storage facility.

The pipeline will be highly beneficial to the local community, with economic impacts to the broader economy through access to a reliable service and a cleaner water supply. The water that is currently delivered to some properties through a network of open channels and dams storages is subject to seepage and evaporation accounting for over 80% of water use. The pipeline is expected to reduce public and private water loss by approximately 1,026ML per year. At times residents are also forced to resort to water cartage which

results in additional cost and inconvenience.

The pipeline will cost \$29 million and will be delivered by Goulburn-Murray Water through \$10.2 million in Victorian Government funding, \$14.5 million from the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund, and the remaining \$4.3 million contributed by landowners.

Once completed, the newly created Mitiamo Piped Water District will be owned and operated by Goulburn-Murray Water.

Information provided by GMWater



Director for the Mitiamo Pipeline Project, Daniel Arnold and Mitiamo Reticulated Water Supply Committee Chair, Neil Allen at Mitiamo

Upcoming infant immunisation sessions

Immunisation sessions will be held at Boort Senior Citizens Centre, Dingee Bush Nursing Centre, Inglewood Maternal and Child Health Centre, Pyramid Hill Senior Citizens Centre and Serpentine Council offices on:

Thursday 12 December	9.30am Inglewood, 11.30am Dingee, 1.45pm Pyramid Hill
Thursday 9 January	9.15am Serpentine, 11.15am Boort
Thursday 13 February	9.30am Inglewood, 11.30am Dingee, 2.00pm Pyramid Hill
Thursday 12 March	9.15am Serpentine, 11.15am Boort

To make an appointment for an infant's immunisation, call Council's Serpentine Office on 5494 1201.

Please bring your Medicare card and Child Record Book to each immunisation session and allow 15 minutes waiting time following immunisation.

For information regarding immunisation, or to contact immunisation staff during sessions, call 0488 095 205. Information is also available from Council's website at www.loddon.vic.gov.au.



Bridgewater foreshore

Works on Stage 1 of the Bridgewater Foreshore Project are nearing completion, with shade 'fans' installed and the last of the landscaping, irrigation, turf and plantings finalised at the end of October.

The extensive project, which has included seating, play space, garden beds and a water access point for paddle craft, will allow locals and visitors to enjoy the unique beauty of the Loddon River and make the foreshore a focal point for the community.

Christmas and New Year office and service hours

Council offices in Wedderburn and Serpentine will close at noon on Tuesday 24 December and reopen at 8.15am on Thursday 2 January 2020.

The Loddon Visitor Information Centre will be closed on Christmas Day, but is otherwise open Monday to Saturday from 9am to 5pm and from 10am to 4pm on Sundays and public holidays. For enquiries phone 5494 3489.

There will be changes to scheduled kerbside garbage and recycling collections.

Collections scheduled for Christmas Day (Wednesday 25 December) will instead take place on Saturday 28 December 2019. Collections scheduled for New Year's Day (Wednesday 1 January 2020) will take place on Saturday 4 January.



All waste facilities across the Shire will be closed on public holidays.

The Community Care service will provide limited services from noon Tuesday 24 December and will reopen at 8.30am on Thursday 2 January 2020. Personal care and meals on wheels will be provided and clients will be contacted to discuss their service needs for this period.

There will be no home care, respite care, social support or property maintenance services delivered during this period.

For urgent Community Care service assistance during this period, please contact the after-hours service on 0427 804 736.

Shire offices

Wedderburn 41 High St, Wedderburn 3518 **T:** (03) 5494 1200 **F:** (03) 5494 3003
Serpentine 37 Peppercorn Way, Serpentine 3516 **T:** (03) 5494 1201 **F:** (03) 5437 8407

Offices open Monday to Friday 8.15am to 4.45pm

Email: loddon@loddon.vic.gov.au **Web:** www.loddon.vic.gov.au

Your Councillors



Mayor Cr Cheryl McKinnon

Terrick Ward
0409 557 888



Cr Neil Beattie

Boort Ward
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Cr Colleen Condliffe

Inglewood Ward
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