

LODDON BULLETIN

A resilient, sustainable and prosperous community of communities.



Flood recovery efforts continue

Due to the October storm and flood event, the subsequent damage to the road network, the redeployment of resources for clean-up, recovery and repairs to road infrastructure, Council has activated the Exceptional Circumstances clause in the Road Management Plan.

The Road Management Plan provides details of Council's policies, service standards and actions relating to the management of its road and footpath network.

The Road Management Plan allows for temporary suspension of these standards during exceptional circumstances such as natural disasters (including floods) if Council resources are redeployed elsewhere to meet the needs of the community.

Council officers and contractors continue to focus on fixing high-risk locations, with other officers inspecting and prioritising works for the remainder of the road network.

Council has responsibility for 4,800 kilometres of roads across the Shire, so inspections and repairs will take some time.

We thank you for your patience and please remember to drive with caution and follow warning signs that have been placed on roads.

For road information, including closures, please visit VicTraffic at <https://traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au/>

If you would like to report general road issues for VicRoads roads call 13 11 70. For Council roads call (03) 5494 1200.

A list of VicRoads roads within Loddon Shire can be found on Council's website at www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Services/Footpaths-roads-and-drains/Roads

Council continues to work with the Federal and State Government regarding opportunities for funding for flood recovery efforts, including on our roads and other infrastructure.

Skidders Flat Reservoir works

Emergency works on the spillway at Skidders Flat Reservoir, five kilometres north of the Wedderburn township, were completed ahead of schedule by Council contractors and staff.

Contracted dam engineers inspected the completed works and are satisfied the immediate risk level associated with future rainfall events and spillway flows has been greatly reduced, but further work will be required in the future to deliver a long term solution.

Works included widening of the spillway and installation of an additional 1100 tonnes of rock beaching. This was in addition to previous works undertaken, including lowering the spillway wall and installation of 500 tonnes of rock beaching.



Emergency works at Skidders Flat Reservoir spillway included widening of the spillway and installation of an additional 1600 tonnes in total of rock beaching.

QUARTERLY BULLETIN DECEMBER 2022

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A word from our Mayor

I'd like to thank my fellow Councillors for re-electing me as Mayor at the Special Council Meeting on 8 November.

I again look forward to working with Councillors, staff and the community during the coming year, including continued flood recovery efforts across our Shire.

One thing that has stood out for me during this difficult time is our amazing community here in Loddon Shire, and how we stand with, and support each other in times of need.

I am proud to be able to be Mayor of our Loddon Shire for the coming year, and even more proud of being part of such a wonderful community.

The October storm and flood event saw communities across the Shire affected by this widespread flooding.

I want to acknowledge the strength and spirit of community members in flood-affected areas across the region.

As always, our emergency service personnel and volunteers, many dealing with impacts to their own property and livelihoods, worked tirelessly to support communities throughout the Loddon Shire.

As individuals we each faced our own challenges, but we also saw communities work together to respond to this major flooding event and support each other through what continues to be a long recovery phase.

Council staff and contractors also responded to the emergency in an effort to see Council services re-established as soon as possible.

Council staff coordinated municipal resources effectively during the emergency response and continue to work effectively in dynamic, ever-changing environments.

As detailed in the article on the front of this edition of the *Loddon Bulletin*, recovery efforts continue to take place across the Shire.

This includes the continued clean-up, inspections and repairs to Council's 4,800-kilometre road network.

Council has also welcomed State Government announcements relating to support for individuals and business impacted by the weather events.

Information relating to flood emergency response and recovery can be found at the Loddon Shire website at www.loddon.vic.gov.au

You can also keep up-to-date with the latest news at www.facebook.com/LoddonShire

Finally, I'd like to wish everyone across the Shire a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I look forward to working with our community, Council and Loddon Shire staff in 2023.



Loddon Shire Council Mayor
Cr Dan Straub.

Australia Day celebrations

Australia Day celebrations will take place across our Shire with towns and communities hosting events (*locations and times below*).

Planned festivities include sausage sizzles and free entry to Council's swimming pools. Australia Day Awards will be presented which celebrate the achievements and contributions made by outstanding members of our community.

Please also check www.loddon.vic.gov.au or Council's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/LoddonShire closer to the day.

Town	Location	Time
Boort	Nolen's Park	Morning tea provided from 9.15am
Bridgewater	Sloan's Park	Barbecue breakfast from 8am
Eddington	Eddington Community Centre	Barbecue breakfast from 8am
Inglewood	Inglewood Swimming Pool	Sausage sizzle from 11am
Jarklin	To be confirmed	Barbecue breakfast from 8.30am, BYO chair
Newbridge	Newbridge Hall	Sausage sizzle from 11.15am
Pyramid Hill	Pyramid Hill Hall	Barbecue from 5pm
Tarnagulla	Soldiers Memorial Park	Barbecue from 5pm
Wedderburn	Soldiers Memorial Park	Barbecue from 5pm

Cr Beattie receives Mayor Emeritus

Congratulations Loddon Shire Councillor Neil Beattie (*pictured*) who received a Mayor Emeritus Award from the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV).



The Mayor Emeritus recognises Councillors who have served three or more full terms as Mayor.

Cr Beattie was presented with the award at the MAV Annual Conference Dinner in October.

Cr Beattie, who is the Councillor for Boort Ward, was first elected to Council in 2005.

He was Mayor from 2015 to 2016, 2016 to 2017 and 2020 to 2021.

Projects and works update

Constant rain during the past months, combined with flooding, has delayed a number of projects in the Shire.

Donaldson Park Community Hub

Works have commenced on the Donaldson Park Community Hub, with excavation works to be undertaken in the lead up to Christmas.

Calivil Bowls Club

The bowling green at the Calivil Bowls Club will be upgraded after it received \$200,000 in funding from the State Government for the installation of synthetic turf.

The project will be administered by Council, and is expected to get underway in the New Year.

Floodlighting upgrade project

The tenders have closed for lighting upgrades at the Serpentine Recreation Reserve.

The project will see the Serpentine Recreation Reserve receive new fit-for-purpose light towers and sustainable LED floodlighting.

It will result in a significant upgrade to the standard of lighting available for training and provide the opportunity for further activation for the community and users.

Township street improvements

- Footpath construction works on Commercial Road in Tarnagulla (between Poverty and Wayman streets) are in progress.
- The design for lighting at the pedestrian crossing at Coutts Street in Boort is completed.
- The tender has been awarded for kerb and channel, underground drainage and sealing upgrades in Grant Street (between Houston Street and the railway line) in Inglewood.
- The tender has been awarded for construction of a pedestrian barrier in Lakeside Drive, Boort.
- The construction for underground drainage works in Inglewood at the primary school and Verdon Street is anticipated to commence as soon as weather allows.

Local bridge and culvert construction

Works for the replacement of a culvert at Godfrey Street in Wedderburn are anticipated to start in the New Year.

Other

- Restoration works at the Korong Vale Hall have been completed. The works included recladding of the hall's exterior and roof, window replacements, exterior painting, roof fret work, and switchboard works.
- The tender for the septic system upgrade and replacement at the Tarnagulla Town Hall, Community Centre and public toilets has been awarded.
- The tender for septic system upgrade and replacement at Eddington Public Hall has been awarded.
- Council's annual reseal program tender has been awarded.



Restoration works at the Korong Vale Hall have been completed.

Maintenance inspection summary

From 1 July 2022 to 30 September 2022 127 inspections were completed (965 defects raised), with 96.1 per cent of all inspections completed before their due date.

Maintenance defect rectification

From 1 July 2022 to 30 September 2022, 1,477 defects were rectified, with 98.8 per cent of all defects (1,460 in total) completed before their due date.

Maintenance grading program

From 1 July 2022 to 30 September 2022, 254 maintenance grading work actions were completed resulting in 532 kilometres of grading and 938 kilometres of inspections.

VicRoads-controlled roads

Council undertakes routine maintenance of pavement, shoulders, roadside areas, drainage systems, road furniture and structures on various arterial roads within Loddon Shire (VicRoads roads). If you have any requests or issues with VicRoads arterial roads please call 13 11 70.

From 1 July 2022 to 30 September 2022, 487 defects were rectified, with 94.9 per cent of all defects (462 in total) completed before their due date.

Waste vouchers

Residents are provided with four vouchers with their rates notices - one for each quarter. Each voucher can be used to dispose of up to four cubic metres of general domestic waste free of charge at Council's landfill and transfer stations.

This includes green waste, mixed recyclables, general household waste and e-waste (white goods, TVs, computers, electronic items, etc.). Tyres, bricks and concrete, and mattresses are not included as these items have additional third party costs associated with their disposal, and will be charged as per normal disposal charges.

Each voucher can only be used once, and only one voucher used per transaction. The voucher must be presented to attendants at landfill and transfer stations. Each voucher must be used by its expiry date - with voucher 2 due to expire 31 December 2022.

Aged Care in Loddon

Loddon Shire Council has decided not to seek a new contract as a provider of the Commonwealth's in-home aged care program following changes to the sector under Aged Care Reforms.

Councillors formalised the decision at its November Council Meeting.

The formal decision follows much consideration, as well as consultation with staff and clients.

There will be no immediate change to Council's service delivery. Council is committed to completing its existing contract with the Commonwealth Government, which ends 30 June 2023.

Council will continue to maintain an active role in advocating that the new aged care service system delivers high-quality service and meets the needs of the community.

Council will work closely with State and Commonwealth Governments to ensure the transition is as seamless as possible for clients.

Tourism review

Loddon Shire's Tourism and Economic Development team has recently commenced a project to review Council's tourism services, to ensure future infrastructure and promotion meets the expectations of visitors to Loddon Shire.

Identified by Council as a priority project, the tourism review will include broad consultation with tourism industry and community stakeholders in the first half of 2023, to seek feedback on current tourism services and future opportunities for growth and innovation.

The project will investigate further integration of digital technology in tourism promotion and the visitor experience, to respond to future needs for local operators and tourists.

Loddon Shire's association with regional tourism boards will be examined as part of the review, to ensure our Shire's tourism assets are featured and our visitor economy supported by those traveling to neighbouring regions or across the State.

A promotional campaign to attract visitors to Loddon Shire over summer has also commenced, focusing on seasonal events and activities, to re-establish consumer confidence for travel, after recent flooding in regional Victoria.

If you are a tourism business or stakeholder and would like to know more information, please contact Loddon Shire's Coordinator Tourism and Marketing Bradd Worrell at bworrell@loddon.vic.gov.au



Volunteering resources available

Council has developed a range of resources on its website for volunteers and volunteering in the wider community.

The new resources on the dedicated volunteer page include self-guided learning materials for governance, meetings, and engaging young people.

There are also templates and checklists, tips, tricks and guides, as well as information regarding the Loddon Shire Council Volunteer Strategy 2022-2026.

The resources are part of an action in Council's Volunteer Strategy 2022-2026, which was informed through consultation with the community.

To view the volunteer resources visit www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Council/Working-with-us/Volunteering-with-Loddon-Shire-Council

If you have an idea for a template or guideline material that you would like to see included please let Council know by calling (03) 5494 1208 or emailing hr@loddon.vic.gov.au

Interested in volunteering?

If you would like to volunteer for Council or the wider community click the 'Better Impact' button on the volunteer webpage and register your details.

Once Council receives your details, a member of the team will put you in touch with a community group or provide information on a volunteering opportunity that aligns with your interest.



Council Meetings

Council Meetings are usually held on the fourth Tuesday of each month commencing at 3pm, at the Loddon Shire Council Chambers in Wedderburn (entry from Peters Street), behind the Council office.

A livestream of the meeting is available to the public via Council's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/LoddonShire

Upcoming Council Meetings:

- Tuesday 13 December
- Tuesday 24 January
- Tuesday 28 February
- Tuesday 28 March

Healthy Loddon Campaspe continues its focus in Loddon

Healthy Heart of Victoria has changed its name to Healthy Loddon Campaspe after Stage 2 of the initiative was launched in September.

This name change also better reflects the initiative's focus on improving health outcomes in the Loddon Campaspe region – the heart of Victoria.

The initiative will continue to work within the Loddon Shire Council area during the next four years, as well as Campaspe, Central Goldfields, Macedon Ranges and Mount Alexander Shires and the City of Greater Bendigo.

This includes continuation of projects to help encourage healthy eating and getting more people, more active, more often.

Achievements during Stage 1 included the development and roll out of the first regional Active Living Census which received over 24,500 responses.

The initiative also delivered a variety of projects in Loddon Shire, including outdoor fitness equipment and supporting programs in Boort, Wedderburn, Pyramid Hill and soon Inglewood. Other projects included new water fountains across the Shire, path upgrades in Boort to enable the new parkrun, and the implementation of healthy eating programs, including Jamie's Ministry of Food with Pyramid Hill, Wedderburn and Inglewood community houses.

The initiative will continue to work within the region by:

- Implementing place-based activations focusing on physical activity and healthy eating. Projects will continue to focus on those parts of the community that are the least supported to help encourage healthy eating and get more people, more active, more often.

- A workforce of localised Health Brokers in each Local Government Area focused on developing relationships to help build knowledge about health and wellbeing.

- Utilising and sharing the findings from the Healthy Loddon Campaspe Active Living Census to help ensure that investments, infrastructure, programs and services across the region are what is needed and where.

Planning is currently underway for the implementation of Stage 2 of the Healthy Loddon Campaspe initiative, with new projects to be announced in early 2023.



Loddon Healthy Minds Network 2022 Art Competition

Congratulations to the winners of this year's Loddon Healthy Minds Network Art Competition.

The competition received 136 eligible entries across eight schools in the Loddon region, ranging from Grade Prep to Year 12 – the largest number of entries since the competition began.

The 2022 Best in Show was awarded to Wedderburn College Year 12 student Samantha Arnup for the theme *Tune into your mental wellbeing*.

The title of Samantha's work was "First Thing in the Morning: Taking time in the morning to set yourself up mentally (Spotify)" (*pictured*).

Thanks to everyone who provided entries for this year's competition. A full list of the section winners is available from <https://loddonhealthyminds.com.au/events/2022-art-competition>

The Loddon Healthy Minds Network Art Competition aims to continue to raise awareness of mental health within the Loddon community.

The art competition is proudly sponsored by Community Bank Inglewood & Districts.



New Community Grants guidelines endorsed

At its meeting in September, Councillors endorsed modifications to the Community Grants program guidelines.

The modifications provide a structure that will improve the grant experience for community groups.

These modifications include applications to the community grants program to be received at any time, with assessment and approval rounds conducted on a minimum quarterly basis (as opposed to previous yearly applications from 1 March to 1 May).

To find out more, visit Council's website www.loddon.vic.gov.au/For-residents/Community-support/Council-grants

Your Councillors



Mayor Cr Dan Straub

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dsraub@loddon.vic.gov.au



Cr Neil Beattie

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Cr Gavan Holt

Wedderburn Ward | 0408 943 008
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Cr Linda Jungwirth

Tarnagulla Ward | 0428 259 082
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Cr Wendy Murphy

Inglewood Ward | 0436 457 170
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Infant immunisation sessions

Infant immunisation sessions will be available at Boort Senior Citizens Centre, Dingee Bush Nursing Centre, Inglewood Maternal and Child Health Centre, Pyramid Hill Senior Citizens Centre and Serpentine Council offices.

Appointments are required. To make an appointment for an infant's immunisation, call Council on (03) 5494 1201.

Bookings can also be made through Council's website www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Services/Services-for-our-younger-residents/Immunisations

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 or visit the link above.

Thursday 12 January

9.15am Serpentine
11.15am Boort

Thursday 9 February

9.30am Inglewood
11.30am Dingee
2.00pm Pyramid Hill

Thursday 9 March

9.15am Serpentine
11.15am Boort

Thursday 13 April

9.30am Inglewood
11.30am Dingee
2.00pm Pyramid Hill

Christmas and New Year service hours

The Council office in Wedderburn will be closed from 12pm Friday 23 December 2022 and will reopen at 8.15am on Tuesday 3 January 2023.

The Loddon Visitor Information Centre will be closed on Christmas Day Sunday 25 December 2022 but is otherwise open Monday to Saturday from 9am to 5pm and from 10am to 2pm on public holidays.

For enquiries phone (03) 5494 3489 or email loddonvisitorinformation@loddon.vic.gov.au

The Community Care team will provide limited services between Saturday 24 December 2022 and Monday 2 January 2023.

The Council office will reopen at 8.15am on Tuesday 3 January 2023. Clients will be contacted to discuss their personal care needs and Meals on Wheels requirements for this period.

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

For urgent Community Care assistance during this period, please contact the Wedderburn office on (03) 5494 1200 and select option 3 for Aged Care.

Kerbside waste and recycling collections during December 2022 and January 2023 will operate as scheduled, with no changes.

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

Acknowledgement of Country

Loddon Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land comprising the Loddon Shire Council area. Council would like to pay respect to their Elders both past and present.

Loddon Shire Council

41 High St, Wedderburn 3518

Local call: 1300 365 200 **T:** (03) 5494 1200

Office hours: Monday to Friday 8.15am to 4.45pm (except public holidays)

Email: loddon@loddon.vic.gov.au www.loddon.vic.gov.au  /LoddonShire