

# LODDON BULLETIN

*A resilient, sustainable and prosperous community of communities.*



## Donaldson Park Stage 1 nearing completion

Works on Stage 1 of Wedderburn's Donaldson Park Community Hub project are close to complete.

External building work, concreting around the hardstand areas and the gabion wall have been completed.

Additionally, the car park is almost finished.

Internal works, including the building's fitout are nearing completion.

Stage 2 of the project is anticipated to commence in early 2024.

This stage will include an all-abilities playspace, additional landscaping and internal paths adjacent to the new building.

The project has been made possible thanks to funding from the Commonwealth Government, Victorian Government, Donaldson Park Community Asset Committee, user groups, the community, Inglewood & Districts Community Enterprises Limited and Council.

The Donaldson Park Steering Committee has provided input throughout the course of the project, including the building's design.



*The Donaldson Park Community Hub in middle of November 2023. Stage 1 works are close to completion.*

QUARTERLY BULLETIN  
DECEMBER 2023

### FEATURED

**Donaldson Park**  
Stage 1 update

**Pyramid Hill Streetscape**  
Update

**A word from our Mayor**  
Cr Gavan Holt

**Australia Day 2024**  
Celebrate

**Works update**  
Across the Shire

**Flood recovery**  
What's happening

**Glass recycling bins**  
Landfill and transfer stations

**Loddon shines**  
over summer

## Pyramid Hill Streetscape Revitalisation Project update

Works are continuing on the Pyramid Hill Streetscape Project, with works at Lions Park, including planting, complete.

Underground drainage has been installed at Kelly Park, allowing for the connection of the new barbecue shelter and for an upgraded drainage system to other areas of the precinct.

Concrete areas in front of the museum are finished, along with paths within the grassed area. Concrete works have also been completed around the Kelly Park playground area.

Works are continuing on the installation of the barbecue shelter, street furniture and the pedestrian crossing.

This project has experienced some unexpected challenges, in particular, contractors encountering a range of previously unidentified assets underground.

As a result, significant improvement works have been required to enhance stormwater drainage and water supply in Kelly Park.

This, together with some weather challenges, has affected construction.

We thank the Pyramid Hill community for their patience during this time, and assure the community that Council and the contractor are doing all they can to complete this project as soon as possible.

## A word from our Mayor

I'd like to thank my fellow Councillors for electing me as Mayor at the Special Meeting on 14 November.

It was a great honour to be elected Mayor, a role I have been fortunate to hold previously during my time as a Loddon Shire Councillor.

I look forward to working with Councillors, staff and the community during the coming year.

I'd also like to thank Cr Dan Straub for serving as Mayor for the past two years. Cr Straub saw us through a difficult time in our Shire during the 2023 October floods and continued recovery.

You can read more about the continued infrastructure recovery efforts in this edition of the *Loddon Bulletin*.

This edition also highlights some of the major projects underway in our Shire - including the Donaldson Park Community Hub, of which Stage 1 is close to completion.

There's also an update around the Pyramid Hill Streetscape Revitalisation Project, which Council and its contractor - despite a number of challenges - are continuing to do all they can to ensure its completion.

Other projects include the Pyramid Hill Community Centre, and community projects such as the Calivil Bowling Club synthetic green installation, Inglewood Sports Centre and more.

### Citizenship congratulations

I'd like to congratulate Ashwani Bawa (India), Santosh Kumari (India), Gina Pacubas (Philippines), Darai Puttarsi (Thailand) and Luis Salas (Philippines).

All were presented with their Australian Citizenship certificates by former Mayor Cr Dan Straub at a ceremony on 24 October.

Congratulations to all our new citizens and thank you for choosing to call Loddon Shire home.

### Summer adventures in Loddon

This *Loddon Bulletin* also details the fantastic events and highlights of the Loddon region during the past few months, and looks ahead to a wonderful summer and not-to-miss experiences in our Loddon Valley region.

Whether you're hosting friends who are visiting the area, organising a day excursion or a family getaway, there's a wealth of sights and discoveries awaiting your exploration.

The past few months included some wonderful events, including the Loddon Valley Arts Trail, and the Whole Loddon Love music events across the Shire to raise money for flood recovery. There was Inglewood Alive, Back to Bridgewater, Boort Agricultural Show, and of course, a visit from former Hawthorn AFL player Robert 'Dipper' DiPierdomenico.

Finally, I'd like to wish everyone across the Loddon Shire a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I look forward to working with our community, Council and Loddon Shire staff in 2024.



Loddon Shire Council Mayor  
Cr Gavan Holt.

## Australia Day celebrations

Australia Day 2024 celebrations will take place across our Shire with many towns and communities hosting events.

Planned festivities include sausage sizzles and free entry to Council's swimming pools.

Australia Day Awards will be presented, celebrating the achievements and contributions made by outstanding members of our community.

To find out more, including details of Australia Day events across Loddon Shire visit [www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Council/Ceremonies/Australia-Day](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Council/Ceremonies/Australia-Day)

Please also check Council's Facebook page [www.facebook.com/LoddonShire](https://www.facebook.com/LoddonShire) closer to the day.



Australia Day 2023 celebrations taking place at Eddington.

## Volunteering at Loddon



Have you ever thought about volunteering?

Have you recently moved to the area?

- There are many benefits to volunteering, it:
- provides you with a sense of achievement and purpose
  - helps you feel part of your community
  - enhances your self-esteem and confidence

You're never too young, or too old to volunteer, so join us today!!



Scan this QR Code to go to the Better Impact Website



Or you can call Council on 5494 1200 to find out more information



# Community projects update

## Inglewood Sports Centre Masterplan consultation

Consultation is currently underway for the Inglewood Sports Centre Masterplan.

The masterplan aims to provide strategic direction of future development within the precinct, to better facilitate long-term planning and development of recreation opportunities within Inglewood.

To view the masterplan and to provide your feedback visit <https://connect.loddon.vic.gov.au/>

## Whole Loddon Love

The recent Whole Loddon Love series recently marked the anniversary of the October 2022 floods with live music events held across Pyramid Hill, Boort, Newbridge (pictured) and Bridgewater. Spanning over two weekends, these events not only celebrated local talent and community spirit but also played a significant role in supporting flood recovery efforts.

The series raised just under \$5,000 for local flood impacted communities across the Shire. Funds raised will go directly back into the local fire brigades in Newbridge and Bridgewater, the Pyramid Hill Progress Association, and the Boort District School.

## Calivil Bowling Club - synthetic green installation

Works to install a synthetic green at the Calivil Bowling Club are complete.

The installation of the synthetic surface will enable use of the bowling green year round and reduce volunteer labour previously required to maintain a natural surface.



The project was supported by the Victorian Government – Sport and Recreation Victoria, Local Sports and Infrastructure Fund, the Calivil Bowling Club and Council.

## Pyramid Hill barbecue shelter

Works on the Pyramid Hill Progress Park barbecue shelter are complete.

The project included the installation of the barbecue shelter, new electric barbecue, and table and bench seat set.

This project was identified through the Pyramid Hill Community Planning process and funded via the Loddon Shire Council Community Planning Funding Program.

# Works update

## Township street improvements

- Footpath construction and drainage works at Sloan Park are complete.
- Footpath works on McMillan Road and Armstrong Street in Boort have been completed.

## Local bridge and culvert construction

- Upgraded floodways at Brennah Whela Road and Wedderburn Junction East are nearing completion.
- The culvert replacement on Appin South Road at Sheepwash Creek is complete.

## Capital works completed

- From 1 July 2023 to 30 September 2023, four building projects were completed by Council's works department.
- Echuca Serpentine Road Construction works have commenced.

## Maintenance inspection summary

From 1 July 2023 to 30 September 2023, 353 inspections were completed (1,410 defects raised), with 98.9% of all inspections completed before their due date.

## Maintenance defect rectification

From 1 July 2023 to 30 September 2023, 1,646 defects were rectified, with 97.2% of all defects (1,611 in total) completed before their due date.

## Maintenance grading program

From 1 July 2023 to 30 September 2023, 247 maintenance grading work actions were completed resulting in 574km of grading and 1,012km of inspections.

## Parks and townships

From 1 July 2023 to 30 September 2023, 1,008 programmed maintenance and defects were rectified. These were maintenance actions on footpaths, street and park trees, garden beds, grass mowing and playgrounds, with 86.4% of all defects (871 in total) completed before their due date.

## End of era for roads contract

After more than 20 years, Council will cease its maintenance contract with VicRoads (now Department of Transport and Planning) when the current contract expires on 31 December, returning responsibility for routine maintenance of the various arterial roads to the Department from that time.

Council's agreement provided for the routine maintenance of pavement, shoulders, roadside areas, drainage systems, road furniture and structure on various arterial roads within our Shire - 394km in total.

Requests or issues with Regional Roads Victoria roads can be reported by calling 133 778.

From 1 July 2023 to 30 September 2023, 589 defects were rectified under Council's contract, with 93.9% of all defects (588 in total) completed before their due date.

## Glass recycling bins at landfill and transfer stations

Due to Victorian Government state-wide kerbside reforms, there are major changes coming to the way we recycle glass.

Glass disposal points are now located at all Council waste facilities for residents to drop off used glass bottles and jars free of charge. This means glass manufacturers will be able to recycle twice as much glass.



### Separating glass from other materials

When sorted into the correct bin, glass can be recycled again and again. Small fragments that can't be remade into bottles or jars, can be used in the construction sector in road base.

### Glass that can be taken to drop off points

Sauce and condiment jars, wine bottles, beer bottles and glass soft drink bottles (rinsed and with corks and lids removed) can all be taken to a drop off point.

### Glass that cannot be taken to drop off points

Drinking glasses, broken crockery, storage and baking ware, perfume bottles and window glass are not accepted at drop off points.

For locations and operating times visit our website [www.loddon.vic.gov.au](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au) or scan the QR code.



## 2024 kerbside waste collection, waste vouchers

The 2024 kerbside hard waste collection will commence on Monday 4 March, coinciding with Clean Up Australia Day on the first Sunday in March.

Items can be placed on the nature strip on Sunday 3 March (not before or after).

Properties eligible for the service are those with a mandatory kerbside waste bin and recycling bin collection service located in the Township Zone, Low Density Residential Zone and Rural Living Zones as defined within the Loddon Planning Scheme.

Outside of these zones, the kerbside bin collection service is optional and a kerbside hard waste collection is not provided.

More information can be found at: [www.loddon.vic.gov.au/For-residents/Your-home/Garbage-and-recycling/Hard-waste-collection](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au/For-residents/Your-home/Garbage-and-recycling/Hard-waste-collection)

### Waste vouchers

Waste vouchers 1 and 2 are due to expire on 31 December. Each voucher can be used to dispose of up to four cubic metres of general domestic waste at Council's landfill and transfer stations free of charge.

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 have additional third party costs associated with their disposal, and will be charged as per normal disposal charges.

Each voucher may only be used once, and only one voucher used per transaction.

## Flood recovery works update

Council is continuing the mammoth task of restoring roads and infrastructure impacted by the October 2022 flood event.

Gravel resheets and culvert restorations have been completed at Bridgewater North, Wedderburn, Korong Vale and Serpentine.

Works have also been completed on gravel and sealed roads in Jarklin, Fernihurst, Boort and Dingee.

In June, a further \$1.25 million in restoration works was approved, these works were completed in November.

Restoration works have been made possible through the Federal and State Government-funded Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

So far, Council has completed around \$4 million of restoration works.

In total, \$20 million of restoration works are planned for the 2023/24 Financial Year, followed by another possible \$15 million in 2024/25.

Council takes its responsibility to provide a safe road network seriously and appreciates the community's feedback.

We ask our community to please remember to drive with caution, follow any warning signs and drive to the conditions of our roads.

To report issues with Council roads, including urgent road issues after hours, please call 5494 1200 or visit [www.loddon.vic.gov.au](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au) and click on "Report an issue".

Issues on Regional Roads Victoria (RRV) roads can be reported by calling 133 778.

A list of RRV roads in the Shire is available at [www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Services/Footpaths-roads-and-drains/Roads](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Services/Footpaths-roads-and-drains/Roads)





# Loddon shines over summer

## Loddon comes alive

Over the last few months Loddon Shire has come to life with a series of events, activities and visits as part of our Spring season.



The Loddon region hosted famous Hawthorn AFL player Robert 'Dipper' DiPierdomenico to film his next series of the popular *Dipper's Destinations*.

Highlights include the much-anticipated Loddon Valley Arts Trail which featured more than 40 artists, makers and creatives across 22 venues.

Musical talent was at the forefront during Whole Loddon Love where communities across the Shire came together for a series of music events at Boort, Pyramid Hill, Newbridge, Bridgewater on Loddon and Baringhup, raising money for flood recovery. Artists included Dan Kelly, Felicity Cripps Band, Queenie, Jess Parker and more.

The Loddon region also hosted famous former Hawthorn AFL player Robert 'Dipper' DiPierdomenico to film his next series of the popular *Dipper's Destinations*.

Other key events included Inglewood Alive, Back to Bridgewater, Boort Agricultural Show and many more.

## Summer adventures

With endless blue skies and golden horizons, Summer is the perfect time to experience the remarkable landscape and waterways of the Loddon Valley.



If you are welcoming friends to the region or planning a day trip or overnight adventure with your family, there is so much to see and explore throughout our Loddon Valley.

## Our natural wonders

Why not organise your own micro-adventure to picturesque **Mount Hope** and **Pyramid Hill** offering breathtaking views of the surrounding countryside?

Only a short drive away, **Terrick Terrick National Park** draws in many birdwatchers and nature lovers with its stunning granite peaks contrasted by native grassland.

Perfectly placed between Wedderburn and Inglewood is **Mount Korong**, a natural wonder that is becoming more popular by the day.

This hidden gem and local favourite icon is full of countless gigantic boulders and offers impressive views of the Loddon region.

## Northern adventures

Boort in the north of the Loddon region continues to grow as a popular family destination throughout the year, shining brightest over Summer.

Take to the water via canoe or kayak to explore the natural beauty of the region. **Boort Lakes Holiday Park** offers canoe and kayak hire for paddling on picturesque **Little Lake Boort** and surrounding waterways.



For those after some education and First Nations history of the region, a visit to **Yung Balug** is a must. This should be followed by a visit to the **Spanner Man Sculpture Gardens** (left), an iconic and remarkable attraction full of impressive sculptures made from thousands of spanners ranging in sizes.

## Picnic with a view

Why not grab a picnic from **Bridgewater Bakehouse** or **Bridgewater Farmhouse Kitchen** and savour the flavours of the region while overlooking the Loddon River, or in one of the many natural attractions throughout the Loddon Region such as **Kooyoora State Park**.

Visit [www.visitloddonvalley.com.au](http://www.visitloddonvalley.com.au) or scan the QR code for a full list of recommended Summer experiences in the Loddon region.



## Your Councillors



**Mayor Cr Gavan Holt**

Wedderburn Ward | 0408 943 008  
gholt@loddon.vic.gov.au



**Cr Neil Beattie**

Boort Ward | 0427 552 468  
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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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**Cr Dan Straub**

Terrick Ward | 0429 236 399  
dstraub@loddon.vic.gov.au

## A head start with 1000 books before school

Children up to five years of age are invited to join the refreshed 1000 Books Before School program, which encourages parents and carers to read with their youngsters, helping to develop a love of reading, language and story before they start school.

Since its relaunch at the end of June, more than 900 children have signed up, with some already completing the challenge (and onto their second round) and many more making steady progress.

While reading 1000 books might seem like a lot, when built into a child's routine, it can become a fun and rewarding way to spend time together. The same story can be read multiple times, and books from storytime sessions count, as do eBooks audiobooks.

Goldfields Libraries will help you keep track of your progress with a reading record and plenty of incentives to keep you motivated along the way. Your first one is a special 1000 Books canvas bag (*pictured*) to carry all your library books home.

When you reach 1000, it's time to celebrate with a free picture book, certificate and photo in our 1000 Books selfie frame!



Participation is free, and you can register at your local Goldfields Libraries branch, online, or over the phone. For more information, visit [ncgrl.vic.gov.au/1000books](http://ncgrl.vic.gov.au/1000books) or call 5449 2790.

The refreshed program was made available with support from Bendigo's Communities for Children and continues on from the successful Public Libraries Victoria program.

## Christmas and New Year service hours

The Council office in Wedderburn will be closed from 12pm Friday 22 December 2023 and will reopen at 8.15am on Tuesday 2 January 2024.

The Loddon Visitor Information Centre will be closed on Christmas Day, Monday 25 December 2023 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](mailto:loddonvisitorinformation@loddon.vic.gov.au)

Kerbside collections scheduled for Christmas Day (Monday 25 December) will instead take place on Saturday 23 December.

Kerbside collections scheduled for New Year's Day (Monday 1 January 2024) will instead take place on Saturday 30 December 2023.

All other collections will continue as normal. 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](mailto:loddon@loddon.vic.gov.au) [www.loddon.vic.gov.au](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au)  /LoddonShire