

# LODDON BULLETIN

*A resilient, sustainable and prosperous community of communities*



## Meet your Council

Loddon Shire Council has welcomed three new Councillors and two returning Councillors following the declaration of the result for Loddon Shire elections on 8 November 2024:

Council welcomes:

- Boort Ward Councillor David Weaver
- Inglewood Ward Councillor Miki Wilson
- Tarnagulla Ward Councillor Nick Angelo
- Terrick Ward Councillor Dan Straub (returning)
- Wedderburn Ward Councillor Gavan Holt (returning)

Councillors were officially sworn in at a Special Council Meeting on 19 November, taking the Oath or Affirmation of Office and declaring that they will abide by the Model Councillor Code of Conduct.

At the meeting, Cr Straub was elected Mayor for the next 12 months. Cr Straub has previously served two terms as Mayor of Loddon Shire Council.

"I'd like to thank my fellow Councillors for electing me as Mayor – it is a great honour," Cr Straub said.

"I'd also like to acknowledge and thank Cr Holt for his excellent leadership as Mayor for the past year."

Council CEO Lincoln Fitzgerald congratulated new and returning Councillors.

"Together with Loddon Shire staff, I look forward to working with our new Council," Mr Fitzgerald said.

"I'd like to thank all candidates who stood in the 2024 elections and for showing such dedication to their respective communities in putting themselves forward for election.

"I'd also like to acknowledge and thank Wendy Murphy and Linda Jungwirth for their service as Inglewood Ward and Tarnagulla Ward councillors for the past term," he added.

Mr Fitzgerald paid tribute to outgoing Boort Ward Councillor Neil Beattie who chose not to contest this year's election.

"On behalf of the Loddon Shire Executive Team and staff, I thank Neil for his selfless dedication and service to Council and his community during the past 19 years," he said.



*(L-R) Cr Gavan Holt, Cr Miki Wilson, Cr Dan Straub (Mayor), Cr Nick Angelo and Cr David Weaver.*

DECEMBER 2024

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Cr Dan Straub

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## A word from our Mayor

As we embark on a new Council term, I would like to welcome our new Councillors - David Weaver, Nick Angelo and Miki Wilson. I'd also like to welcome returning Councillor Gavan Holt.

Additionally, I thank the community for re-electing me as Terrick Ward Councillor for the next four years, it is a great honour to once again be part of the Loddon Shire Council.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Councillors for electing me as Mayor at the Special Council Meeting on 19 November. I am very honoured and privileged to be taking on the Mayoral role in the first year of this new Council term.

### Key achievements

In reflecting on the past year, we have seen a number of key achievements, as highlighted by Cr Holt at the Special Council Meeting.

These included the opening of the Donaldson Park Complex, Pyramid Hill Streetscape project, announcement of Loddon's first Early Learning Years and Childcare Centre, extensive investment in our road network and the many services provided by Council daily.

There was also the development of significant documents, including the Economic Development Strategy, draft Recreation, Open Space and Aquatic Strategy, Social Infrastructure Strategy and the 2024 Priorities document.

### 2023/24 Annual Report

I'd like to make mention of the adoption of another significant Council document - Loddon Shire's 2023/24 Annual Report. This document provides a detailed update of how we are performing while capturing some of the highlights for the financial year.

It also features some overall facts and figures. For instance, in 2023/24 there were:

- 14,928 visits to swimming pools
- 1,310 dog registrations and 286 cat registrations
- 12,549 incoming calls to the Council office
- 2,726 tonnes of garbage and recycling collected from kerbside bins
- 2,704 hectares of grass mowed – covering 10,017km



Loddon Shire Council Mayor  
Cr Dan Straub.

You can read the full 2023/24 Annual Report on Council's website.

### Looking ahead

Looking ahead in our new Council term, early next year we will be turning our attention to the development of our new Council Plan and Community Vision.

The new Council Plan will guide Council's priorities for the next four years and will be developed through feedback from our community. We look forward to working with you on helping to shape the future direction of our Shire.

### Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

On behalf of Council, I'd like to wish all our residents and businesses a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Together with Council, I look forward to continuing to work with our community in 2025.

## Pool fun for everyone!

Council and Belgravia Leisure have put in a tremendous effort to ensure the 2024/25 pool season is one of the most fun and attractive seasons ever for the Loddon community!

Council has entered into an exciting new partnership this season with Community Bank Inglewood & Districts, Belgravia Leisure and Healthy Loddon Campaspe in an effort to positively impact attendance and participation across our five pool locations.

This includes through improving affordability for all Loddon families and swimming enthusiasts.

Council, with support through this partnership, is able to offer subsidised season passes and some great activities for the 2024/25 pool season.

As a result, 2024/25 pool season membership tickets have been subsidised by 50% across all five pools!

This overall partnership will see pool season membership tickets priced as follows:

- Family - \$66
- Family Concession - \$52.50
- Adult - \$38.50
- Adult Concession - \$31
- Child - \$25.50

Community Bank Inglewood & Districts is covering the subsidy at Mitiamo, Inglewood and Wedderburn, while Belgravia Leisure is subsidising memberships at Pyramid Hill.

Council is working closely with another sponsor to assist with the subsidy of Boort's pool memberships for the season.

Additionally:

- A series of outdoor movie nights are in preparation across the five pools for families. The first movie night will be held at Boort on 19 December.
- Regular water aerobics sessions have begun at Wedderburn, Inglewood, Boort and Pyramid Hill pools.
- Early morning swimming is now available at Wedderburn, Inglewood, Boort and Pyramid Hill pools.

To find out more about the 2024/25 pool season, please visit Council's website.





# Works update

**Chamberlains Road** – Works are close to completion on the culvert installation at Chamberlains Road.

In addition to the installation of a new culvert, the project has included minor road works.

**Ottreys Bridge Road** – The completion of culvert replacement works on Ottreys Bridge Road in the Pyramid Hill district is continuing.

The road is currently closed to through traffic on the Bullock Creek (between Pyramid-Cohuna Road and Old Leitchville Road).

It is anticipated the road will re-open before Christmas.

**Sidney Watson Road bridge** – Works will start in the New Year on culvert replacement.

**Tarnagulla Footpath Renewal Project** – Footpath renewal works have been completed (*below*).

Renewal works took place of four sections along Commercial Road, between Wayman and King streets.



**Tarnagulla Public Hall car park** – Concreting of the car park at the back of the Tarnagulla Public Hall has been completed.

**Boort Hall upgrade** – The tender for the Boort Hall upgrade is now closed. Awarding of the contract is anticipated before the New Year.

The project will include upgraded drainage, footpath works and accessibility ramps.

**Footpath tender** – The tender is currently out for replacement footpath works at Barber Street in Pyramid Hill, Hospital Street and Tantella Street in Wedderburn, as well as footpath crossover works in Godfrey Street, Boort.

**Drainage upgrades** – Drainage works in North and Southey streets, Inglewood is currently out for tender.

The tender is anticipated to be awarded before the New Year.

## 2024/2025 Quarter One works summary:

The following information provides statistical data with respect to Council's performance in managing its road network.

Performance is measured through a comparison of actual defect rectification timeframes against requirements specified in the Loddon Shire Road Management Plan.

**Road maintenance inspections** – From 1 July 2024 to 30 September 2024, 264 inspections were completed

(with 903 defects raised) and 97.3% of all inspections completed before their due date.

**Road maintenance rectification** – From 1 July 2024 to 30 September 2024, 1,965 defects were rectified, with 92% of all defects (1,808 in total) rectified before their due date.

**Road maintenance grading** – From 1 July 2024 to 30 September 2024, 248 maintenance grading work actions were completed resulting in 588km of grading. Additionally, 702km of roads were inspected.

To report an issue to Council call 5494 1200.

**Parks and townships** – From 1 July 2024 to 30 September 2024, 1,194 programmed maintenance actions and defects were rectified. These consisted of maintenance actions on footpaths, street and park trees, garden beds, grass mowing and playgrounds, with 78.2% of all defects (934 in total) completed before their due date.

**Waste vouchers** – Residents are provided with four vouchers with their annual 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.

Each voucher must be used by its expiry date. Vouchers 1 and 2 are due to expire 31 December 2024.

From 1 July 2024 to 30 September 2024, 517 vouchers were used.

General domestic waste includes green waste, mixed recyclables, general household waste and e-waste (white goods, televisions, 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.

## Annual kerbside hard waste collection

The annual kerbside hard waste collection for 2025 will commence on Monday 3 March to coincide with Clean Up Australia Day on the first Sunday in March.

Items may be placed on the nature strip on Sunday 2 March (not before or after).

Properties eligible for the service are those with a mandatory kerbside waste bin and recycling bin collection service located within the following zones (as defined within the Loddon Planning Scheme):

- Township Zone
- Low Density Residential Zone
- Rural Living Zones

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

More information about the annual kerbside hard waste collection can be found on Council's website: [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)

## Community projects update



**Pyramid Hill Community Centre** – Work on the community centre’s redevelopment is rapidly taking shape with rough-in and plaster complete (*pictured*).

External cladding is close to being finished as is the internal paint and flooring. With the building now at lockup stage, cabinetry and other fixtures are in place with blinds and other furnishings arriving early in the new year.

Landscaping and full fit-out will complete the project, with the Pyramid Hill Community Centre ready for use in March 2025.

The redevelopment includes an allied health wing to accommodate Northern District Community Health and Maternal Child Health services, and senior citizens room. It also includes renovation of the hall and kitchen, upgraded toilet facilities and improved car parking and access to the building.

The redevelopment has been made possible through the Victorian Government’s Regional Infrastructure Fund. Council has also provided funding towards the project.

**Little Lake Boort Recreation Masterplan** – Following feedback from the community on the draft document, the Little Lake Boort Recreation Precinct Masterplan was endorsed by Council at its September Meeting.

Council also approved the allocation of \$267,910 from the Boort Ward community planning funds as well as \$500,000 from the Community Planning Strategic Fund towards the detailed design of the precinct project.

**Recreation, Open Space and Aquatic Strategy** – Following a comprehensive community engagement process, including community feedback to the draft

document, the Recreation, Open Space and Aquatic Strategy (ROSA) is anticipated to be presented to Council for consideration for adoption in the early months of 2025.

The ROSA is a 10-year strategic plan that establishes a clear direction for providing, developing, and managing Council’s sport and recreation, open space and aquatic facilities.

**Inglewood Sports Precinct Masterplan** – Council is progressing well with the Precinct Masterplan for the Inglewood Sports Centre. Otium Planning Group is currently working on an illustrative masterplan and pavilion concept plan.

These plans will focus on the sport and recreation reserve, which includes the main complex, oval, lawn and hard courts, and cricket net.

The plans will have clarity around opportunities, challenges and limitations at the centre, and will provide direction for Council and user groups.

**Bridgewater River Track** – Significant restoration works have taken place along the Bridgewater River Track, which was extensively damaged in the October 2022 floods.

The works have seen the walking track reinstated (*pictured*), allowing members of the public to enjoy walking alongside the river rapids to the viewing deck, including the chance to perhaps see a platypus or two!



**Our Spaces are Open** – Council is collaborating with Healthy Loddon Campaspe to promote physical activity. Following public consultation, we are currently working on a project that will see Sport Equipment Libraries established in Tarnagulla and Pyramid Hill.

Activation of these spaces with free access to sports equipment will occur in December/January.

Please see the Healthy Loddon Campaspe update in this edition of the *Loddon Bulletin* for more information.

## Australia Day 2025

Australia Day 2025 celebrations will take place across our Shire with towns and communities hosting events.

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.

To find out more, including details of Australia Day events in Loddon Shire, visit Council’s website.

Please also check Council’s Facebook page closer to the day.

## Shop Loddon and support local

Every dollar spent in the Loddon Shire does more than buy a product – it invests in community spirit, builds resilience and keeps our rural towns thriving!

When you Shop Loddon, you’re not just shopping; you’re weaving the fabric of local pride, supporting local jobs and fuelling the heartbeat of our townships.

From handmade goods to professional services and everything in-between, your choice to shop local supports local families and local communities.





## LHMN 2024 Art Competition

Winners have been announced for this year's Loddon Healthy Minds Network (LHMN) 2024 Art Competition following completion of judging.

This year's competition, which was open to residents of Loddon Shire Council and students who attend school in the Loddon region, saw 269 eligible entries submitted.

Art themes for the competition challenged entrants to explore different ways we can raise awareness of mental health issues, to maintain good mental health and wellbeing or to help to reduce the stigma associated with mental health.

This year's winner of Best in Schools was Wedderburn College Year 10 student Mia Rowan. Mia's winning entry is pictured below.



Mia's theme was *Creating my calm – My book of thoughts, It's okay to take a break & create your calm. My way of doing this is drawing.*

Prizes for the art competition are proudly provided through sponsorship from Loddon Shire Council and the Community Bank Inglewood & Districts.

For more information and the full list of winners from this year's Loddon Healthy Minds Network Art Competition visit <https://shorturl.at/IUEQH>

## Summer at Goldfields libraries

### BIG Summer Read

The BIG Summer Read is back, inviting young readers (up to 18 years old) to read for fun and join in exciting activities for a chance to win fantastic prizes. Best of all, it's completely free to participate!

Sign up today at [ncgrl.vic.gov.au/bigsummerread](http://ncgrl.vic.gov.au/bigsummerread)

### Jenny Date: What happened to the girl from the Mallee

Join Jenny Date for a special talk on her Australian-flavoured memoir. Raised on a remote farm in the Mallee, Jenny left as a teenager to explore the world. Her memoir, inspired by letters written to her parents, offers a warm and positive view of Australian life from the 1950s to today.

**When:** Friday 14 February, 11am-12pm

**Where:** Boort Library Agency

Free registration: [www.goldfieldslibraries.com](http://www.goldfieldslibraries.com) or call (03) 5449 2790.

### One-on-one IT help

Need help with your device, setting up email or accessing online library resources? Our friendly and patient staff are here to assist you with one-on-one support.

Phone (03) 5449 2790 to book a session.

### Wedderburn StoryWalk®

Take a stroll along the Nardoo Walking Track in Wedderburn and enjoy *All Dogs Bark* by Catherine Meatheringham and Deb Hudson. It's the perfect way to get outdoors while enjoying a great story this summer. Don't forget the sunscreen!

### More summer fun!

For more exciting and educational activities, be sure to pick up a copy of the Goldfields Libraries Summer What's On program from your local library agency. You can also view it online at [ncgrl.vic.gov.au](http://ncgrl.vic.gov.au)

For more information on library agencies, including locations, services and opening hours, visit [ncgrl.vic.gov.au/libraryagencies](http://ncgrl.vic.gov.au/libraryagencies)

## Christmas and New Year service hours

Council's administrative centre will close from midday Tuesday 24 December 2024 and re-open at 8.15am on Thursday 2 January 2025.

Minimum staffing levels will be maintained across the Christmas/New Year period to attend emergency callouts.

Kerbside collections scheduled for Christmas Day (Wednesday 25 December) will instead take place on Saturday 28 December.

Kerbside collections scheduled for New Year's Day (Wednesday 1 January) will instead take place on Saturday 4 January.

All other collections will continue as normal.

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

Kindergartens will close from Friday 20 December and re-open on Tuesday 28 January 2025.

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 2pm on public holidays (times may vary slightly).

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



## Your Councillors



**Mayor Cr Dan Straub**  
Terrick Ward | 0429 236 399  
dstraub@loddon.vic.gov.au



**Cr Nick Angelo**  
Tarnagulla Ward | 0498 851 292  
Nick.Angelo@loddon.vic.gov.au



**Cr Gavan Holt**  
Wedderburn Ward | 0408 943 008  
gholt@loddon.vic.gov.au



**Cr David Weaver**  
Boort Ward | 0499 893 925  
David.Weaver@loddon.vic.gov.au



**Cr Miki Wilson**  
Inglewood Ward | 0498 802 683  
Miki.Wilson@loddon.vic.gov.au

## Healthy Loddon Campaspe (HLC) news

**parkrun Pyramid Hill planning** – HLC has been working with Loddon Shire, Pyramid Hill Progress Association and Pyramid Hill Golf Club on the suggested route for a parkrun in Pyramid Hill.

Taking place every Saturday morning, the 5km parkrun is a free, community event where you can walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate. It is positive, welcoming and inclusive. There is no time limit and no one finishes last. Everyone is welcome!

**Healthy Schools Project** – HLC is delighted to be working with East Loddon P-12, Pyramid Hill College and St Mary's Primary School on the Healthy Schools Project, which supports schools to promote and encourage healthy eating and physical activity.

We've been working with the schools to plan simple, sustainable changes to help improve health outcomes for students and the community. All three schools have chosen to focus on establishing or further developing their kitchen or garden programs.



**Healthy Sports Clubs Project** – We're excited that all Junior Clubs in the Upper Loddon Cricket Association are on board with the HLC Healthy Sports Clubs Project.

We'll be working with each club to provide Healthy Sports Rewards, offering an alternative to the sometimes unhealthy food and drink rewards presented to junior sporting club players.

We're also supporting the association to provide healthy options for morning tea and lunch breaks.

Thanks to Upper Loddon Cricket Association and local businesses for working with us on this great project!

**Our Spaces Are Open** – HLC is collaborating with Council and local community groups to promote physical activity and enhance the use of outdoor spaces through a variety of initiatives throughout the Shire, including:

- Sports equipment libraries at local recreation spaces, where residents will be able to borrow and use a variety of sporting equipment for free.
- Lighting up key recreation spaces across the Shire, extending the hours they're available for outdoor activities, and creating safe and accessible spaces for residents to be active – especially in the evenings.
- Hosting a series of activities designed to bring residents together and promote the use of local outdoor spaces. This will include piloting programs at the Pyramid Hill Swimming Pool.
- Signage and promotion inviting and welcoming the community to use their local ovals and public recreation spaces across Loddon Shire.

If you would like more information or want to get involved, please feel free to reach out via [hlc@bendigo.vic.gov.au](mailto:hlc@bendigo.vic.gov.au)

**2025 Active Living Census** – This region-wide survey will ask Loddon Campaspe residents questions about their health and wellbeing, including physical activity, fruit and vegetable consumption, and what they'd like to see in their community to support eating well and being more active.

Through participating in this unique survey, residents will help shape local health programs and resources, making a real difference!

More details about the 2025 Active Living Census will be shared soon!

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

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