

LODDON BULLETIN

A resilient, sustainable and prosperous community of communities.



Loddon welcomes autumn events

The Loddon Valley will be the place to be this autumn, with a number of special events set to put the region and its rich, natural beauty on the national stage.

Kicking off the events extravaganza will be the return of the annual favourite – the Minelab Detector Jamboree, held in Wedderburn on 12 and 13 March.

This premier, family-friendly event features detector skills, gold panning and the chance to win some valuable prizes – including a Minelab GPX 6000 valued at almost \$8,000.

The weekend will also see Monster Town Garage Sales and Wedderburn Community House Country Market on the Saturday, while Wedderburn's Coach House Gallery and Museum will be open both Saturday and Sunday.

In what will certainly be an event to behold, on Sunday 20 March the skies over the Serpentine Airfield will roar into life with heart-stopping aerobatic and historical warbirds, as part of the commemorations for the Serpentine Aerial Derby Centenary.

The day will also feature vintage aircraft, historic display, street food, activities and even a paper plane competition.

Friday 25 March to Sunday 27 March will see 150 to 200 women in Inglewood for the Women on Farms Gathering.

The weekend will include workshops and tours, local inspiring women telling their stories, and the Boots 'n' Babes dinner at the historic Inglewood Town Hall.

Saturday 26 March will be a day for car enthusiasts and clubs, with both the Annual Logan Pub Car Show and Eddington Vintage Sports Car Club Sprints.

The Logan event will include live music, food and icy cold drinks, trophy awards, free camping and even a free breakfast, while at Eddington, drivers will race the quarter mile single car sprint along the town's Playfair Street.

Finally, enjoy a day of Celtic music, wares and taste the flavour of Celtic countries – Scotland, Ireland, Cornwall and Wales at the Bridgewater Celtic Festival, planned for Sunday 24 April.

To find out more about autumn events in the region call the Loddon Visitor Information Centre on (03) 5494 3489 or visit www.visitloddonvalley.com.au

Please note: proof of COVID-19 vaccination may be required upon entry at events.



The Serpentine Aerial Derby Centenary on 20 March will feature aerobatic and historical warbirds, vintage aircraft historic display, and more.



The Eddington Vintage Sports Car Club Sprints will take place on Saturday 26 March.

QUARTERLY BULLETIN
MARCH 2022

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A word from our Mayor

I would like to take this opportunity to thank community groups and volunteers for once again organising fantastic local celebrations for Australia Day.

I had the privilege of attending Australia Day events at Serpentine, Inglewood (on behalf of Councillor Murphy) and Pyramid Hill, where I also got to hear from some excellent Australia Day guest speakers.

The day's celebrations also saw the presentation of the Loddon Shire Australia Day Awards.

I'd like to congratulate Citizen of the Year Michael Rose from Inglewood Ward, and Young Citizen of the Year Bridget Baker from Terrick Ward.

Congratulations also go to the Pyramid Hill Football Netball Club, which was awarded the Community Event of the Year (Community Practice Match Series).

I'd also like to acknowledge and congratulate recipients of the Community Service Awards (these are for each ward of the Shire): Jacqui Verley (Boort), Joan Bradley (Inglewood), Helen O'Donohue (Terrick) and Alan Mulraney (Wedderburn). (No nominations were received for Tarnagulla.)

A big congratulations to all the students who won awards and Highly Commended recipients.

Having mentioned Australia Day events, it is fantastic to see a number of other events planned for this autumn within our region. As well as showcasing our wonderful Loddon Shire to visitors, these events have both an economic and social benefit including a positive flow-on effect for our local businesses. You can read more about these planned events on the front page of this edition of the *Loddon Bulletin*.

Council would also like to hear from volunteers across the Loddon Shire as part of the Re-engaging Volunteers in Rural Towns Project, which supports the re-engagement and development of volunteers following disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The project will focus on understanding volunteer needs and gaps, re-engaging volunteers, engaging more young volunteers, volunteer training and resources, and developing a community-based Volunteer Strategy.

More information regarding the project and opportunities for volunteers and volunteer organisations/community groups/clubs to provide their feedback is provided below.

Finally, it was a great honour to officiate at Citizenship Ceremonies on 14 December last year and earlier this year on 25 January. I'd like to take this opportunity to again congratulate Vincy Jacob (originally from India), Robert Smith (Ireland) and Timothy Corbett (New Zealand). All made the Australian Citizenship Pledge during their respective ceremonies.



Loddon Shire Council Mayor
Cr Dan Straub.

Re-engaging Volunteers in Rural Towns

Council would like to hear from volunteers in Loddon Shire as part of the Re-engaging Volunteers in Rural Towns Project.

Funded by Regional Development Victoria, the project supports the re-engagement and development of volunteers following disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The project will focus on understanding volunteer needs and gaps, re-engaging volunteers, engaging more young volunteers, volunteer training and resources, and developing a community-based Volunteer Strategy.

As part of the project, Council would like to hear options and ideas from volunteers and volunteer organisations/community groups/clubs to understand what is most important for a sustainable and vibrant culture of volunteering in Loddon Shire.

This will include upcoming focus group discussions, volunteer training activities, testing of volunteer resources and an opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Volunteer Strategy.

Project Worker Lisa McCoy will also be in touch with key volunteer organisations/community groups/clubs to invite involvement.

If you have any questions or information you would like to share, please contact Lisa McCoy on 0428 644 070 or email lisa@locallogicplace.com.au

More information and upcoming opportunities to provide feedback will be published on Council's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/LoddonShire



Volunteering
@Loddon



Community members recognised at Australia Day 2022

Australia Day 2022 in Loddon Shire saw community members celebrate our nation's place in the world – a proud, ancient, multicultural nation built on shared values that allow us to enjoy the freedoms and opportunities that other nations aspire to.

The day also saw award ceremonies held across Loddon Shire. These award ceremonies were an opportunity to recognise what it means to be Australian, acknowledge our rich history and celebrate the selfless contributions of local volunteers.

Additionally, it was an opportunity to reflect on the resilience of Loddon Shire communities and their spirit of helping and giving that defines the Australian way. This includes respecting the stories, histories and contributions of all Australians, especially frontline workers and those who sacrificed so much over the past year, business owners, students – plus the parents who've juggled home schooling, work and life in general.

This included Citizen of the Year Michael Rose from Inglewood Ward and Young Citizen of the Year Bridget Baker from Terrick Ward.

Pyramid Hill Football Netball Club was awarded the Community Event of the Year (Community Practice Match Series).



Community members from across Loddon Shire gathered to celebrate Australia Day 2022 - including at Boort (pictured).

Other recipients included the Community Service Awards for each ward of the Shire: Jacqui Verley (Boort), Joan Bradley (Inglewood), Helen O'Donohue (Terrick) and Alan Mulraney (Wedderburn). No nominations were received for Tarnagulla.

Community Plan allocations

Community projects will receive more than \$109,000 in funding as part of the 2021/22 Community Plan allocations.

Community Planning is a long-term strategy for developing sustainable communities. Council commits funds from its annual budget to ensure a number of community planning projects are completed.

These include funding towards Stage 3 of the Bridgewater Memorial Hall Redevelopment, and the production of reports to investigate the provision of stock and domestic water for Campbell's Forest and District. Funding was also allocated to undertake a condition assessment and report of the Inglewood Town Hall roof.

Other projects include a contribution towards the redevelopment of Graham's Lane into a T-intersection, inclusion of a disabled car park at Newbridge Hall, and extension of the footpath along the Wimmera Highway in Newbridge. Funding has also been allocated to assist with restoration works at the Newbridge Hall.

The Dingee Progress Association will receive funding towards the production of a Dingee Historical Wall Information Board, which will be located next to the rotunda in Progress Park. The board will display the story behind the Dingee historical wall, highlighting the local history of Dingee.

No Community Plan applications were submitted from Boort or Wedderburn wards.

Council's Community Planning Program has been a success story since its inception 18 years ago. Council and Loddon communities continue to attract significant external funding through the community planning process.

Community Planning has been a catalyst for attracting significant funding to projects such as the Wedderburn Streetscape Improvements, Serpentine Janiember Park Upgrade, Pyramid Hill Memorial Hall Precinct, Boort Park Upgrade, Tarnagulla Community Centre, Inglewood Town Hall Hub Development, Donaldson Park Redevelopment and Pyramid Hill Streetscape.

The Loddon Shed – calling all producers

Farm gate, handcrafted, pure and organic – Loddon Valley is rich with unique and gourmet products, creative crafts and eco-friendly microbusinesses.

The lands of Loddon allow for true sustainable living. A Mediterranean climate, rich soils, open plains and ancient granite outcrops, wetlands and forests teeming with life all attract innovative and eco-conscious creators, farmers and artisans to produce unique products in the region.



The Loddon Shed is an online store showcasing the best of Loddon producers, growers and microbusinesses to offer a range of locally-produced products in one easy shopping experience.

If you are interested in joining The Loddon Shed, now is your chance with the online store looking to expand its product offering. In particular there will be more hampers showcasing local produce focusing on themes such as the 'new baby' hamper, the 'thinking of you' hamper and many more.

To take part in The Loddon Shed your business must either be located within the Loddon Shire or must be a collaboration using produce from the Loddon Shire.

Expressions of interest can be sent to loddonvisitorinformation@loddon.vic.gov.au

Community projects update

Donaldson Park Community Hub

The procurement process to engage a contractor for the construction of the pavilion and carpark for the Donaldson Park Community Hub project is currently being finalised.

The project will upgrade facilities at Wedderburn's Donaldson Park, including construction of a new multisport and community-focused pavilion, car parking, new multi-faceted playspace for all abilities, landscaping and internal paths, and large solar installation with batteries.

The Donaldson Park Community Hub project has been made possible thanks to funding from the Commonwealth Government, Victorian Government, Donaldson Park Committee of Management, the user groups, community, and Council.

Pyramid Hill Community Centre Development

The tender to engage a consultant for the Pyramid Hill Community Centre Development has closed, with the appointment undergoing finalisation.

Stage 1 of the project will include construction of the allied health wing, standalone senior citizens room, new toilet facilities and renovation of the existing hall and kitchen.

The funding will also enable the expansion of storage for kitchen and user groups, development of breakout space and associated landscaping, and installation of car parking, kerb and channel and associated drainage infrastructure.

The funding was received through the Victorian Government's Regional Infrastructure Fund – Stimulus Round.

Pyramid Hill Streetscape Revitalisation Project

Detailed designs for the Pyramid Hill Streetscape Revitalisation Project are now complete, with works expected to commence on the project later this year.



Artistic impression of the Pyramid Hill Community Centre.

The project aims to unify the township via themed works along the town approaches and pedestrian navigation. It will achieve this by improving pedestrian safety, linking key public spaces and providing additional landscaping and shade.

The project has been made possible thanks to \$800,000 in funding from the Victorian Government's Building Works package and Council.

Swimming pool season

The swimming pool season for 2021/22 closes from Monday 14 March 2022. Swimming pools open annually on the third Saturday in November.

Council would like to thank our community for their patience during the current season in the wake of pool closures and reduced hours due to COVID-19 and staffing shortages.

For more information regarding pools in the Loddon Shire visit www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Services/Community-facilities/Swimming-pools

Community Grants Scheme

Applications for Council's Community Grants Scheme are now open until 5pm, Sunday 1 May 2022.

Up to \$10,000 is available for not-for-profit clubs and organisations based in the Loddon Shire to deliver projects that directly benefit residents.

This includes enhancing the provision of activities, facilities or delivery of services to people in our community.

Successful grant applications are funded on a two-to-one basis. This means for every \$2 provided by Council, the successful applicants must contribute a minimum of \$1 towards the cost of the project. Up to 50 per cent of an applicant's contribution can be in-kind.

Last year the scheme allocated around \$123,000 in funding across the Shire, with 20 groups receiving full or partial funding.

Please note, applications must be submitted online through Council's SmartyGrants program: <https://loddon.smartygrants.com.au/>

Support is also available to assist with the Smarty Grants process.

To find out more, call Council's Community Support Team on (03) 5494 1200.

HHV helping Inglewood get active with new outdoor fitness equipment

Healthy Heart of Victoria (HHV) is working with Loddon Shire Council to install brand new outdoor fitness equipment in Inglewood.

The equipment will provide all community members with the opportunity to be physically active in a free, safe, fun and accessible way. The proposed location for the equipment is Sloan Park which contains a range of amenities to support the equipment, including toilets, drinking water and a playground.

The equipment will be set up in a pod style, similar to the outdoor fitness equipment

installed in Pyramid Hill by HHV, and will include exercise bikes, leg press and balance beam (pictured).

HHV and Council will continue to provide updates on the installation of the equipment over the coming months.



Works update

A glance at some of the works around Loddon Shire:

Roads

Reseal works are expected to start at the end of March and are anticipated to be completed by the end of April, dependent on weather.

Township street improvements

- Footpath construction works are expected to be complete at the end of June. Works will take place in Wedderburn in Kerr Street (between Wilson and High Street) and in High Street (between Godfrey and Rede streets). Footpath construction works will also take place in Commercial Road (between Poverty and Wayman streets) in Tarnagulla.
- Works have been completed on the installation of kerb and channel and associated works at Lake View and Andrews Street in Boort.
- The installation of a pedestrian crossing at Coutts Street in Boort has been completed.
- The tender for kerb and channel works, underground drainage and sealing upgrades in Grant Street (between Houston Street and the railway line), Inglewood has been awarded.

Local bridge and culvert construction

- Works for the replacement of a culvert at Gladfield Road are complete.
- Culvert replacement on Pickles Road, Jarklin has been completed.

Other

The tender for Korong Vale Hall restoration works has been awarded. The works will include recladding of the hall's exterior and roof, window replacements, exterior painting, roof fret work, and switchboard works.

Inspection summary:

From 1 July 2021 to 31 December 2021, 475 inspections were completed (2136 defects raised), with 98.5 per cent of all inspections completed before their due date.

Defect rectification:

From 1 July 2021 to 31 December 2021, 1,120 defects were rectified, with 99.0 per cent of all defects (1,109 in total) completed before their due date.

Asset management plans adopted

At its meeting in January, Council adopted the Parks, Open Spaces and Streetscapes Asset Management Plan, and Recreation, Leisure and Community Facilities Asset Management Plan.

Both plans outline key elements involved in managing Council's assets associated with parks, open spaces and streetscapes; and recreation, leisure and community facilities. They combine management, financial, engineering and technical practices to outline a framework that will ensure that the level of service required by Council and the community is provided at the lowest long-term cost and within the limits of Council's fiscal constraints.

The asset management plans can be viewed at Council's website: www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Council/Plans-strategies-and-policies/Plans-and-strategies



Works taking place at Lake View and Andrews Street in Boort, which are now complete.

Maintenance grading program

From 1 July 2021 to 31 December 2021, 762 maintenance grading work actions were completed resulting in 1,367 kilometres of grading and 3,061 kilometres of inspections.

VicRoads-controlled roads

Council also 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 2021 to 31 December 2021, 604 defects were rectified, with 86.9 per cent of all defects (525 in total) completed before their due date.

Capital works completed

From 1 July 2021 to 31 January 2021, 38 per cent of building projects delivered by Council's Works Department were completed (seven jobs in total).

Fifty-three per cent of road projects delivered by the Works Department were also completed, resulting in the following:

- 12.8km local road re-sheets and shoulder re-sheets
- 2.18km local road reconstruction

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 3 due to expire 31 March 2022.

Your Councillors



Mayor Cr Dan Straub

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



Cr Neil Beattie

Boort Ward | 0427 552 468
nbeattie@loddon.vic.gov.au



Cr Gavan Holt

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



Cr Linda Jungwirth

Tarnagulla Ward | 0428 259 082
ljungwirth@loddon.vic.gov.au



Cr Wendy Murphy

Inglewood Ward | 0436 457 170
wmurphy@loddon.vic.gov.au

Pet registration renewals

Dog and cat owners are reminded that pet registration renewals are due by 10 April 2022.

Every dog and cat over the age of three months must be registered. Owners of dogs and cats whose pets are being registered for the first time with Council must provide evidence that their pet has a microchip. You will be provided with a lifelong registration tag for your pet.

Please ensure you keep your pet's microchip details up to date via the Central Animal Register at www.car.com.au

If your dog or cat is no longer with you, please let Council know so we can update our records.

For more information visit www.loddon.vic.gov.au or phone Council's Local Laws team on (03) 5494 1200.

Council Meetings

Council Meetings are usually held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 3pm.

Council Meetings are held 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 22 March
- Tuesday 26 April
- Tuesday 24 May
- Tuesday 28 June

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 10 March

9.15am Serpentine
11.15am Boort

Thursday 14 April

9.30am Inglewood
11.30am Dingee
2.00pm Pyramid Hill

Thursday 12 May

9.15am Serpentine
11.15am Boort

Thursday 9 June

9.30am Inglewood
11.30am Dingee
2.00pm Pyramid Hill

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