

# LODDON BULLETIN

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



## Major projects moving ahead

Major projects in Loddon Shire are moving ahead, including Wedderburn's Donaldson Park Community Hub, with construction works getting underway this month.

The grandstand, toilet block, harness racing judge's tower, tote building and harness racing pavilion have been demolished to make way for the new community hub building, car park and landscaping.



*Demolition works took place in August for the Donaldson Park Community Hub project.*

The tender for Stage 1 construction was awarded by Council in July to Searle Brothers for \$4.9 million.

Stage 1 of the Donaldson Park Community Hub project will see the construction of a new multisport and community-focused pavilion. It will also include the construction of a carpark, solar installation with batteries, pavement works and landscaping.

Stage 1 works are anticipated to be completed in October 2023, subject to weather and material supply.

Design is currently underway for Stage 2 of the project, which will be delivered as part of the overall project at a later date. This stage will include a new multi-faceted playspace for all abilities, landscaping and internal paths.

Donaldson Park is a key sport, recreation and community space for Wedderburn, and is home to the town's football, netball, hockey and harness racing clubs.

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

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

## QUARTERLY BULLETIN SEPTEMBER 2022

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Moving ahead

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Around the Shire

**Citizenship Ceremony**  
Congratulations

## Pyramid Hill Streetscape Revitalisation Project underway

Works are continuing on the Pyramid Hill Streetscape Revitalisation Project.

The \$1.58 million Pyramid Hill Streetscape Revitalisation 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.



*Artist impression of the entrance to Kelly Park.*

## A word from our Mayor

It's great to see major projects underway in Loddon Shire, including Stage 1 of the Donaldson Park Community Hub project, as highlighted on the front page of this edition of the *Loddon Bulletin*.

In addition to Donaldson Park, we're seeing progress continuing on other projects in the Shire. This includes the Pyramid Hill Streetscape Revitalisation Project, Stage 1 of the Lake Boort Foreshore Recreation Precinct Project, and lighting upgrades at Serpentine and Mitiamo recreation reserves.

With the warmer months now here, it is great to see a fantastic range of upcoming events in our region, as highlighted in this edition of the *Loddon Bulletin*.

Spanning across the region, these events not only provide great opportunities for our community to come together and celebrate our wonderful Loddon Valley, but also showcase the region to visitors.

I'd like to acknowledge and thank everyone involved in putting on these events, which involve many hours of hard work – the majority of which is carried out by volunteers.

In July the Murray River Group of Councils met, discussing a number of regional issues.

The day also included a meeting with Senator Bridget McKenzie, Federal Member for Nicholls Sam Birrell and upper house nominee for Northern Victoria Gaelle Broad.

We discussed a number of topics, including Foot and Mouth Disease preparations, as well as water, transport, infrastructure, and agricultural matters, including the agricultural workforce at a Federal level.

Council also met with Senator McKenzie and Ms Broad in private, where we discussed issues affecting Loddon Shire, including childcare and NBN.

I thank Senator McKenzie, the Member for Nicholls and Ms Broad for their time, and for the fruitful discussions regarding our region and Loddon Shire.

The Murray River Group of Councils includes Loddon Shire, as well as Mildura Rural City, Swan Hill Rural City, Gannawarra Shire, Campaspe Shire and Moira Shire councils.

Finally, it was an honour to preside over a Citizenship Ceremony on 26 July, where I was privileged to present the Ceballos family – Maria, Allarah and Josephine, as well as the Gumilao family – Dave, Jan and Sarah with their Citizenship Certificates.

Further details of the Citizenship Ceremony and our newest citizens are in this *Loddon Bulletin*.



Loddon Shire Council Mayor  
Cr Dan Straub.

## Infrastructure program 2022/23 adopted

At its meeting in June, Council adopted the Annual Infrastructure Program for 2022/23, which sets out priority projects over the 2022/23 financial year.

The ambitious \$9.45 million program includes Council funding as well as Federal Government funding (Roads to Recovery and Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program).

The 2022/23 program includes \$4.77 million towards a number of community projects, including an additional allocation for the completion of the Donaldson Park project and the Pyramid Hill Streetscape.

There is also \$1.07 million to reseal and final seal around 28 kilometres of the sealed road network; \$969,632 to resheet and/or treat almost 21 kilometres of the gravel road network, and \$448,044 to resheet around 24.5 kilometres (both sides) of gravel shoulders.

There is funding of \$727,152 for the renewal of a section of Newbridge Road and renewal and widening of a section of the Echuca-Serpentine Road, \$250,000 for Boort and Pyramid Hill flood mitigation projects, and \$188,000 for the Coutts Street crossing project and installation of a pedestrian safety barrier at Lakeside Drive in Boort.

## Changes to Commonwealth Home Support Program

The program that provides aged care services to people in their homes, the Commonwealth Home Support Program, is undergoing changes in the way it is funded by the Commonwealth Government and how it will be delivered.

This will see a range of aged care programs move into one integrated model called the Support at Home Program.

This new model of care will provide people who use the service with more choice and control over the services that they receive, when and where they receive them and who provides the care they require.

They will be free to choose an aged care provider or providers that can deliver the range of services that suit their needs and priorities.

Given the introduction of changes as a result of this aged care reform, Council is considering how to respond to these future program changes, and is currently exploring how it may best respond to the needs of its older residents now and into the future.

If you would like more information, please contact Council on (03) 5494 1226.



# Loddon Healthy Minds Network Suicide Prevention Forum

Registrations are open for the Loddon Healthy Minds Network 2022 Suicide Prevention Forum (SPF22).

The forum, which will be held on Thursday 20 October from 9am to 3.30pm at the Inglewood Community Hub, will focus on suicide prevention strategies that work in rural areas.

A number of experts and speakers will present at the forum, giving insights into solutions and strategies to address rural mental health. This includes renowned mental health speaker, author and radio broadcaster Craig Hamilton (*pictured*).

Craig, who was diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder in 2000, is one of Australia's most high-profile speakers regarding mental health and wellbeing.

There is a limited amount of free tickets for Loddon region community members and volunteers.

Community members and volunteers are asked to call Vicki at Loddon Shire Council on (03) 5494 1230 to register for these limited free tickets.



For more information about the SPF22, and to register for tickets, please visit:  
[www.loddonhealthyminds.com.au/suicide-prevention-forum](http://www.loddonhealthyminds.com.au/suicide-prevention-forum)

Ticket registrations close at 4pm Friday 14 October.

## Healthy Heart of Victoria update

Healthy Heart of Victoria has developed fitness program guides with local trainer Sherryn O'Flaherty, to further encourage use of the outdoor exercise equipment in Boort, Pyramid Hill and Wedderburn. The guides provide a free and accessible option for residents to get active and use the equipment safely and effectively.

There are two sets of guides – one for the Wedderburn equipment, and one for both the Boort and Pyramid Hill equipment. Each set contains three guides, each to suit different fitness levels – beginner, intermediate and advanced.

The guides can be found on the Healthy Heart of Victoria Facebook page [www.facebook.com/HealthyHeartofVictoria](http://www.facebook.com/HealthyHeartofVictoria) and from Council's website: [www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Services/Health-and-wellbeing/Healthy-Heart-of-Victoria](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Services/Health-and-wellbeing/Healthy-Heart-of-Victoria)

Signs were installed along the Nardoo Trail in Wedderburn (*pictured*) to help and encourage community members and visitors to access the outdoor fitness equipment and walk, run or cycle the trail.



The sign at the beginning of the trail near the first fitness equipment pod has been updated with the pod locations and distances between them. There are four new signs along the trail, one at each of the pods and one at the trail's mid-point. The signs include health and safety information and a QR code linked to the downloadable fitness program guides.

Water refill stations will be installed in Boort and Serpentine in partnership with Coliban Water and Choose Tap, to support water access and consumption within the Loddon Shire. A station will be installed along Little Lake Boort foreshore to provide the community and visitors with an additional point to access drinking water along the lake's well-utilised trail. It will be located in a highly visible location, accessible via the concrete footpath, and adjacent to a picnic area.

The Serpentine station will be located at the TJ Rudkins Reserve rest stop, near the barbecue area. It will provide an accessible point to drinking water for residents and visitors, and is ideally located at the beginning of the Pon Pon Trail.

Inglewood will be the fourth town in the Loddon Shire to receive Healthy Heart of Victoria-funded outdoor fitness equipment. The equipment is set to be installed in mid-September.

## Spring events in the Loddon Valley

A superb array of events will showcase the Loddon Valley this spring, kicking off with the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Vintage Machinery Rally in Wedderburn on 10 to 11 September.

September will also see Tarnagulla's Strictly Vintage Fair on 11 September, and the Friends of Kooyoora Spring Festival Show from 17 to 18 September.

There's also the Tarnagulla Three Club Monty golf tournament (17 September), and the 8<sup>th</sup> NHMA National Tractor Trek in Wedderburn from 29 September to 2 October.

Delving further into spring, October will feature the Laanecoorie Gold Bash (7 to 9 October) and the Annual Boort Agricultural Show (8 October).

Further highlighting the region will be the Wedderburn Garden Expo (23 October), Loddon Valley Arts Trail (22 to 23 October) and the Wedderburn Annual Spring Dance (28 October).

In what will be an enjoyable and laughter-filled evening, the Mothers Club Comedy Concert at Wedderburn College will be on 4 November, while on 13 November will be the Lions Annual Charity Auction in Wedderburn and the Wedderburn Community Christmas Festival on 25 to 26 November.

For more information and Loddon Valley accommodation options, or for a copy of the calendar of events, call the Loddon Visitor Information Centre on (03) 5494 3489, email: [loddonvisitorinformation@loddon.vic.gov.au](mailto:loddonvisitorinformation@loddon.vic.gov.au) or go to: [www.bendigoregion.com.au/visit-loddon-valley](http://www.bendigoregion.com.au/visit-loddon-valley)

## Community projects update

### Pyramid Hill Community Centre Development

Consultation with stakeholders is currently underway for the detailed design for the Pyramid Hill Community Centre Development.

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 project will also include 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.

Funding for the Pyramid Hill Community Centre Development was received through the Victorian Government's Regional Infrastructure Fund – Stimulus Round.

### Boort Bowling Club

The installation of synthetic turf at the Boort Bowling Club is now complete (*pictured*).

The synthetic turf instalment is Stage 1 of the Lake Boort Foreshore Recreation Precinct Project.

The remaining stages of the project will include tennis courts fencing and lighting, and the installation of a pump park and basketball half court. There may also be possible, additional works identified at the croquet club as planning progresses.

Council, through its collaboration with Boort Tourism and Development Inc. and relevant user groups, are in the process of developing the scope for Stage 2 works for the project. Council will continue its work with the community over the next 12 months, including the sourcing of external funding resulting in the enhancement of the recreational precinct around Little Lake Boort.

### Floodlighting upgrade project

Detailed design is currently underway for lighting upgrades at Serpentine and Mitiamo recreation reserves.

The project will see the Serpentine Recreation Reserve and Mitiamo 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 at the Serpentine and Mitiamo recreation reserves. It will also provide the opportunity for further activation opportunities at these reserves for the community and users.

The project has been made possible thanks to funding from the Victorian Government's Country Football and Netball Funding Program, the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, Council, the Serpentine and Mitiamo recreation reserves and respective football netball clubs.

### Dingee Historical Wall information board

The Dingee Historical Wall information board has been completed by the Dingee Progress Association Inc.

The information board tells the story behind the Dingee Historical Wall, which was created in 2001 and provides a visual memory honouring past residents and the contribution they made in creating the history of our region.

The information board will create further awareness of the Dingee Historical Wall, as well as encourage people far and wide to take the time to view the wall.

The project was delivered by the Dingee Progress Association, with funding support from Council's Community Planning Program.

## Community Satisfaction Survey 2022

The latest Community Satisfaction Survey results has again seen residents in the Loddon Shire rate Council's customer service and waste management above that of the state-wide average and small rural council average.

Council's Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey, conducted by JWS Research, collected responses from 400 residents in Loddon Shire on a range of Council services.

With a score of 70, Council's customer service rated above the state-wide average (score of 68) and the average for small rural councils (score of 67).

Additionally, Council's waste management (score of 71) performed higher than the state-wide average and the small rural council average of 68.

At 58, Council's community decisions rated higher than the state-wide average and the average for small rural councils, with both scoring 54.

Informing the community also received a score of 60, compared to 59 for both the state-wide and small rural council average.

The survey also revealed areas where residents perceive more work needs to be done, including the condition of roads. Sealed roads received a score of 50, and unsealed roads a score of 42.

Council would like to hear from residents regarding road issues to help ensure problems are identified and rectified as soon as possible.

If you do identify an issue with a road, please contact Council's customer service team on (03) 5494 1200 or visit [www.loddon.vic.gov.au](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au) so the problem can be fixed.

You can view Council's 2022 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey at [www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Council/Community-Satisfaction-Surveys](http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Council/Community-Satisfaction-Surveys)



# Works update

A glance at some of the works around Loddon Shire:

## Township street improvements

- Footpath construction works are continuing. Works have been taking place in Wedderburn in Kerr Street (between Wilson and High Street) and in High Street (between Godfrey and Rede streets), and in Tarnagulla in Commercial Road (between Poverty and Wayman streets).
- The design for lighting at the pedestrian crossing at Coutts Street in Boort is in progress.
- Tenders have closed for kerb and channel, underground drainage and sealing upgrades in Grant Street (between Houston Street and the railway line) in Inglewood.
- The construction for underground drainage works in Inglewood at the primary school and Verdon Street is anticipated to commence in September.

## Local bridge and culvert construction

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

## Other

Restoration works at the Korong Vale Hall are nearing completion. The works include recladding of the hall's exterior and roof, window replacements, exterior painting, roof fret work, and switchboard works.

## Maintenance inspection summary

From 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, 999 inspections were completed (3,916 defects raised), with 98.9 per cent of all inspections completed before their due date.

## Maintenance defect rectification

From 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, 8,736 defects were rectified, with 98.2 per cent of all defects (8,579 in total) completed before their due date.

## Maintenance grading program

From 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, Council completed 2,631 kilometres of grading and 6,564 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 2021 to 30 June 2022, 791 defects were rectified, with 90.6 per cent of all defects (1,622 in total) completed before their due date.

## Capital works completed

From 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, 84 per cent of building projects delivered by Council's Works Department were completed (11 jobs in total).



Restoration works at the Korong Vale Hall are nearing completion.

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

- 12.8km gravel road re-sheets and shoulder re-sheets
- 5.7km sealed road reconstruction

Remaining capital works projects have been carried over and are due to be completed in the 2022/23 financial year.

## Parks and townships

From 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, 3,619 programmed maintenance and defects that consisted of maintenance actions on footpaths, street and park trees, garden beds, grass mowing and playgrounds were rectified, with 93.6 per cent of all defects (3,388 in total) completed before their due date.

## Hard waste

From 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, 306,072 kerbside garbage and recycling collection bin lifts were scheduled with 82 kerbside garbage and recycling collection bins missed.

## 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.

From 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, 2,513 vouchers were used.

## 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

## Citizenship Ceremony

On 26 July, Loddon Shire Mayor Cr Dan Straub officiated at a Citizenship Ceremony.

Cr Straub presented citizenship certificates to our newest Australian citizens, including to the Ceballos family from Pyramid Hill – Maria, Allarah and Josephine, as well as the Gumilao family from Boort – Dave, Jan and Sarah. All are formerly from the Philippines.



## Council Meetings

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

The 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](http://www.facebook.com/LoddonShire)

### Upcoming Council Meetings:

- Tuesday 27 September
- Tuesday 25 October
- Tuesday 22 November
- Tuesday 13 December

## 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](http://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 8 September

9.15am Serpentine  
11.15am Boort

### Thursday 13 October

9.30am Inglewood  
11.30am Dingee  
2.00pm Pyramid Hill

### Thursday 10 November

9.15am Serpentine  
11.15am Boort

### Thursday 8 December

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)

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