

LODDON BULLETIN

A resilient, sustainable and prosperous community of communities



Spectacular spring in the Loddon Valley!

Spring is in the air and the Loddon Valley is awash in colour.

Whether you're a water sports enthusiast, hiker, cyclist, birdwatcher or gold prospector, there's plenty to do this spring.

Welcome Shops

Keep an eye out for the tourism Welcome Shop program, which is in the process of being rolled out by Loddon Valley Tourism.

As part of this new visitor program, a series of venues and businesses in key townships across the Loddon Valley will become outlets for visitor information in their township or community.

This program will serve as a visitor servicing network and create visitor touchpoints all across the Shire, will help with visitor dispersal, and complement the Visitor Information Centre in Wedderburn.

The Welcome Shops will be a great source of knowledge for visitors, as well as locals wanting to learn more about the tourism offerings across the Loddon region.

Keep an eye on our website and socials for more information as it is released.

32nd Annual Wedderburn Vintage Machinery Rally – 14 to 15 September

This great day out for the whole family, relives the past – exploring old engines, vehicles, farm machinery, tools and many items of yesteryear.

Browse the range of market trade stalls and exhibits. A unique collection of patchwork quilting will be on display in the old school building.

Loddon Valley Arts Trail – 4, 5 and 6 October

A truly delightful way to experience what's special about the Loddon Valley, the Arts Trail invites you into artists' studios, unique galleries and pop-up exhibition spaces.

To complement this magnificent event, many local attractions and hospitality venues will remain open to showcase the broader Loddon region.

Laanecoorie Gold Bash – 11 to 13 October

This two-and-a-half-day event features gold-related stalls, trivia night, auction, token hunts for kids and adults, gold tours and raffles.

All proceeds raised go to Peter Mac Cancer Research.

Boort Annual Show and Truck Show – 12 October

Featuring a mix of family entertainment, horse events, blade and machine shearing competition, dog trials, animal farm, show bags, baking competitions, market stalls, vintage cars, and so much more.

The Boort Truck Show will also be running, and promises to be a great family fun day with plenty of entertainment and selection of trucks on display.

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The 32nd Annual Wedderburn Vintage Machinery Rally will be held 14 to 15 September.

A word from our Mayor

As the warm weather starts to make a welcome return, it is the perfect time for exploring our region's natural beauty. Whether it's water sports, hiking, cycling, birdwatching or gold prospecting, you'll find plenty to do in the Loddon Valley.

Spring also sees a fantastic array of events across the Shire. Be it art, vintage machinery, food and wine, gardens, custom cars, motorcycles and trucks, through to agricultural shows – there's something for everyone.

You can read more in this *Loddon Bulletin*.

2024/25 budget and infrastructure program adopted

At its meeting on 25 June, Council adopted the 2024/25 Budget and corresponding Fees and Charges Schedule, as well as the Annual Infrastructure Program.

The Infrastructure Program will see the delivery of capital works across Council's asset base over the next year and includes external funding from the Commonwealth Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, and Roads to Recovery program.

The program includes works on sealed and unsealed roads, local bridges and footpaths, as well as community buildings and local drainage projects.

Council is also budgeting for external funding to support flood recovery works and maintaining flood-damaged assets back up to appropriate standards.

The 2024/25 Budget will see average rates increase in line with the State Government cap of 2.75%.

Council absorbed increases to waste costs, freezing waste charges at 2023/24 levels.

Please remember, support is available for those facing financial difficulties, including payment plans and support for financial hardship in respect to Council rates. Please contact Council if you have concerns come rates notice time.

Further details can be found on Council's website.

Strategies to be considered for adoption

Having completed community consultation, over the next month or so Council will be considering the adoption of two very significant strategies: the Economic Development Strategy and the Social Infrastructure Strategy.

Once again, Council staff have contributed a considerable amount of time and effort into developing strategies to make Loddon Shire an even better place to live, work, play and visit.

Change of date for September Council Meeting

The Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday 24 September has been brought forward due to the 2024 local government election period.

The meeting will now be held on Monday 16 September 2024 at 3pm in the Wedderburn Council Chambers.



Loddon Shire Council Mayor
Cr Gavan Holt.

Spectacular spring in the Loddon Valley!

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Wedderburn Community House and Garden Expo – 20 October

A great opportunity to view the charm and character of several gardens open to the public for one day only. Enjoy a Devonshire tea at the delightful Coach House Gallery & Museum, with local exhibitions and hidden treasures.

Inglewood Alive – 3 November

Hosted in the heart of Inglewood on the main street, Town Hall lawns and surrounding areas, this popular event includes an array of activities, entertainment and fun.



Featuring live music, vintage tractors, Show and Shine, kids entertainment, displays and collectables, arts and crafts, and food trucks and stalls – including Flavours of Loddon.

Cork and Fork (Food and Wine) event – 23 November

The local tastes and delicious flavours of the Loddon region will be on display, as visitors and locals wander the many stalls showcasing the region's gourmet food and wine – all to a soundtrack of live music and entertainment.

Housing and Lifestyle Showcase – this November

Mark your calendar for the first Loddon Housing and Lifestyle Showcase on 22 and 23 November in Bridgewater.

If you're contemplating moving to Loddon Shire, or are a local looking to renovate, subdivide, build, develop property or extend, this is the event for you!

Meet Council planners, as well as builders, developers and more.

Search 'Loddon housing and living showcase' online, or the Loddon Shire website, for all the details.

Works update

Pyramid Yarraberb Road – Reconstruction of 2.6km of Pyramid Yarraberb Road was completed in June.

The Pyramid Yarraberb Road runs north south between Boort Mitiamo Road and Loddon Valley Highway and is an important connecting road between Bendigo, Pyramid Hill and surrounding areas.

The road was affected by the October 2022 flood event, resulting in 1.3km of damage, requiring reconstruction work.

Culvert replacements – Works on the replacement of three culverts along Canary Island Leaghur Road, Canary Island are complete.

Works included a new 6m by 1.8m twin culvert, 9m by 1.8m triple-cell culvert and a 3m by 1.5m culvert.

The tender for culvert installation at Ottreys Road bridge and Sidney Watson Bridge Road, as well as the tender for culvert supply at Chamberlains Road have been awarded.

Tarnagulla Footpath Renewal Project – Footpath renewal works are over halfway complete (*below*) and the car park at the back of the Tarnagulla Public Hall has been concreted.

The footpath renewal project includes four sections along Commercial Road, between Wayman and King streets.



Building improvement program – Reroofing and painting works at the Inglewood Town Hall Hub are currently underway and are scheduled for completion by 30 November 2024.

The works are being undertaken by Duobuild Pty Ltd, which also carried out the replacement of the roof at the Boort Court House.

Capital works completed – From 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, road projects delivered by the Works Department included completion of 21.3km of local road re-sheets and 13km of road shoulder re-sheets, as well as 5.2km of local road construction.

Road maintenance inspections – From 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, 606 inspections were completed (with 5,061 defects raised) and 98.5% of all inspections completed before their due date.

Road maintenance rectification – From 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, 8,007 defects were rectified, with 94.6% of all defects (7,572 in total) completed before their due date.

Road maintenance grading – From 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, 1,016 maintenance grading work actions were completed resulting in 1,982km of grading. Additionally, 5,620 km of roads were inspected.

To report an issue to Council call 5494 1200.

Parks and townships – From 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, 4,182 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 85% of all defects (3,547 in total) completed before their due date.

Council officers planted 1,781 trees and plants, and mowed approximately 2,704ha of grass for the year – travelling 10,017km.

Six capital projects were completed, including upgrades to irrigation, shelters and Myrning Beach, Boort.

Roadside weeds and pests program – Council continued its control activities for weeds and pests on municipal rural roadsides, under the state-funded Roadside Weeds and Pests Program.

A contractor was engaged to conduct a roadside weed audit across the Shire. This involved the identification and mapping of regionally controlled and restricted weeds and pests, resulting in approximately 370,511 weeds being identified in 10,555 locations.

Following feedback from the community, government agencies, Landcare and private landowners, contractors were engaged to treat Prickly Pear and Wheel Cactus. This resulted in the treatment of approximately 21,109 cacti in 748 locations.

Waste – From 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, 303,862 kerbside garbage and recycling bin collections were scheduled, collection of 95 bins were missed during normal operating conditions.

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.

From 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 3,279 vouchers were used.

Pyramid Hill streetscape

The Pyramid Hill Streetscape Project has been completed, including the installation of a wombat pedestrian crossing, new street furniture and planting.

The project also saw the replacement of concrete paths at Lions Park, replacement of garden beds, planting of trees and shrubs, and a new path around the park. Concrete areas were installed in front of the museum, along with paths within the grassed area.

A new barbecue shelter and drinking fountain were installed at Kelly Park, along with concrete works around the park's playground area, basketball courts and outdoor gym equipment.

Additionally, works saw upgraded drainage and the installation of shade treatments.

The project was made possible through \$800,000 in funding from the Victorian Government's Building Works package and Council.

Community projects update

Recreation, Open Space and Aquatic Strategy –

Following its presentation to the August Council Meeting, the draft Recreation, Open Space and Aquatic Strategy (ROSA) is currently out for community feedback until Sunday 15 September 2024.

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.

This Strategy informs how the Council can create active and healthy communities through:

- Ensuring the Shire has a diverse range of universally accessible, sustainable facilities and outdoor spaces.
- Exploring opportunities that promote participation through structured programs and unstructured, social and incidental activities.
- Effective management and support services including information, leadership, and inclusive governance/management structures.

Pyramid Hill Community Centre – Work continues on Stage 1 of the redevelopment of the Pyramid Hill Community Centre by the contractor, Searle Brothers (*pictured*).



Stage 1 includes an allied health wing to accommodate Northern District Community Health and Maternal Child Health services, senior citizens room and upgraded toilet facilities.

This stage will also see renovation of the current hall and kitchen, expansion of storage, and improved car parking and access to the building.

Funding for Stage 1 has been made possible with the support of the Victorian Government's Regional Infrastructure Fund. Council has also provided funding towards the project.

Little Lake Boort Recreation Precinct – Following feedback from the community around the draft master plan, work is continuing on the final master plan for the Little Lake Boort Recreation Precinct.

The final master plan will then be considered by Council for adoption.

The master plan has been designed to reconnect and activate the various parklands around the Northern section of Little Lake Boort that incorporates Nolen's Park, Boort Tennis Club, Boort Bowls Club, Historic Park, Croquet Club, swimming pool and the surrounding area.

Inglewood Community Sports Centre Master Plan – Council is continuing to develop a master plan for the Inglewood Community Sports Centre.

Following initial community input, further community consultation is currently underway.

The final draft master plan will then be considered by Council for further public exhibition and feedback.

The master plan will identify and clarify opportunities, challenges and limitations at the centre, and provide direction to Council and user groups for its future development over the next 10 years.

It will focus on the sport and recreation reserve, including the main complex, oval, lawn and hard courts, and cricket nets.

Find out more about current projects in our Shire by scanning the QR code.



Loddon takes delivery of recovery trailer

Council has taken delivery of a new purpose-built recovery display trailer as part of the Community Flood Recovery Program in response to the 2022 October flood event. The trailer is part of Council's Community Recovery Program, jointly funded by the Australian and Victorian governments.

The trailer (*pictured*) will be used to engage the Loddon community at a range of upcoming recovery events.

The 4.27-metre by 1.6-metre trailer is 2 metres high, and provides a mobile resource with information on health and wellbeing services available to support the community in recovery.



Both the exterior and interior walls of the trailer feature digitally printed images of the Loddon River and the expansive Shire landscape.

The trailer can be operated off grid thanks to a 200-watt solar panel mounted on the roof, a 1000-watt portable power station and a 6.2-kilowatt generator.

The current edition of the fortnightly Flood Recovery Bulletin can be found on Council's website by scanning the QR code or check the Loddon Shire Facebook page for upcoming events.

Inglewood Streetscape Project design moving ahead

Work to design aesthetic and functional aspects to redevelop the Inglewood streetscape continues.

Urban designers from Djandak are providing a First Nations overlay to the community-led masterplan, while site surveys and asset location is now complete.

A dedicated page on the Loddon Shire Council website carries the latest project updates, while a community advisory group consisting of members from key local business and community committees has been established to ensure project information and feedback is shared seamlessly.

From 2025, the project team will focus its efforts towards achieving a shovel-ready project, before seeking funding for future development works.



Community Satisfaction Survey

The latest Community Satisfaction Survey results have seen residents in the Loddon Shire rate positively Council's customer service, appearance of public areas and waste management.

With a score of 68, Council's customer service rated above the state-wide average score of 67 and small rural council average of 66. Likewise, Council's score of 70 for waste management rated higher than the state-wide and small rural council average of 67.

With a score of 71, the appearance of public areas rated above the state-wide average (score of 68) and was on par with the small rural council average.

Council's overall performance was rated at 53 – in line with both the state-wide and small rural group averages (scores of 54 and 53 respectively).

Overall, Council performed in line with the small rural group and state-wide averages on most service areas evaluated, including value for money in services and infrastructure.

Unsealed roads, planning and building permits, and sealed local roads were Council's lowest performing areas – a trend that has continued for the previous four years of survey data. This is also consistent with a downward trend across the state for community satisfaction with unsealed and sealed roads generally.

We appreciate and thank the community for their patience while Council continues to pursue disaster recovery funding arrangements and subsequently undertake flood repair works to our local road network.

The Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey is conducted each year to gather data on how satisfied residents are with Council's resources, facilities and services.

Council's 2024 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey is available via the QR code.



Council elections

The next Victorian local council elections will be held by postal ballot in October 2024. The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) is responsible for conducting Council elections in Victoria.

The VEC election office, located at 37 Peppercorn Way, Serpentine, is open to the public from 9 September 2024.

Nominations for the elections opened on Monday 9 September and will close at noon on Tuesday 17 September 2024. Late nominations cannot be accepted.

Local Government Candidate Training

The Victorian Government provides mandatory training for all Victorians who wish to nominate as a candidate in any council elections.

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, completion of the Candidate Training is a mandatory prerequisite to nominating for the elections.

Mail out of ballot packs – Ballot packs will be sent by the VEC to eligible enrolled voters between Monday 7 and Thursday 10 October 2024.

Close of voting – 6:00pm Friday 25 October 2024.

Your ballot paper must be with the Returning Officer or in the mail by this time. Only votes posted before the close of voting can be accepted.

Election Day – Saturday 26 October 2024 (no in-person voting).

For more information about upcoming council elections please scan the QR code.



Your Councillors



Mayor Cr Gavan Holt

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Cr Neil Beattie

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Cr Linda Jungwirth

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Cr Wendy Murphy

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Cr Dan Straub

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Go on a StoryWalk adventure!

Wedderburn is now home to a semi-permanent StoryWalk thanks to a partnership between Goldfields Libraries, Healthy Loddon Campaspe and Loddon Shire Council. You can find it along the Nardoo Creek walking trail, starting at the Soldier's Memorial Park playground.

Launched in June, the year-round installation features stories that change with the seasons, ensuring there's always something new to discover.

So, what exactly is a StoryWalk? It's a magical blend of physical activity and literary exploration, bringing children's books to life by placing them along popular walking routes in the community.

StoryWalks have become incredibly popular in other locations across the region with families really enjoying the combination of outdoor fun and reading. It's a great way to get some fresh air while keeping the kids entertained.

Just as being active is good for our bodies, reading is good for our brains.

Combining both in a StoryWalk is a great way to support our overall health and wellbeing.

And StoryWalks aren't just for kids! The stories are carefully chosen to appeal to all ages, making them a delight for everyone who passes by.

With spring upon us, a new story will be unveiled soon. We won't spoil the surprise – you'll have to see it for yourself. Just don't forget your sunscreen!



Healthy Loddon Campaspe (HLC) news

HLC has announced their next round of projects aimed at encouraging physical activity and healthy eating across the region. Projects include:

Parkrun Pyramid Hill – HLC will work together with the Pyramid Hill and broader Loddon Shire community to establish a Parkrun in Pyramid Hill, creating a free community activity for everyone to enjoy.

Healthy Sports Rewards – Together with local sports clubs, HLC will investigate offering healthy reward options to junior members. Via healthy vouchers and rewards, local sports clubs can have a positive impact on their members' health by reducing advertising of fast food, and creating opportunities to participate in healthy activities.

Our Spaces are Open in Loddon – This project will promote the variety of

free open spaces available for community use, offer free hire of sporting equipment at recreation spaces, and light ovals and public spaces to encourage use of the spaces.

Healthy Schools Project – The Healthy Schools Project will support schools to encourage healthy eating and physical activity. HLC will work with a number of local schools to identify priorities, and select healthy eating and/or physical activity options tailored to the needs of their school community. Schools can choose to focus their project on School Kitchen Gardens, Active Travel, Healthy Food and Drink, or Active Curriculum.

More information about these projects is available via the QR code.



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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