

# LODDON BULLETIN

*A resilient, sustainable and prosperous community of communities*



## Celebrations for new Donaldson Park Community Hub

The new Donaldson Park Community Hub has been officially opened during the first home game of the season for the Wedderburn Redbacks.

The new community hub brings together years of planning and community engagement – from its initial feasibility study in 2016, to the resulting multi-purpose building.

The new community hub features social rooms, a kitchen, meeting room, kiosk, bar, office, change rooms, and trainers' and first aid rooms.

Stage 2 of the project, which is also nearing completion, includes a playspace, additional landscaping and internal paths adjacent to the new building.

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

The Donaldson Park Steering Committee also provided input throughout the project.



*BEFORE AND AFTER: The new Donaldson Park Community Hub (below) replaced the site's ageing pavilions (above). Photo courtesy of Wedderburn Redbacks Inc. Facebook page.*



**JUNE 2024**

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We have QR codes throughout this Bulletin. Click or tap on them if you are viewing this Bulletin online.

## A word from our Mayor

It is absolutely fantastic to see the completion of the Donaldson Park Community Hub. As Mayor, a Councillor and community member, seeing this project come to fruition from the very first concept plans through to the magnificent new hub we have today is very special indeed.

It was wonderful for the Wedderburn Redbacks and community members to enjoy these marvellous new facilities at their first home game of the season on 1 June.

I was also pleased to host our elected members at an official opening of the facility.

I thank everyone involved in getting the new facility from the ground up to this first-rate community hub.

This includes funding from the Federal Government and the Victorian Government – without which this project would not have been possible.

There was also funding support from the Donaldson Park Community Asset Committee, user groups, the community, Inglewood & Districts Community Enterprises Limited and Loddon Shire Council.

I'd like to acknowledge the Donaldson Park Steering Committee, which provided input throughout the project, including the community hub's design.

### Draft budget

As highlighted in this edition of the *Loddon Bulletin*, the public comment period for Council's draft 2024/25 Budget and Fees and Charges closed 27 May.

Council will meet to consider feedback on the draft documents at the Council Forum on 11 June. It will then consider adoption at the Council Meeting on 25 June.

I thank everyone involved in the preparation of these draft budget documents including Council staff.

It's pleasing to see that once again Council has maintained a strong cash position, while ensuring continued commitment to capital expenditure, community planning and flood restoration works.

You can view the budget documents on Council's website by scanning the QR code highlighted in the budget article below.

### Ongoing projects

It's great to see a number of ongoing projects underway. This is in conjunction with our day-to-day works activities, including road maintenance inspections, rectification and grading.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank our community, committees and community groups for providing feedback towards these projects.

You can read more about these projects and general updates in this edition of the *Loddon Bulletin*.



Loddon Shire Council Mayor  
Cr Gavan Holt.

## Draft budget includes \$7 million capital program

The draft 2024/25 Budget sees the continuation of a strong cash position, with no new borrowings.

The draft budget includes a rate increase of 2.75% – in line with the Victorian Government's Fair Go Rates System. The draft schedule of Fees and Charges also proposes to increase fees and charges by 2.75%.

There is a capital expenditure program allocation of \$7 million, which includes \$3.5 million towards roads, \$0.60 million for parks and various community facilities and \$0.72 million for footpaths.

Additionally, the budget includes \$300,000 for works associated with the Building Asset Management Plan and full funding of Council's ongoing commitment to community planning of \$750,000.

There is also flood restoration works of \$20 million as recovery continues from the 2022 flood event.

Despite an increased cost of kerbside waste and recycling services, waste services charges will have no increase. These increases are offset by the additional revenue expected due to additional bin services during 2023/24 and an adjustment made to the costing of public space bins.

These adjustments continue to ensure compliance with any necessary state legislation or regulations. The cost of a 140-litre bin will remain at \$401 and a 240-litre bin at \$545. The cost of a 240-litre kerbside recycling bin will increase to \$151.

Copies of the documents are available on Council's website via the QR code (right).

Submissions to the draft budget closed 27 May. Council will meet to consider any feedback on the draft Budget and Schedule of Fees and Charge at the Council Forum on Tuesday 11 June.

Council will then consider adoption of these documents at the Council Meeting on Tuesday 25 June 2024 and will give public notice of its decision.



The draft budget allocates a capital expenditure of \$7 million, including \$3.5 million towards roads.





## Works update

**Pyramid Yarraberb Road** – Reconstruction of 2.6km of Pyramid Yarraberb Road has commenced, with works completed on the first half of the project in mid-May.

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

The road was affected by the October 2022 flood event, resulting in 1.36km of the road requiring reconstruction work.

**Canary Island culvert replacement** – Works on the replacement of three culverts along Canary Island Leaghur Road, Canary Island are underway.

The works include a new 6m by 1.8m twin culvert, 9m by 1.8m triple cell culvert and a 3m by 1.5m culvert.

The culvert replacements are being completed by Avard Civil and are anticipated to be finished in July.

**Annual reseal program** – Council's annual reseal program is complete. This year's program included reseals on 56.7km of Council roads, with a total area of 307.9m<sup>2</sup>.

**Tarnagulla Footpath Renewal Project** – At its March Meeting, Council awarded the tender for the Tarnagulla Footpath Renewal Project to Maine Civil. The footpath renewal project includes four sections of Commercial Road, between Wayman and King streets.

**Building improvement program** – The tender for Inglewood Town Hall Hub and Boort Historical Society (former Court House) roof work has been awarded to Duobuild Pty Ltd.

Roof work at the Boort Historical Society started on 20 May, with the Inglewood Town Hall Hub expected to start later this year.

**Capital works completed** – From 1 July 2023 to 31 March 2024, road projects delivered by the Works Department saw the completion of 22.5km of local road and road shoulder re-sheets, and 5.2km of local road constructions.

**Road maintenance inspection** – From 1 July 2023 to 31 March 2024, 565 inspections were completed (with 2,592 defects raised).

**Road maintenance rectification** – From 1 July 2023 to 31 March 2024, 6,244 defects were rectified, with 94.4% of all defects (5,896 in total) completed before their due date.

**Road maintenance grading** – From 1 July 2023 to 31 March 2024, 729 maintenance grading work actions were completed resulting in 1,449km of grading. Additionally, 3,935km of roads were inspected.

To report an issue to Council call 5494 1200.

**Hard waste** – The annual kerbside hard waste collection within township boundaries took place from 4 March to coincide with Clean Up Australia Day, and was completed over a two-week period with around 629 collections.

This included 157 items of e-waste; 98 whitegoods items; 300m<sup>3</sup> of furniture; 332m<sup>3</sup> of metal and 234m<sup>3</sup> of waste.

**Waste vouchers** – Vouchers 3 and 4 are due to expire on 30 June 2024.

Vouchers 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 can only be used once, and only one voucher used per transaction. The voucher must be presented to attendants at landfill and transfer stations.

## Inglewood and Pyramid Hill streetscapes update

### Inglewood Streetscape

The detailed design for the Inglewood Streetscape project is currently underway.

The project aims to enhance the visual appeal, functionality, safety and cultural significance of the streetscape in Inglewood.

It will consider various elements, including kerb and channel improvements, footpaths, traffic calming, pedestrian safety enhancements, overall amenity improvement, underground power installation, greening initiatives and more.

The Inglewood community has undertaken a significant amount of work on the project, including helping develop a concept master plan for the streetscape, and ensure a deliverable project for a range of budgets.

Council thanks the Inglewood community and Inglewood Development and Tourism Committee for their outstanding efforts on the project.

### Pyramid Hill Streetscape

In April, Council and the contractor for the Pyramid Hill Streetscape Project reached a mutual agreement for the contractor to exit the project site.

Council has now taken on responsibility of completing the remaining works through direct management and coordination of individual contractors.

This decision was made with a primary focus on achieving the best possible outcome for the community of Pyramid Hill and the need to complete the outstanding works in a timely manner.

Council remains committed to delivering a high-quality streetscape that enhances the local area, promotes community wellbeing, and meets the needs and expectations of residents.

Taking over completion of the works will allow Council to maintain control over the project's timeline and budget, ensuring that disruptions are minimised and that the project aligns closely with the community's vision for the area.

Council appreciates the community's patience and understanding and is working through the process of engaging other suitably qualified contractors as quickly as possible to minimise disruption to the delivery of this project.

The project is due to be completed by August 2024.

## Community projects update

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

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 the 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.

Council is currently waiting on the outcome of its application to the Commonwealth Government's Growing Regions Program to deliver the final stage of the community centre.

This stage will include construction of a community wing to accommodate the neighbourhood house, library services, a community gym, and further parking.

**Recreation, Open Space and Aquatic Strategy (ROSA)** – Preparations for the Loddon ROSA are continuing.

This includes the completion of a comprehensive community engagement process involving surveying and interviewing land managers, community, schools, as well as sport and recreation groups.

The ROSA – Engagement Findings Report, which has been prepared by Otium Planning Group, will inform the final draft ROSA.

This final draft will then be considered by Council for further public exhibition and community feedback.

**Little Lake Boort Recreation Precinct** – Council was pleased to receive feedback from the community to the draft master plan for the Little Lake Boort Recreation Precinct during March and April.

This feedback is being collated and incorporated into the final master plan, which will then be considered by Council for adoption.

The master plan (*image below*) 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 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, as well as 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, cricket nets and the adjacent Riding Club, and Inglewood Cars and Bikes Club.

*Find out more about current projects in our Shire by scanning the QR code (right).*



## 3G network closure – 31 August

**For community members** – Telstra has launched a 3G SMS Checker tool which allows customers to check if they need to upgrade their device before the 3G network closes on 31 August this year.

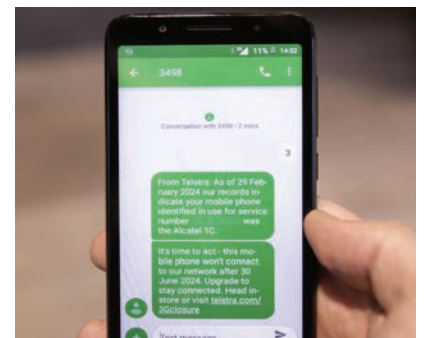
It's very easy to use – just send an SMS with the number 3 to 3498 or "3G XT" to receive almost instant advice on your device.

Telstra has been contacting customers directly about the closure, however this is another quick way to check if you need to act. You can find some more information here: <https://tel.st/3GXT>

**For business** – Checking if your EFTPOS terminal is connecting to the 3G network is particularly important ahead of Telstra's closure of its 3G network.

With many businesses relying heavily on EFTPOS to accept payments, knowing how to keep your EFTPOS solutions running, particularly during power or internet disruptions, is an essential aspect of your business resilience.

Steps you can take to prepare for these occurrences and help you to keep processing payments can be found at [www.telstra.com.au/smarterbusiness](http://www.telstra.com.au/smarterbusiness)



## Kindergarten enrolments now open

Enrolments for three and four-year-old kindergarten for 2025 are now open until 26 July 2024.

The enrolment period was brought forward to align with the Foundation (Prep) Victorian Government primary school's enrolment timeline. This should make it easier for families to have one enrolment period across the Shire.

Kindergarten is free and children attend sessions for 15 hours per week spread across three days.

Parents and carers who would like to enrol their child or children in the 2025 three or four-year-old kindergarten program, can do so online via the QR code (left).



Council's Early Years Team can also post enrolment forms to support families who may be having trouble accessing the form online.

Kindergarten is an important step and is strongly recommended for all children.

Research shows that kindergarten improves children's health and wellbeing, helps them to develop strong social skills and encourages a love of learning.

Council looks forward to receiving kindergarten enrolments from families and sending out first round offers from 19 August. Second round offers will be sent to families from 16 September.

For more information or queries, please call Council's Early Years Team on 5494 1200.



## Council elections 2024

Every four years, Loddon Shire residents and ratepayers vote to elect councillors to represent our community.

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.

### Key dates for the 2024 elections:

**Close of voters roll** – 4:00pm Wednesday 7 August 2024.

To be eligible to vote in this election, people must be on the voters' roll by this date.

**Candidate nominations open** – Monday 9 September 2024 (to be confirmed).

**Candidate nominations close** – 12:00pm Tuesday 17 September 2024 (to be confirmed).

**Mail out of ballot packs** – Monday 7 to Thursday 10 October 2024. VEC sends postal voting packs to enrolled voters.

**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).

**Community and Candidate Information Session – hosted by the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV).**

If you are considering standing for Council, you're encouraged to attend the Stand For Council – Community and Candidate Information Session being run by the MAV.

### Session details:

**Date:** Wednesday 17 July

**Time:** 6pm to 8.30pm

**Where:** In person at 50 View Street, Bendigo or online.

**Registration link:** [www.mav.asn.au/stand-for-council-2024](http://www.mav.asn.au/stand-for-council-2024)

For more information about standing for the upcoming council election please scan the QR code.



## Loddon Inclusive Communities Plan

Council is currently developing an Inclusive Communities Plan, which will include a broad range of recommendations and actions to help Loddon Shire be a more inclusive place for everyone.

Inclusive communities are places where everyone can access the information, opportunities, services and support that they need to live healthy and fulfilling lives.

To get here, we need to make sure that as many people as possible have the opportunity to share ideas for the inclusive communities they want to see in the future.

It is important that the Plan is informed by your voice so that it reflects the experiences, ideas and aspirations of our diverse community.

There are many ways you can get involved in helping shape the Plan including completing a short online survey or a hard copy survey available at your nearest neighbourhood house.

You can learn more about the project by picking up one of our 'Conversation Kits', available at Boort Resource Information Centre, Inglewood Community Neighbourhood House, Pyramid Hill Post Office and Wedderburn Community House.

We're seeking input from the community until 23 June 2024.

If you would like to know more about the project and participate in shaping the Plan, please visit our Connect @ Loddon page by scanning the QR code.





## Your Councillors



**Mayor Cr Gavan Holt**

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



**Cr Neil Beattie**

Boort Ward | 0427 552 468  
nbeattie@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



**Cr Dan Straub**

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

## Healthy Minds Network art competition

In an effort to continue to raise awareness of mental health within the Loddon community, the Loddon Healthy Minds Network is conducting its art competition again in 2024.

Categories include an Open Age section, Senior Students (years 9 to 12) and middle school students (grades 5 to Year 8).

There are also two junior students' categories – grades 3 and 4 and grades Prep to 2.

The two themes for the Open Age section and Senior Students categories are *Creating my Calm* or *It's Okay to Take a Break*.

Themes for the Middle Grade Students are *Your Feelings are Valid* or *Be Thoughtful About What You Share Online*.

The junior students' categories will be a colouring competition (poster provided to the region's schools), with the theme *Stay Positive* in the Junior Grades (grades 3 and 4) and *Your Feelings Matter* (grades Prep to 2).

All entries are to be completed and delivered to the Loddon Shire office at Wedderburn by 5 August 2024.

To find out more and for entry forms and briefs, please scan the QR code (right).



## Healthy Loddon Campaspe (HLC) news

**Walk this Way** – HLC is excited to launch Walk this Way in Inglewood and Pyramid Hill.

It includes development of a new walking loop in Inglewood township, and installation of seating along walking paths in both towns. Fun footpath stickers will also encourage children and adults to be active.

**Wedderburn StoryWalk project** – Wedderburn's Nardoo Walking track will become a walking story.

Eighteen boards – each one featuring pages of a book, will be installed from Soldiers Memorial Park playground and finish before Chapel Street. Footpath animal footprints from the library will also guide children to the StoryWalk.

**Cooking Healthy Meals project** – Community members in Boort and Inglewood have been cooking healthy

meals as part of the Cooking Healthy Meals project.

The project sees participants prepare, cook and enjoy a healthy meal together using simple, in-season produce.

If you would like to join in, call Boort Resource Information Centre on 5455 2716 or Inglewood Community Neighbourhood House on 5438 3562.

**Adventure Bingo** – Get active and have some fun with Bridgewater Adventure Bingo!

Located along the Bridgewater walking track, Adventure Bingo involves spotting points of interest listed on the Adventure Bingo card.

Once you have spotted three items in a vertical, horizontal or diagonal line, you've got Bingo!

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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