

LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL

Notice of an Ordinary Meeting of the Loddon Shire Council to be held in the Council Chambers, Serpentine on Monday 27 May 2013 at 3.30pm.

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1. **APOLOGIES**

Nil

2. **PREVIOUS MINUTES**

2.1 **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

SUMMARY

Approval of the Forum Minutes of 22 April 2013.
Approval of Ordinary Minutes of 22 April 2013
Approval of the Special Forum Minutes of 23 April 2013
Approval of the Special Council Meeting Minutes of 13 May 2013

Author: John McLinden - Chief Executive Officer

File No: 02/01/001

Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirm:

1. *the minutes of the Council Forum of 22 April 2013*
2. *the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 22 April 2013*
3. *the minutes of the Special Council Forum of 23 April 2013*
4. *The minutes of the Special Council Meeting of 13 May 2013*

2.2 **REVIEW OF ACTION SHEET**

SUMMARY

Approval of Action Sheet.

Author: John McLinden - Chief Executive Officer

File No: 02/01/001

Attachment: 2.2 Action Sheet

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Action Sheet.

3. INWARDS CORRESPONDENCE

SUMMARY

Relevant correspondence received by Council since previous meeting.

Author: John McLinden - Chief Executive Officer

File No:

Attachment: Copies of inwards correspondence

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. *receives and notes the Inwards Correspondence*
2. *nominates a councillor or officer to represent Loddon Shire on the project assessment committee to be established by Dr Stone for the federal electorate of Murray.*

Date	From	Subject
22/4/13	Central Murray Regional Waste Management Group	Notice of Annual Meeting, Appointment of Directors, Nomination of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson
23/4/13	Calder Highway Improvement Committee	Priorities for improvements along the Calder Highway
26/4/13	The Hon Dr Sharman Stone, Federal Member for Murray	<p>The attached correspondence advises Council that the Honourable Dr Sharman Stone MP, Federal member for Murray, is making available, out of Australian government funds, an amount of \$20,000 to the Loddon Shire to assist with the commemoration of the Centenary of Anzac.</p> <p>Council has established a Centenary of Anzac organising committee, and this committee meets infrequently to plan the commemoration of the Centenary of Anzac in Loddon Shire. The above correspondence will be forwarded to that committee for its consideration.</p> <p>In the correspondence, Dr Stone is inviting Council to nominate a committee member to represent this municipality for the purpose of assessing grant applications for the Centenary of Anzac fund to be managed by Dr Stone.</p>
13/05/13	Australian Local Government Association	Prime Minister announces local government referendum

4. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

4.1 MAYORAL REPORT

SUMMARY

Approval of the Mayoral Report.

Author: John McLinden – Chief Executive Officer

File No: 02/01/001

Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Mayoral Report.

4.2 COUNCILLORS' REPORT

SUMMARY

Approval of Councillors' Reports.

Author: John McLinden – Chief Executive Officer

File No: 02/01/001

Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Councillors' Report.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

5.1 DOCUMENTS FOR SIGNING AND SEALING

SUMMARY

This report provides Council with a list of documents signed and sealed during the month.

Author: John McLinden - Chief Executive Officer

File No: 02/01/001

Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. receive and note the 'Document for Signing and Sealing' report*
- 2. endorse the use of the seal on the documents listed*

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil

BACKGROUND

N/A

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Instruments of Delegation for:

- Inglewood Community Sports Centre Committee of Management
- Boort Development Committee of Management
- Boort Memorial Hall Committee of Management
- Bridgewater on Loddon Development Committee of Management
- Campbell's Forest Hall Committee of Management
- Dingee Progress Association Committee of Management
- Donaldson Park Committee of Management
- East Loddon Community Centre Committee of Management
- Jones Eucalyptus Distillery Site Committee of Management
- Pyramid Hill Memorial Hall Committee of Management
- Pyramid Hill Swimming Pool Committee of Management
- Wedderburn Mechanics and Literary Institute Hall Committee of Management
- Yando Public Hall Committee of Management
- Boort Aerodrome Committee of Management
- Korong Vale Mechanics Hall Committee of Management

5.2 CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

SUMMARY

Type summary of report here in one or two sentences.

Author: John McLinden

File No: 02/04/001

Attachment: Letter from Municipal Association of Victoria

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. *participate in the national 'yes' campaign at the local level*
2. *provide a voluntary financial contribution of the amount of \$6724 to the Municipal Association of Victoria to support the yes campaign for the Constitutional Recognition of Local Government Referendum*

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council has been briefed at previous Council Forums on the progress of the campaign for Constitutional recognition of local government.

BACKGROUND

The federal government has recently announced that it proposes to proceed with a referendum on the issue of Constitutional Recognition of Local Government. This decision means that local governments throughout Australia have approximately four months in which to mount an education campaign encouraging communities throughout Australia to support this proposal.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The fundamental purpose of recognising local government in the Australian Constitution is to ensure that federal governments have the ability to channel funds directly to local government in Australia, and to do this in a way that is legally acceptable. There have been a number of recent High Court challenges, including two cases known as Williams and Pape, where the ability of the Commonwealth government to fund non-state government bodies has been challenged, and these challenges have been successful.

In expectation of this announcement, the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) has written to this municipality seeking support for a constitutional recognition yes campaign. This proposal is being auspiced by the Australian Local Government Association and rolled out within each state through the local state municipal peak body (in Victoria's case, the Municipal Association of Victoria).

COSTS/BENEFITS

It is beneficial to the long-term financial sustainability of rural municipalities to provide for the recognition of local government in the Australian Constitution.

The MAV is proposing a voluntary levy to be paid by each municipality to fund a yes campaign. This campaign will require in the order of \$10 million. At the March meeting of the MAV Board, the Board resolved to adopt a methodology using population and revenue to set the voluntary contribution amount for each member Council. The Loddon Shire's contribution will be \$6724 under this model.

RISK ANALYSIS

Nil

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Nil

5.3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT INSPECTORATE AUDIT – PROGRESS REPORT

SUMMARY

This report provides an update on actions from the Local Government Inspectorate Audit.

Author: John McLinden, Chief Executive Officer

File No: 02/04/001

Attachment: LGI Compliance Loddon Council Action Plan Progress Report

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Local Government Inspectorate Audit – Progress Report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

December 2011 – In-camera: Local Government Investigations and Compliance Inspectorate – Compliance Audit.

February, May, August, November 2012 – Local Government Inspectorate Audit progress report.

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Investigations and Compliance Inspectorate undertook a compliance audit at the Loddon Shire from 5 to 9 September 2011. The final report was received by Loddon Shire on 28 November and contained a number of recommended actions.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

In order to ensure that Council meets its obligations to the Inspectorate, a quarterly reporting regime has been established so that Council may measure progress against the required actions to achieve full compliance with the audit. This report is the second of those progress reports.

The attached schedule provides progress to date.

COSTS/BENEFITS

Nil.

RISK ANALYSIS

The Local Government Inspectorate has undertaken to follow up with Council once the action dates have passed. This may pose a reputational risk if the timelines are not met.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Each action within the progress report has its own process for consultation and engagement where necessary.

5.4 IMPLICATIONS FOR VICTORIA'S HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE SERVICE FROM THE NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME

SUMMARY

The Victorian government has signed an agreement that will transfer responsibility for Home and Community Care for over 65 year-olds to the Commonwealth.

Author: John McLinden, Chief Executive Officer

File No: 12/07/001

Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the Implications for Victoria's Home and Community Care Service from the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil.

BACKGROUND

The Victorian government has signed a Heads of Agreement with the Commonwealth government to ensure that the National Disability Insurance Scheme known as DisabilityCare Australia will be provided to Victorians in need of disability care. One of the consequences of this agreement is that the Victorian government has agreed to include the National Health Reform Agreement 2011 and that this agreement be amended to reflect that the responsibility for Home and Community Care for over 65 year-olds will be transferred to the Commonwealth.

The relevant wording in the NDIS Heads of Agreement (pg 3) is:

"The Commonwealth and Victoria agree to implement changes to the roles and responsibilities of the Victorian and Commonwealth governments for people aged over and under 65, consistent with the roles and responsibilities of other state governments (except Western Australia) as set out in Schedule F of the National Health Reform Agreement 2011, amended to reflect any changes required by the introduction of the NDIS. Once these arrangements have been finalised, the Commonwealth will fund 100 per cent of supports for non-Indigenous participants who turn 65, and Indigenous participants who turn 50, and choose to remain in the scheme from 1 July 2015. The Commonwealth and Victoria will work together to retain the benefits of Victoria's current Home and Community Care service system."

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Council may recall that there was a strong local government campaign to avoid signing up to the National Health Reform Agreement. These arrangements effectively mean that whereas previously Victoria was excluded from this health reform, the signing up to the Heads of Agreement by the current government to ensure that the National Disability Insurance Scheme applies to Victorians also means that Home and Community Care will now be the responsibility of the federal government.

These arrangements will not come into place until 2016/17 so Council will have sufficient time to make adjustments as the details of this agreement rolls out.

As further information becomes available, Council will be kept informed of the implications for our current provision of Home and Community Care services to the population of Loddon.

COSTS/BENEFITS

It is likely this change will have significant funding implications for Victoria and for local governments. Currently local government in Victoria puts over \$100 million into Home and Community Care, and it is

unknown whether local government will wish to continue to subsidise home and community care to this extent without the support of the state government. It is also unclear as to whether the Commonwealth Government will be prepared to have arrangements and agreements with each municipality in Victoria providing Home and Community Care, or whether there will be a push for larger regional arrangements.

RISK ANALYSIS

Discussed above.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Nil

6. DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES' REPORTS

6.1 FINANCE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 APRIL 2013

SUMMARY

This report provides Council with financial information for the period ending 30 April 2013.

Author: James Rendell - Manager Financial Services

File No: 8/06/001

Attachment: 6.1

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *Receives and notes the "Finance Report for the period ending 30 April 2013"*
2. *Approves budget revisions included in the report for internal reporting purposes only.*

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council is provided with Finance Reports on a monthly basis.

BACKGROUND

The Finance Report for the period ended 30 April 2013 includes standard monthly information about budget variations, cash, investments, interest, debtors and creditors, and provides a comparison of year-to-date actual results to year-to-date budget (by dollars and percentage) and total revised budget (by percentage).

The information is in the format provided in the 2012/2013 Budget, and includes operating results, capital expenditure and funding sources. It also provides a focus report.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Nil.

COSTS/BENEFITS

The benefit to Council and the community is that accurate and regular financial reporting is being disclosed and the approved budget is being monitored on a constant basis.

Provision of financial reports on at least a quarterly basis is a requirement of the Local Government Act.

RISK ANALYSIS

Council's management of projects against budget at officer level, and the provision of regular and accurate finance reports to Council minimises the risk of Council not delivering projects within the approved budget.

Council's practice of revising budgets as changes become known provides current information about the expected results for the financial year, and assists in forward planning for future budgets.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

There has been considerable consultation internally with respective managers in understanding their budget responsibilities and keeping within budgetary constraints.

External engagement with the community was undertaken during the submission period of the budget, and regular reporting provides a mechanism of monitoring the financial outcomes of Council against that expectation.

6.2 SUPPLEMENTARY VALUATIONS REPORT

SUMMARY

This report provides Council with the Supplementary Valuations that have been undertaken since March 2013, and seeks approval to have them included in Council's Rate Book for the 2012/2013 rating year.

Author: Julie Ritchie – Revenue Collector

File No: 09/01/003

Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves the Supplementary Valuations of rateable and non-rateable properties in respect of the 2012/2013 financial year, as returned by the Shire Valuer, LG Valuations Pty Ltd, and endorses them being incorporated into the Register of Rateable and Non-Rateable Properties and Rate Book for 2012/2013.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council is provided with Supplementary valuation Reports periodically.

BACKGROUND

Each year Council makes a number of additions, subtractions and alterations to the valuations contained in the annual rate book. These changes arise from various sources including:

- Splitting of parcels into new rateable assessments
- Development of vacant or unproductive land (urban and rural)
- Consolidation of separate rateable assessments into one assessment
- Re-assessment of property valuations arising from objections to the initial valuation
- Additions and cancellations of Licences (Grazing and Water Frontages)
- Change of Use
- Covenant on Title – Trust for Nature
- Area amendment.

The following table shows the number and type of changes to properties to May 2013 as a result of 34 Supplementary Valuations being processed:

Details	No	Site Value (\$)	CIV (\$)	NAV (\$)
Splits/Consolidations	23	157,000	163,000	9,150
Covenant Trust for Nature	1	(11,000)	(11,000)	(550)
Licences	2	1,000	1,000	50
Improvements: Urban	3	28,000	131,000	6,550
Improvements: Rural	2	37,000	142,000	7,100
Amended Area	3	(11,000)	(11,000)	(550)
Total	34	\$201,000	\$415,000	21,750

CIV = Capital improved value, NAV = Net annual value

This table shows the change of valuations in total:

	Valuation approved by Council December 2012	Supplementary Valuations/Objections	Current Valuation
Site Value	965,270,100	201,000	965,471,100
Capital Improved Value	1,557,853,400	415,000	1,558,268,400
Net Annual Value	79,820,571	21,750	79,842,321

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Three Deeds of Covenant have been registered recently and relate to one property. Through these covenants the owner of the land has secured permanent protection for significant natural heritage within the municipality.

Section 2(6) of the Valuation of Land Act 1960 states that land which is covenanted must be valued for rating purposes on the basis *'that the owner of the land is bound by that covenant as to the development or use of the land or part of the land.,* This has resulted in the valuation being revisited via a supplementary valuation and the CIV being reduced in accordance with the restrictions in the use of and development of the land outlined in the covenant.

COSTS/BENEFITS

The benefit to Council is that an accurate representation of property valuations is reflected in Council's rating system.

RISK ANALYSIS

Council's risk exposure is increased if the rating system does not reflect the valuation changes associated with supplementary valuations as Council will not be aware of the changes, which can alter the rate revenue in the current year, and in future rating years.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Consultation with ratepayers and authorities that act on behalf of ratepayers occurs when a change to a property is required or occurs by virtue of a sale.

6.3 2010-2012 INSURANCE AUDITS

SUMMARY

This report provides Council with information in respect to the 2010-2012 Insurance Audits.

Author: Carol Canfield – Manager Organisational Development

File No: 08/07/006

Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council received and notes the “2010-2012” Insurance Audits Report

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council was provided with a report on the outcome of the previous insurance audits on 24 October 2011.

BACKGROUND

Council participates in the bi-annual Public Liability and Professional Indemnity and Property Risk audits undertaken by our insurers. These audits identify opportunities for Council to improve on its management of potential incidents that may give rise to a liability claim.

Previously each year the insurers conducted audits annually. In mid-2008 the insurer altered the frequency of the full audits from annual to bi-annual with a review in the interim year.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

For the 2010-1/12 audit period Council received audits and reviews as follows:

Public liability and professional indemnity audit

- Full audit conducted on 15 March 2012 with an initial score of 69%
- Review conducted on 15 March 2013 with a reviewed score of 74%

Table below shows the movement in scores from the full audit to the review:

Category	Maximum Points	Actual Points	Progress Points
Organisational Risk Management – <i>Risk Management Systems</i>	50	25	27
Reactive Risk Management – <i>Incident Investigation Procedures</i>	4	4	4
Proactive inspections- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Roads/Footpaths - Road Management Effectiveness and compliance</i> • <i>Roads/Footpaths – Documentation Requirements</i> • <i>Roads/Footpaths – Contractors</i> • <i>Recreation Reserves – Sporting</i> • <i>Suitability Assessments</i> • <i>Swimming Pools</i> • <i>Trees – Urban Street Trees, Parks & Reserves</i> 	98	76	84
Written Agreements – <i>Special Committees (S86), Seasonal Users of Council Facilities</i>	12	1	1
Building/Town Planning – <i>Essential Safety</i>	30	24	25

<i>Measures, Town Planning</i>			
Food – <i>Food Safety</i>	13	13	13
Total Points	207	143	154
Percentage	100%	69%	74%

During the review there were increases in scores for Organisational Risk Management, Proactive Inspections and Building/Town Planning.

The worst performing areas are in respect to Organisational Risk in particular Embedded Risks and Special Committees (Section 86 Committees). It is recognised that improvement is required in these areas, and work is currently being undertaken in both.

JMAPP (Jardine Municipal Protection Plan) property risk audit

- Full audit conducted on 7 June 2011 with an initial score of 64%
- Review conducted on 8 March 2012 no updated score

This is a systems based audit with validating onsite visits. Three facilities are chosen each audit cycle for an onsite inspection. The three facilities inspected were Inglewood Court House, Inglewood Senior Citizen’s Centre and Inglewood Town Hall.

The objective is to encourage councils to minimise exposures by ensuring that appropriate policies and procedures are in place for management of facilities and their risks.

The table below show the scores and percentages in each category

Category	Maximum Points	Actual Points	Percentage
Accountabilities and Awareness – <i>Accountabilities, Training & Performance Monitoring</i>	70	47	67%
Inspection & Design Risk Assessment – <i>Inspections, Capital Projects, Hot Work Permit Controls</i>	75	29	39%
Incident Response & Prevention - <i>Procedures</i>	63	53	84%
Business Continuity Management	47	30	64%
Site Assessment – <i>Inspections & quality council inspections</i>	45	33	73%
Total Points	300	192	
Percentage	100%	64%	

Considerable work has been done in all areas which is reflected in the improvement in the scores for the 2012/14 full Audit (as below).

State audit ranking – 2010-2012

The State Audit Rankings for the 2010-12 audits have been released by the insurers; these rankings are based on the initial audits. Council’s ranking is shown in the following table:

Audit	Audit Score	North Western Region Ranking (10 municipalities)	State Ranking (78 municipalities)
Public and Professional Indemnity	69%	6	65
JMAPP Property Risk	64%	8	54

At the JLT Risk and Best Practice Forum held at Horsham on 23 April 2013 the best performers in the 2010-2012 audits were announced and Loddon Shire received:

- Joint highest score in the region for Swimming Pools – 100%
- Joint highest score in the region for Food Safety– 100%
- All Councils in the region received 100% for Reactive Risk Management

The table below shows a history of Council’s audit scores since 2003/04:

Years	Public and Professional Indemnity	JMAPP
2010/12	69.00%	64.00%
2009/10	72.00%	No updated score
2008/09	67.00%	64.70%
2007/08	55.00%	48.67%
2006/07	71.00%	60.00%
2005/06	64.00%	64.40%
2004/05	62.00%	52.20%
2003/04	51.00%	74.30%

2012-2014 audit cycle

The new round of audits have commenced for the period 2012-2014. There has been significant changes to the audit questions for both audits.

JMAPP

For the JMAPP audit the overall number of questions has reduced from 42 to 17 with more emphasis on site inspections, which now accounts for 38% of the score. Other areas of emphasis are questions relating to;

- Timeliness of claim lodgement
- Retention of ‘master keys’ for Council’s insured assets
- A revised approach to Business Continuity Plans in accordance with current standards and good practice.

Council JMAPP Audit is in the first year of the audit cycle with the audit having been conducted on 3 April, 2013. Council received an initial score of 66%. This score was an increase from the 2010-2012 initial score (64%). The insurers advised that due to the change in questions most Council had been experiencing a decrease in the initial score.

Scores for the 5 sections of the audit were:

1. Accountability & Continuous Improvement	100%
2. Proactive Risk Management	36%
3. Reactive Risk Management	100%
4. Business Continuity Management	100%
5. JMAPP Site Inspections	44%

Public liability and professional indemnity

The questions in this audit have also changed to put more emphasis on the areas not performing well. Council is scheduled to receive a full audit in the early part of 2014.

Changes in this round of audits include:

- Tree management section has been revised to examine whether Council's have adopted a risk based approach to the allocation of resources for managing trees. When assessing Council's tree inspection process, the audit will now assess compliance against what Council has deemed reasonable in accordance with their tree management policy.
- Council buildings and permit authority functions has now been included.
- Special committees section has been expanded to incorporate Council's responsibilities to maintain registers of delegations and interest.
- Town planning section has been expanded to include questions on Council's enforcement responsibilities as well as questions derived from recent claims.
- A new section on stormwater/drainage management has been inserted due to increasing levels of claims. A major focus of the questions is ensuring Councils have stormwater management plans and procedures in place.

COSTS/BENEFITS

Nil

RISK ANALYSIS

Nil

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Nil

**6.4 SECTION 86 COMMITTEES OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP -
BOORT AERODROME, BOORT MEMORIAL HALL, KORONG VALE MECHANICS HALL, AND
PYRAMID HILL MEMORIAL HALL COMMITTEES OF MANAGEMENT**

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council's appointment of members to the Boort Aerodrome, Boort Memorial Hall, Korong Vale Mechanics Hall, and Pyramid Hill Memorial Hall Section 86 committees of management.

Author: Jude Holt, Director Corporate Services

File No: 02/01/007, 02/01/010, 02/01/026, 02/01/031

Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council appoints members to the Boort Aerodrome, Boort Memorial Hall, Korong Vale Mechanics Hall, and Pyramid Hill Memorial Hall Section 86 committees of management, effective immediately, as per the names provided in this report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council has been progressively approving committee membership of Section 86 committees of management as they are provided.

BACKGROUND

Council has been progressively approving amended Instruments of Delegation for Section 86 committees of management.

Included in the amended delegations is Clause 3.6 which outlines the requirement for nomination and appointment of committee members, which is as follows:

Members and Office Bearers of the Committee

At the Annual General Meeting each year nominations shall be called for proposed members of the committee. The committee must then elect from its proposed members the following office bearers:

- *President, who shall be Chairperson of the Committee*
- *Secretary*
- *Treasurer.*

The full list of proposed members must be forwarded to Council for formal appointment at an Ordinary Meeting of Council, in accordance with section 86(2). Until this formal appointment by Council occurs, the previous committee members will continue to hold office.

As contact has been made with committees, a form has been issued to them asking them to provide their current committee members' names and contact details.

Where delegations have organisation representatives (not community representatives), the names and details of the groups being represented are provided in the list.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Clause 3.3 Membership of the committee outlines Council's preferred composition of the committee specific to each delegation, and states that Council seeks to provide broad representation to the committees.

For community based committees, that is at least 6 community representatives.

For organisation based committees, each delegation has a list of organisations that are required to provide representatives for the committee.

The committees of management presented are all community based committees, which have preferred representation of at least 6 community members. The following is a list of nominated representatives for each committee, all of which exceed the minimum requirement:

Boort Aerodrome	Boort Memorial Hall	Korong Vale Mechanics Hall	Pyramid Hill Memorial Hall
Darren Allison (President & Secretary)	Jeanette Wagner (President)	John Charry (President)	Ronald Peacock (President)
Ken Loader (Treasurer)	Ken Loader (Vice President)	Sandra Sugden (Vice President)	Graeme Stevens (Vice President)
Barry Barnes	Judy Parker (Treasurer/Secretary)	Lyn Chapman (Secretary & Treasurer)	Kathleen Wood (Secretary & Treasurer)
Campbell Chalmers	Karen Coutts (Assistant Treasurer)	Amon Sinnott	Betty Mann
John Kane	Edna Boyle	Debra Rowen	Bill Quinn
John Mackley	Isobel Loader	Heather Charry	Cheryl Bartels
Raymond Stone	Marj Potter	Jenny Bligh	Colin Mann
	Ian Potter	Lyn Charlesworth	David James
	Stuart Coutts	Rebecca Robertson	Janette Vincent
	Ivan Streader	Rob Chapman	Jennifer Prior
	Jan Rawlins	Rob Tolley	Sherrie Gumley
	Reg Brown	Terry Robertson	
	Kevin Sutton		
	Neil Beattie		
	Nola Stringer		
	Alan Stringer		

COSTS/BENEFITS

The benefit of this project is that Council has an up to date and accurate record of current committee members to ensure that contact can be made, particularly where Council is requesting committees to comply with reporting requirements under the legislation.

RISK ANALYSIS

Section 86 Committees act for and on behalf of Council which creates a risk for Council should they ever act outside their delegated authority.

Under Section 86(2) of the Act, "Council may appoint members to a special committee and may at any time remove a member from a special committee".

Council's appointment of committee members, not only satisfies the legislation, but also provides Council with the opportunity to sight the list of committee members before formally appointing them as they are the people that will be operating the committees, and in effect, acting for and on behalf of Council over the course of the year.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Council has been advising committees in writing of the requirement to provide the list of committee members nominated at their Annual General Meeting, which requires Council approval.

6.5 INTEREST FREE LOAN APPLICATION – WEDDERBURN GOLF CLUB

SUMMARY

The report seeks Council's approval of an interest free loan to the Wedderburn Golf Club for \$5,000.

Author: James Rendell Manager Financial Services

File No: 07/02/001

Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves the Wedderburn Golf Club application for an interest free loan of \$5,000 to be repaid over 5 years, with equal instalments of \$1,000.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil

BACKGROUND

Council provides a pool of \$100,000 in the Reserves Improvement Reserve (known as the interest free loan scheme) which is made available to community groups to assist in funding approved projects in the form of interest free loans.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Council has received a request from the Wedderburn Golf Club for an interest free loan of \$5,000 to assist with the cost of installing solar panels on their clubhouse. They have received a quote for \$15,000, and will be applying for a Council Community Grant for the remainder of the cost of the project, being \$10,000.

Currently the pool has \$39,600 available for loan issues, with \$60,400 outstanding to Council by local community groups.

Should the application be successful, the loan would be payable to Council over 5 years at \$1,000 per instalment on the anniversary of the loan date.

COSTS/BENEFITS

There is no direct cost to Council; indirect costs are administration of the loan and lost interest on investment related to the loan amount.

The benefit to Council and the community is energy savings by the club, and installation of an environmentally friendly resource.

RISK ANALYSIS

There is no risk associated if Council chooses not to approve the loan as the club understands fully that a successful loan application does not obligate Council with regards to the club's Community Grant application.

The risk of granting the loan is the potential for default; however, Council has had no default in repayments during the life of the program.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Community consultation is not required with this proposal.

Council's Manager Recreation & Community Development has been consulted, and the Community Grant Scheme funding criteria fits the club's application of a 2:1 ratio.

7. DIRECTOR OPERATIONS' REPORTS

7.1 PLANNING APPLICATIONS CURRENTLY BEING PROCESSED

SUMMARY

Provides Council with an update on Planning applications currently under consideration and a register of planning permits issued between 9 April 2013 and 6 May 2013.

Author: Tyson Sutton – Manager Planning & Local Laws

File No: 02/01/001

Attachment: 7.1(a) List of Active Planning Applications
7.1(b) List of Applications Approved under Delegation

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes 'Planning Applications Currently Being Processed' report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council is provided with a monthly report identifying the status of planning applications currently under consideration or those permits which have been issued within the preceding month.

BACKGROUND

The Loddon Shire's Planning Scheme sets out Council's objectives for the Shire with regard to land use and development via the Municipal Strategic Statement and Local Policies, and specifies which uses and developments require planning approval via zones and overlays.

As the responsible Authority it is Loddon Shire Council's duty to administer and enforce its planning scheme.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Attachments 7.1(a) and 7.1(b) provides Council with a full list of planning applications currently under consideration and those planning permits issued between 9 April 2013 and 6 May 2013.

COSTS/BENEFITS

Nil

RISK ANALYSIS

Failure to process planning applications in a timely manner or undertake rigorous assessment of development or works proposals is considered to pose the following risks:

- Barrier to development and associated economic growth within the Shire
- Proliferation of incompatible land use development
- Council's reputation as a regulatory authority
- Infrastructure, service provision or regulatory and enforcement pressures
- Protection of zones to accommodate intended activities or reduction of surrounding property amenity

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Consultation and engagement with planning permit applicants is routinely conducted at the required periods throughout the assessment and permit approval process.

7.2 ROAD NETWORK DEFECT RECTIFICATION COMPLIANCE SUMMARY REPORT

SUMMARY

Provides a summary of Loddon Shires compliance against its Road Management Plan for the period 1 January 2013 to 31 March 2013, being the Third Quarter of the 2012/2013 Financial Year.

Author: Steven Phillips – Manager Works

File No: 14/01/022

Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the road network defect rectification compliance summary report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

At its ordinary meeting held on 25 February 2013, Council was presented with a report summarising road network defect rectification compliance against requirements specified within the Loddon Shire Road Management Plan (RMP).

BACKGROUND

This report is produced quarterly and provides Council with evidence of the Loddon Shire's performance against requirements specified within the Loddon Shire Road Management Plan.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The following Defect Compliance Summary Report outlines Councils compliance against requirements specified within the Road Management Plan for the most recent quarter. The report indicates compliance by percentage for each of Councils Road Patrol Areas.

Defect Compliance Summary Report

Report Date: 8 May 2013

Table 1 – Quarter 3

Date Range: 1 January 2013 to 31 March 2013

Number of Works Actions	Number Completed By Due Date	Number Completed After Due Date	Number Not Completed	Compliance %	District
11	11	0	0	100.0%	Boort
81	79	2	0	97.5%	Newbridge
136	125	11	0	91.9%	Pyramid Hill
51	49	2	0	96.1%	Wedderburn

DEFINITIONS

Number of Works Actions - Within the date range, count the defects that were due for action

Number Completed by Due Date - From those defects in Column A to be rectified, how many were rectified by the due date

Number Completed After Due Date - From those defects in Column A to be rectified, how many were rectified outside the due date

Number Not Completed - Column A - Column B - Column C

Compliance % - Column B Divided by Column A

District - Grouped By The AssetSyst District

During the 3 Quarter of 2012/2013, 96.4% of all date imposed defects were completed before there due date. This is below the target of 100% of date imposed defects repaired by due date. It is noted however that all defects have now been completed and there are no outstanding date imposed defects.

As previously reported to Council compliance with the Loddon Shire Road Management Plan over the past 23 months has been made difficult due to, availability of resources and demand in the Flood Restoration Program leading to requirements for ongoing defect prioritisation.

COSTS/BENEFITS

Nil

RISK ANALYSIS

Repairing 100% of all date imposed defects before there due date limits Councils liability for any claims of damage made against Council. We have received no claims of damage for this quarter as a result of defects on Councils road network.

An action plan has been put in place that includes the following:

- Ongoing processes were each District's outstanding defects are reviewed and prioritised for completion.
- If the defect is unable to be completed then it is inspected and made safe until it can be completed.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Nil

7.3 REVIEW OF COUNCIL BUILDING CONTROL POLICY

SUMMARY

Seeks Council approval of the Building Control Policy which has been revised to include provisions relating to places of public entertainment.

Author: David Turner – Municipal Building Surveyor

File No: 18/01/001

Attachment: Building Control Policy (including Attachments)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the revised Building Control Policy

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The current Building Control Policy was adopted by Council at its ordinary meeting on 23 July 2012.

BACKGROUND

Council maintains responsibilities under Section 212 of the Building Act 1993 (the Act), to administer and enforce specified parts of the Act and the whole of the Building Regulations 2006 (the Regulations) within its municipal boundaries.

As with many other responsibilities, Council has the ability to determine how it will carry out these functions having regard to competing obligations and limited resources.

By having appropriate policies and procedures in place with respect to the delivery of its obligations under both the Act and the Regulations, Council will reduce its exposure to risk and provide guidance to Council officers with regard to expectations for the provision of municipal building services within the municipality.

Council's Municipal Building Surveyor is a member of the Victorian Municipal Building Surveyor's Group, (VMBSG) which also strongly supports the use of policies and procedures to outline how Council will meet its obligations under relevant legislation.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Since Council's Building Control Policy was first adopted, the Municipal Building Surveyor (MBS) has been successfully implemented the intent of this policy through the various services offered, to the benefit of users of Council's building services and the general public.

Over the past year however, issues surrounding Places of Public Entertainment have continually arisen in the media, specifically with respect to regional football clubs as well as community-based organisations.

Concerns expressed through the media with regard to places of public entertainment include:

- requirement to apply and adhere to the legislation
- variation in the cost of obtaining place of public entertainment occupancy permits
- varying degrees of awareness of the requirement to obtain an occupancy permit
- lack of understanding of the intent of the legislation.

It is believed that the predominant issue with regard to current requirements for obtaining place of public entertainment occupancy permits is that the legislation is far too broad and as a result captures events that pose little or no risk.

In addition, relevant definitions require subjective interpretation resulting in inconsistent interpretation and misunderstanding amongst both the regulators and the regulated.

It has been acknowledged that a Municipal Building Surveyor is responsible for issuing place of public entertainment occupancy permits for proposed public entertainment events in places within the municipality as well as existing buildings that provide public entertainment.

It is clear that the overarching purpose of the place of public entertainment occupancy permit is to protect Victorian public at events by ensuring that those who attend public entertainment in all its forms are not exposed to an unacceptable risk to their health or safety, nevertheless there is a lack of guidance regarding the policy intent of the legislation and whether it was intended to capture such a broad range of events.

Evidence suggests that the current requirements for a place of public entertainment occupancy permit in many situations is not adding any value to community safety and is imposing an unjustifiable administration and cost burden. Although the legislation has been in operation over the past 18 years there is no real evidence that these events have been causing harm to the public that attend.

If a strict interpretation of the definitions is applied a place in public entertainment occupancy permit is required to almost every type of place public entertainment making many events economically unviable. Because there are many small-scale events it would also be almost impossible for local government to administer all existing places of public entertainment that do not currently have a place of public entertainment occupancy permit, this is because of the sheer numbers of existing buildings and places.

There are nearly 3000 football clubs in Victoria and other sporting facilities such as soccer netball basketball and other sporting venues where the public attend which are likely not to have occupancy permits. In addition, all existing nightclubs and music venues, places of worship, public fetes and shows such as local flower shows also fall under the legislation.

Taking the above into consideration, the Municipal Building Surveyor has carried out a comprehensive review and amendment of the Building Control Policy so as to incorporate clauses which are believed to address Part 5 of the Building Act 1993 and Parts 11 and 12 of the Building Regulations 2006, which relate specifically to places of public entertainment.

In implementing this proposed policy amendments consideration will be given to maintaining a simple, cost effective and efficient approval service during the development of a detailed procedure which will dictate how place of public entertainment approvals are processed and issued.

COSTS/BENEFITS

Because the legislation is so broad, and is intended to capture such a varying scale of public events, the resources required to administer the process will have a significant impact on the functions of the building department of Council.

Accordingly implementation of a simple, cost effective and efficient approval procedure is expected to offer the greatest benefit to the local community whilst containing expected costs to Council.

RISK ANALYSIS

Because Council is responsible under Section 212 of the Act to administer and enforce specified parts of the Act and the whole of the Regulations within its municipal boundaries, failure to endorse the amended Building Control Policy for period of three (3) years will expose the Council to actions from persons a places of public entertainment who are injured or unjustly treated

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Not Applicable

8. DIRECTOR ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY REPORTS

8.1 WEDDERBURN STREETScape REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

SUMMARY

The report recommends a funding structure for the Wedderburn Streetscape project and the allocation of the Community Planning Strategic Fund

Author: Bryan McEwan, Director Economy and Community

File No: 13/09/001

Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *Approve the proposed funding structure*
2. *Commit the 2013/2014 Community Planning Strategic Fund to the Wedderburn Streetscape project*

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council was presented with a report at the February 2013 meeting which proposed funding options for the Wedderburn Streetscape Project.

Council had preference to complete the project:

- as soon as possible,
- proceed as a single stage, continuous development,
- Include the project within a potential further round of funding under the Regional Development Australia Fund.

BACKGROUND

Since the February report, a further contribution to the project has been confirmed with the announcement by the state government of an allocation of \$500,000 under the Local Government Infrastructure Programme (LGIP).

While it was preferred that the project attract further funding under the Regional Development Australia Fund (intended to enable funding of underground power), the announcement of a further round of the RDAF in the near term is looking less likely.

The estimated cost of delivering the project is approximately \$1.6M.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

It is a reasonable assumption that further rounds under the RDAF are unlikely in the near term.

With positive announcements by the State government in relation to a \$500,000 allocation from the Local Government Infrastructure Programme, funding confirmed for the project is:

- \$160,000 sourced from community planning allocations
- \$500,000 Local Government Infrastructure Programme

To fund the remainder of the project, it is proposed that:

- An application is made to the State Government, under the 'Putting Locals First' (PLF) programme, which may result in an allocation of up to \$500,000 for improvements to community infrastructure.
- Commit the 2013/2014 Community Planning Strategic Fund to the project (\$500,000).

The allocation of the Community Planning Strategic Fund and a successful application to the State Government under the PLF would result in the project being fully funded and able to commence.

This funding strategy would enable a commencement of the project in 2013.

COSTS/BENEFITS

Support for township renewal projects assists in local economic development (including tourism) and will add to a sense of local community pride and wellbeing.

RISK ANALYSIS

Risk associated with securing external funding relate to assessment against eligibility criteria and the availability of funding under the programme.

The future of the Regional Development Australia Fund is unclear with subsequent rounds yet to be announced (Round three announcement due for 7 June 2013).

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

A concept plan has been prepared which included extensive community consultation and discussion with council officers. Concept plans have previously been presented to council.

8.2 2013 LODDON POWERCOR EXCELLENCE AWARDS

SUMMARY

Report on preparations for the 2013 Loddon Powercor Excellence Awards.

Author: Christine Coombes Economic Development Officer

File No: 13/09/001

Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the progress report on the 2013 Loddon Powercor Excellence Awards

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

In December 2012, Council approved the Eddington Hall as the venue and Thursday May 30 as the date for the 2013 Loddon Powercor Excellence Awards.

BACKGROUND

In September 2010 Council approved a change to the frequency of the Excellence Awards to biennially rather than yearly. In 2011 the Excellence Awards were held at the Wedderburn Mechanics Institute with awards to be held again in May 2013.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Entry kits went out to all 81 nominees on March 7, with a closing date for entries of April 4.

A total of 22 entries were received and while the number of entries was below average in comparison to the previous years, the majority of entries were of a good standard. There were no entries received in the category of Best Large Business.

The judges have received all entries with the judging process completed on May 16.

Entries - Categories	2013	2011	2010	2009	2008
Young Achiever	1	2	6	3	3
Major Events Award	6	7	7	7	7
Best Tourist Operator (Formerly - Best Tourist Attraction)	1	2	4	5	3
Agriculture & Primary Industries Award (Formerly - Best Primary Production Business)	3	4	3	5	2
Best Small Business	4	4	10	8	7
Best Large Business	0	2	6	8	5
Food, Wine & Hospitality Award (Formerly - Hospitality Award)	5	3	4	3	6
Employee of the Year	2	2	4	7	2
Environmental Sustainability	NA	NA	3	4	NA
Total	22	26	47	50	35

Judges

Judges for 2013 are:

- Young Achiever & Employee – Debra Redman (MEGT) and Josh Pell (Community Telco)
- Small Business - Sue Devereux (Loddon Shire Council) and Jim Smith (The Shamrock Hotel)

- Primary Production – Don Naunton (Naunton & Co Pty Ltd) and Kerry-Anne Jones (Campaspe Shire Council)
- Major Event and Tourism Operator– Trevor Lamb (The Bendigo Trust) and Joel Chadwick (Goldfields Shire Council)
- Hospitality – Sue Devereaux (Loddon Shire Council) and Jim Smith (The Shamrock Hotel)

There are five new judges for 2013. Judges will meet on May 16 to decide winners of each category and Business of the year.

Sponsors

Category Sponsorship has been filled for all categories. On-going sponsors are Powercor, The Loddon Times, Hazeldenes Chicken Farm, MEGT, and Inglewood & Districts Community Bank Branch Bendigo Bank, with one new sponsor being Department of State Development, Business and Innovation.

Venue

The Eddington Hall has been booked for the awards gala evening. Pre-dinner drinks and canapés will be served in the main hall, with guests moving into a marquee for the formal part of the evening.

COSTS/BENEFITS

The Excellence awards give well deserved recognition and highlight the level of professionalism and quality of service that exists within our Shire.

RISK ANALYSIS

An application for a Public Entertainment Event has been submitted with Council's Municipal Building Surveyor with a final inspection to be carried out on May 29. Council's Manager Environmental Health will conduct an inspection of the premises on May 27.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The awards have been widely advertised. Consultation has been undertaken with sponsors and judges as to the process undertaken for the awards. Assistance has been provided to nominees/entrants as required.

8.3 STUDENT COUNTRY/CITY EXCHANGE PROGRAM

SUMMARY

A report on the student country exchange program between Boort District School and the University of Melbourne.

Author: Robyn Vella, Loddon Shire Tourism Manager

File No: 16/07/003

Attachment: Programs of City/Country Exchange

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Student Country/City Exchange Program.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

A report was submitted to the November 2011 Council meeting on a Photographic Exhibition and the Student Exchange program. The project was supported by The University of Melbourne Student Ambassador Leadership program, the Loddon Shire Tourism department, local operators and volunteers.

BACKGROUND

With the devastation of the 2011 January Floods, the University of Melbourne contacted Council and indicated that students from the University involved in a *Student Ambassador Leadership* program, were interested in assisting with flood recovery in Loddon Shire.

In 2012 the opportunity arose again when the University of Melbourne Programs and Projects Coordinator contacted the Loddon Shire Tourism Manager to express their continued interest in working with Council through the Melbourne University Student Country/City Exchange program.

The Student Country/City Exchange program has involved Boort District School Year 10 students with an interest in studying at the University of Melbourne and students from the University of Melbourne with an interest in regional Victoria. The project has been coordinated through the Student Ambassador Leadership program, a representative from Boort District P – 12 School and Loddon Shire Council Tourism.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

In December 2012 six students from Boort District P-12 School accompanied by a teacher travelled to Melbourne via V-Line, to commence a 2night/3day tour of Melbourne. The students were accommodated at the University of Melbourne and had the opportunity to visit a number of attractions including an introduction to the University. **Program attached**

In April 2013 Loddon Shire was host to ten students from the University of Melbourne with specific interests in health, education and engineering. The tour allowed the students to appreciate what a rural area could offer in terms of future employment opportunities as well as an understanding of what living in a rural area could look like. The students travelled via VLine to Pyramid Hill to commence a 2nights/3days tour of the Loddon Shire. While in the area, students stayed at the Boort Lakes Caravan Park with visits to Boort Hospital; Dentist and Doctors practices, Chamberlain and Couper's farms, Lake Marmal Wines, Salute Oliva, The Spanner Man John Piccoli, Simply Tomatoes and Aussie Wool Quilts, Blue Eucy Museum and to the Loddon Shire Council Office in Wedderburn.

The Country Exchange was held during the April school holidays so students from Boort District School, who participated in the City Exchange program, were able to organise visits to family farms and general activities in Boort. **Program attached**

COSTS/BENEFITS

The Country/City Exchange program enabled Loddon Shire to establish a partnership with the University of Melbourne through the Student Ambassador Leadership Program. This program introduced a group of university students to our region that had limited or no knowledge of the Loddon Shire. These students were from a range of university courses/interests and a diversity of cultural backgrounds.

Local operators, students and volunteers involved in the program were able to show case life in the region to the students, present local opportunities and success stories and remain in close proximity to a major city.

RISK ANALYSIS

Due to a reduction in funding, the Student Ambassador Leadership program is no longer available. Loddon Shire Tourism Manager is currently working with The University of Melbourne to encourage the continuation of the Student Country/City Exchange program.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Student Country/City Exchange program is another avenue for students to explore and know more about our region.

The state government is encouraging people to move to Regional Victoria to live and work, and this program represents a unique example of how city based and international students could be introduced to our region.



8.4 2013 NATURALLY LODDON A WONDERLAND IN SPRING

SUMMARY

This is a progress report of the 2013 Naturally Loddon a wonderland in spring festival to be conducted from the 30 August to the 27 October.

Author: Robyn Vella Loddon Shire Tourism Manager

File No: 16/07/003

Attachment: Draft Naturally Loddon a wonderland in spring brochure and poster

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the 'Naturally Loddon a wonderland in spring festival' report

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

A report was submitted to the November 2012 Council meeting which outlined the outcome of the 2012 *Naturally Loddon a Wonderland in spring* festival. The report identified the number of participants at each event as well as the type and number of organisations involved. The report also indicated the festival's reliance on volunteers, with organisations currently involved with the festival is finding it hard to attract new volunteers.

BACKGROUND

The Naturally Loddon a Wonderland in spring festival is an initiative of the Loddon Shire Nature Tourism Advisory Team and is an action from the Nature Tourism Plan.

The 2013 festival is to be held from the 30 August until 27 October. The majority of the activities are conducted over 9 weekends with the exception of Mulwarrie Studios who are organising photographic exhibitions over the duration of the festival.

Now in its fourth year the Naturally Loddon Festival comprises new and carry-over events, each of which promote our natural environment and highlight the cultural heritage and biodiversity of the Loddon Shire.

The 2013 Nature Tourism festival subcommittee consists of key stakeholders from Friends of Kooyoora, Friends of Terrick Terrick National Park, Inglewood Blue Eucy Museum and Distillery Park committee, Loddon Southern Region Development and Tourism Committee, Boort Art Group, Wedderburn Conservation Management Network, Mulwarrie Studios, Loddon Plains Landcare Network, Parks Victoria and Loddon Shire Council.

The role of the committee is to develop, coordinate and promote a program of events in co-operation with key stake holders and voluntary organisations.

While each organisation is responsible for their event; marketing and promotion is jointly managed through the festival subcommittee and the respective organisations.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The Naturally Loddon Festival for 2013 will host 17 events across several locations throughout the Municipality.

This year the event has attracted new initiatives including a weekend canoe experience, the Blue Eucy Heritage Festival and the 'Naturally New Age' market. The weekend canoe experience is based along the Loddon River in and around Bridgewater, the Blue Eucy Heritage Festival is around the Blue Eucy Museum and Distillery Park in Inglewood, the Naturally New Age Alternative market (Highlighting natural therapies, healthy living and diet) is around the Loddon Visitor Information Centre in Wedderburn.

The Loddon Shire Tourism Manager is encouraging events at local iconic attractions that are in close proximity to major towns and infrastructure and which align with the objectives and actions within the Loddon Shire Tourism Strategy 2011 to 2016 and the Nature Tourism Plan.

Gold detecting is a significant contributor to nature tourism in Loddon Shire. Through targeted advertising in the Prospectors and Miners Association magazine "The Echo" we have been successful in attracting the Prospectors and Miners Association Annual General Meeting in Loddon Shire on the weekend of 26 and 27 October 2013.

This year the Wedderburn Mechanics Institute Hall will be the venue for the event, which is expected to attract 250 participants.

A grant application has been submitted to Tourism Victoria Country Events program seeking funding to the value of \$5,000 for collaborative marketing and promotion of the festival.

COSTS/BENEFITS

The role of the Nature Tourism Festival Committee is to coordinate and collaboratively promote the program of events. The consistent branding and marketing of the festival over the past 3 years has created awareness and assisted in lifting the profile of our region. Participants attending the festival generate economic activity into the Loddon Shire Tourism Region through accommodation, retail and eateries. The Naturally Loddon a wonderland in spring brings community and social well-being through the region with volunteers coming together to organise individual activities.

The attraction of the Prospectors and Miners Association Annual General Meeting to the Shire will have a significant local effect on the Loddon economy including accommodation.

RISK ANALYSIS

A concern with festivals like the "Naturally Loddon" a wonderland in spring, is that the region is so reliant on volunteer support. Each organisation involved in the festival is finding it hard to attract new volunteers, which is a risk to the sustainability of the festival.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Loddon Shire Tourism department is continuing to grow partnerships with key stake holders and voluntary organisations to coordinate and promote existing and new activities as part of the Naturally Loddon a wonderland in spring festival.

9. DIRECTOR COMMUNITY WELLBEING REPORTS

9.1 OUTCOME OF QUALITY REVIEW – DINGEE KINDERGARTEN

SUMMARY

This report is to provide Council with details of the outcome of the National Quality Framework Assessment conducted at Dingee Preschool

Author: Wendy Gladman – Acting Director Community Wellbeing

File No: 12/09/003

Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the report detailing the outcomes of the National Quality Framework Assessment conducted at Dingee Preschool.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

A report detailing the introduction of the National Quality Framework assessment process for Early Childhood Education and Care services was provided to the October 2012 Council meeting. This report detailed the quality review program that the five kindergarten services within the Loddon Kindergarten Cluster would undertake during 2012/2013.

BACKGROUND

During February 2013, two assessors visited the Dingee Preschool to undertake the onsite component of the National Quality Framework assessment. The assessors spent two days at the Dingee Preschool facility (during active preschool program delivery) and also met with Council’s Early Years Coordinator who oversees the Loddon Kindergarten Cluster.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Correspondence received from the Department Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) in April 2013 has provided the final assessment and rating report and the Notice of Rating for the Dingee preschool service.

The Preschool was assessed against eighteen standards across seven quality areas within the prescribed rating levels:

- Significant Improvement Required
- Working towards National Quality Standard (NQS)
- Meeting National Quality Standard
- Exceeding National Quality Standard

If a service is rated below the National Quality Standard in any quality area, the overall rating will reflect the lowest quality area rating.

Dingee Preschool has achieved the following ratings:

Quality Area 1	Educational program and practice	Meeting NQS
Quality Area 2	Children’s health and safety	Meeting NQS
Quality Area 3	Physical environment	Meeting NQS
Quality Area 4	Staffing arrangements	Meeting NQS

Quality Area 5	Relationships with children	Meeting NQS
Quality Area 6	Collaborative partnerships with families and communities	Exceeding NQS
Quality Area 7	Leadership and service management	Meeting NQS
	OVERALL RATING	Meeting NQS

It is of note that the Preschool achieved a rating of Exceeding NQS in Quality Area 6; 'Collaborative partnerships with families and communities' with the following expected outcomes:

- Respectful supporting relationships with families are developed and maintained
- Families are supported in their parenting role and their values and beliefs about child rearing are respected
- The service collaborates with other organisations and service providers to enhance children's learning and wellbeing.

The Notice of Rating must be displayed by the service, and Council has been advised that the results will now be published on the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) and My Child websites. As services are assessed and rated, ratings will progressively be added to the national registers.

Under the National Law and the National Regulations, Regulatory Authorities may at any time reassess a service or any aspect or element of a service, but with the exception of extraordinary circumstances it is considered likely that the Dingee Preschool will undergo the next assessment and rating process in the prescribed two year timeframe relevant to the overall rating received.

COSTS/BENEFITS

The Dingee Preschool and Early Years team now have the opportunity to reflect on the outcomes and findings from the assessment and rating cycle to assist in raising quality and driving continuous improvement at the service.

RISK ANALYSIS

Nil

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Nil

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

11. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Closing of Meeting to the Public

RECOMMENDATION

That the meeting be closed to the public.

NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on 24 June 2013 at Newbridge commencing at 3.30pm.