

LODDON

BULLETIN

A PROSPEROUS
VIBRANT AND
ENGAGED COMMUNITY



Meet your Council

Loddon Shire Council has welcomed three new Councillors and two returning Councillors following the declaration of the poll for Loddon Shire elections on 4 November 2020.

Council welcomes:

- Neil Beattie as the Councillor for Boort Ward
- Wendy Murphy as the Councillor for Inglewood Ward
- Linda Jungwirth as the Councillor for Tarnagulla Ward
- Dan Straub as the Councillor for Terrick Ward
- Gavan Holt as the Councillor for Wedderburn Ward

Council Chief Executive Officer Phil Pinyon congratulated the Councillors on their election.

"I congratulate our new Councillors and returning Councillors, and together with Loddon Shire staff, look forward to working with them," Mr Pinyon said.

"I'd like to thank those candidates who were unsuccessful, for showing such commitment to their communities in putting themselves forward for election.

"I'd also like to express appreciation to candidates and former Councillors Colleen Condliffe and Geoff Curnow for their years of service to Council," Mr Pinyon added.

Councillors were officially sworn in at a Special Council Meeting on 19 November, taking the Affirmation of Office and making a written declaration that they will abide by the Councillor Code of Conduct.



(L-R): Cr Linda Jungwirth, Cr Gavan Holt, Cr Neil Beattie, Cr Dan Straub and Cr Wendy Murphy.

Cr Neil Beattie elected as Mayor

Cr Neil Beattie was elected as Loddon Shire Mayor at a Special Council Meeting on 19 November.

This is the third time Cr Beattie has been elected Mayor. Cr Beattie was previously Mayor in 2015 and 2016.

Cr Beattie said he was delighted to be elected to the role.

"I thank my fellow Councillors for electing me as Mayor for the coming year," Cr Beattie said.

"This year has been difficult for many in our community as we battled COVID-19 and its effects, including lockdowns and other restrictions.

"Together with our new Council, I look forward to working with our community towards recovery as we continue to see the re-opening of business.

"Hopefully we will remain on a positive trajectory and be on track to achieve COVID normal," Cr Beattie added.



Mayor Neil Beattie and former Mayor and Councillor Cheryl McKinnon.

QUARTERLY BULLETIN

DECEMBER 2020

FEATURED

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A word from our Mayor



There is no doubt that 2020 has been a difficult year for us all. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a huge effect on business, tourism and our livelihoods.

However, at the time of writing, there was some good news to be had. Active and new COVID-19 cases had dropped and we were starting to see the easing of restrictions, including the re-opening of our hospitality and tourism businesses.

Together with Council, I'd like to thank all our community for continuing to comply with COVID-19 restrictions and requirements. It has been a tough road, but hopefully we are starting to see some sort

of normality return to our lives - albeit a "new" normal.

On another note, despite COVID-19 restrictions, it has been great to see projects and works still continuing on the ground across the Shire. This includes the completion of projects, such as the Sloans Road Bridge replacement, safety upgrade works on the Old Inglewood Reservoir and drainage and footpath works in Kiniry Street in Boort.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Councillors for electing me as Mayor for the coming year. It is a great honour to once again be elected into the role, and to continue serving our community as a Councillor for the next four years.

On behalf of all of us here at Loddon Shire Council, I wish all residents a happy and safe Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Australia Day celebrations

Australia Day celebrations will take place across our Shire with towns and communities hosting events, with COVID-19 restrictions in place.

Celebrations will be held at:

Arnold Hall (outdoor event)

Nolens Park, Boort

J Sloan Park, Bridgewater

Progress Park, Dingee

Eddington Community Centre (outdoor event)

Inglewood Swimming Pool

Newbridge Hall (outdoor event)

Pyramid Hill Hall (outdoor event)

Soldiers' Memorial Park, Wedderburn

Festivities will include sausage sizzles and free entries to Council's swimming pools.



Australia Day Awards will be presented which celebrate the achievements and contributions made by outstanding members of our community who, through their efforts make us feel proud to be Australian.

Please check www.loddon.vic.gov.au or Council's Facebook page closer to the day.

Council meetings

Community members are always welcome to attend Council's monthly meetings to learn of issues affecting their community.

Ordinary meetings are normally held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 3pm at the Serpentine Council Chambers.

Please note: These meetings are subject to COVID-19 restrictions. This includes the requirement to restrict public access as per State Government COVID-19 guidelines.

Meetings are also audio live streamed via Council's Facebook page www.facebook.com/LoddonShire/

Citizenship congratulations

In August, former Mayor Cheryl McKinnon conducted two virtual citizenship ceremonies.

The first ceremony welcomed new citizens Ursula Fionne Dotollo Garchitorea, and the Talaid family – Marissa De Leon, Rolando Cuizon and Raphael De Leon. Ursula and the Talaid family are originally from the Philippines.

The second ceremony formally welcomed new citizen Mrs Oraphan Phoomkhokrak, who originates from Thailand.

The citizenship ceremonies were held virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Community projects receive funding

Community projects will receive more than \$151,000 in project allocations as part of the 2020/21 Community Planning Program.

Council commits funds from its annual budget towards the completion of a number of community planning projects. This is based on a \$50,000 allocation per ward and a \$500,000 Community Planning Strategic Fund allocation.

Under this funding, Inglewood Ward will receive \$66,371 and Terrick Ward \$52,993 towards local projects (these allocations include unspent funds carried forward from previous years). Tarnagulla Ward will receive \$32,196 towards local projects.

Projects include Stage 3 of the Bridgewater Memorial Hall restoration project, Tractor Engine Annex Construction at the Inglewood Eucalyptus Distillery Museum, wall repairs and painting at Arnold Hall and seed funding for outdoor exercise equipment installation in Newbridge.

There is also funding towards the installation of a barbecue and shelter at the Calivil Recreation Reserve, redevelopment of toilet facilities at Dingee Hall and upgrading of electrical wiring at the East Loddon Community Centre.

Funding of \$500,000 has been allocated towards the Boort Foreshore Sporting Precinct Development, as part of the 2019/20 Community Planning Strategic Fund. The funding will support the progress of the project.

Bringing the farm gate to your door

The Loddon Shed puts high quality produce and creations of the Loddon Valley makers at the fingertips of discerning shoppers throughout Australia.



A partnership between Loddon Shire Council and

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

The online store allows customers anywhere in Australia the opportunity to purchase unique and hard-to-find gourmet and artisan products and have them transported directly to their door. Customers can also choose to have gift hampers custom made and delivered directly to the recipient, with a gift card.

The Food Purveyor's boundless experience makes it the ideal partner to put even the most niche business within reach of an extensive range of customers. By boosting the exposure and distribution opportunities, emerging and established local businesses will be able to prosper within the Loddon Shire.

The vast range of products available through The Loddon Shed include organic soap-making company Xanna Natural, pure Blue Mallee eucalyptus oil, nougat sweet treats, Bridgewater Berets and Woolly Warmers therapeutic heat pads. Products also include soy candles by Little Red Candle Co, organically grown saffron from Squirrel Gully Saffron and award-winning olive producer Salute Oliva.

Bridgewater Bakehouse, Red Dog Chillies, Bush Track Bees, Chiron Organics, Pyramid Salt, Mincha Munchies, Simply Tomatoes, Billabong Organics as well as wines from Black Wallaby Wines, Blanche Barkly Wines and Newbridge Wines are all available from the store.

This store is not only the perfect way for small businesses to extend their reach and sales as part of the recovery of COVID-19, but also offers a fantastic opportunity for our local producers to show the rest of Australia the great range of innovative and high quality products currently offered in the Loddon Valley.

Discover the fantastic array of products at www.theloddonshed.com.au

Kelly Park fitness equipment ready

The outdoor fitness equipment in Kelly Park, Pyramid Hill is finished and open to the public. The equipment was completed in July this year, however due to COVID-19 restrictions, was unable to be officially launched.



The equipment is a single pod with five stations, for all ages and with a focus on building strength and agility.

The project was funded by the Healthy Heart of Victoria initiative in conjunction with Council, who have also funded outdoor fitness equipment in Wedderburn and Boort.

Residents of Pyramid Hill are encouraged (in line with COVIDSafe guidelines), to carefully read and follow the instructions on the columns of the equipment and try it out.

Council hopes to see the community enjoying the equipment to help improve their physical health.

COVID-19 business support

Council would like to remind local businesses to regularly check the COVID-19 business support section of the Loddon Shire Council website.

This page is regularly updated with details on government support (including Council, State Government and Federal Government support) and resources available during COVID-19.

The business support page also has a list of available grants eligible businesses can apply for, as well as information webinars and training opportunities.

Find out more at:
www.loddon.vic.gov.au/COVID-19/COVID-19-business-support

If you would like to be notified of updates to this page, click on the "Subscribe to this page" button to receive an email whenever a change is made.

The Loddon Project

Council has thanked the 186 community members and Council staff who contributed to the first stage of the Loddon Community Vision.



Four strong themes

emerged. The first two were: *a strong sense of community intrinsically linked to the identity of the Council area, and drive for greater prosperity through attraction of industry, business, and population.*

The two remaining themes were: *natural environment that supports tourism, outdoor activities, agriculture, and a way life, and equity of access to infrastructure, services, and retail to support quality of life.*

These themes have been explored in more detail during the final phase of the Community Vision engagement, including the formation of the Community Reference Group, community workshops (either in-person or online) seeking further input from the community.

The next stage of the project is development of the four-year Council Plan. This stage commences in February 2021.

Find out more at:
www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Council/Community-Engagement/The-Loddon-Project

Time to get back on the bike!

The recumbent bikes along Nardoo Trail in Wedderburn have now been finalised.

Located just behind the pool, the bikes (pictured) are part of the installation of outdoor fitness equipment along the Nardoo Trail, and were kindly contributed to by the Wedderburn Development Association.



The overall project was funded by the Healthy Heart of Victoria initiative in conjunction with Loddon Shire Council.

The bikes offer a seated position, rather than an upright position such as on a normal bike. This allows residents who might feel unsteady or who are unable to climb up on the bike seat to still enjoy the same benefits of cycling.

One of the bikes has been altered, so they now accommodate shorter and longer-legged residents. Rubber under surfacing has also been completed at the pod.

Community grants awarded

Thirty-four community groups were successful in receiving funding under Loddon Shire Council's 2020/21 Community Grants Scheme, with almost \$180,000 in funding allocated towards community projects.

Grant allocations include \$10,000 each for Boort Yando Cricket Club, Boort Lakeside Croquet Club, Inglewood and Bridgewater Men's Shed, Pyramid Hill Golf Club and Pyramid Hill Football and Netball Club.

Other recipients include Eddington Community Centre, East Loddon Historical Society, Mitiamo Municipal Recreation Reserve, Inglewood Town Hall Committee of Management, Mitiamo Football and Netball Club, and Korong Historical Society.

Calivil Recreation Reserve Committee of Management, Wedderburn Historic Engine and Machinery Society, Boort Amity Club, Boort Cemetery Trust and Bridgewater Recreation Reserve also received funding towards projects.

In addition, Boort Tourism Development, Boort Angling Club and Bridgewater on Loddon Development Committee, Wedderburn and Regional Theatre Society, Wedderburn Community Centre and Wedderburn Development Association received funding.



Boort Lakeside Croquet Club Inc. boundary fence replacement – stage 1. Funding from the Community Grants Scheme will go towards stage 2 of the project.

Grants are funded on a 2:1 basis. This means that for every \$2 provided by Council, successful applicants must contribute a minimum of \$1 towards the cost of a project.

Groups can claim up to 50 per cent of their contribution as in-kind contribution or voluntary support.

The Loddon Shire Community Grants Scheme started in the 2000/01 financial year to help recreation, sporting and service organisations deliver projects that improve the quality of life for residents.

Council has since invested around \$2,500,000 towards the scheme, supporting over 700 community-based projects worth more than \$5,300,000.

MASH solar bulk-buy

More Australian Solar Homes, or MASH, is a solar bulk-buy program that makes it easier and more affordable for households and businesses to install a solar power system in order to cut their electricity bills and CO2 emissions.

In partnership with Loddon Shire Council, MASH aims to reduce CO2 emissions and raise funds for a community group to get solar power on their roof. One per cent of revenue from solar installs in Loddon Shire will be placed into a community fund.

When enough funding is raised to cover the cost of a 5kW system, local community groups and schools in Loddon Shire will be invited to apply for a free solar system.

It will also help community members cut their electricity bills.

For more information visit <https://mash.org.au/loddon/>



Karin and Eddie Lob from Bridgewater give their new MASH solar power system the thumbs-up.

Annual funding for newsletters

Local community newsletters throughout the Shire will receive annual funding towards their production following a decision at Council's September meeting.

This annual allocation means community-based newsletters will no longer have to apply for funding through Council's Community Grants Program.

These newsletters provide a valuable source of local information and events for their communities. With the reduced availability of a local newspaper, there is even more reliance on community newsletters to provide information about community activities, available services, business advertising, event promotion and Council news.

Works update

An update on works and projects in our Shire:

Roads

- From July to the end of October, 15.3 kilometres of local gravel roads resheets and shoulder resheets were completed.



Sloans Road Bridge

Inspection summary

- From 1 July to 30 September, 48 inspections were completed (2,261 defects raised), with 97.9 per cent of all inspections completed before their due date.

Defect rectification

- From 1 July to 30 September, 1,898 defects were rectified, with 99.8 per cent of all defects (1,894 in total) completed before their due date.

Maintenance grading program

- From 1 July to 30 September, 872 maintenance grading work actions were completed resulting in 629 kilometres of grading and 1,164 kilometres of inspections.

Township improvement

- Works in Kiniry Street, Boort are finished, including underground stormwater drainage, new footpath and kerb and channel.
- A new footpath in Bridgewater in Lyndhurst and Lily streets has been completed.

Reservoir upgrades

- Safety upgrade works have been completed on Old Inglewood Reservoir.

Local bridge and culvert construction

- Replacement works on Sloans Road Bridge over Bullabul Creek south west of Bridgewater are now complete and the bridge open to traffic.
- An upgrade of two culverts on Seven Months Creek, Pyramid Hill are expected to start before the end of the year - subject to water levels within the creek and any subsequent rainfall.

Drainage works

- Drainage works at the Inglewood Tennis Club car park are complete.
- Drainage works at the Pyramid Hill Swimming Pool car park are underway and anticipated to be completed before Christmas.

Caravan park upgrades

- The tender for upgrades at the Boort, Pyramid Hill and Wedderburn caravan parks has been awarded and works in progress. Upgrades include road and drainage works, powerhead upgrades and new amenities blocks.

Waste vouchers

Council reminds residents that quarterly fee free waste disposal is now being delivered through a voucher system.

Residents are provided with four vouchers with their rates notices - one for each quarter. Each voucher can be used to dispose of up to four cubic metres of general domestic waste free of charge at Council's landfill and transfer stations.

This includes green waste, mixed recyclables, general household waste and e-waste (white goods, TVs, computers, electronic items, etc.).

Tyres, bricks and concrete, and mattresses are not included as these items have additional third party costs associated with their disposal, and will be charged as per normal disposal charges.

Each voucher can only be used once, and only one voucher used per transaction. The voucher must be presented to attendants at landfill and transfer stations. Each voucher must be used by its expiry date.

For more information please call Council's Works Department on (03) 5494 1200.

Council's 2020/21 infrastructure program

Council's Annual Infrastructure program sets out priority projects for the coming financial year.

The 2020/21 annual infrastructure program includes \$751,439 for local road gravel resheets and \$86,580 for local road shoulder resheets.

There is \$2.7 million for sealed local road reconstruction (a portion of this total figure includes external funding). This includes the upgrade and rehabilitation of Echuca Serpentine Road and Bridgewater Raywood Road. There are also upgrades for Laanecoorie Newbridge Road, Dalziels Road and Perrys Road.

There is safety improvement funding of \$100,000 for an upgrade of the barrier rail on Yorkshire Road bridge over Spring Creek, and funding of \$264,704 to seal township gravel access streets in Pyramid Hill and Wedderburn. These sealing projects will reduce dust for adjoining properties and ensure every property in the Pyramid Hill Township has a sealed road access.

Significant funding of \$924,964 has been allocated for the replacement and installation of new footpaths in Inglewood, Boort, Newbridge, Pyramid Hill and Wedderburn (totalling 3,335 square metres) and to install new kerb and channel in Andrews Street, Boort.

There is funding of just over \$429,000 for a number of smaller culvert replacements, as well as drainage improvements in Heales Street in Inglewood, and to review the Skinners Flat Reservoir Safety Manual.

There is around \$1.93 million for replacement of two larger bridges and culverts. This includes Baileys Road Bridge (east of Inglewood) and Godfrey Street Bridge in Wedderburn.

There is also \$723,259 for reseals and final seals on the sealed road network, \$152,510 towards projects in parks and gardens as well as \$527,436 for building projects.

Infant immunisation sessions

Infant Immunisation sessions will be available at Boort Senior Citizens Centre, Dingee Bush Nursing Centre, Inglewood Maternal and Child Health Centre, Pyramid Hill Senior Citizens Centre and Serpentine Council offices on:

Thursday 10 December	9.30am Inglewood, 11.30am Dingee, 2.00pm Pyramid Hill
Thursday 14 January	9.15am Serpentine, 11.15am Boort
Thursday 11 February	9.30am Inglewood, 11.30am Dingee, 2.00pm Pyramid Hill
Thursday 10 March	9.15am Serpentine, 11.15am Boort

Appointments are required. To make an appointment for an infant's immunisation, call Council's Serpentine Office on (03) 5494 1201.

Bookings can also be made through Council's website www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Services/Services-for-our-younger-residents/Immunisations

Please bring your Medicare card and Child Record Book to each immunisation session and allow 15 minutes waiting time following immunisation.

For information regarding immunisation, or to contact immunisation staff during sessions, call 0488 095 205 or visit the link above.

Let's Pivot!

Loddon Shire has partnered with councils from around the region and the not-for-profit Make A Change Australia to bring a new program that supports community leaders, organisations, and individuals to change their strategy without changing their vision.

Community and professional development is being delivered free of charge and provided entirely online until 31 March 2021 at <https://makeachange.org.au/lets-pivot/>

All members of the community are invited to participate in any way that suits; info-mailers, Zoom discussions, online community, resource toolkit and more.

Christmas and New Year service hours

Council offices in Wedderburn and Serpentine will be closed from 4.45pm on Wednesday 23 December and reopen at 8.15am on Monday 4 January 2021. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, please call ahead to confirm if the Serpentine office is open on (03) 5494 1201.

The Loddon Visitor Information Centre will be closed from 5pm on Wednesday 23 December and reopen at 9am on Monday 4 January 2021. For enquiries phone (03) 5494 1257 or email loddonvisitorinformation@loddon.vic.gov.au

There will be changes to scheduled kerbside garbage and recycling collections during December 2020 and January 2021. Kerbside collections scheduled for Christmas Day (Friday 25 December) will instead take place on Sunday 27 December 2020.

Collections for New Year's Day (Friday 1 January 2020) will take place on Sunday 3 January 2021.

All waste facilities across the Shire will be closed on public holidays.

The Community Care service will provide limited services from Thursday 24 December and will recommence at 8.30am on Monday 4 January 2021. Personal care and meals on wheels will be provided and clients will be contacted to discuss their service needs for this period. There will be no home care, respite care, social support or property maintenance services delivered during this period.

For urgent Community Care service assistance during this period, please contact the after-hours service on 0427 804 736.

Shire offices

Wedderburn 41 High St, Wedderburn 3518 **T:** (03) 5494 1200 **F:** (03) 5494 3003
Serpentine 37 Peppercorn Way, Serpentine 3516 **T:** (03) 5494 1201 **F:** (03) 5437 8407

Offices open Monday to Friday 8.15am to 4.45pm
(Please call ahead to confirm if the Serpentine office is open)

Email: loddon@loddon.vic.gov.au **Web:** www.loddon.vic.gov.au

Your Councillors



Mayor Cr Neil Beattie
Boort Ward
0427 552 468



Cr Wendy Murphy
Inglewood Ward
0436 457 170



Cr Linda Jungwirth
Tarnagulla Ward
0428 259 082



Cr Dan Straub
Terrick Ward
0429 236 399



Cr Gavan Holt
Wedderburn Ward
0408 943 008