

Gannawarra NEWS

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

It was great to see so many people supporting local events during Easter.

Another major event coming up is ANZAC Day. My fellow

Councillors look forward to joining communities across the Gannawarra on Monday, 25 April to commemorate this important day. Details regarding local events can be found on Council's website.

Kind regards,
Mayor Charlie Gillingham



IMMUNISATION SESSION

WEDNESDAY, 20 APRIL

COHUNA (10.30am – 12 noon)
KERANG (4pm – 5.30pm)

NOTE:

Bookings for Council immunisation sessions are essential, which can be made by phoning (03) 5450 9333. Only one parent/guardian should attend with the child to be vaccinated. Anyone showing COVID-19 symptoms, or those who are in isolation, should not attend. For more details, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/immunisation

COUNCIL MEETING

The next Meeting of Council will be held on Wednesday, 20 April at 6.30pm. This meeting will be livestreamed at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/livestream. Residents can submit questions to Council for consideration during Question Time by completing a form at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/QuestionTime by 5pm the day before each meeting.

EMPLOYMENT VACANCIES

- **Outdoor Worker** – Temporary full-time
- **School Crossing Supervisor** – Casual
- **Kindergarten Teacher** – Temporary part-time
- **Manager Children's Services** – Full-time
- **Swim Instructor** – Casual
- **Customer Service Officer** - Casual
- **Mechanic** – Full-time
- **Early Childhood Educators** – Part-time and casual roles
- **Family Day Care Educator (in home)** – Part-time

For more information, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/jobs

PUBLIC HOLIDAY CLOSURE

Council's services will be closed on Monday, 25 April 2022 for the ANZAC Day public holiday.

For after-hours emergencies, including animal/livestock matters, please call Council's on-call service on 0409 022 920.

COMMUNITY HALLS COMMUNITY ASSET COMMITTEE

An Ordinary Meeting of Gannawarra Shire Council's Community Halls Community Asset Committee will be held at the Lake Charm Hall, Hall Road, Lake Charm on Monday, 2 May 2022 at 7.30pm. All interested persons are welcome to attend.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, please contact Council's Customer Service Team on (03) 5450 9333 to confirm attendance.

TOM O'REILLY

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

PLAYABLE PLANTS COMING TO THE GANNAWARRA

Playable Street's musical installation, *The Plants* is coming to Cohuna and Kerang between 22-26 April.

This free sensory installation experience will enable people to create their own plant symphony whilst exploring this interactive musical experience.

The Plants will be available to explore between 10am and 4pm daily at the following locations:

- **Friday, 22 April and Saturday, 23 April:** Victoria Square, Kerang
- **Sunday, 24 April:** Garden Park, Cohuna as part of the Cohuna Farmers & Makers Market
- **Monday, 25 April and Tuesday, 26 April:** Atkinson Park, Kerang

AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS

Visitors to Kerang's Sir John Gorton Library will have the opportunity to explore the Lester Smith Lookout Tower as part of Australian Heritage Festival celebrations on Thursday, 28 April. Supported by the Gannawarra Library Service and the Kerang Family History Group, this free event running from 11am to 4pm will enable people to see Kerang from a different perspective.

BEAT THE BITE!

Council continues to respond to the Japanese Encephalitis outbreak impacting northern Victoria.

You can avoid being bitten by mosquitoes by reducing stagnant water around properties; wearing long, loose fitting clothes outdoors; using effective mosquito repellents containing picaridin or DEET on all exposed skin; and trying to limit outdoor activity between dusk and dawn.

Accolades flow for water firm

A COHUNA-based company specialising in water control solutions has been recognised as one of Australia's best manufacturers.

AWMA Water Control Solutions was awarded Environmental Solution of the Year at the Manufacturers' Monthly Endeavour Awards.

The national award recognises a process or technology which enhances environmental sustainability.

Considered to be the premier awards program in the manufacturing industry, the awards feature some of Australia's best manufacturing innovators.

AWMA Water Control Solutions managing director Brett Kelly said the award was great recognition for the team.

"We are proud to contribute to the success of Australian manufacturing, growth of regional business and the expansion of environmentally sustainable solutions," Mr Kelly said.

AWMA is an industry leading company, specialising in water control solutions, for major infrastructure projects, across Australia and New Zealand.

Mr Kelly said the Environmental Solution of the Year award reflected the innovative work AWMA and their partners had undertaken to develop self-cleaning intake screens, which provide fish protection and debris control.

"AWMA's Fish Protection Screen projects range from single, submersible self-cleaning screens for local irrigators, to a recently delivered international screening project involving more than 100 tonnes of stainless steel water control infrastructure, all designed



AWMA general manager of screens and flood barriers Peter Ebenwaldner and managing director Brett Kelly were honoured to receive the Environmental Solution of the Year award at the Manufacturers' Monthly Endeavour Awards.

and manufactured in Cohuna," Mr Kelly said. The regional manufacturing company specialises in designing and constructing challenging water control systems where no off-the-shelf product is currently available.

Project applications include flood protection, water and waste water treatment plants, environmental and screening.

"With such extensive, widespread flooding over the past year, AWMA is committed to developing partnership and solutions that assist floodplain managers and asset owners with suitable and viable flood mitigation solutions," Mr Kelly said.



Kerang and District Family History Group members Elizabeth Walder, Edie Wandin, Betty Wilson, Pat Gillingham, Margot McNeil, Dot McIntosh, Christine Hewat and Lee Hants celebrated the group's 40th anniversary recently.

Our history's future is in safe hands

FOR more than four decades, a dedicated group of residents have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the history of the region is preserved well into the future.

The formation of the group dates back to 1980, when residents interested in family history attended a series of lectures on family trees at Kerang High School.

What started as a hobby for many locals, as a way to trace their family tree, set the foundations for what would become the Kerang and District Family History Group.

"Nobody imagined that the progressive development of this little hobby would become a huge resource of genealogical and historical information 40 years later," president Pat Gillingham said.

The group officially started monthly meetings in 1982 at the old State Bank building, at the corner of Fitzroy and Scoresby streets.

Two years later, the group called the Kerang Primary School library home, and by 1997, meetings were held upstairs in the Kerang Public Library.

"This established a strong co-operative relationship which incorporated a specific area for genealogy in plans for the Sir John Gorton Library which opened in 2003," Ms Gillingham said.

While various speakers were invited to address the meetings, Ms Gillingham said it was one from Kerang funeral directors, Adams, which inspired the group's first major project.

The group began to transcribe the inscriptions on the headstones at the Kerang Cemetery and copy Adams' burial records from 1878-1982.

"It was a fascinating task, attracting the attention of passing motorists who slowed down, wondering what this odd group of people were doing wandering around the

cemetery with pen and paper in hand," Ms Gillingham said.

Throughout history, the group continued to adapt to modern technology.

"Cemetery records were loaded onto the internet with the shire valuation records providing worldwide access for genealogical and historical research," Ms Gillingham said.

"Inspired by the success of this project and proof of its ongoing value for the future, many major and minor projects of historical significance were to follow."

These included signage to mark the route taken through the region by early explorers, Major Thomas Mitchell and Burke and Wills, the relocation of the monument marking the site of the Old Township, and tributes to World War I soldiers.

Having recently celebrated their 40th anniversary, the group's latest project is a book dedicated to the late Ollie Jane.

"Ollie was an invaluable member of the Family History Group until his sudden passing in 2017, taking with him a wealth of knowledge of our local history," Ms Gillingham said, noting the book would feature a collection of historical information and anecdotes on the Kerang area.

Ms Gillingham said the main role of the group was to "gather local history and preserve it, in one way or another for future generations."

However, she said the group was "much more than a genealogical resource".

"It's a great social group and everyone contributes in their own way," she said.

"Our meetings are never boring, they are a constant source of interesting facts and information presented to a lively and friendly sociable gathering and we welcome the interest of anyone who might like to take part."

www.gsc.vic.gov.au

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