



INTERIM CEO MESSAGE

With the October Council Election almost upon us, it is timely for me as Interim CEO to give you the latest updates along with some exciting announcements and news in this edition of the Gazette.

You will read below that Golden Plains Shire Council has appointed its new CEO, Shane Walden, who will begin in the role on Monday 2 September 2024. We congratulate Shane on his appointment and look forward to his leadership and vision for Golden Plains Shire over the coming years. I will continue to serve as Interim CEO until Shane begins, and I look forward to facilitating a smooth transition of leadership for the organisation.

It is important to take note of your responsibilities as a voter in the October Council election. We have provided an update for residents and potential candidates on page 4 of this edition, and I encourage all residents to visit the 2024 Council Election Hub at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/councilelection for everything you need to know.

We have also provided the latest road works update, which is always a key focus for Council and our roads maintenance teams. Importantly, the 2024/25 Road Grading Calendar is now available on our website so you can search for when road grading is scheduled to occur in your area using Council's events calendar.



Pictured: Interim CEO Michael Tudball.

As we reflect on the many achievements of Council over the past financial year, we are proud to have delivered many capital works which we detail on page 5. Council continues to deliver upgrades to many facilities, sporting grounds and recreational spaces across the Shire, while also advocating for State and Federal Government funding to make these projects a reality.

Other updates include the upcoming Spring Holiday Program for young people, the new mobile library service and the innovative Smart Shires Network. We also have an update on the introduction of a glass bin recycling service in the Shire, which is set to begin in early 2025.

Michael Tudball
Interim CEO

COUNCIL APPOINTS NEW GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL CEO

Golden Plains Shire Council has announced the appointment of Shane Walden as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Shane will begin his new role on Monday 2 September 2024, succeeding Eric Braslis who resigned as CEO earlier this year, with Interim CEO Michael Tudball supporting Council since that time.

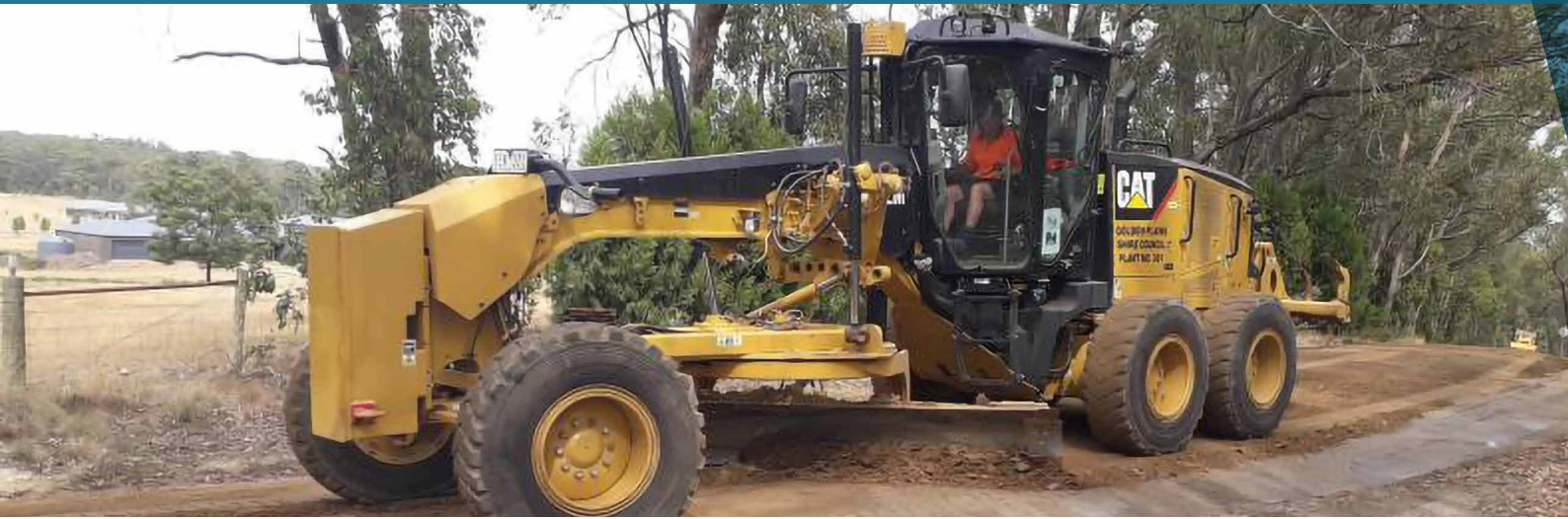


Pictured: New Golden Plains Shire Council CEO, Shane Walden.

Shane's latest role was Director of Assets and Operations with Macedon Ranges Shire Council. With more than 20 years' experience in engineering, asset management and operational environments, seamlessly transitioning between depot settings, boardrooms, and Council chambers, Shane is known for building and maintaining productive and constructive relationships in complex stakeholder environments.

Interim CEO Michael Tudball will continue in his role until Shane commences his tenure as CEO on Monday 2 September 2024. Council extends its gratitude to Michael for his exceptional leadership over the past four months as we welcome our new CEO.

Read the full media release by visiting goldenplains.vic.gov.au/news.



2024-25 ROAD GRADING CALENDAR NOW AVAILABLE

Golden Plains Shire Council’s 2024/25 Road Grading Calendar is now available on Council’s online events calendar.

Council’s annual Road Grading Program allows for grading of Council’s unsealed road network in the Shire throughout the year. Council has committed to grading every unsealed road in the Shire’s 705km unsealed Council road network at least once a year through its Unsealed Road Grading Maintenance Charter.

Residents can visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/events to see when Council’s graders will be in which areas of the Shire to easily track when maintenance will be done on unsealed roads. Residents can either put their town in the search box or click the calendar link to view all listings.

Instructions on how to search for road grading listings is available at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/roads.

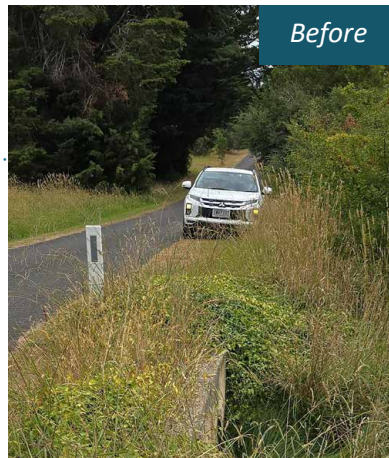
GUARDRAIL INSTALLATION IN GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

Enhancing the safety of Council managed roads is a key focus for the roads and drainage team. A recently completed project to install guardrails at roads in Haddon, Meredith and Linton has highlighted this commitment to road safety.

The new guardrails comply with the latest standards and will provide improved safety for all road users. The guardrails have been installed at:

- Kopkes Road, Haddon
- Haddon-Windermere Road, Haddon
- Meredith-Shelford Road, Meredith
- Falkner Street/Naringhil Road, Linton.

This project was funded under the Federal Government’s Roads to Recovery Program.



Before

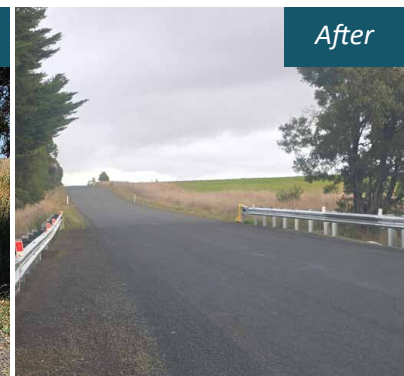


After

Shown above: *Falkner Street/Naringhil Road in Linton*



Before



After

Shown above: *Cape Clear-Rokewood Road widening in Rokewood*

2024 COUNCIL ELECTION



Council invites you to read through the information below on the upcoming election and to view the Council Election Information Hub on Council's website via the above QR code.

The Golden Plains Shire Council election will be held in October 2024.

The election will be administered by the Victoria Electoral Commission (VEC) and will be conducted entirely by post – a safe and completely confidential method of voting.

Local Council general elections are held every four years and Councillors make decisions on a range of important local issues and services, including:

- Maternal health and childcare
- Sporting and recreation facilities
- Libraries and community centres
- Animal registrations
- Rubbish and recycling
- Planning and building regulations
- And local roads and footpaths.

We strongly encourage all eligible voters to vote this October. Voting is compulsory for all enrolled voters; you may be fined if you don't vote.

Election Period

The Election Period commences at 12pm on Tuesday 17 September 2024 and concludes at 6pm on Saturday 26 October 2024.

Council has an Election Period Policy in place to ensure that the ordinary business of Council can continue throughout the election period in a responsible and transparent manner.

Nominating

If you wish to stand as a candidate in this election, nominations will:

- Open on Monday 9 September
- Close at 12pm on Tuesday 17 September.

Candidates

The complete list of candidates in ballot draw order will be available on the VEC website from Wednesday 18 September. Visit: vec.vic.gov.au.

Voting

Voting in this election is by post only.

Ballot packs will be sent to all enrolled voters from Monday 7 October and ballot packs will contain:

- A ballot paper
- Candidate statements
- A ballot paper envelope (for your vote to go in)
- A reply-paid envelope (for your ballot paper envelope to go in).

Follow the instructions in your ballot pack to complete your vote. Please make sure you post it or drop it off at the election office before 6pm on Friday 25 October.

Council Election Information Hub

To assist residents, ratepayers and potential candidates seeking more information on the election, Council has an information hub on its website.

For voters, the hub will provide guidance on voting and further information on how the election will be conducted and how Council will operate during the Election Period. Candidates will also be able to access information and resources regarding nominations, eligibility, relevant training opportunities and more.

Residents, ratepayers and those considering standing for Council are encouraged to visit the one-stop hub on Council's website at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/councilelection for everything they need to know.

Residents seeking more information on the election process should visit vec.vic.gov.au.



CAPITAL WORKS HIGHLIGHTS

in Golden Plains Shire

Leighdale Equestrian Centre Undercover Arena

\$674,000 project funded by Sport and Recreation Victoria, Golden Plains Shire Council and local contributions.

Linton Recreation Reserve – Oval Redevelopment

\$1.43M project funded by Federal and State Governments and Golden Plains Shire Council.

Inverleigh Active Youth Space

\$2.34M project funded by Federal and State Governments and Golden Plains Shire Council.

Woody Yaloak Recreation Reserve (Smythesdale) Sports Lighting

New competition standard sports lighting coming in September 2024, fully funded by the Federal Government.

Victoria Park, Bannockburn – New Netball Pavilion and Football Changeroom Upgrade

\$1.79M project funded by Federal and State Governments.

Don Wallace Recreation Reserve (Teesdale) - Oval Upgrade

\$710,000 project funded by the State Government’s Country Football Netball Program and Golden Plains Shire Council.

Lethbridge Play Space

\$400,000 project funded by the Victorian Government’s Living Local Program and Golden Plains Shire Council.

To find out more, visit Council’s website goldenplains.vic.gov.au.

BANNOCKBURN SKATE PARK UPGRADE COMMENCES

The Bannockburn Skate Park Upgrade project is well underway with the commencement of stage two construction works which began in July 2024.

The second stage of the Bannockburn Skate Park Upgrade project features the construction of a state-of-the-art multi-purpose skate bowl. This addition will expand the current skate park, offering enhanced facilities for intermediate and advanced skaters, and delivering a dynamic recreational and social space that meets the needs of the rapidly growing community.

The upgrade project also includes supporting infrastructure such as lighting, street furniture, BBQ, shelter and connecting pathways.



The Bannockburn Skate Park Upgrade project is funded by \$805,000 from the Victorian Government’s Growing Suburbs Fund and \$184,548 from Golden Plains Shire Council.

Construction works are set for completion in November 2024.



SPRING HOLIDAY PROGRAM 2024

As the weather improves, it's time to get excited for Council's Spring Holiday Program.

Council is hosting a series of free activities for young people aged 12 to 25 years throughout the upcoming Spring School Holidays, with a range of activities running from Monday 23 September to Friday 4 October.

The free holiday activities held across the Shire have been designed to support the needs and interests of young people, while also providing opportunities to learn new skills and connect with other young people.

The Spring Holiday Program will include a tour of the MCG and a BMX Workshop. To see a full schedule of available activities and to register, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/school-activity-program.

FREE ACCESS AVAILABLE TO SMART SHIRES NETWORK

Golden Plains Shire Council has worked with Moorabool and Hepburn Shire Councils to establish a Long-Range Wide Area Network (LoRaWAN). Residents, farmers and agricultural groups can connect to the network for free after purchasing monitoring sensors.

Funding from the State Government's Rural Council Transformation Program Round 2 helped create a LoRaWAN Internet of Things (IoT) network across the three Shires which facilitates the connection of IoT sensors.

People can purchase sensors from various vendors and connect them to the network to monitor actions including water levels, electric fences, gates, vehicle traffic and rainfall. Golden Plains has installed seven connection gateways across the Shire with the aim of providing full coverage to all areas.

To read the Smart Shires Network Fact Sheet, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/resident/smart-shires-network.

UPCOMING CHANGES TO KERBSIDE RECYCLING IN GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

Golden Plains Shire Council is gearing up to introduce a new household waste and recycling system that will improve the way residents recycle at home.

Under the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021, all Councils must move to a standard four-bin system: red for general waste, yellow for mixed recycling, purple for glass recycling and lime green for combined Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) bin.

In accordance with mandated changes, starting in 2025 Council will introduce a new purple glass bin for recycling glass which will be collected every four weeks. When the new purple bin service begins, the yellow recycling bin collection will shift from weekly to fortnightly.

If you currently receive kerbside waste and recycling services from Council, you will receive a new purple bin. In the coming months, we'll provide more information about these changes and offer waste education programs to help you to use the new purple glass bin effectively.

Victorian Seniors Festival 2024



Golden Plains Shire Council is currently building its Victorian Seniors Festival 2024 events calendar for our community to participate in a wide range of activities over the month of October.

The festival runs from 1 October to 31 October every year, with free and low-cost events right across the State including in Golden Plains Shire. Over 2,000 events celebrating older Victorians will be delivered by the Victorian Government through 79 local Councils, community and cultural organisations, and commercial partners.

This year's theme is – 'Explore. Engage. Evolve.' encouraging older Victorians to stay curious and connected by exploring new activities, meeting new people and changing how we think of ageing.

Stay up to date on the Victorian Seniors Festival 2024 by visiting goldenplains.vic.gov.au.

NEW AND IMPROVED MOBILE LIBRARY ROLLS INTO GOLDEN PLAINS

The new and improved Golden Plains Mobile Library hit the road in June 2024 following a fresh upgrade.



Funded by a Victorian Government Living Libraries Infrastructure Grant, with additional funding from Golden Plains Shire Council, the new mobile library promises enhanced reliability and sustainability with a smaller, more efficient vehicle that ensures a lighter environmental footprint.

In partnership with Council, Geelong Regional Libraries provides residents with the fantastic mobile library service which visits nine townships across Golden Plains Shire each week.

The mobile library is stocked with a variety of books, audiobooks and magazines, as well as DVDs and CDs upon request. Residents can also access any of Geelong Regional Libraries' 380,000 library items by requesting a hold through the online catalogue and then collecting from the most convenient mobile library stop in the Shire.

The Golden Plains Mobile Library visits the following townships: Cape Clear, Dereel, Enfield, Grenville, Haddon, Linton, Meredith, Rokewood and Smythesdale.

A copy of the timetable is available to view at grlc.vic.gov.au/locate/mobile-libraries.



CUSTOMER HUBS

Bannockburn

8.30am to 5pm,
Monday to Friday
2 Pope Street, Bannockburn
Victoria, 3331.

Smythesdale

8.30am to 5pm,
Monday to Friday
19 Heales Street, Smythesdale
Victoria, 3351.

Phone

P: 5220 7111

Postal address

Golden Plains Shire Council
PO Box 111, Bannockburn,
Victoria 3331.

Emergency contacts

P: 1300 363 036
P: 5220 7111 (24 Hours)

*COVER: National Tree Day tree
planting event in Batesford.*

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RATES PAYMENT 2024/25

All Golden Plains Shire
ratepayers received their
2024/25 Rates Notices in August.

There are three options for paying your
Rates and Charges in 2024/25:

- **One full payment**
Due by 15 February 2025.
- **Four instalments**
Due: 30 September, 30 November,
28 February, and 31 May.
Direct debit is available, and
notices are mailed out
for each instalment with
a range of payment options.
- **10 monthly direct debit
payments**
Due on the 15th of the month from
September 2024 to June 2025
You must register for direct debit
by contacting Council.

For residents who sign up to pay their
rates by instalments, the first instalment
payment is due on 30 September 2024.

How do I sign up for Direct Debit?

To sign up for direct debit, you must
complete the Direct Debit Request form
online or contact Council's Rates team.

Hardship Support

If these options aren't possible for you,
please contact Council's Rates team for
a confidential discussion about payment
plan alternatives.

Ready to Pay?

Your Rates Notices details all the payment
options including online, post, phone,
in person, direct debit, Post Billpay and
BPay.

For more information or any questions
about rates, please call Council's Rates
team on 5220 7111.



Scan the QR code to
learn more, by visiting
Council's website
goldenplains.vic.gov.au.

FARMERS' MARKET HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Each month, the Golden Plains Farmers' Market offers the very
best in artisan food and handcrafted goods with a fantastic range of
farm-fresh and homemade foods as well as unique art, handmade
homewares and much more.

The Golden Plains Farmers' Market is
held on the first Saturday of each month
(except January) at the corner of Milton
and High Streets in Bannockburn from
8:30am to 12:30pm.

The Golden Plains Twilight Market
will also be held on Thursday 19
December 2024.



Mark the calendar with the remaining 2024 market dates:

- 7 September
- 5 October
- 2 November
- 7 December
- 19 December
Golden Plains Twilight Market
5-7pm

CONNECT WITH GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

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GoldenPlainsShire

goldenplains.vic.gov.au

GoldenPlainsMayor

[lovegoldenplains](https://www.instagram.com/lovegoldenplains)