



EDITION 188 July 2020

Please contact BRIC on **5455 2716** or email bric.boort@bigpond.com to be added to the email list to receive **About Boort**.

BRIC iPad Program



Be Connected
Every Australian online.

Supported by the
Be Connected Grant

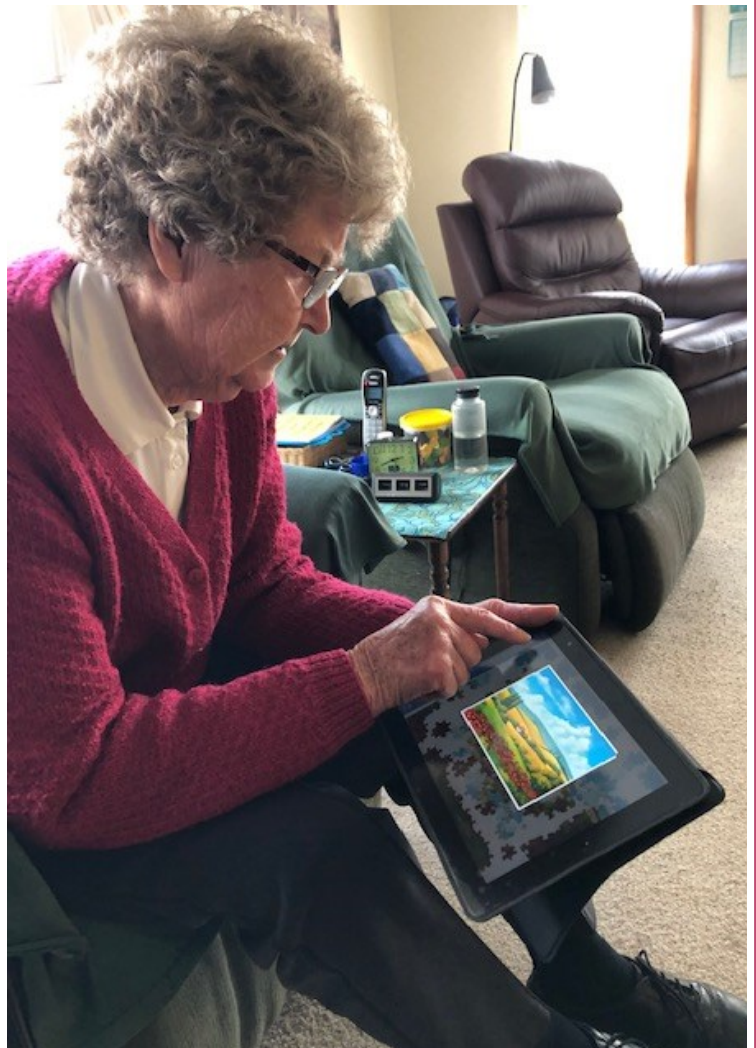
***Helping you connect and thrive in
a Digital World***

Be Connected is an Australian government initiative committed to increasing the confidence, skills and online safety of older Australians. Be Connected aims to empower everyone to use the internet and everyday technology to thrive in our digital world.

Through the Be Connected online resources, Australians will be able to learn the basics of using digital devices and engaging with the internet, including:

- being safer while online
- talking to or seeing family and friends who live far away
- finding new friends who share interests and hobbies
- connecting with old friends
- keeping up to date with what's happening in communities and around the world
- shopping and selling online, safely and securely.

Be Connected is not just a website; it is a national movement working across Australia, within



Stories continue to next page

communities, to help people with their digital skills. Our Network Partners are the local arm of Be Connected, and offer in-person help and support to older Australians who are disengaged with digital technology.

Australians with low internet skills can often feel isolated from their community and family at a time in their lives when feeling connected is increasingly important. Be Connected aims to change this through a family and community centred approach by supporting community organisations that are committed to digital inclusion and supporting older Australians bridge the digital divide. Be Connected also supports families to mentor a relative or friend to help them be more connected online. I was lucky to speak to some of the Boort residents that have enthusiastically embraced the opportunity to improve their technology skills.

Val Foyner

Val's family have helped her get set up with her iPad and she has a lovely family photo gracing the home screen. Val has downloaded *Facetime* and has all her family contacts available, so that she can ring them and see their faces.

Val says she has learned a lot since she had it.

"Often people tell you such a lot of things about the iPad, but it is too easy to forget. I learn more when I just play around."

Val is becoming accustomed to the procedure of accessing the apps on the iPad. She has a jigsaw puzzle app and is moving through the levels and producing some lovely finished pictures.

Val is a highly reputed knitter and we talked about how it is very difficult for women to sit just watch television without doing something. After I admired her lovely knitted rug, we worked together on the iPad and before long we found the pattern online and I left with a project to embark on.

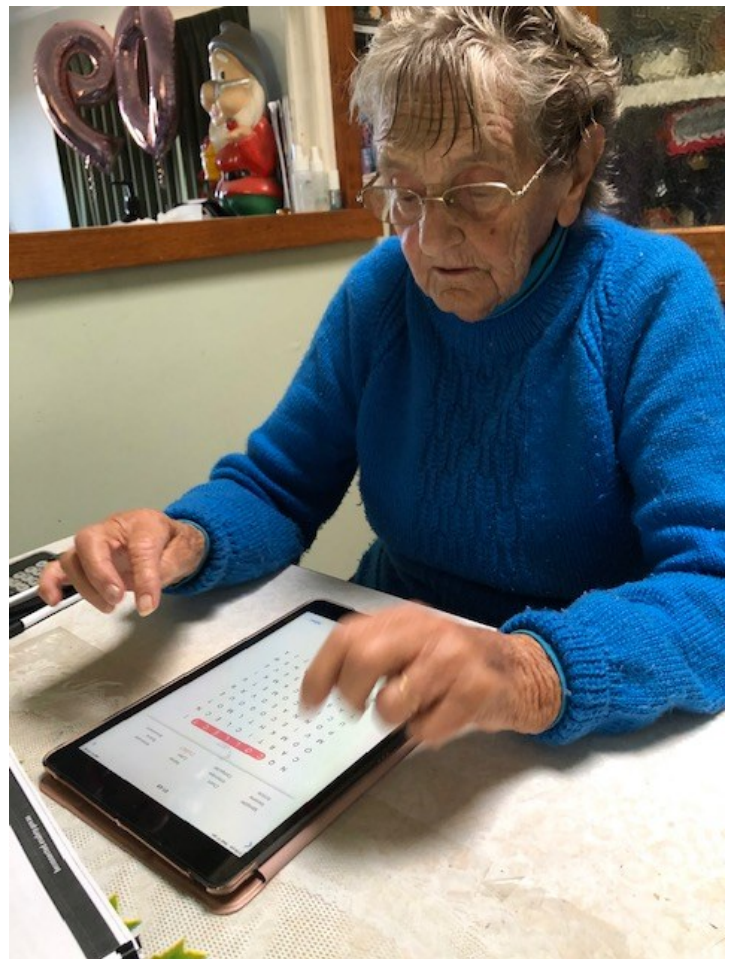
Daisy Streader

Daisy is also positive about the opportunity to learn to use an iPad.

"I didn't volunteer for the program, Bryan organised it. He said it would be good for me to have a go."

"I had no idea of how to use one, but gradually I've worked it out. I've been playing some games. I'm up to Level 24 in Word search App."

It was clear Daisy is very apt at using the technology



as she was able to find far more words than I was, and race the clock at the same time.

"Hannah has been down helping me and Lorraine has also showed me a few things. I'm a bit frightened I might do something wrong, but they all tell me they are tough machines. I said to my Granddaughter, Taylah, how can you do it all so quick? But she reminded me that her generation had grown up with phones and iPads so I shouldn't feel too bad."

"I think you are better off to do things on the iPad at your own pace."

"I think it is important for us oldies to learn how to use iPad so we don't get completely left behind and can be a bit more independent."

Max Kane

Max has enjoyed learning about the iPad. He is using the Messenger App and has sent messages off to his grandchildren. He is also enjoying receiving photos of his grandchildren and great grandchildren on Messenger too. He also has some photos on his iPad and he surprised himself by finding some photos the other day that he had never seen before.

"I like the idea of communicating with my family, but I don't necessarily want to communicate with a wider range of people."



just have to find my own way of using it. It is good having one of my own and everyday I try to use it and learn something new. Even though I try to use it everyday, I still prefer reading my books than looking at the iPad screen."

"I suppose in summary – I'm doing as well with the iPad as I want to."



"I was surprised when I first got it and I said to Sandy (Poyner) How does this work if its not plugged in? No wires no nothing? I can't believe the pictures are as clear as crystal. I also have Facetime. I remember a long time ago there was talk of someone inventing a telephone that allowed you to see the person on the other end of the line. I couldn't imagine it would ever happen! "

Peggy Mitchell

When Peg first received the iPad see she was apprehensive about what she would use it for, but after a short introduction she was up and running. She searched up music and images in her very first lesson and was clearly amazed by the amount of information available at her fingertips.

"I am finding the iPad quite good. The other day I was fiddling around with the iPad and then suddenly I must have pushed the right thing because there was Pam's face waiting to talk to me. It was wonderful. I told Sandy what had happened, and Sandy was so excited and told everyone how good I was at using the iPad! I didn't tell her I had just accidentally hit the right button!"

"I'm worried that I may not be getting the best out of the machine. Other people do things so quickly, I

 **Boort District Medical Centre**

Government funded flu shots are in stock for eligible patients, including:

- 65 years and older
- 6 months and over with certain chronic medical conditions (e.g. heart disease, severe asthma, diabetes)
- Children's 6 months to less than 5 years
- All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 6 months and over
- Pregnant women

Private flu shots (*those not eligible for a government funded vaccine*) are also now in stock!
These will be \$20 each.

Please call the clinic on 5451 5220 to arrange an appointment.

We are thinking of you



A card was delivered to all the residents at the Boort Hostel on behalf of the Community from The Boort Resource and Information Centre Committee of Management, to let the residents know we are all thinking of them while they are isolated from loved ones during the pandemic.





2019 ACTIVE LIVING CENSUS RESULTS FOR LODDON SHIRE RELEASED

Loddon Shire has released the results from the 2019 Active Living Census.

You can view and download the Selected Findings and Topline reports at Loddon Shire - Healthy Heart of Victoria. We encourage you to read the reports and share with your colleagues and broader networks.

The Active Living Census (ALC) was conducted across the Loddon Campaspe region during May and June 2019 to allow a better understanding of people's activity levels and preferences and help with planning for health and recreation services. It was completed by over 24,500 people throughout region, including by 812 or just under 12% of people in the Loddon Shire.

The results provide important information about people's health and wellbeing including participation in organised sport and informal physical activity, consumption of fruit, vegetables, water, alcohol and sugary drinks, smoking and gambling, overweight and obesity, and life satisfaction. The results also provide information about barriers to healthy eating and active lifestyles, and data on what would help support communities to be more active, more often. The findings are broken down by township, special interest groups and by the 10 activities with the highest rate of yearly participation. A summary findings section on health and wellbeing and physical activity is also included.

The 6 localities include Boort and Surrounds, East Loddon Area, Inglewood-Bridgewater and Surrounds, Pyramid Hill and Surrounds, South Loddon and Wedderburn and Surrounds.

The Active Living Census is part of the Healthy Heart of Victoria initiative which was funded to help address concerning health statistics across the Loddon Campaspe region. Infrastructure and activation projects to get more people, more active, more often, as well as policy work to help make health everyone's business, are already underway within Loddon Shire as part of the initiative.

We encourage you to download and use the Active Living Census report.

View and download the report at
[Loddon Shire - Healthy Heart of Victoria.](#)

**For further information, contact Stephanie
Freemantle on 0436 816 375.**



To the Boort Community & Surrounds,

Boort Agricultural and Pastoral Society have decided this year to cancel the Boort Show which would have been held on the 10th October.

This has not been an easy decision for the committee to make, but in the light of the Covid-19 restrictions this was the only option, at this time.

The committee felt it best to make a decision now, rather than later, as we rely heavily on the amazing support of our local community and loyal sponsors, and realise that, during this time, there may be some strain on both.

The Agricultural and Pastoral society are looking forward to organising and bringing you the 2021 show.

To all our wonderful community, please stay safe.

For more information, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Regards,
Madeleine Scott
President
Boort A&P Society
0425 791 869

Kelly Hird
Secretary
Boort A&P Society
0438 552 133

Building Resilience in Kids

Online Zoom Sessions



Resilience is the ability to cope with ups and downs, bounce back and even grow in the face of challenges.

Resilience is not just about managing current stressors, but also developing skills for dealing with challenges throughout life and enhancing mental health.

Learn how you can help kids develop skills, habits and attitudes for building resilience:

- Building good relationships
- Independence
- Confidence to face challenges
- Managing emotions

Term 3, 2020

When: Evening Session: Monday 20th July 2020
Time: 7.30pm - 9.00pm
When: Day Session: Friday 24th July 2020
Time: 10.30am - 12.00pm
Where: Online Zoom Session
Cost: Free
Facilitators: CCS Family and Relationship Services

Groups are subject to maximum and minimum numbers determined seven working days prior to start date. Please register early



For bookings and enquiries contact Reception on 5438 1300 or
email@ccds.org.au



BOORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

A recent donation to our Museum is a beautiful antique bookcase which was inherited by Helen Montgomery from Charles Andrews' Store in Godfrey Street (1887 – 1906). Pencilled on the back is A. L. Ladbury (Solicitors 1911 - 1924). We are most grateful to Helen Montgomery for this generous gift to our Museum. Our local chap, Luke Rye of "Snooze" Bendigo kindly had the cabinet delivered to us by his carrier company "Need it Now" at his expense in support of the Historical Society. We are all volunteers, but donations of this size are extraordinary and deserve our sincere thanks and ask readers to please support them in return.

During this time of Corona Virus shut down, Loddon Shire is carrying out major maintenance and repairs to the old Court House Building, consisting of stabilising slates on the roof, solidifying foundations, filling cracks in the brick and plaster work and painting surrounding trim. Peter Sporn, Building Maintenance Officer, with Loddon Shire Council, is to be commended on the job he is doing in co-ordinating contractors and overseeing the maintenance of this beautiful historical building, and Loddon Shire, thankfully, is financing this very worthwhile project.

Does anyone have a copy of "Smoke from the Hill" by Fae Stevens that they no longer need? We have people wanting to buy one.

Phone Historical Society on 0428133381.



BOORT ANGLING CLUB INC A 0051259 P

*34 Ring Road, Boort, Vic. 3537 or
P.O Box 43Boort, Vic. 3537*

Good to see ten members at the June Meeting after no gatherings for several months. Because of Covid-19 restrictions we were unable to hold the June meeting at our Club Rooms, so instead we went to the Railway Hotel Boort, at 6.30pm for a lovely meal and 7.30pm start for the meeting. BAC greatly appreciate the offer and the effort from Andrew and Kerrie, to set up and let us hold our meetings there. Good to see our Major Sponsor, Joe Page come from Bendigo and join in with new ideas, advice, contact details etc. Fresh ways of looking at things always help.

We now have the Loddon Shire Council, Management, DA 34 ready to sign and return.

Discussion on what we can do after Covid-19 was referred until next meeting, because there are too many unknowns to make decisions at this stage.

Grant application for the Air Conditioner Project has been presented and we should hear late in July if we are successful or not.

The insurance claim from the storm, months ago was successful and paid by Insurance House.

The Annual General Meeting that should have been held in May, will now be held on the ninth (9th) July 2020. Subject to (Covid-19 restrictions). This will be at the Railway Hotel Boort. 6.30pm for a meal and 7.30pm SHARP for the Annual Meeting, followed by the General Meeting. Please note, business for discussion at the Annual Meeting MUST be in writing and with the Secretary by Friday 3rd of July.

Next BAC Fishing Competition, Saturday 18th July and Sunday 19th July will be on private property and open to BAC members only. Contact Ron or Rod for directions.

Not many good fish being caught just now but look at this nice Yellow Belly caught and held

by Chris Rothacker. There are fish there if you persist. Fishing is one thing you can do while exercising the required distance. New Members Welcome. Keep safe, but, don't forget to enjoy life.

Wet Lines, BAC Committee



Email: boortanglingclub@yahoo.com



Through all the challenges this year has thrown at us, one thing is clear: the outdoors is never cancelled, and there is no better way to gain mental and physical health than enjoying nature. Loddon Valley has so much to offer when it comes to outstanding natural beauty and what better way to leave everyday stresses behind this winter than to explore Victoria's backyard!

Our National and State parks offer an abundance of space and opportunity to reconnect with Mother Nature. Immerse yourself in unique forests, wetlands, waterways, 460-million-year-old granite outcrops and rare grasslands. Pitch a tent or roll out your swag at one of the many camping sites available, and take in a few million stars overnight. The stars in the Loddon Valley are visible from the horizon, and the curve of the earth can be seen from the top of Kooyoora State Park. The peak of Mount Kooyoora also showcases 360-degree views across the valley and, on the journey up – if you look closely – you will find the smooth, shallow rock wells used by local Indigenous people to collect water. The Loddon Valley has one of the state's most extensive water systems – with wetlands, lakes and Victoria's second longest river. Experienced canoers can set their own pace on any of the Loddon Valley's picturesque waterways, from the Loddon River in the south to the Boort Wetlands in the north. The recent launch of three self-guided canoe trails along the Serpentine Creek, the Laanecoorie Reservoir and the Loddon River, means there's the opportunity for anyone and everyone to try a spot of peaceful paddling.

Little Lake Boort, a great spot for canoeing and boating, also offers a 3.7km loop around the lake for walking or riding where the Dja Dja Wurrung people would once camp, and where well-preserved middens and scar trees are still evident. The boardwalk, completed in 2012, offers a wonderful opportunity to view bird and animal life.

The wetland area hosts many species including Fairy Martins, Black Swans, Dusky Moorhens, turtles, water rats and at least six types of frog. Further afield, many rare and endangered birds and animals have taken sanctuary in the Loddon Valley – some, like the Plains Wanderer, that exist nowhere else in the world.

The Loddon Valley is the perfect place to indulge in a little birdwatching, with Terrick Terrick National Park considered a real hotspot for twitching. Australian Ringneck, Gilberts Whistler, Reigels, Painted and Black Honeyeaters and even Wedge-tail Eagles are on view throughout the seasons.

With 6,700 square kilometres of State and National Parks, pristine waterways, forests, mountains and farmland to explore, there has never been a better time to switch off from everyday life, reconnect with nature and visit the Loddon Valley.

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Get in touch with rare and endangered animals and



birds; enjoy the rivers, lakes and reservoirs, and perhaps even try your hand at one of the self-guided canoeing tours. Mountain views, vast vistas across wide open plains and stars seen to the horizon... Loddon Valley in the winter is the best way to remind yourself how wonderful the world really is.

For more information about Loddon Valley, contact the Loddon Visitor Information Centre on (03) 5494 3489 or

www.visitloddonvalley.com.au



One of the best ways to stay informed about what is happening in the Loddon Shire and to see important Council updates is by following our Facebook page. Make sure you 'like' the page to receive updates in your newsfeed

<https://www.facebook.com/LoddonShire/>

Contact the Loddon Visitor Information Centre on (03) 5494 3489 or www.visitloddonvalley.com.au



COLLECTIONS EXHIBITION

Featuring the wonderful, beautiful, exotic, historical, unusual, retro, fun, unique & curious Treasures of Private Collectors.

Jo Armstrong

Launch Saturday 27, June 2pm. View Friday to Monday (11am to 4 pm) until August 3rd.

St Arnaud Railway Station, Queens Avenue. Located directly behind Ridley's Barastoc on McMahon Street, St Arnaud Victoria.

Discover Loddon Valley through online store

FURTHER INFORMATION: (03) 5494 1205

A new collaboration aims to put unique, gourmet products from across the Loddon Shire at the fingertips of food lovers and discerning shoppers throughout Australia.

The development of an online store on the Visit Loddon Valley website, in partnership with the Food Purveyor, will give consumers direct access to the high quality artisan produce of the Loddon Shire, all in one place at one time.

The Food Purveyor is a successful gourmet Australian hamper e-store and will manage the store to enable food producers, growers and micro businesses to offer a range of locally produced products

The Food Purveyor specialises in sourcing the finest gourmet Australian-made products to offer an indulgent food experience. The hampers are packed and couriered around Australia, putting even the most niche business within reach of an extensive range of customers. Some of

the Food Purveyor's corporate clients include David Jones and National Bank of Australia.

By boosting exposure and distribution opportunities, the partnership with the Food Purveyor will offer established and emerging food and beverage businesses in Loddon Shire the opportunity to rebound during and after restrictions placed on business as a result of COVID-19.

Loddon Shire Council's Tourism and Marketing Officer Robyn Vella said "the online store will provide customers throughout Australia with the opportunity to purchase unique and hard-to-find gourmet and artisan products from across the Loddon Region, delivered directly to their door."

"The establishment of an online store offers a fantastic opportunity for our local producers to promote and develop the great range of innovative and high quality products currently offered in the Loddon Shire. This store will be the perfect way for small businesses to extend their reach and sales as part of the recovery of COVID-19."

The store will be accessed via the Visit Loddon Valley website www.visitloddonvalley.com.au. Any Loddon Valley business who would like participate in the initiative should contact the Loddon Visitor Information Centre on (03) 5494 1257 or email loddonvisitorinformation@loddon.vic.gov.au

Loddon Shire COVID-19 updates

In order to keep moving the state towards the easing of restrictions yet still limit the spread of the virus, the government has announced that the State of Emergency has been extended until 11.59pm on 19 July.

This will ensure that measures remain in place to enforce physical distancing relating to businesses, working from home, mass gatherings and recreational activities. It has been stressed that those who are able to work from home must continue to do so. By limiting the number of people moving around, it helps protect those who do have to go to work.

In other updates, Parks Victoria has opened most parks, with some limitations. This includes some campgrounds and caravan parks. For details, check with Parks Victoria: <https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/get-into-nature/safety-in-nature/covid-19-update>.

In addition, many tourism businesses and attractions are resuming operation. In order to protect staff and visitors, the Tourism Industry has released guidelines and answers to frequently asked questions which focus on cleaning, maintaining distances and adapting business practices to ensure everyone's safety.

Full details may be found on the website: <https://www.business.vic.gov.au/disputes-disasters-and-succession-planning/coronavirus-covid-19/tourism-industry-guidelines-for-coronavirus-covid-19>.

Business Adaptation Program

Financial support is available for eligible food production businesses and farms in Victoria to adapt their workplace and supply chain as a result of changes imposed by the coronavirus pandemic.

Individual grants of between \$10,000 and \$300,000 will be provided to support businesses meet the cost of adapting to provide health, safety, and physical distancing requirements in order to keep critical food supply businesses going.

Grants are aimed at covering 50 per cent of the adaptation process and may include purchase of machinery or appliances in order to maintain operations. To find out more, visit <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/emergencies/coronavirus/agriculture-workforce-plan>.

Agriculture Workforce Plan

The second part of the government's plan to ensure the agriculture sector has what it needs to continue operating, is the Agriculture Workforce Plan. This plan supports workers who have lost their jobs as a result of the pandemic to find paid work.

The plan aims to match workers with employers in the agriculture sector, providing practical backing for the state's food industries. Support will also be provided for relocation, accommodation and training, if required.

For details and eligibility visit <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/emergencies/coronavirus/agriculture-workforce-plan>.

Cooperative conversations

One way for farmers and producers to be more resilient and profitable is work together collaboratively. To help them achieve this, the Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals (BCCM) has developed inspiring content to help educate and inform the agricultural sector about collaborations.

A 10-part livestream/on-demand series has been created which showcases farming cooperatives and their stories. Respected agricultural journalist Pete Lewis will talk candidly with primary producers who have set up or run successful businesses. A roundtable will follow with farmers, business leaders, researchers or professionals discussing the benefits of cooperative farming and talking about some of the biggest issues facing Australian primary producers.

The first issue airs on 17 June at 6.30pm and looks at the topic 'Could cooperative farming future proof Australian farmers?' For more details or to register, visit the website <https://conversations.coopfarming.coop/>.

Serrated tussock

Now is the time to check your property for the noxious weed, serrated tussock. Recent rains have been good for the growth of the weed.



Serrated tussock can germinate any time but particularly in autumn and winter and after good

rain. Newly germinated seedlings appear bright green and stand out from other grasses in a pasture.

A mature plant can produce thousands of seeds in a season that could blow up to twenty kilometres from the parent plant. Information on how to identify and control serrated tussock may be found at <http://www.serratedtussock.com/>.

Agroforestry – have your say

Scientists from the University of Tasmania are working on a project that aims to understand how farmers make decision about planting trees on their farms. They hope to find out about decisions affecting erosion control, shelter, cost and farm restoration and how they might influence decision-making.

Take part in the survey at :

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TJRNNDY> and be eligible to win a Bunnings voucher.

Boost for Boort Agriculture and Pastoral Society

It was good news for Boort with the recent announcement that the Agriculture and Pastoral Society had successfully gained \$10,000 for the installation of sheep yards at the Boort Showgrounds.

Silence is deadly

With the onset of winter, the CFA is once again reminding us that smoke detectors save lives, but only when they are working.

The CFA urges all of us to make sure that smoke alarms in our homes are tested and the batteries or entire unit is replaced if necessary.

Deadline extended for pool and spa owners

The deadline for mandatory registration of private pools and spas has been extended due to the impact of coronavirus.

Private pool and spa owners now have until 1 November 2020 to register their pools with Council – an extension from the original deadline of 1 June 2020. The new deadline is an acknowledgement of the increased pressure on families due to the pandemic.

An application to register a swimming pool or spa may be obtained from Council's website www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Council/Forms-and-permit-applications under "Building".

More about solar

Loddon has partnered with the More Australian Solar Homes (MASH) community solar bulk-buy. This bulk-buy program has been running for over five years with enormous success in neighbouring shires.

It has helped over 1,500 households install solar panels on their homes and donated over \$100,000 in free solar for community groups and schools. The bulk-buy is owned and managed by the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance, a not-for-profit organisation established to help our region make the transition to renewable energy.

An online solar power meeting will be held on Thursday 11 June from 5 to 6pm which will aim to give you the information you need to know when considering going solar; the rebates available (which apply for the whole of Loddon Shire) and the systems and prices available through the MASH bulk-buy.

For more information visit the website:

<https://mash.org.au/> or

Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/mashcastlemaine/>



Council is about to commence recruiting for 38 temporary positions.

These jobs are 6 month contracts and include indoor and outdoor positions.

We want to recruit as many local people that need work as we can.

To be eligible, go to <https://www.vic.gov.au/workingforvictoria> and click on 'I'm looking for work'.

Register on Sidekicker and tell us about your experience and the kind of work you're looking for. You will receive an activation email when your registration is processed.

In the coming days, Council will post the available positions. You can then look for jobs and apply for jobs that suit you.



Centrelink Farm
Household Allowance

Call Rural Financial
Counselling Service on
1300 769 489



Local jobs blitz

FURTHER INFORMATION: (03) 5494 1205

Locals are being encouraged to apply for new jobs at Loddon Shire Council under the Victorian Government's *Working for Victoria* fund.

Under *Working for Victoria*, Council will offer more than 30 jobs for unemployed people – whether they have lost their jobs due to the impacts of coronavirus (COVID-19) or have been without work for a longer period of time.

Loddon Shire CEO, Phil Pinyon said the \$500 million Victorian Government initiative is matching people that have lost their jobs with employers who need additional staff.

Mr Pinyon said the council was successful in applying for the fund after it was announced last month.

Council has commenced listing the available positions, and will offer roles on six-month terms in jobs across the organisation, both indoor and outdoor positions. People are encouraged to check the listings for additions over the coming weeks.

More than 6,700 Victorians have found positions through *Working for Victoria* since the program was launched in April, providing a quick return to work and access to training where required.

“Loddon Shire Council is really pleased to take part in *Working for Victoria* and is looking forward to welcoming our new employees on board,” Mr Pinyon said.

“If you're looking for a job, we want to hear from you. Jump on the working for Victoria website and apply.”

The Government has struck new agreements with 15 councils across Victoria to support more than 1,000 people into jobs.

To find out more about the *Working for Victoria* fund and to register your interest in applying for one of the jobs at Loddon Shire Council, visit www.vic.gov.au/workingforvictoria

Loddon continues history of cash surplus in 2020/21 budget

FURTHER INFORMATION: (03) 5494 1205

On Tuesday 23 June 2020 Councillors will consider the adoption of the 2020/21 Loddon Shire Council budget.

The budget forecasts an accumulated cash surplus of around \$100,000.

In 2020/21, more than half of Council's \$23M income is expected to come from sources other than rates and charges. These sources include grants and interest income.

From a \$33M expenditure budget, almost \$10M is depreciation on Council's assets. Most of those assets are property, infrastructure, plant and equipment valued at over \$383M.

Over \$7M is allocated to capital works including:
\$400K on building asset renewals
Over \$2M on local road reseals and construction
\$350K on urban drainage
\$500K on the Lake Boort precinct
\$750K on community planning projects

The funds for capital works come from a variety of sources including grants (\$2.5M), Council cash income (\$2.7M), Council savings (\$1.5M), and sale of assets.

Council adopts a responsible approach to funding capital projects by saving smaller amounts each year toward larger projects. This helps to ensure the project can be delivered without increasing the rates to an unreasonable level. These amounts, together with savings on projects throughout the year, are held in reserve (savings) so they can be drawn on to fund the difference between the cost of the project and the amount of funding available. This practice results in a deficit being shown in income statements but an accumulated cash surplus overall.

After the preparation of the budget, Council was also advised of almost \$2m in grant funding to employ over 30 people, whether they have lost their jobs due to the impacts of coronavirus (COVID-19) or have been without work for a longer period of time.

A number of other funding announcements have been made and Council is awaiting the detail of those announcements. Further information will be provided as it becomes available.

Getting back to business

This week, there's more good news on our road to recovery from the pandemic; with another big, but cautious step forward. Changes include allowing more people to use such facilities as libraries, cafés, community centres, galleries and museums, pubs and clubs and even ski resorts. Some forms of sport as well as gyms and training facilities will also begin to reopen.

Each organisation has its own unique situation and must adhere to regulations to ensure the safety of patrons or participants. Before visiting, check with the business or group to find out if they are open and what limitations they may have. For details on the 21 June updates, visit the DHHS website:

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorias-restriction-levels-covid-19>.

Accommodation venues, caravan parks and camping grounds are also gradually opening depending on their ability to manage the regulations such as physical distancing and cleaning. You should check with individual facilities prior to making travel arrangements.

Meanwhile you can continue to play your part in helping to manage the spread of coronavirus by washing your hands carefully and frequently, maintaining physical distance when out and where possible, continuing to work from home. If you have any symptoms, no matter how mild, you must get tested.

Don't neglect your health

There has been an alarming fall in the number of people having routine health check-ups since the start of the pandemic.

Putting off a visit to the doctor or hospital if you experience any issues or unusual symptoms, or delaying age-appropriate tests, could lead to more severe illness. In addition, correct management of a pre-existing medical condition is vital to protect your health and avoid hospitalisation.

Many hospitals and GPs are offering telehealth appointments for check-ups and ongoing conditions.

They are also undertaking additional cleaning and physical distancing protocols to provide a safe environment for their patients and staff.

Telehealth is now more widely used in rural areas and removes the travel and wait times to see a doctor in person.

If you are due for breast, bowel, prostate or cervical cancer screening, don't put your health at risk – make an appointment now. Contact your GP and don't let coronavirus put you off seeking treatment for any health concerns.

Weeds and rabbits

The Weeds and Rabbits Project is seeking support from land managers, including farmers, to help combat pests and weeds which cost Victoria more than \$1 billion a year.

Agriculture Victoria is working together with land managers to find out what social and behavioural factors influence pest and weed management.

Landholders are invited to take part in a state-wide survey which will be strictly confidential. The survey takes about fifteen minutes to complete and is open until Wednesday 24 June. Click here to be taken to the survey: <https://weedsandrabbits.com/survey/>.

Works around the Shire

The coronavirus has impacted the ability to complete works around the Shire, as staff and contractors work with restrictions. However, I am pleased to report that the schedule of reseals for this financial year has been completed, as has the LED light upgrades at 15 Council buildings.

Significant funding of \$754,678 had been allocated for the replacement and installation of new footpaths in Inglewood, Bridgewater, Wedderburn and Boort (totalling 3,200 square metres) and to improve drainage in Kiniry Street in Boort. As mentioned in a previous column, the work has been completed in Wedderburn and Boort and continues on the footpaths at Inglewood and Bridgewater, while the drainage works in Boort are about to get underway after some delays.

In a funding partnership with Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, the budgeted ground works have commenced at the Old Inglewood Reservoir, starting with the bank upgrades.

Preparations are underway for the commencement of culvert works in Kelly Street, Pyramid Hill which is expected to begin by the end of June.

Community engagement

The community is being encouraged to join Council in the development of three key documents as part of the Loddon Project.

Beginning with the Community Engagement Policy, Council will work with the community to find out how residents can best participate in Council decision-making. The findings will help develop the Community Vision – a document which will express the aims of the community for the next decade. In turn, the Community Vision will shape the Council Plan, setting out the strategic direction and objectives for the next four-year period, including Council's ideas and priorities for services, infrastructure and amenity.

The first step will be a webinar on Monday 22 June at 10am, which will invite residents to have their say about Council decision-making. There are numerous ways to be involved, including joining the Loddon Project Facebook page and completing the online survey. For more information visit the website: www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Council/Community-Engagement/The-Loddon-Project or call Council on 03 5494 1200.

Did you know

Council is responsible for looking after 4,657 kilometres of road, of which about 920 kilometres is sealed. This makes up the majority of the roads within the Shire boundaries and they are known as 'local roads'. A full list of local roads may be found on Council's Road Register.

However, some people may not know that many of the more frequently used roads are the responsibility of Regional Roads Victoria, and a full list of those roads may also be found on our website: <https://www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Services/Footpaths-roads-and-drains/Roads>.

The recently released 2020 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey – Statewide Report indicates a declining trend with the level of satisfaction with sealed local roads in the Loddon Shire. There is anecdotal evidence that some members of the community may not realise the difference between local roads and those managed

by the State, which may have distorted our sealed local roads rating.

With the help of both State and Commonwealth Governments, Council will spend just over \$10.5 million on its road network this year. This equates to approximately \$4,900 per kilometre of sealed road and \$1,100 per kilometre of unsealed road. In addition, \$1.7 million is spent on bridge renewal projects.

If you are aware of a road maintenance issue, you can tell us by filling out the online form or by calling Council for urgent matters. If the road is managed by Regional Roads Victoria, they can be contacted on 133 RRV (133 778). Repair works for roads under Council jurisdiction are prioritised as per the Road Management Plan.

The Loddon Project - have your say on...

Community Engagement

Loddon Shire Council is committed to engaging with residents in order to develop three key documents for the Shire. Together, these are known as the Loddon Project and include: a Community Engagement Policy, the Community Vision and a Council Plan.

The revised Local Government Act is encouraging councils to participate more actively in community engagement in order to improve practices, collaborate more effectively and empower stakeholders in decision-making.

Commencing next week, Council will work together with residents over the following 12 months, to review Council's Community Engagement Policy, develop our Community Vision and then prepare the Council Plan.

The Community Engagement Policy is about how Council seeks input from the community and how residents participate in Council decision making. In order to review the Policy, Council will include the community engagement principles outlined in the Local Government Act, find ways to make it easier for people to participate in the process and gain a greater understanding of the ways communities would prefer to interact with Council for other projects.

Residents can begin to have their say about how they would like to provide input into Council decision-making by taking part in a webinar at 10am on Monday 22 June.

Following the review of the Policy, Council will work with the community to develop the Community Vision. The Vision will be a document which expresses the aims of the community over a 10 year period.

The Vision will be an integral part of developing the Council Plan. The purpose of the Plan is to set out Council's strategic direction and objectives for a four-year period. The Plan will also include a framework for monitoring the achievement of objectives and provide a description of the Council's initiatives and priorities for services, infrastructure, and amenity.

There are numerous ways residents can be involved and stay up to date with The Loddon Project, including by joining the Loddon Project Facebook page, visiting the Loddon Project page on Council's website as well as taking part in webinars and other engagement activities including the online survey.

Webinar: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-loddon-project-community-engagement-policy-webinar-tickets-108420885788

Loddon Project Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/groups/684395515470441/members

Loddon Project webpage:
www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Our-Council/Community-Engagement/The-Loddon-Project

Loddon Project Survey:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZBRD3Z3>

Contact: Kate McRae of Projectura on 0407 076 123 or email kate@projectura.com.au



Expressions of interest are being taken for these courses:
Provide CPR \$70 HLTAID003
Provide First Aid \$170 HLTAID001
Call BRIC on 5455 2716

The Boort Resource and Information Centre has a new logo.



A.B.N. 38 244 214 245

BRIC GYM

OPENED June 22

Boort Community Gym re-opened on Monday 22nd June.

Please come into BRIC to have your Membership card reinstated.

There will be COVID-19 guidelines to ensure everyone's safety:

In line with the Victorian Government's easing of Covid-19 restrictions, the Boort Gym re-opened at 12:00 midnight on Monday 22nd June, with physical distancing and hygiene practices in place.

All Gym members received a letter explaining the physical distancing and hygiene requirements.

To re-activate your membership, please bring your Gym card into BRIC. If you would prefer to continue the suspension of your membership and re-activate at a later date, please contact BRIC staff before September 21st.



Articles for "About Boort"

newsletter need to arrive by 9.00am

on the 20th of the month

for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Email bric.boort@bigpond.com



Australian Government

Be Connected

Every Australian online.

Be Connected

With social distancing requirements, there has never been a better time to get online!

Do you need help using your device? Call BRIC for more information 5455 2716

BOORT GOLF CLUB

The 2020 season of our golf has certainly commenced differently this year, but what a pleasure it is to be able to enjoy going out to a social event and enjoy a game of golf on a very well prepared golf course. It is a credit to the men who have put in many hours cleaning up trees and preparing the fairways and sandscapes.

Because the golf season has commenced later and will not have all the normal events, the Membership this year has been reduced by 25%. Hopefully this will encourage some extra players out to have a game of golf. Don't forget that if you are not interested in being a member you can enjoy some fresh air and lovely stroll around the golf course as a Greens Member. This year some of our Special days and the usual Club Tournament are not being run, due to the Virus.

The ladies have been having up to eleven players and have commenced their Ladies' Club Championship on the 17th June with Di Johnston and Karen Allison competing in the A Grade event, with Sally Keeble, (welcome back this year) leading from Lorraine Linehan and Isabel Loader in the B Grade event. Congratulations to Di Johnston who had an Eagle on the No. 3 hole, so was able to collect the golf balls from the Eagles Nest.

The Men have had up to 21 players competing on some days and a few visitors to welcome making the competition interesting. The Men's Championship has commenced and they play 4 Stroke rounds and the player with the best 3 rounds of golf is the winner. After the 2nd round in A Grade Stuart Tweddle is leading Andrew Kane by 1 stroke while in B Grade Alister McDougal has a 4 stroke lead from Damien Lanyon who is 1 stroke ahead of Simon Linehan and Tim Lanyon a further 1 stroke behind Simon. Could be some interesting results for the August About Boort

If unsure of any playing regulations or what event

For information about Golf events the following can be contacted.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| President: Stuart Tweddle | 0413 482 353 |
| Captain: Andrew Kane | 0428 378 738 |
| Ladies' President: Dot Beattie | 0427 552 461 |
| Lady Captain: Di Johnston | 0427 434 625 |

Programs are aplenty at Goldfields Libraries this July

Programs are aplenty at Goldfields Libraries this July, and we invite everyone to join in the fun!

The month will kick off with our Wild & Woolly Winter holiday program, aimed at keeping school-aged kids entertained during the chilly winter days. Imaginations will be ignited as kids create their very own winter scene using Lego or Minecraft, or contribute to our first community-written junior fiction novel.

Create beautiful paper snowflakes, wind streamers, wind mobiles and even snow using easy-to-find and household items, or join in one of our online workshops. Get your groove on with our interactive street dance workshop, learn some magic tricks to fool family and friends or be inspired to start writing and journaling by local writer Caitlin McGregor.

"We're also excited to launch a very special interactive workshop with local author and illustrator Trace Balla. 'Cartooning in the time of Corona' is part of our Life in Lockdown project and is a way to help people share their story of what life has been like for them during the Coronavirus Pandemic", says Goldfields Libraries Manager of Engagement Lucy Mayes. "People of all ages and abilities are encouraged to join in".

There is also plenty for the adults with author talks, online workshops and history sessions.

Author Paige Toon will join us to chat about her latest book *The minute I saw you*; Dr Marjorie Theobald will detail how The Bendigo Red Ribbon miners helped democratise Victoria, and authors Helen Garner and Robyn Annear will delight with some light-hearted conversation during this tough time. Heather Blakey will teach the art of journal writing, and AFLW powerhouse, Moana Hope, will share her caring story of being a full-time carer to her sister while balancing work commitments and her passion for Football.

Tech sessions will continue as we aim to help those over 50 gain access and confidence in using technology for everyday life through our Be Connected program.

"Our libraries are currently open, but with current restrictions in place, we are unable to hold any sessions in our spaces", says Ms Mayes. "We understand that this means some people may not be able to participate. If you do not have access to the internet at home and would like to join in any of our events, please get in touch. We may be able to assist you to use one of our library computers or free Wi-Fi to join in."

www.Facebook.com/GoldfieldsLibraryAgencies

Walking

highlighted as the top way to keep active as 2019 active living census findings released for Loddon Shire



Healthy Heart of Victoria has released the local findings of the 2019 Active Living Census (ALC) for Loddon Shire. This follows the release of the results for the Loddon Campaspe region earlier this year.

With 812 responses received, the results from the Census provide an important insight into the health and wellbeing of people within Loddon Shire.

One of the largest surveys ever conducted within Loddon Shire, the Active Living Census asked residents questions about their health and wellbeing, including their participation in organised sport and informal physical activity, consumption of fruit, vegetables, water, alcohol and sugary drinks, overweight and obesity rates, rates of smoking and gambling, and levels of life satisfaction.

The aim of the Census was to develop a dataset to help inform decision making on investments, infrastructure, programs and services to ensure they are what is needed, where they're needed.

Additionally, the intent of the findings is to assist local government and community agencies, schools, sporting clubs, community groups and residents within each local government area to advocate for the health and wellbeing of our communities. It will also support these organisations and groups to be more informed about the health behaviours within their communities and to assist them in obtaining funding to help create better health outcomes locally.

Key findings from 2019 Active Living Census for Loddon include:

Walking is the most popular type of physical activity, followed by swimming, active play, tennis and bush walking.

Three in every four adults in the Loddon Shire are overweight or obese (72.1%). This is higher than the Victorian average of 49.7%.

One in every seven adults meet the daily vegetable consumption guidelines (15.2%) as compared to the Victorian average of 4.9%.

One in nine households (11.5%) in the Loddon Shire are food insecure – they do not have enough to eat. In some areas, this increases to one in six households. This is higher than the Victorian average of 6.2%.

People in the Loddon Campaspe region want to be more active more often, with 55.7% of females and 53.3% of males wanting to do more activity.

Food insecurity and household self-rated prosperity appear to be key predictors for a cluster of health behaviours and outcomes, with food insecure and low income households reporting lower levels of health and wellbeing overall, higher rates of overweight and obesity, higher rates of health-risk behaviours (i.e. smoking, alcohol, sugary drinks) and lower rates of health-protecting behaviours (i.e. physical activity, fruit and vegetable consumption).

Cheryl McKinnon, Loddon Shire Mayor, said “There are two reports available for the Active Living Census for Loddon Shire – a comprehensive Topline report featuring detailed tables of data on every survey question, and a Selected Findings report highlighting the main findings.”

“The Selected Findings report is broken down by each township as well as by the top activities with the highest rate of yearly participation, and into specific demographic and population groups.”

“There is also a comprehensive summary at the beginning of each of these reports, which provides a holistic overview of the findings for Loddon, and compares the results to the Loddon Campaspe region as well as to Victorian state statistics.”

The Active Living Census was funded by the Healthy Heart of Victoria initiative and project-managed by Healthy Greater Bendigo. The ALC is a key part of the Healthy Heart of Victoria initiative which was funded to address concerning health statistics across the Loddon Campaspe region – the heart of Victoria. In addition to the ALC, infrastructure and activation projects to get more people, more active, more often and encourage healthy eating, as well as policy work to help make health everyone’s business, are already underway.

The 2019 Active Living Census reports are available to view and download from www.loddon.vic.gov.au now.

ABOUT THE HEALTHY HEART OF VICTORIA INITIATIVE

[Healthy Heart of Victoria](#) (HHV) is a State Government funded initiative aimed at improving the health of people in the Loddon Campaspe region – the ‘heart’ of Victoria.

Healthy Heart of Victoria projects are designed to focus on those parts of the community that are the least active and least supported to get more people, more active, more often.

The six Loddon Campaspe Local Government Areas are involved – Campaspe Shire, Central Goldfields Shire, City of Greater Bendigo, Loddon Shire, Macedon Ranges Shire and Mount Alexander Shire. There are three main components to the initiative:

The Active Living Census (ALC)

An evaluation and measurement tool to enable evidence-based planning for the provision of health and recreation services and allow deep understanding of people’s activity levels and preferences

Infrastructure and activation that gets more people, more active, more often

Healthy Heart of Victoria is funding improvements and support for infrastructure, facilities and/or programs across the region to enable more community members to increase their activity levels. This part of the initiative will focus on areas where residents are less active.

Examples include:

Upgrades to Crossenvale Park in Echuca in the Campaspe Shire, including nature playground,

fitness programs and a water fountain

Path upgrades and the introduction of a parkrun at Maryborough’s Goldfields Reservoir in Central Goldfields Shire

Path, seating and lighting upgrades, along with the installation of outdoor fitness equipment in Kangaroo Flat and Long Gully in City of Greater Bendigo

Installation of outdoor fitness equipment in Wedderburn and Boort in Loddon Shire

Walkyneton – improvements to pathways and facilities along the Campaspe River Walk in Kyneton in Macedon Ranges Shire

Path and crossing upgrades in Castlemaine in Mount Alexander Shire Council

Health Broker workforce

A workforce of Health Brokers has been appointed to work across the six Loddon Campaspe Councils. The Health Broker’s role is to develop relationships between Council, local organisations and community groups to help build knowledge and influence decision making with respect to health and wellbeing.

eLibrary

The library has a fantastic range of resources available through our eLibrary, which can be accessed for FREE through our website! To start, go to www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au/elibrary. Note that some resources require you to be on a library computer or connected to our Wi-Fi, and some may require you to log in with your library card number and password. Here are just **some** of the fantastic resources available in our eLibrary:

Access eBooks, eAudiobooks and eMagazines through Borrow Box, RBDigital, CloudLibrary and uLibrary.	
Access online newspapers including the Age, the Sydney Morning Herald and the Financial Review.	
Access a wide range of online training courses through Lynda.com.	
Access family history resources including Ancestry.com and Find My Past.	
Access free music streaming through Freegal.	
Access free movie streaming through Kanopy and Beamafilm.	



Working together to support our community through COVID-19

FURTHER INFORMATION: (03) 5494 1205

In Loddon Shire, local Government, health and social services and community groups are working together to strengthen and coordinate our response to the COVID-19 virus.

We understand that the COVID-19 virus is causing hardship, disruption and anxiety in our community. Our “We’re in this together Loddon – stay safe” initiative is all about coming together to support community wellbeing.

The Loddon Shire community is well known for being a strong community. We have faced challenges before such as drought and flood and we are good at helping others. We acknowledge and thank the many businesses, community groups and residents who are working hard to support and serve the community. We invite you to share examples of kindness from your neighbourhood using the hashtag **#wereinthistogetherloddon**.

To communicate the good work that is going on, and where you can go for help, partner agencies from the Bendigo Loddon Primary Care Partnership (PCP) have compiled a list of community support services and resources. This has been sent in the mail to all homes in the Loddon Shire and can also be found at <https://www.blpcp.com.au/loddon-resources> on the PCP website. We encourage you to use the list if you are in need of assistance or if you would like to connect with a program.

During these times of physical distancing it is important to consider other ways to remain connected to others. Some ideas include regular phone or video conversations to reach out to family and friends or dropping a note in your neighbour’s letterbox to offer your support, should they need it. In the coming weeks, we will continue to share wellbeing tips via social media. There are also several helplines that you can access immediately, which are listed.

As we come into winter, we encourage you to get vaccinated against the flu (influenza) at your GP, community health service or local pharmacy. This will help to reduce the impact of the flu season on our health services, older and vulnerable community members and the wider community.

For general information, or if you suspect you may have the COVID-19 virus, you can call the dedicated hotline 1800 675 398. You can ask for an interpreter in your language.

If you are unwell, and suspect it might be COVID-19, it is important you call ahead before presenting to your GP or health service.

Please keep Triple Zero (000) for emergencies only.

We thank everyone for their efforts so far in combating the spread of the COVID-19 virus, it is really making a difference, but we still have a way to go. It is important that we continue to work together to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Everyone has a role to play, including keeping a distance of 1.5m between yourself and others; practicing good hand hygiene; and covering your nose and mouth when you sneeze or cough with a tissue or elbow. Importantly, if you're sick you should limit your contact with others, including not going to work or notifying services that would normally visit your home, to minimise the potential of spreading the infection.

We encourage you to remain up to date with government information and advice, which is available on the dedicated COVID-19 website:

www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

Thank you for your support as we look to new and innovative ways of delivering services and programs for our community. We’re in this together Loddon – stay safe.

COVID-19 information and testing

DDHS COVID-19 Hotline: 1800 675 398

Translating or interpreting services: 131 450

Northern District Community Health screening and assessment clinic: 5451 0200

Boort District Health screening service: 5451 5200

Local Mental Health supports

Northern District Community Health: 5451 0200

Inglewood & Districts Health Service: 5431 7000

Boort District Health: 5451 5200

National help lines

Lifeline: 13 11 14.

Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636

Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800

Victoria's Emergency Relief hotline: 1800 675 398

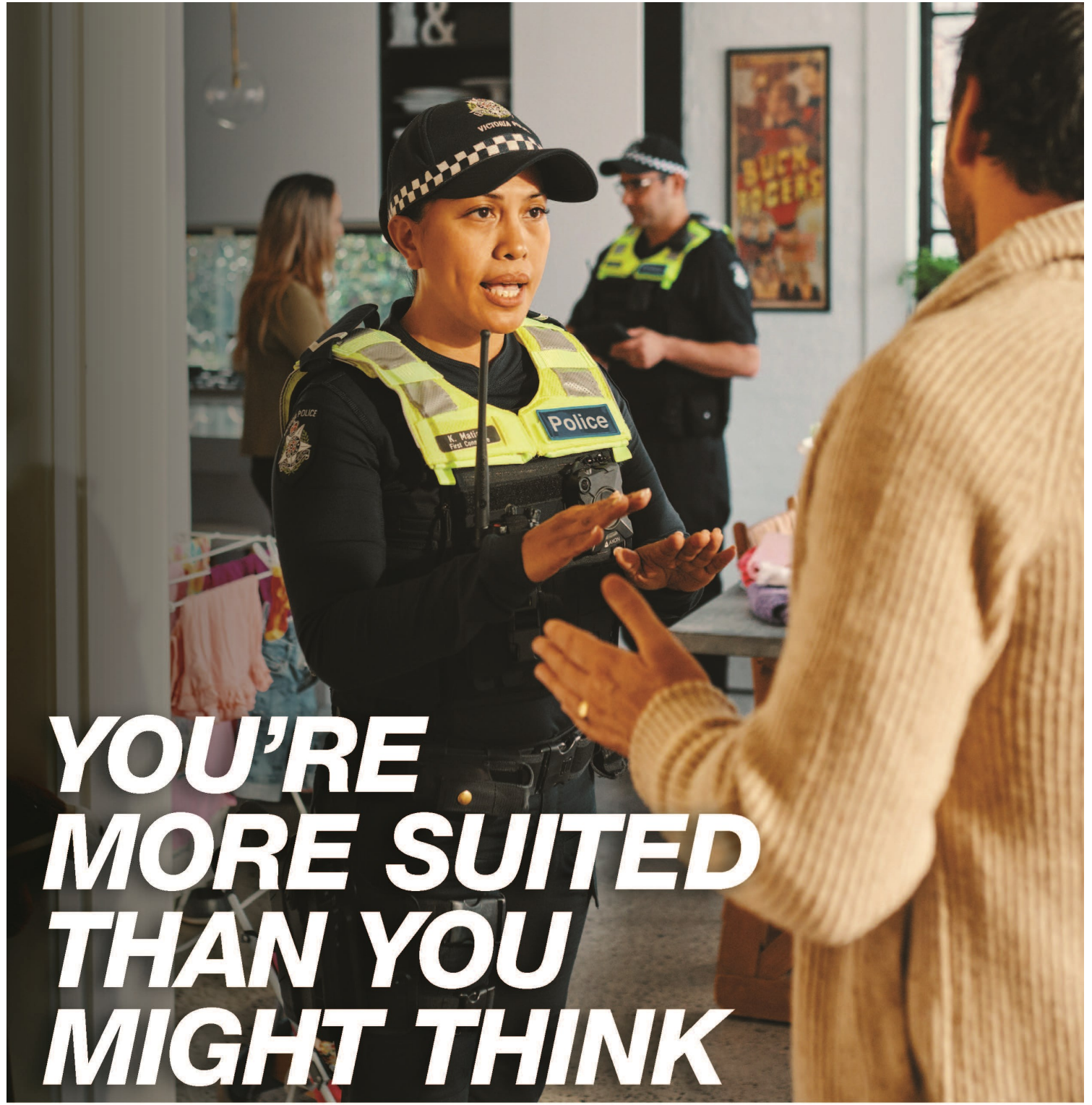
Safe steps Family Violence Response: 1800 015 188 (24 hrs)

Is your farm a safe and healthy workplace?



Learn more at
worksafe.vic.gov.au/quadbikes





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THAN YOU
MIGHT THINK**

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