

COUNCIL PLAN AND 2021-2024 AND COUNCIL'S VISION TO 2040

Residents are encouraged to help shape our Council Plan 2021-2025 and Council's Vision to 2040.

The Council Plan is revised every 4 years and acts as a guide for Council to focus on activities and achievements over the next 4 years. Our Community Vision will help shape the longer term livability of Hindmarsh through to 2040.

To assist with the process we would like to hear from you through a questionnaire and during our in person consultation sessions. A number of community consultation sessions will be held, both in person and online throughout March 2021 (subject to COVID-19 restrictions).

The questionnaire is open from today until Sunday 14 March 2021.

This is your opportunity to have your say, complete our questionnaire on councils website at www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/have-your-say or pop into one of our Customer Service Centres to collect a hard copy

DIMBOOLA OFFICIAL OPENING



Daryl Argall addressing the crowd at the Dimboola Bowling Club facility upgrade opening and sitting behind him from left to right; Mayor, Cr Ron Ismay, Ms. Danielle Green MP and Hindmarsh Shire Council CEO, Greg Wood.

On Wednesday 24 February 2021, Ms. Danielle Green MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Victoria and Parliamentary Secretary for Sport, visited Dimboola to officially open new facility upgrades at the Dimboola Bowling Club followed by the new Dimboola Library.

We thank the State Government for the funding provided to assist us complete the Dimboola Bowling Green upgrades and new Dimboola Library, and thank you those who attended on Wednesday.



Pictured: Hindmarsh Shire East Ward Councillors, Debra Nelson (left) and Wendy Bywaters (right) with Ms. Danielle Green MP (centre).



Ms. Danielle Green MP and Mayor, Councillor Ron Ismay at the official opening of the Dimboola Library.

CINEMA

Penguin Bloom will be screening at the Nhill Cinema on **Thursday the 25th of March**. This family friendly Australian drama film stars Naomi Watts, Andrew Lincoln, and Jackie Weaver and is an inspirational story of recovery and the human spirit.

Despite last month's challenging return to screenings, it is very exciting to resume our regular movies for 2021, and we look forward to bringing the best of the silver screen to Nhill Cinema.

Oh, and for those of you who missed them last month, Maltesers are back in stock and available at the box office!

For more information about the Nhill Cinema and upcoming screenings or events, visit <https://www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/nhill-cinema>



YOUTH COUNCIL



On Wednesday 3 March 2021, 3 returning and 9 new Youth Councillors were presented with their badges and certificates for the Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council 2021.

The Youth Council is made up of representatives of each Ward in Hindmarsh (East, West and North).

The Youth Councillors are all very excited and are looking forward to 2021.

MAINTENANCE WORKS UPDATE

The maintenance team graders have been busy in the Albacutya area, focusing on roads used by gypsum trucks, another grader is working on roads at Coker Dam, Gerang, Kiata and Netherby.

The team has also been busy with other works including

- Park pod installation in Goldsworthy Park;

- Edge repairs on VicRoads roads on behalf of VicRoads;
- Edge repairs on Council roads;
- Street sweeping around town;
- Drainage and underground pit cleaning; and
- Fire plug maintenance with new posts and road eliminators installed.

Tree watering and other general town duties have also been keeping the teams busy!

CAPITAL WORKS UPDATE

The Capital Works team are busy continuing constructing roads during the warmer months. This includes sealed road reconstructions of Antwerp-Woorak Rd, Kiata North Rd, Woorak-Ni-Ni-Lorquon Rd and the Perenna Rd intersection. These projects will improve accessibility and efficiency by renewing old pavements and widening the sealed lane.

The crew are also completing a gravel road re-sheet on P Warners Road to improve all weather access in the area. This seasons road construction program is large due to success in receiving several grants.



Kiata North Road

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

Remember to support your local businesses and shop local! We have many wonderful businesses throughout Hindmarsh shire, so think local first.

**SUPPORT
LOCAL**

SWIMMING POOLS CLOSING

Be quick to jump in for a swim at your local pool. Swimming season ends on the long weekend, 8 March 2021.

Thank you for supporting your local pool over the swimming season. Look forward to seeing you in the next one!

ANIMAL REGISTRATION RENEWALS

With April just around the corner, animal registrations will be here before we know it! Registrations are due by 10 April.

By registering your animal, you are ensuring that you will be reunited with your beloved pet if they are found wandering. Registration allows Council to track the ownership to get you reunited with your pet promptly! For new animals micro-chipping is also very important as this universal system reunites animals if they are located outside of their registered Council area.

Animal renewal notices will be sent out in mid-March. Please contact our Customer Service Centres if you have not received your notice by the end of March.

STUBBLE PERMITS

Council's Local Laws unit has been busily reviewing the issuing of stubble permits. Depending on weather conditions, permits may be issued from anytime now.

There are at least 10 legal conditions that need to be complied with for stubble permits, these are required until the CFA lift the fire restriction period each year.

Application forms for a stubble permit are available at Council's Customer Service Centres, on our website <https://www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/local-laws> or you can also apply through the CFA.

LIBRARIES

Hindmarsh Shire Libraries are excited to commence their story time sessions at Dimboola and Nhill Libraries. These sessions are best suited for children up to the age of 5.

Nhill Story Time commences Thursday 18th March from 10am – 11am.

Dimboola Story Time commences Friday 19th March from 10am – 11am.

We are also excited to announce Baby Rhyme Time sessions at Nhill Library commencing Monday 15th March from 9:30am-10:30am. This session is best suited for babies and toddlers up to the age of 2.

It is our intention to offer Story Time and Baby Rhyme Time sessions across all four townships once our new facilities are operational. Should you have any queries in relation to anything library, please do not hesitate to contact your friendly library staff or email libraries@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au



OUTDOOR DINING GRANT

New park dining pods have been installed in Goldsworthy Park in Nhill, with additional street furniture and pods to be installed throughout the Shire in the coming weeks.



The pods and additional street furniture were funded as part of the State Government Outdoor Dining stimulus funding as a response to the COVID impacts on food outlets.

Council was able to provide relief to local cafes, pubs and take away businesses. Food registration fees and street furniture permits were covered through the Outdoor Dining Grant.

The same funding enabled the production of a Hindmarsh Shire tourism television advertisement which is going to air on Ballarat and Bendigo channels throughout mid-March and April.

The destination marketing advertisement focuses on a family road trip through Hindmarsh including take-away and outdoor dining experiences targeting cross-regional family holiday markets.

WORK IN COUNCIL

If you could like to join our team or find out more information please visit:

<https://www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/work-in-council>

EZYBILL

Council provides a service through Ezybill, which enables ratepayers to sign up to have their rates notices sent to them via email instead of the post.

Registration is easy! Make sure you have your rates notice in front of you and then follow this link to sign up: <https://hindmarsh.ezybill.com.au>

Each assessment must be registered separately, but once it has been done the first time you won't be required to do it again.

Should you have any difficulties with registering, the Customer Service team is on call to help you complete the process. If at any point you wish to cancel this service and go back to receiving a paper notice, you can do so by contacting us on 03 53914444 .

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Since October last year the Planning Department has received the following Permit Applications:

- 1 x shed
- 1 x in ground swimming pool
- 1 x upgrading of Dimboola Bowling Club

- 4 x two lot subdivisions
- 2 x dwellings
- 1 x three lot subdivision + two houses
- 2 x Native Vegetation removal

For the same period the Department has issued:

- 1 x in ground swimming pool
- 1 x three lot subdivision + two houses
- 2 x sheds
- 1 x upgrading of Dimboola Bowling Club
- 1 x dwelling

Total \$ figure of estimated cost of works received: \$1,198,000 (excluding subdivisions). Total \$ figure of estimated cost of works issued: \$964,500 We are currently dealing with 21 active Planning Permit Applications. When calling for advice it is paramount that you provide an **address** and as many other details of the proposal as possible. The advice provided will be *general* in nature.

If more specific advice is required, it is best to complete a 'Request for Planning Advice' form which can be located on our website. There is a fee of \$150 associated with this form however following assessment of the information the advice will be provided in writing.

TRANSFER STATION VOUCHERS

Hindmarsh Shire Transfer Stations' voucher system is continuing this financial year, so keep collecting your receipts! Once you have collected 4 receipts, present to any Customer Service Centre to receive a voucher!

The value of your voucher will equate to the average amount of the four receipts. Add all your vouchers together and divide by 4 to know what your voucher is worth.

For example 4 X \$5 vouchers = \$20
\$20 divided by 4 = \$5. So you will receive a \$5 voucher!

Vouchers are not transferrable or refundable, and they are single use only. Vouchers are only for private and individual claims, and businesses/organisations are not eligible to participate in this system.



FREE TRAVEL FOR SENIORS

Senior Victorians and Carer Card holders are being encouraged to get back out there and enjoy Victoria with 8 days of **free public transport from 21 to 28 March 2021**.



SENIORS CARD



Free travel for Victorian Seniors Card and Carer Card holders 21-28 March 2021



Find out more visit Seniors Online:
www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/free-public-transport-march-2021

Victorian Senior Card holders and Carer Card holders will be able to jump on public transport for free to visit attractions across Melbourne as well as regional and rural locations for a variety of exciting activities and attractions.

The free travel is available for Victorian Seniors Card and Carer Card holders and includes Melbourne trains, buses, trams, and regional V/Line trains. Cardholders will need to carry their myki and Seniors card or Carer card and touch on and off as usual.

Reservations are only compulsory on all V/Line train services to and from Albury, Bairnsdale, Shepparton, Swan Hill and Warrnambool. For V/line trains, free travel is available on all Economy Class services, however customers can now upgrade to First Class travel upon payment of the First Class upgrade fee (subject to limited availability).

Reservations are also required on most V/Line coach services. V-Line bookings open for this free travel period on Tuesday 2 March 2021. From that date onwards book via PTV Call Centre – 1800 800 007 or online at www.ptv.vic.gov.au.

Reservations are not required on trains to and from all other destinations including Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo, Seymour and Traralgon. To find out more visit Seniors Online at www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/free-public-transport-march-2021.

SUPPORT SERVICES AND RESOURCES

Are you struggling following the latest lockdown? There are many ways to support other people, or be supported if you are feeling anxious or uncertain. Below are support services available:

- Lifeline Australia | Ph: 13 11 14 | www.lifeline.org.au

A crisis support service offering short term support at any time for people who are having difficulty coping or staying safe.

- Beyond Blue | Ph: 1300 224 636 | www.beyondblue.org.au

Mental health information and support for all Victorians.

- Kids Helpline | Ph: 1800 551 800 | www.kidshelpline.com.au

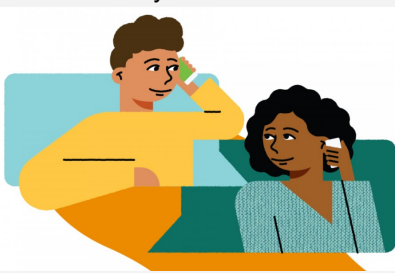
A free, private and confidential 24/7 phone and online counselling service for young people aged 5 to 25 years.

- Rural Outreach Program | Ph: 1300 688 732

Responds to the immediate needs of people living in the Wimmera Southern Mallee Shires, improving the wellbeing of community members struggling with tough times and to support them navigating services.

- Eheadspace | Ph: 1800 650 893 | www.headspace.org.au/eheadspace/

Online and web chat support and counselling for people aged 12 - 25 years, their family and friends.



DAVIS PARK REDEVELOPMENT PLANS ON DISPLAY

At its meeting on Wednesday 3 February 2021, Hindmarsh Shire Council endorsed an application for funding for the redevelopment of Davis Park, Nhill to be submitted to the Victorian Government's Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program – Round 2.

Council has been invited by the Victorian Government to re-submit their application in round 2.

Proposed plans for the redevelopment of Davis Park will be available for viewing at a drop in information session with Hindmarsh Shire Council and Nhill District Sporting Club on Thursday night 25 February at the Davis Park club rooms from 7.00pm until 8.30pm.

The proposed redevelopment of Davis Park will include new male and female change rooms, new community club rooms with tiered undercover spectator seating, new public toilets, community gymnasium and a new netball court.

We encourage residents from Nhill and district who are interested to call into the drop in session.



Please note: this image is an artist's impression and is subject to change.

ONLINE PRESENTATIONS—POOL AND SPA OWNERS INFO SESSIONS

Hindmarsh Shire Council is hosting online information sessions on 10 and 17 March 2021 to explain the requirements for pool and spa owners.

The Victorian Government have introduced new laws to improve safety around swimming pools and spas. Under these laws, owners are required to register their pool or spa with Council and obtain a 'Certificate of Pool and Spa Barrier Compliance' for the safety of pool or spa barriers every four years.

The laws apply to swimming pools and spas that can hold more than 300mm (30cm) of water, which can include:

- permanent pools, either above or below ground,
- Indoor pools,
- Hot tubs, and

- Some types of relocatable pools

To register your interest for one of the online information sessions, please go to Councils website www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/pool-spa-info-sessions or by phone 0353914444 or email to info@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au. As part of your registration, you are encouraged to submit any questions you may have for the online sessions.

More information available about the new laws are at www.vba.vic.gov.au/consumers/swimming-pools.

Pool or spa registration can be done on Councils website www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/building-permits-and-services.

OFF ROAD RACING ACTION APLENTY AT RAINBOW

The March long weekend sees off road racing return to the outskirts of Rainbow with the 2021 Rainbow Rises 240 Off Road Racing event set to take place March 6-7.

A full capacity field of 50 off road racing vehicles has entered the event which should provide visitors to Rainbow with plenty of action as they compete to see who will be crowned winner of the Rainbow Rises 240.

If racing fans are still looking for off road racing action after the long weekend then they should return to Rainbow the following weekend for the first round of the Australian SXS (side by side) Championship. Rainbow is proud to be hosting the first round of the SXS national series for 2021, which is helping to establish the town as the best place to visit for off road racing action in Australia! These events will of course be followed later in the year by the Rainbow Desert Enduro which is again a round of the Australian Off Road Championship.

A huge thanks must go to the Victorian Off Road Racing Association and the local volunteer committee who provide thousands of volunteer hours and numerous personal resources in order for these events to be staged each year.

Why not head along and take in some of the action over the coming weekends?