

# Hindmarsh Shire Council

## Monthly Newsletter

April 2019



### Cultural Diversity Week 2019

Hindmarsh Shire Council and West Wimmera Health Service have collaborated to celebrate the diversity in Hindmarsh Shire for Cultural Diversity Week 16-24 March 2019. The theme for this year is 'Proud to Belong - Your Generation, Your Story'. Community members were invited to submit their stories as part of this year's celebration.

As a community we embrace and celebrate sharing our beautiful part of the world with so many people who have chosen to call Hindmarsh Shire home. The stories that have been shared by locals showcase the uniqueness and strength of the community.

Congratulations and thank you to Nan Da San Bleh Dah, Ana Lowe, Ginty Thomson, Rhys Webb, Venetia Kardogeros, Winda Dewi, Michelle Woodward, John Millington and Gagandeep (Shelly) Kaur for sharing their stories. The stories of all of the participants can be found on the Hindmarsh Shire Council and West Wimmera Health Service Facebook pages each day over the course of Cultural Diversity Week as well as their respective websites.



### This Girl Can

Hindmarsh Shire Council is excited to support initiatives throughout the shire under the This Girl Can Banner after receiving funding to promote local service providers and recreational opportunities for women.

A VicHealth funded program, This Girl Can encourages women of all ages to embrace physical activity in a way that suits them. The aim is to get participants engaged in some form of active movement each day, breaking through barriers that may be stopping them getting active.

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Council is excited to be able to promote this fantastic initiative for all women within our shire. In addition to promoting the opportunities for activities that already exist, there will also be several 'come and try' events happening throughout the shire over the next few months. This will give women the chance to try new activities they might not have attempted or even considered before.

This Girl Can believes that an important part of the campaign is the incredible community of women who are inspiring, motivating and supporting each other to become more active. Support is available through online communities including Facebook and Instagram allowing women to ask questions, get encouragement, post sweaty selfies, and share their stories about getting active – whether as a beginner, returning after a break, or continuing to be active through a safe forum.

Information regarding services and opportunities that are available in your town can be found by visiting the Hindmarsh Shire Council website or Facebook page



Pictured Hindmarsh Shire Councillors with their This Girl Can funded merchandise on. Front (L to R): Crs Rob Gersch, Debra Nelson, David Colbert. Back (L to R) Crs Ron Ismay (Mayor), Ron Lowe and Tony Schneider.

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## Monthly Newsletter

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### Dimboola Sports Stadium Roof Replacement

Work is progressing well on replacing the roof on the Dimboola Sports Stadium in the Dimboola Recreation Reserve. Horsham based contractors Wades Gas and Paint began work on Monday 18 March and plan to be completed by mid-April.



### Wimmera River Discovery Trail

Hindmarsh Shire Council was thrilled to welcome The Honourable Senator Bridget McKenzie, Federal Minister for Regional Services at Dimboola on Wednesday 6 March 2019, where she announced that Council had received \$600,000 in funding from the Federal Government for the Wimmera River Discovery Trail (WRDT). Funding will be matched by a contribution of \$400,000 from the Victorian Government and \$200,000 from Council.

This multi-use (primarily off-road cycling) trail will utilise existing tracks along the Wimmera River corridor between Dimboola, Jeparit and Lake Hindmarsh.

Formerly known as “The Hindmarsh Trail”, this project was first investigated with a Feasibility Study and Masterplan in 2016. It has been a Council tourism priority project following these plans. In 2018, WDA managed the *Grampians RDV Region Cycling and Trails Masterplan* project which listed the Wimmera River Discovery Trail as a Top 3 Priority for the entire RDV region. This document developed a further Business Case for the trail which significantly strengthened its positioning for funding.

Council will work closely with stakeholders (including Barengi Gadjin Lands Council, Parks Victoria, and Wimmera Catchment Management Authority) in the delivery of this project.



Pictured (L to R): Crs David Colbert, Ron Ismay (Mayor), Anne Webster, Senator Bridget McKenzie, Rob Gersch, Debra Nelson and Tony Schneider.

**Nhill Skatepark  
nears  
completion**

Construction of the new Nhill Skatepark will soon be complete with only earthworks and landscaping to be finalised before the park is available to skating enthusiasts.

On Wednesday afternoon, Council invited interested locals to visit the skatepark for a sneak peak of the new facility. Contractor Trinity Skateparks provided some background on how the project has evolved and also an idea on when it will be ready for action.

At this stage, it looks like the skatepark will be open within 2 weeks, subject to the landscaping contractor completing their work in this time.

Council reminds skate enthusiasts that the new skatepark is still a construction zone and will not be available for use until all works have been completed.



**Expansion at Jeparit Skatepark**

Skate enthusiasts in Jeparit will soon have an improved skatepark on which to refine their skills with an additional Quarter Pipe and the return of the travelling 'Fun Box' ramps installed this week.

As a part of the project, skate industry specialists Trinity Skateparks have also completed an overhaul of each element. Sound dampener has been added to the underside of each ramp and the ramps have also been enclosed which will help to reduce the noise from activity at the park.

A two pack coating has also been applied to the ramps which will provide better wheel grip whilst also improving the appearance of the skatepark.

The contractors arrived ahead of schedule which resulted in one of the ramps not being ready for skatepark. This element will remain unavailable until the mesh safety rails are added to the top of the additional Quarter Pipe. Once these works have been completed it will be made available.



**Rainbow Rises 240 Off Road Race**

Rainbow successfully hosted the first round of the Victorian Off Road Championship when it staged the Rainbow Rises 240 off road race in early March.

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## Monthly Newsletter

April 2019



Competitors travelled from throughout Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales to take on the challenging 240km short course event, conducted around the 8km circuit on the edge of town.

The event was well supported by local motorsports enthusiasts despite the unseasonal cooler conditions experienced on the Sunday of the event.

For those unable to attend a livestream was broadcast from the start/finish line on Facebook, giving race fans a chance to follow some of the action online. The livestream was made possible with funding from Visit Victoria's Regional Events Innovations Fund and will be expanded in August when Rainbow hosts the Rainbow Desert Enduro, the final round of the 2019 BF Goodrich CAMS Australian Off Road Championship.

### **Footpath Maintenance – Jeparit/Dimboola/Rainbow**

Council's maintenance team have been working on maintaining and fixing sections of footpath in Jeparit, Dimboola and Rainbow. These works ensure that accessibility is easy and safe for all residents in our towns.



### **Limestone Maintenance – Albacutya Bridge Bypass**

With a tender out for design services for investigation and strengthening of the Albacutya Bridge, Council workers have been out maintaining the limestone bridge bypass road, which is experiencing high levels of truck traffic due to the gypsum carting season. More maintenance is planned once traffic levels decrease.




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<b>Antwerp Woorak Road – Reconstruction</b>	<p>Works are still continuing for the sealed reconstruction works on this road, with the first 1km section now having been sealed. These works were funded under the Local Roads to Market and the Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity programs.</p> 
<b>Static Water Supply Point upgrade – Rainbow Nhill Road</b>	<p>Council have been successful in obtaining funding under the Fire Access Road Subsidy Scheme. This funding will be used to replace two leaking tanks with three new tanks, along with upgrading the water pump and refurbishing the hardstand area and access road, and greatly improve fire-fighting abilities in the area.</p>
<b>Council Buildings Audit</b>	<p>Council staff are currently working on improving safety measures in some of our buildings, by conducting Essential Safety Measures and Building Condition Audits. Many of the buildings being investigated are accessed by the general public on a regular basis and the audit will improve safety measures during the use of the building, especially should an emergency arise.</p>
<b>Review of the Draft Wimmera River Waterway Management Plan</b>	<p>Plenty of submissions have been received from the community in relation to the draft Wimmera River Waterway Management Plan. The submissions will be assessed and the plan amended as required, before being presented to Council for adoption.</p>
<b>Flood Recovery Works Update</b>	<p>Works have been completed for Package 1, with final inspections soon to commence. Packages 2 and 3 were awarded at the Council meeting on 20 March 2019 with works at approximately 150 sites to commence early April 2019.</p>
<b>2018 Young Environmental Health Professional Award</b>	<p>At the Environmental Health Professional Association forum held on 1 April 2019 Hindmarsh Shire Council's environmental health officer, Gagandeep (Shelly) Kaur, received the 2018 Young Environmental Health Professional Award.</p> <p>The annual award, open to all young environmental health professionals, goes to a professional who displays excellence in the environmental health field.</p> <p>Shelly commenced working with Hindmarsh Shire Council in July 2017, moving from Brisbane to take up her first full time Environmental Health Officer position after graduating from the University of Queensland.</p>



As in most small rural Councils, staff are required to wear multiple hats – Shelly is no exception and has jumped at the opportunity to assist with other roles. Shelly is an authorised officer to allow her to provide assistance to Council’s local laws officer, and has been authorised as Council’s planning enforcement officer.



**Left: Shelly pictured with her award, 2018 Young Environmental Health Professional Award.**

**Right: Sarah Annells, President, Environmental Health Professionals Australia presenting Shelly with her award.**