

# Hindmarsh Shire Council Newsletter

October 2020



## COVID-19 Update

As of 11:59pm Wednesday 16 September 2020, Regional Victoria moved into the third step of the COVID-19 Roadmap to Recovery. Read below for an update on the changes to Council's services.

Unfortunately, we are unable to open our libraries under the current restrictions, so libraries and customer service centres will remain closed, except that the Nhill office will now be open from 10am to Midday and 2pm to 4pm Monday to Friday without the need to make an appointment, although appointments are encouraged. Only click and collect services will be available at our libraries. Our parks, playgrounds and skate parks will be open and people are able to gather (up to 10 people) outdoors. Halls and the cinema will remain closed as under the third step indoor venues are to be closed.

## News

### Chief Executive Officer Statement

*I certify that this material is suitable for printing, publishing or distribution on behalf of Hindmarsh Shire Council during the election period.*

Greg Wood  
Chief Executive Officer

### Election Period

From 12pm Tuesday 22 September Hindmarsh Shire Council entered into Election Period prior to the 2020 (Local Government) Council election on 24 October 2020. The Local Government Act 2020 provides direction about what kind of information can be published by Council or using Council resources during the Election Period. These resources include social media. In order to avoid any potential breaches of the Act, Council and Council associated committees will not be posting to social media during this period, unless material is authorised by the CEO as not likely to influence the electoral outcome. All comments on Council social media posts will be closely moderated during the Election Period. In practice, this will mean that all comments will be hidden to ensure adherence to the Act. During this time you will still be able to send us a direct message or contact us via phone on 03 5391 4444, or by email directly to [info@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au).

To find out who the candidates are, visit [www.vec.vic.gov.au](http://www.vec.vic.gov.au).

### By-Election for East Ward

Due to an insufficient number of candidates at the general election, a by-election is required for East Ward to fill an extraordinary vacancy on Hindmarsh Shire Council. In accordance with

(cont) 260(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 2020, the VEC has notified Council that 5 December 2020 has been fixed as the election date for the by-election. The close of roll date for the by-election is that for the general election.

The Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020 require a person wishing to nominate as a candidate in a general election, or by-election, to complete the Local Government Candidate Training program. Completion of the training is valid for 4 years, so anyone who has already completed the training is not required to do it again.

The training will be available on the Local Government Victoria (LGV) website on Monday 12 October, via the following link: <https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/council-governance/candidate-training>

The training will be available until midday on 4 November, aligning to nominations closing. From the 12 October, LGV will be reactivating the link to the registration process and allowing access to the Local Government Candidate Training – online module. LGV will provide the same level of support to potential candidates as previously.

### Free Green Waste Month

Hindmarsh Shire Council's transfer stations will be accepting green waste from residents, free of charge, from **Saturday 26 September 2020** to Sunday **1 November 2020**. This is an opportunity for residents to clean up their properties prior to summer.

### Hindmarsh Libraries Click & Collect

All existing Hindmarsh Shire Libraries members and those new to our service, will be able to opt-in to the click & collect service. Library membership is available online. You can also use your previous card to place holds online. Even if you are not a member yet, call us on 5391 4444

(cont) and we can organise your new library membership over the phone.

There are three ways you can organise your click and collect:

1. Submit a request using our online form. Fill in the fields, specify a genre or age (such as picture books, non-fiction etc.) and our team will handpick you items for you.
2. Place reservations on available items using the online catalogue and select your usual branch for pick up location.
3. Phone your local library branch where you will be able to chat to the librarian about what you like and they can make a selection on your behalf. Please have your library card barcode number ready when you call.

Items will be available at these designated times.

- **Jeparit** - Monday from 2-4pm.
- **Dimboola** - Tuesdays 2-4pm.
- **Nhill** - Thursdays 2-4pm.
- **Rainbow** - Fridays 2-4pm.

For more information on this, visit Council's website here: <https://www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/libraries>.

### Reminder Swimming Pool/Spa Registrations – Due 1 November 2020

New laws have been introduced by the Victorian State Government for owners of spas and pools. (Cont on next page)

Our offices are located at  
92 Nelson St. NHILL VIC 3418  
Customer Service: 03 5391 4444  
Email: [info@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au)



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

For more Hindmarsh News go to <https://www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/monthly-newsletter>

## News

Pool and spa safety barriers save lives and this is why new registration laws require pool and spa owners to register with their local council by **1 November 2020** and get their barrier checked every 4 years (due date extended from the initial date of 1 June 2020).

Since 2000, 27 young children have drowned in private swimming pools and spas. In at least 20 of those cases, the non-compliance of the safety barrier is likely to have played a role.

If possible, you will need to provide a copy of the building permit issued for the construction of the pool to determine the year of construction and the applicable barrier standard.

Submit payment of \$31.80 (registration fee) and \$47.20 (records search fee - only applicable if a copy of the building permit cannot be submitted).

Once the pool or spa has been registered, Council will notify owners of the due date for the first certificate of pool barrier compliance. Owners are required to arrange an inspection and lodge the certificate with Council by the due date.

Registration forms are available on Council's website [here](#).

More information on the Victoria Building Authority website [here](#).

### 2021 Australia Day Nominations Now Open

The Australia Day Awards recognise outstanding community service to the Hindmarsh Shire community during the current year and/or outstanding service to the community over a number of years. The Awards are provided by the Australia Day Committee (Victoria) and are administered by Local Government Authorities throughout Australia.

Nominations for the 2021 Australia Day Awards are now open and being called for:

- 2021 Hindmarsh Shire Citizen of the Year
- 2021 Hindmarsh Shire Young Citizen of the Year
- 2021 Hindmarsh Shire Community Event of the Year

(cont on next page)

To submit your nomination online, print a nomination form or for more information, please visit Council's website here <https://www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/australia-day-awards>.

### Support Local Businesses

With restrictions easing now is the time to support your local businesses. We have many wonderful businesses throughout Hindmarsh shire, so think local first!

### Reminder Community Actions Grants Now Open

Round One applications for the 2020/21 Community Action Grants Program is now open and closes on **Friday 30 October 2020**.

Applications are invited from eligible businesses and organisations to assist with ongoing running costs.

Grants of up to \$500 are available to assist cover the costs of:

- ⇒ Utilities such as electricity, phone and internet services;
- ⇒ Affiliation fees;
- ⇒ Rental fees of premises used for organisational activities and meetings;
- ⇒ Insurance premiums.

Application forms are available on our website [www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/apply-for-grants](http://www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/apply-for-grants) or for more information, please contact Matt Sherwell, Community Development Officer, on 5391 4444 or via email to [grants@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au](mailto:grants@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au).

### Reminder Business Assistance Grants Now Open

Round One applications for the 2020/21 Business Assistance Grants Program is now open and closes on **Friday 30 October 2020**.

Applications are invited from eligible businesses to assist with business promotion or associated costs for being COVID-19 safe.

Grants of up to \$750 are available to assist businesses with: (cont next page)

- ⇒ Advertising;
- ⇒ Website construction, updating and / or maintenance;
- ⇒ Fees for Search Engine Optimisation services;
- ⇒ Grants of up to \$500 are available to assist businesses with:
- ⇒ Hand sanitising stations;
- ⇒ Purchase / installation of sneeze guards;
- ⇒ Barriers / floor indicators
- ⇒ Outdoor dining.

Application forms are available on our website [www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/apply-for-grants](http://www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/apply-for-grants) or for more information, please contact Matt Sherwell, Community Development Officer, via email to [grants@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au](mailto:grants@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au) or on 5391 4444.

### Upcoming Public Holidays

Just in case you missed it, all towns within Hindmarsh Shire will observe the Melbourne Cup public holiday on Tuesday 3 November 2020.

Victoria will still enjoy a public holiday on the Friday before the AFL grand final, whether or not the match goes ahead in the state.

At this current stage, the AFL Grand Final will be held on Saturday 24 October 2020, meaning that the "Thank You Day" public holiday will be on Friday 23 October 2020.

### Hindmarsh Shire Annual Report 2019/20

The Annual Report of the Hindmarsh Shire Council for the period ending 30 June 2020 has been prepared. Pursuant to Section 134 of the Local Government Act 1989, Council will consider the Annual Report at its meeting on Wednesday 21 October 2020.

Copies of the Annual Report are available from the Council Offices, 92 Nelson Street, Nhill, online at [www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au](http://www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au), or by emailing [info@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au).

## Work in Council - Positions Vacant

We currently have no current position vacancies.

If you would like to join our team or find out more information, visit <https://www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/work-in-council>