

# Budget charts the way ahead



**LODDON SHIRE**  
CR GAVAN HOLT,  
Mayor,  
Loddon Shire Council

In return, property owners in the shire will see a 5.5 per cent increase in rates and the municipal charge - the same as last year.

Waste charges will rise seven per cent as part of council's three-year program to bring its waste management activities to a cost-neutral position.

The budget allocates \$1.25 million for land and buildings, \$2.07 million for plant and equipment, \$3.52 million for roadworks, \$3.24 million for recreation, leisure and community facilities and \$668,000 for parks, open space and streetscapes.

COUNCIL will spend more than \$11.4 million on capital works this financial year, including heavy commitments to roads, community facilities and townstreetscape improvements.

It will also fully fund its promised \$250,000 for community planning projects, keep up its investment in information technology and continue its support for Aged Services and Early Years programs.

The balance of reserves at June 30, 2015 is expected to be \$3.9 million and anticipated operating result for the coming year is \$1.48 million.

Council resolved at a special meeting last week to advertise the draft budget and the document is now available for public inspection.

If you'd like to see it, drop in to the shire offices in Wedderburn or Serpentine, your local post office, resource cen-

tre or neighbourhood house.

Anyone wanting to make a written submission on an aspect of the draft budget should do so before Tuesday, August 5. Submissions should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Loddon Shire Council, PO Box 21, Wedderburn, 3518.

Councillors will meet again on Tuesday, August 12 to formally adopt the budget, giving consideration to any comments received during the next four weeks.

**Events supported**  
LAST weekend's Gold Fossicker's Cup and this week's annual tournament at Boort Golf Club are the latest events in Loddon Shire to run with a helping hand from council.

Both received grants of \$400 under the shire's Events Sponsorship Scheme, which sees community and sporting groups around the municipality assisted with their promotional and marketing expenses.

The Gold Fossicker's Cup, hosted by the Loddon Darts Association, saw men's and women's

teams battling it out for top honours at the Wedderburn Mechanics Institute Hall, while the Boort tournament will be played across four days starting Thursday.

Meeting in Serpentine late last month, council decided to back these - and seven other - community groups with special grants through its Events Sponsorship Scheme.

The scheme has traditionally operated on a yearly basis, but a change was approved last February whereby such groups can now apply any time up to 30 days before their event takes place.

Operating since 1999, the scheme has now allocated more than \$182,000 to community groups to promote happenings held within the municipality.

This first round, covering applications received from March 1 to June 1, saw a total of \$4800 given out to groups around the shire.

The Bridgewater on Loddon Development Committee received \$1000 for promotional expenses for the Wool,

Wheat and Wine Festival in October, as did Wedderburn Historical Engine Society for its engine rally in September.

Other grants of \$400 went to Dunolly Field and Game, Boort Tourism Group, Loddon Darts Association for a second event, Boort Indoor Bowls Club and Wedderburn Community House for scheduled events.

**New to the team**  
LODDON Shire Council welcomes a fresh face to its team this week in year 11 Wedderburn College student, Thomas Jackson.

Thomas is starting an 18-month School-Based Apprenticeship, working two days a week with council's IT department while continuing his studies at the college.

The SBA program runs under the auspices of training provider Workco Ltd, managed in this case by Bendigo TAFE.

School-Based Apprenticeships are work-based programs for students which combine paid part-time work and formal industry-related

training while they are completing a senior secondary certificate.

Thomas, 17, is well known in Wedderburn for his involvement in volunteer work in the areas of IT and audio support.

In a related move, Anne Hassell has been appointed as an IT assistant one day a week.

We congratulate both Thomas and Anne and hope they enjoy their new roles.

**Say thanks to a volunteer**

LODDON Shire enjoys an enviable level of volunteerism, if the Australian Bureau of Statistics is to be believed.

According to the 2011 Census, 34 per cent of our population volunteer to help their communities, with many of them involved in more than one activity.

This compares with a figure of 23 per cent for regional Victoria generally.

The State Government is now calling for nominations for six categories in this year's Victorian Premier's Volunteer Awards, established just last year.

Those categories include Victorian Volunteer of the Year (the Dame Elisabeth Murdoch Award), Regional Youth Volunteer of the Year, Regional Volunteer of the Year and New Resident Volunteer of the Year.

Nominations close on Friday, August 1. For more details and nomination forms, go to [www.premier.vic.gov.au/victorian-premiers-volunteer-awards/about-the-awards.html](http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/victorian-premiers-volunteer-awards/about-the-awards.html).

**Say hello to the Gruffalo**

BOORT Pre-school's four-year-olds have a huge treat in store this Wednesday, when they travel to the Capital Theatre in Bendigo to watch *The Gruffalo* on stage.

*The Gruffalo* became a world-wide publishing phenomenon after it first appeared in Britain in 1999.

The story has been retold in highly successful films and made into stage shows and the books have been translated into more than 50 languages, including Thai, Russian, Maori and Latin.



Rise Up Australia party, national president, Daniel Nalliah with his team and supporters in Boort.

## Party leader visits town

THE message was "Keep Australia Australian" when Rise Up Australia party national president Daniel Nalliah visited Boort.

Mr Nalliah enlightened the audience at the Boort Memorial Hall on the party's pro-Christian policies which aim to protect Australian culture and way of life.

The party opposes gay marriage and multiculturalism, condemns Victoria's abortion laws and wants to limit Muslim immigration.

Mr Nalliah said the word "multiculturalism" should be removed from political debate and replaced with "multi-ethnic."

"We want to cut the intake of Muslims to keep Australia Australian," he said.

"Multiculturalism is destroying everyone."

"We Aussies need to stand up and start thinking what is going to happen to the next generation."

"I got into politics because I love my nation of Australia and all the people that call Australia home."

The party supports freedom of speech and freedom of religion.

Sri-Lankan born, Mr Nalliah launched the Rise Up Australia party on June 22, 2011 which is the anniversary of his successful case for free speech in the Supreme Court.

In 2002, Mr Nalliah was accused of racial vilification by the Islamic Council of Victoria which alleged that Muslims were vilified in a seminar, newsletter and articles issued by the Catch the Fire Ministries.

"In a democratic society we have the right to agree and disagree," he said.

"Speak the truth and the truth will set you free."

"I will not apologise for speaking the truth, I will go to jail for six months and stand a fight for free speech."

The case was overturned in 2007.

"The Muslims made me famous because they took me to court and gave me publicity and a profile," Mr Nalliah said.

"No revolution started with 50,000 people; it started with a small group of people."

Mr Nalliah said his controversial policies that promote a single united culture are often misinterpreted.

"If you come here embrace our way of life," he said.

"Never isolate a community embrace them."

"I see myself as a bridge builder."

Rise Up Australia will launch its official campaign on September, 15.

"We see the upcoming Victorian election as an important part of the bigger picture," Mr Nalliah said.

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**Bills coming**  
GOULBURN-Murray Water will send out 28,000 2014/15 fixed charges accounts to its customers this week.  
The rural water authority's general manager of retail and operations, Peter Clydesdale said this year's accounts were easier to understand.

A good life deserves the best farewell  
**Appleby Funerals**  
25 Brooke Street, Inglewood. Ph: 5438 3189