

# Cohuna's Community Newsletter

January 2023 Issue No: 387

Cohuna Whole Town

**GARAGE  
SALE**

**Sunday 29th January 2023**

**8am –2pm**

Registrations now open

\$15 per household

Early bird fee (before 13th Jan) \$10

Contact Cohuna Neighbourhood House

5456 4666 or

[nhcohuna@bigpond.com](mailto:nhcohuna@bigpond.com)

*Lots of people in town -  
a great opportunity  
to clear out the cupboards  
& make some cash!*



## BlazeAid

**Helping Communities Rebuild  
After Natural Disasters**

**BlazeAid** will be coming to the Gannawarra from the 9<sup>th</sup> of January to assist residents recover from the 2022 floods. Residents who have been affected by the floods can register their interest for assistance with fencing or clean up tasks on their property.

Members of the community can also register their interest if they wish to volunteer with the organisation to help the community during the recovery. To register for either assistance or as a volunteer you can contact council on 5450 9333 and your details will be passed on to BlazeAid for follow up.

This is a great opportunity for our community and we encourage anyone interested to get involved. The media release below provides more information on BlazeAid's visit and some of the assistance they can provide to property owners.

<https://www.gannawarra.vic.gov.au/News-Media/BlazeAid-coming-to-assist-with-flood-clean-up-efforts>

A community information night will be held once BlazeAid are on site in Kerang. TBA.

**BlazeAid** is a volunteer-based organisation that works with families and individuals in rural Australia after natural disasters such as fires and floods. Working alongside the rural families, volunteers help to rebuild fences and other structures that have been damaged or destroyed. You can visit the BlazeAid website at <https://blazeaid.com.au/> for more information on the great work this organisation provides.

## Flood Information

**EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**

Victorian SES 132 500

[www.ses.vic.gov.au](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au)

**FLOOD RECOVERY HOTLINE**

Open 7.30am-7.30pm every day. **1800 560 760**

**IMMEDIATE DANGER Phone 000**

**FARMING & BUSINESS SUPPORT**

Call RFCS North West **1300 735 578**

"Cohuna Happenings" is published fortnightly on **Tuesdays**.

This publication is compiled at Cohuna Neighbourhood House for the community. Please feel free to submit any stories or articles of interest. [nhcohuna@bigpond.com](mailto:nhcohuna@bigpond.com) (03) 5456 4666 or 0490 255 450





**Geoff Rollinson appointed  
Gannawarra Shire Council  
CEO**

Gannawarra Shire Council has appointed Geoff Rollinson as its new Chief Executive Officer for a three-year term.

Mr Rollinson is Council’s former Director of Infrastructure and Development, and began in his new role on 22 December, replacing former Chief Executive Officer, Tom O’Reilly.

“Council is excited to have appointed Geoff and begin working with him in his new role,” Mayor Charlie Gillingham said. “Geoff is well regarded within the Gannawarra community, having worked with Gannawarra Shire Council and the former Borough and Shire of Kerang. Geoff’s experience will also assist Council to continue providing key services to our communities and achieving the goals outlines in the *Growing Gannawarra – 2021-2025 Council Plan*” Mr Rollinson has been with Gannawarra Shire Council since the amalgamation of the Borough and Shire of Kerang with the Shire of Cohuna in 1995, holding Works Engineer, Manager of Operational Services and Director of Infrastructure and Development roles with Council during this time. He has also been Acting Chief Executive Officer during the 2022 floods, using the experience he gained during the January 2011 floods to assist the community respond to the second major flood event this century.

“I thank the Gannawarra Shire Councillors for appointing me to this important role,” Mr Rollinson said. “I am fortunate to have lived in the Gannawarra for most of my career with Council, which has helped foster relationships with the community. I look forward to working with the Councillors and the community in not only helping the Gannawarra recover from the 2022 floods, but to continue to make the Gannawarra a great place to live and work.”



ABOVE: Gannawarra Shire Council Chief Executive Officer, Geoff Rollinson (third from left) with Cr Garner Smith (left), Mayor Charlie Gillingham, Cr Jane Ogden, Cr Travis Collier and Cr Kelvin Burt.

**“Holiday Fun”  
for all teenagers!**

**Lawn Bowling BONANZA**

Fun Competition on Tuesdays - win prizes - FREE entry . . 1.30 pm Start

JANUARY	JANUARY	JANUARY
TUES	TUES	TUES
3	10	17

**Drinks & Chips available to purchase**

**Music & Prizes**

**Bowls Supplied**

**Make new friends**

**No experience required**

Come along to the Cohuna Golf & Bowls Club, Golf Road, Cohuna. (Golf Links Estate)  
Free Bus will collect from the Gateway carpark and Cohuna Caravan Park at approx. 1pm returning at approx. 4pm. All enquiries to 0428 487 823

COHUNA NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE PROJECT  
Partnering with Cohuna Golf Bowls Club  
Neighbourhood House Coordination Program  
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing



**NORTHERN DISTRICT COMMUNITY HEALTH**

**COUNSELLING & SUPPORT SERVICES**

- Alcohol & Other Drugs Counselling
- Alcohol & Other Drugs Withdrawal
- Specialist Homelessness Service
- Generalist Counselling
- Mental Health Nursing
- Stop Smoking

**I ndis** REGISTERED NDIS PROVIDER

**33 KING EDWARD ST, COHUNA  
5451 0250**

9am to 4pm - Monday to Friday  
www.ndch.org.au    @endchvic

# Food Voucher



## Cohuna Neighbourhood House Emergency Relief Pantry

Are you experiencing financial hardship? In need of assistance. Cut out this voucher and bring it to Neighbourhood House, 29 Market Street, between 9am & 3pm Monday to Friday and exchange it for a food hamper.

**All welcome**

name: \_\_\_\_\_

No of people? \_\_\_\_\_ Cohuna? \_\_\_\_\_ Y/N \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



### The BIG Summer Read Gannawarra Library Service 1 December 2022 until 31 January 2023

The Big Summer Read aims to arrest the 'summer slide' by engaging children and their families in a fun and dynamic reading campaign through public libraries.

Open to library members, participation is free and pre-registration is open via - <https://plv.beanstack.org>  
Run through the portal 'Beanstack', participants need to log 10 (or more) books they have read or listened to, to go into the draw to win some great prizes.

This year the competition is open to pre-readers, through to secondary students (0 to 18 year-olds) with the following prizes on offer:

0-8 years: \$250 Readings gift voucher

9-12 years: \$250 Readings gift voucher

13-18 years: \$500 Readings gift voucher

3x \$100 variety gift cards (Gannawarra Library Service prize)

For more information, visit the Gannawarra Library Service Facebook page or contact 5452 1546.

# "What's On?"

DEC	Coming Events in January 2023
To JAN	One Woman's Collection... <i>a trip down memory lane</i> Cohuna Art/Craft Gallery
TUES 10 & 17	"Holiday Fun" for teenagers. FREE Lawn Bowling BONANZA! Prizes. Bowls supplied. 1.30 start. (see advertisement page 2.)
SUN 29th	Cohuna Whole Garage Sale 8am-2pm. Book 5456 4666

CNH - Ongoing Activities - all welcome	
WED	FREE Movies on the BIG Screen 1pm -3pm
	8.30 am Waters Edge Walkers - walking Group meets at Gateway Carpark—coffee 9.30 Bower 4.30pm Cohuna Weight Loss Support Group
THUR	Community Garden catchup 10- 12 noon
FRI	Phone, Digital and Online assistance 9am—3pm
FRI	"Miners Lair " Youth Club - 3.30 -5.30pm Gaming, Music, Karaoke, Fun <b>RECOMMENCING FEBRUARY</b>

Cohuna U3A Ongoing Activities	
MON	YAH Singers, Visiting Group, Out & About
TUE	Chair Exercises
WED	Cribbage and Scrabble alternating
THUR	Collectors, Dining Out
FRI	Cryptic Crosswords, Lets Talk Books Travellers Tales
Contact Cohuna U3A to become a member, for times, details and other activities. Marilyn Flinders 0412 942466	

We can assist you!  
Bring your Power Bill and bank account details to Cohuna Neighbourhood House



**\$250 POWER SAVING BONUS**

We can help you compare energy deals and claim your \$250 Power Saving Bonus.

NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE VICTORIA | Good Shepherd | VICTORIA State Government

## Position Vacant

Cohuna Neighbourhood House 

### Administrative Assistant (Casual)

Reception duties, use of Microsoft Office, production of community newsletter and general administrative tasks.

Contact Cohuna Neighbourhood House for job description.

Applications Close Friday 20 January 2023  
Apply to Kerri Sidorow, Chair,  
Cohuna Neighbourhood House  
29 Market Street, Cohuna, 3568  
or email [nhcohuna@bigpond.com](mailto:nhcohuna@bigpond.com)

## COHUNA ANGLICAN GARAGE SALE

32 Channel St. COHUNA  
Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>. January 8am – 2pm  
Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>. January 8am – 10.00am  
**\*GREAT DEALS - GOOD CAUSE\***

**\$1 - \$2 - \$5 - \$10 Tables**

**Many Assorted Items**

DONATIONS ACCEPTED for COHUNA ANGLICAN CHURCH  
Raylene Hore 0431 358 382 /Shirley Bruns 0448 200 345

**Free Cold Water & Coffee Available**



**DO YOU HAVE ANY WHITE ELEPHANTS IN YOUR HOUSE OR IN YOUR BACK SHED or GARAGE WHITE GOODS, PLANTS, CROCKERY, FURNITURE OR ANY OTHER MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

**ALL DONATIONS WILL BE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED  
PLEASE CONTACT : RAYLENE HORE 0431 3583 382  
SHIRLEY BRUNS 0448 200 345**

**Anglican Op Shop(Cnr Cullen & King Edward St)  
Open: Saturday & Sunday 10am – 2pm**

## Cohuna Happenings is now Monthly

Please send contributions to [nhcohuna@bigpond.com](mailto:nhcohuna@bigpond.com) by third week of the month.  
Read *Happenings* online, on our website, on FaceBook, or pick up a hard copy.

## The Local Bookshelf

*Looking for some new authors? Here are three Australian writers (and their latest books) making big impressions both at home and abroad.*

***The Seven Skins of Esther Wilding* by Holly Ringland.** The last time Esther Wilding's beloved older sister Aura was seen, she was walking along the shore towards the sea. To seek the truth about her sister's death, Esther travels from Tasmania to Copenhagen, and then to the Faroe Islands. On her journey, Esther is guided by the stories Aura left behind: fairy tales about selkies, swans and women, alongside cryptic verses Aura wrote and had tattooed on her body. The story is by no means a fast read; it's a chunky book full of mystery and folklore. Holly Ringland grew up in her mother's tropical garden on the east coast of Australia. After wanting to be a writer since she was three years old, Holly's debut novel *The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart* was published in 2018 when she was 37 years old. It has since become an international bestseller commissioned to be adapted into a television series.



***Limberlost* by Robbie Arnott.** In the heat of a long summer Ned hunts rabbits in a river valley, hoping the pelts will earn him enough money to buy a small boat. His two brothers are away at war, their whereabouts unknown. His taciturn father and older sister struggle to hold things together on the family orchard, Limberlost. While the narrative largely unfolds over the course of a summer, it also weaves in glimpses of Ned's future life as a husband and father to show how the choices he makes as a 15-year-old have long-lasting repercussions in the decades ahead. Robbie Arnott's acclaimed debut, *Flames* (2018), won a Sydney Morning Herald Best Young Novelist award and a Tasmanian Premier's Literary Prize. His follow-up, *The Rain Heron* (2020), won the Age Book of the Year award, and was shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Literary Award. He lives in Hobart.

***The Sun Walks Down* by Fiona McFarlane.** In September 1883, the South Australian town of Fairly huddles under strange, vivid sunsets. Six-year-old Denny Wallace has gone missing during a dust storm, and the whole town is intent on finding him. As they search the desert and mountains for the lost child, the residents of Fairly - newlyweds, landowners, farmers, mothers, artists, Indigenous trackers, cameleers, children, schoolteachers, widows, maids, policemen - explore their own relationships with the complex landscape unsettling history of the Flinders Ranges

Fiona McFarlane is the author of the novel *The Night Guest*, which was shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Literary Award, and a collection of short stories, *The High Places*, which won the International Dylan Thomas Prize. Born in Sydney, Fiona teaches creative writing at the University of California, Berkeley.



At Cohuna Neighbourhood Houses, our awesome volunteers have organised some cleaning kits to assist with any flood affected homes within our community.

A big thankyou to Foodbank Victoria and Riverland Milk & Trading Co for your support.  
Please help spread the word.



30th Annual Geoff Swim School  
Holiday Program  
Cohuna Pool  
Starts January 9th 2023  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday—3 weeks  
Phone Geoff 0428 563395  
Email geoffdale29@gmail.com



All-Abilities  
Community  
vegetable garden  
beds at Cohuna  
Neighbourhood  
House, 29 Market  
Street. Fresh  
produce  
ready-to-  
pick:



RFCS Victoria West

GET TO KNOW YOUR LOCAL

Rural Financial Counselling Service



Confidential, independent and free business and wellbeing support for farmers and small business owners navigating financial stress and uncertainty, including operating through drought, bushfire and COVID-19. All industries across Victoria's regional west.



1300 735 578

RFCSVictoriaWest.com.au



## Are you experiencing financial difficulties?

Our Financial Counsellors can provide free and confidential information, advice and support. We can help by:

- Identifying financial issues
- Providing short-term resolutions
- Advocating with debt collection agencies
- Budgeting
- Referrals to other supports

We are offering video link appointments at Cohuna Neighbourhood House, 29 Market Street on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

Thursday afternoons

12th January 2023  
9th February 2023  
9th March 2023

To make an appointment

contact Cohuna Neighbourhood House  
phone 5456 4666 email nhcohuna@bigpond.com



## Cohuna Art/Craft Gallery King Edward Street, Cohuna presents One Woman's Collection

*.....a trip down memory lane*

EXTENDED TIL  
JAN 7TH 2023

OCT 6th - NOV 26th 2022

An exhibition of clothing and  
memorabilia through the decades

Opening hours:

FRI: 10am—12pm

1.30pm—3.30pm

SAT: 10am—12pm

or by appointment:

Ph: Denise 0407 508348

Lorraine 0429 103180



Cohuna Art Gallery incorporating Cohuna's "Rock'n'Roll" history

This newsletter relies on information submitted by organisations, businesses, community and club members. While Cohuna Neighbourhood House staff and volunteers make every effort to print accurate and relevant information, it does not guarantee that the publication is without error and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on information in this publication.

## Council adopts Walking and Cycling Strategy



A new strategy will assist Gannawarra Shire Council with the ongoing development and management of walking and cycling tracks and trails throughout the municipality.

Adopted at the December 2022 Council Meeting, the *Gannawarra Shire Council Walking and Cycling Strategy* features 21 actions, split into five strategic outcomes, that aim to enhance walking and cycling opportunities within towns across the Gannawarra and connections between communities.

“The Gannawarra is renowned for its connections to nature, with our various walking and cycling tracks and trails providing everyone the opportunities to explore these areas,” Mayor Charlie Gillingham said.

“The *Gannawarra Shire Council Walking and Cycling Strategy* not only highlights what walking and cycling options residents and visitors can access now, but also identifies improvements that can be made to enhance these opportunities.”

Development of the strategy began earlier this year with in-person workshops and on-site meetings held across the Gannawarra, as well as an online workshop and the opportunity for residents to provide input via an online survey.

“Council received 11 submissions during this community feedback period, with much of the feedback incorporated into the adopted version of the document,” Mayor Gillingham said.

“Council thanks all residents who took the time to provide input regarding this strategy and looks forward to working with our State and Federal counterparts to obtain support to act upon the actions listed in the document.”

To view the *Gannawarra Shire Council Walking and Cycling Strategy*, please click the Strategic Documents tab at [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/documents](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/documents)

To view the *Gannawarra Shire Council Walking and Cycling Strategy*, please click the Strategic Documents tab at [www.gsc.vic.gov.au/documents](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au/documents)

### Cohuna Strategies and Actions Map



#### Cohuna Actions

B2.1 Develop and formalise the Barr Creek Trail, Cohuna and promote as a part of the wider trail network.

B2.2 Upgrade signage and waymarking, throughout Gilrue and Cohuna Nature Walk.

B2.3 Enhance and develop the Ski Run Trail and its support infrastructure.

B2.4 Develop consistent and clear signage throughout Cohuna to improve connectivity of trails network and linkages to key areas.

B2.5 Extend and link existing trails to Gunbower Forest, to improve access to natural features and neighboring townships.

## COMMUNITY GROUPS AND MEETING NOTICES

### **500 Club**

Every Wednesday evening at 7pm  
at Community Meeting Room. All Welcome  
Enquiries - Des Shelley 54562723

### **Churches that hold weekly services**

Anglican 32 Channel St, Cohuna  
Ph: Rev Sue Allan 0417 365386  
Baptist Belmont St, Cohuna  
Catholic King George St, Cohuna  
Uniting Sampson St, Cohuna 5456 2381

### **Cohuna Art & Craft Gallery**

23/25 King Edward St. Open Friday 10am-12noon  
& 1-3pm; Saturday 10am—12noon  
PH: 5456 4666

### **Cohuna Clay Target Club Inc**

Contact Stephen Bottcher 0427 656684, Giorgi  
Boucher 0409 777 542

### **Cohuna Community Service Group**

Meets : 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at  
Cohuna Water Tower. Danny White 0418359242

### **Cohuna District Hospital Ladies Auxiliary**

Meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month (excluding Jan,  
July & Aug) 10.00am at the CDH Multi-Purpose  
Meeting room. Secretary Joy Crellin 54562170

### **Cohuna & District Historical Society**

Meets 4th Thursday every month @ 1.30pm  
Cullen Street. New members welcome.

### **Cohuna Farmers Market** 4th Sunday every month.

From 8am. Contact Sarah Mostyn 0407 476065.

### **Cohuna Golf & Bowls** Lawn Bowls Social/Pennant

Golf Road, Cohuna Golf Links Estate.  
Bowls President Graeme Peace 0417 341 142  
Secretary Yvonne Eckhardt 0427 562 606

### **Cohuna /Leitchville RSL " Crazy Whist"**

Wednesdays -1.30pm @ Club Rooms - Channel St.  
\$4 to Play-includes Raffle and Cuppa. All Welcome.

### **Cohuna/Leitchville R.S.L. "Canasta & Coffee"**

Tuesdays 1pm – at Club Rooms – \$3 to play includes  
Tea/Coffee & Biscuits. All Welcome.

Enquiries Judy Hughes 54 563314

### **Cohuna/Leitchville Sub-Branch R.S.L**

30 Channel St, Cohuna, meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each  
month, 7.30pm. Enquiries: Geoff Dale 0428 563395

### **Cohuna Lions Club**

Meet at the Shire Building (near dentist) on the 2nd  
Wednesday of month 7pm for 7.30pm

Visitors welcome. President: Alan Walkington.

Secretary: Anne Graham 0407 316303

### **Cohuna Masonic Lodge** King Edward St

Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month

Enquiries: Ray Crellin 0428 178770

### **Cohuna Men's Shed**

Tues & Wed 9am-3pm. Thurs 9am-12noon. 3 William  
St. New members always welcome. PH: 0408 103179  
or 0400 583618

### **Cohuna Model Flying Club**

lyndon.clifford@education.vic.gov.au

### **Cohuna parkrun**

Every Saturday 7.45am, Garden Park.

Event Director, Alan, 0418 560252.

### **Cohuna Patchwork Group**

Meets at Masonic Lodge, King Edward Street

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays 10.00am - 3.00 pm

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays 7.30 – 10.00 pm

Cost - \$6.00 Carolyn Ryan 0488 745 413

### **Cohuna Progress Association**

Meeting 7 pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of month  
Community Meeting Room. All welcome.

### **Cohuna Retirement Village Auxiliary**

Meets 1.30pm 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month  
in Retirement Village Multipurpose Room.

Enquiries 5456 2338

### **Cohuna Senior Citizens**

Meet Tuesday 1pm – 4pm & Friday 1pm - 4pm  
at Market St Rooms. New members welcome.

President: Doris Mathers 5456 4266

### **Cohuna Spinning & Weaving Group**

Tuesdays from 10am, front room at Memorial Hall  
(turn right past stairs). Stay an hour or all day.

Enquiries Secretary 0429 065119

### **Cohuna Weight Loss Support Group**

Support in losing weight. Join us at our friendly weigh  
-ins. Wednesday 4pm-4.30pm at Cohuna  
Neighbourhood House.

Enquiries: Dot Waterson 0428 537 845

### **Cuppa & Chat**

Every Wednesday morning 9.30 am, Bower Tavern

### **Family Drug Help**

Ph 0427 567170 for more information and support.

### **Garden Lovers**

Meet 2nd Friday of every month in Community  
Meeting Room at 1:30pm

Enquiries - Carol Hall 5456 3100

### **Leitchville Bunyips Sporting Club**

Meet 2nd Monday every month, Bunyip Hut

Call Trevor for enquiries & directions 0400 581122  
0429 165669

### **Leo Club:**

Monthly 1st Monday of the month Cohuna Scout Hall  
President: Ebony Smith

LEO Advisor: Fiona Smith 0402 305566

### **Maternal & Child Health Pram Walk**

Wed 10am. Meet at roundabout carpark near bridge.

### **Northern District Dance Association**

50/50 old time/nu vogue. Band Hall, Maxwell St,  
Kerang. Every Monday from 8pm. Also 4th Friday of  
each month.

**Paper collection** -1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of month. Please leave  
on nature strip by 9am. #Train Hire Available#

### **Pigeon Racing Mallee Combine (Cohuna)**

Contact Barry Stacey 0407 406 568

### **RSL Pool & Morning Tea**

Held in RSL Clubrooms at 30 Channel St  
Monday mornings (except public hols) 9.15am –  
12noon

### **Social Support Group**

Open Monday & Thursday

Seniors Room, Market St. Contact Cohuna Hospital.

Phone 54565300.

**Trash & Treasure** open Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat 9.30-12

PH: 5456 2345

### **U3A Cohuna**

Groups meet regularly to enjoy many varied activities.

Enquiries: President Marilyn Flinders 0412 942466

All Members and Members' friends welcome.

### **Waters Edge Walkers**

Every Wednesday morning 8.30am at Gateway  
Carpark