



Stan and Ann Barker were named East Gippsland's Citizens of the Year, congratulated by Mayor Cr Mark Reeves at our awards ceremony in Nowa Nowa on 22 January.

## Our Australia Day Award winners

**More than 200 people at Nowa Nowa Recreation Reserve on Saturday 22 January, celebrated the outstanding contribution of more than 30 individuals and community events at the annual Australia Day Awards.**

Find out more on [pages 4 to 8](#).

### Acknowledgement of Country

East Gippsland Shire Council acknowledges the Gunaikurnai, Monero and Bidawel people as the Traditional Custodians of the land that encompasses East Gippsland Shire. We pay our respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in East Gippsland, their Elders past and present.





# New year, new citizens



Tim Bull, Member for Gippsland East, and Mayor Cr Mark Reeves congratulate Ms Sandra Campbell on receiving her citizenship.



Tim Bull, Member for Gippsland East, and Mayor Cr Mark Reeves presenting Mr Hoang Nguyen with his citizenship.

## East Gippsland welcomed 14 new Aussies at a citizenship ceremony on Wednesday 26 January – coinciding with Australia Day.

Mayor Cr Mark Reeves, who presided over the official ceremony, said it was wonderful to see everyone wanting to officially call Australia home, whether they had been living in Australia for many years (in the case of some of our candidates more than 50 years!), had recently moved to East Gippsland, or are new arrivals to Australia.

Aunty Sandra Patten, a Gunai senior elder, joined us for the welcome to country, and Tim Bull MP was on hand to assist the Mayor with the presentations. The ceremony was livestreamed and can be viewed on our [YouTube channel](#).



Shaileshkumar and Chancy Patel were happy to receive their citizenship.

## School's back, slow down!

**Remember to slow down to 40km/h in school zones and keep an eye out for students crossing at school crossings in East Gippsland.**

It's also important to adhere to parking restrictions around schools. These are in place to assist with traffic flow and keep everyone safe.

Remind children to stop, look and listen before crossing a road and to keep checking until safely across.

For more info on road safety and speed zones, visit our [website](#).



**15 & 16 February:** Community Grants Information Sessions

**20 February:** Environmental Sustainability Strategy feedback closes

**22 February:** Council Meeting – 6.00 pm

**6 March:** Clean Up Australia Day

**15 March:** Council Meeting – 6.00 pm





## We want to hear from you

**We are conducting our annual Community Satisfaction Survey throughout February, so you may receive a call from an independent market research agency, National Field Services, been engaged to conduct the survey on our behalf.**

The survey has been designed to assess our performance across a range of measures to identify ways to improve service delivery to residents. It will involve around 400 interviews conducted among a representative sample of residents.

We appreciate you taking the time to assist us with your valuable feedback. Please be assured that your details and individual responses are confidential. Only the overall results are shared with us.

For more information and past survey results visit our [website](#). Keep an eye out here for 2022 survey outcomes.

## Celebrate Where You Live Giveaway Winners

Meagan Stewart King  
Maddi Stephenson  
Sara Redenbach  
Lynette Newman  
Michelle Hannah  
Jennifer Conte  
Adrian Tough  
Deb Eveleigh  
Shirley Lovell  
Ann Gibbs  
Emily Owen  
Sue Wylie



## Council meeting in brief

There were two Council meetings in December 2021. Council made the following decisions:

- Adopted a number of documents, including the Councillor Code of Conduct; the Domestic Animal Management Plan; Councillor Representation Policy; and a Complaints Management Policy. These documents can be viewed on our website.
- Awarded a contract for Stage 1 construction of the gymnastics pavilion at Lucknow Recreation Reserve to Eastern Victoria Construction Group for \$1,888,968.48 (ex GST). This stage involves construction of a new building and associated infrastructure at the Lucknow Recreation Reserve. The project will provide a permanent home for the East Gippsland Gymnastics Club.
- The Eagle Point Foreshore Hub is a step closer with a major contract worth \$3,946,016.55 awarded to Eastern Victoria Construction Group. The project will provide high-quality community facilities and enhance the accessibility and safety of the foreshore.
- Awarded contracts for the replacement of the Spring Creek Bridge at Jarrahmond, Stage 2 of the Mallacoota seawalls replacement, a footpath redevelopment at Mirrabooka Drive, Mallacoota and Stage 2 construction works at the WORLD Sporting Precinct, Bairnsdale.
- Resolved to issue a Notice of Decision to refuse to grant a planning permit for a three-lot subdivision at 10 Conran Court, Marlo.
- Declared a special charge scheme to upgrade water supply in South Bairnsdale Industrial Estate for firefighting purposes. This decision followed extensive consultation with affected landholders.

**Watch the meeting**



# Our Australia Day Award winners

**More than 200 people gathered at Nowa Nowa Recreation Reserve on Saturday 22 January to celebrate this year's Australia Day Awards finalists and winners.**

Held in Nowa Nowa for the first time, the awards included a welcome to country by Gunaikurnai elders Aunty Sandra Patten and Uncle Lenny Hayes, a flag erected by the Bairnsdale Scouts (on a flagpole the Scouts on site for the day), songs from the Nowa Nowa Men's Choir, and a keynote address from visiting Australia Day Ambassador Paul Wheelton AM. Twin Rivers Lions Club had sausages and bacon and egg rolls sizzling throughout the morning.

## **Citizen of the Year:**

**Ann and Stan Barker**, of Lakes Entrance, were announced as Citizens of the Year for their extensive volunteer work.

## **Young Citizen of the Year:**

**Paris Davis** has been volunteering as Youth Leader

for Gipps Youth Club at Orbost for the past four years, encouraging young people to participate in health and lifestyle programs and activities to benefit their health and wellbeing.

## **Community Event of the Year:**

**The inaugural East Gippsland Winter Festival** brought the community together and encouraged collaboration. The entire festival was designed around promoting the region — not one individual event. This included promotion of towns right across East Gippsland as well as local restaurants, wineries, breweries, chefs, producers, studios and galleries, and tourism operators.

## **Want to know more?**

The presentation of the awards was broadcast live on our YouTube channel. It is available to watch online at **Council's YouTube channel**. You can read more about this year's award winners and finalists on our **website**.



Mayor, Cr Mark Reeves with Ann and Stan Barker who set up the Bushfire Recovery Plants Project after the Black Summer Bushfires.



Mayor, Cr Mark Reeves, pictured with Paris Davis, took out the Young Citizen of the Year for her dedication to assisting young people to benefit their health and wellbeing.



The East Gippsland Winter Festival was named East Gippsland's Community Event of the Year.



Mayor, Cr Mark Reeves, Australia Day Ambassador Paul Wheelton AM, Tim Bull, Member for East Gippsland, and CEO Anthony Basford.





The awards included a Welcome to Country by Gunaikurnai elders Auntie Sandra Patten and Uncle Lenny Hayes.



Congratulations to the organisers of the Colour Ya World for receiving a nomination for colourful for the 5km fun run event. Pictured: Mhari McShane and Kassy O'Kelly.



Landcare Sustainability Expo (Orbost Show) who was nominated for Community Event of the Year Award. The event showcased the region and featured Costa Georgiadis. Pictured: Dawn Parker.



Another nomination for the Community Event of the Year was The Sandhill Ashes. A cricket match between fire affected communities to improve the mental wellbeing of those impacted by fires. Pictured: Jen Smith, Simon Hof and Phil Schneider.



Winter Festival Lantern Parade was nominated for the street parade which lit up the streets and brought the community together. Pictured: Amber Wade.



Damen Bassett's mum Peta Bassett accepted the nomination for the Young Citizen of the Year category for volunteering at Lakes Entrance park run and the CFA.



Chloe Peters was nominated for Young Citizen of the Year for supporting the engagement of young people.



Brydie Bourke, youth mental health and wellbeing advocate was nominated for Young Citizen of the Year.





*Nominated for Citizen of the Year, Peta Bassett actively promotes and advocates for physical, mental and social health.*



*Laurel Calvert volunteers for a range of community organisations and was nominated for the Citizen of the Year.*



*Nominated for Citizen of the Year, Paul Carroll is an active community leader driving change and providing education to the young Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander men.*



*Debbie Carruthers, nominated for Citizen of the Year for coordinating campaigns and volunteering in the community.*



*Barbara Dodd, a long standing member for the Ensay Bush Nurse committee and member of Ambulance Auxiliary was nominated for Citizen of the Year.*



*Nominated for Citizen of the Year, Norm Elliott is a life member of Field and Game Australia and also volunteers at the local opportunity shop.*



*A wildlife carer for over 30 years, Lorna King was nominated for Citizen of the Year.*



*Judi Marsden was nominated for Citizen of the Year for the volunteering with the breakfast program at 754 Primary School.*





Nominated for Citizen of the Year, Cathy McLellan was nominated for providing social connection and support after the Black Summer Bushfires.



David McCoy was nominated for Citizen of the Year for dedicating 40 years (in many roles) to the Bairnsdale Football Netball Club.



Nominated for Citizen of the Year, Peter Neal has actively contributed to the CFA for over 45 years and has held a range of volunteer positions.



Elaine Newcomen, nominated for Citizen of the Year, assisted others by doing welfare checks in the community during lockdowns and is also an active volunteer.



Nominated for Citizen of the Year, Ula Sheather contributes to the community by making hygiene kits for women and girls.



Peter Sindrey, nominated for Citizen of the Year is president of the Rotary Club of Lakes Entrance and has supported the community impacted by the Black Summer Bushfires.



Nominated for Citizen of the Year, Amber Wade was recognised for her efforts in running the Winter Lantern Festival in Orbost.



Robert Wright was nominated for Citizen of the Year for the commitment to the revegetation of Raymond Island which has now developed a Landcare Group.





Twin Rivers Lions Club kept the crowds coming back for more with a sizzling barbecue.



Guests waiting in anticipation to find out who the winners are.



Bairnsdale Scout Group conducted the flag-raising while the national anthem was sung.



Over 20 individuals nominated for the Citizen of the Year Category who all contribute to our community more ways than one.



Community event organisers nominated for awards were praised for their efforts in a tough year to hold gatherings.



Crowds tucked into free egg and bacon rolls as well as coffee at the Nowa Nowa Recreation Reserve.



Crowds heard from the Nowa Nowa Men's Choir before the official proceedings.



Congratulations to the young people for being nominated for the Young Citizen of the Year category. Pictured: Chloe Peters, Paris Davis (winner), Brydie Bourke and Peta Bassett (accepting the award on behalf of her son Damen Bassett).

Council would like to acknowledge those who were nominated but not present at the awards ceremony: Community Event of the Year - 7 Generations Art Mural; Young Citizen of the Year - Damen Bassett; Citizen of the Year - David Appleton, Angela Dunkley, Claire-Lise Gamble, Brodie Gaudion and Ronald Edwards Pepper.





## Keep calm, and keep composting!

To help you get a good dose of serotonin, Council is offering \$40 compost bin rebates for East Gippsland residents until the end of the financial year – for compost bins, worm farms, pet poo bins and more. Head to the [Compost Community website](#) to get your rebate — and happy composting!

## Views for a sustainable future



**As a community, we place a high value on our environment – it's consistently identified as the number one value for people living in and visiting our region.**

We are creating the Environment Sustainability Strategy 2022-2032 – to ensure East Gippsland's natural and built environment is sustainable and meets community needs. We want your feedback on the draft which is open for comment now.

Visit the Your Say [website](#) to read the strategy and provide your feedback by Sunday 20 February 2022.



**Did you know that we will take any Clean Up Australia Day-labelled bags for free at any transfer station within the shire?**

Registered Clean Up Australia Day events can now occur all year round. Check out the Clean Up Australia Day website for more information about how you, your group, school or business can participate in this national event.

Clean Up Australia Day is a national event that supports any individual, group, school or business in Australia to participate in collecting litter.



## Modernising waste

**Recent funding received by Tambo Waste as part of Sustainability Victoria's Recycling Modernisation Fund, will be used to upgrade its Materials Recovery Facility in Bairnsdale, where all of East Gippsland Shires' recyclables are sorted.**

Upgrades will include the establishment of a glass-recycling facility, which will support the increased use of recycled material in local projects. Well done Tambo Waste!





# Take a taste-led tour of East Gippsland

**We're making it easy for you and for visitors to support our farmers and buy fresh food directly from producers with our new Love Where it's Grown, Caught, Made farm gate trail.**

Food lovers can now take the taste-led tour of East Gippsland. The Council-led program will assist farmers and small businesses to increase sales and connect with visitors and locals, whetting everyone's appetite for more local produce.

Buying direct from local farmers, fishers, brewers and winemakers puts money back into the community, saves on food miles and lets food lovers connect with the people and

places behind the food we eat.

To discover the many farm gates, road-side stalls, farmers' markets, wineries, breweries and even trawlers in East Gippsland, head to an East Gippsland Shire Council visitor information centre or [visiteastgippsland.com.au](http://visiteastgippsland.com.au).

On the trail, look for the Love Where it's Grown, Caught, Made logo on signs outside participating farms and producers.

Anyone who offers food or fibre products that are grown, caught and made in East Gippsland and has a roadside, harbourside or market stall or sells online is invited to register for the Farm Gate Producers Program at a Council information centre or [visiteastgippsland.com.au](http://visiteastgippsland.com.au)



## Council meeting in brief

At the Council meeting on 1 February, Council made the following decisions:

- Resolved to offer a 21-year lease to Surf Life Saving Lakes Entrance for the town's famous clubhouse and lifeguard tower at 426B Main Beach Walk.
- Awarded contracts for a flare at Bairnsdale Resource Gas-Recovery Centre and the supply of calibrated chains for the Raymond Island Ferry.
- Resolved to issue a notice of decision to refuse to grant a permit for a five-lot subdivision, removal of vegetation at 705 Bengworden Road and 80 Comleys Road, Goon Nure. One of the reasons for the refusal was Council has a responsibility to protect productive agricultural land from unplanned loss due to permanent changes in land use.
- Resolved to issue a notice of decision to grant a permit for a three-lot subdivision at 705 Metung Road, Metung.
- Council adopted a formal position on a planning permit application for a multi-lot subdivision at 30 Clifton West Road, Wy Yung. As the application is to be determined on appeal to VCAT Council was only being asked to decide whether it would have granted or refused the application, if it had a chance to do so. Council took the formal position that it would have issued a notice to grant a permit. This information will enable proper representation of Council at the VCAT proceedings.

**Watch the meeting** 



# Grants Now Open



Grants are available to community groups, clubs, facility managers, event managers and, for some arts and heritage grants, individuals

Applications closing on Wednesday 2 March

Community Grants funding is available in two categories: Community Projects and Arts and Heritage

Grants require a dollar-for-dollar contribution, half of which can be a non-monetary in-kind contribution

It is important to read the guidelines before starting your application.

**VISIT COUNCIL WEBSITE**

for further information and session links

[www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/community/grants](http://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/community/grants)

## Grant 101

### INFORMATION SESSIONS

Sessions run for one hour

Tuesday 15 February 6.00 pm

Wednesday 16 February 10.00 am

## Fire prevention thank-you

We would like to thank all the property owners across the shire who have prepared their properties for the fire season and complied with Fire Prevention Notices. Fire Prevention Notices are issued to a property owner or occupier as deemed necessary under the Country Fire Authority Act 1958, to protect life and property from the threat of fire. Under the Act, we have a legal obligation to ensure risk associated with bush and grass fire is reduced. If you received a Fire Prevention Notice you are required to comply with the instructions in the notice.

In the lead up to this year's fire season, we:

- Issued fire prevention notices later than previous years due to the seasonal conditions.
- Issued 1,348 fire prevention notices on properties deemed at risk under the CFA-managed Victorian Fire Risk Register.
- Withdrew 43 notices after review (including liaising with CFA representatives to determine risk).

• Deemed 1,117 of the 1,348 properties issued with prevention notices as compliant. Thank you!

• Worked with over 70 landholders to assist them in achieving compliance.

Unfortunately, 10 properties (or 0.7% of properties issued with fire prevention notices) remain non-compliant and may be issued with fines in the next week and/or have their land cleared.

We thank all property owners who have made fire prevention a priority this summer. We know it can be challenging in managing excessive growth and we too are busy working with our contractors to manage vegetation loads along roadsides and in other public spaces.

For more on how to prepare your property, check out [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) or contact the CFA Community Education Coordinator at your local CFA or Regional Office.



# Take a into summer!

**You may have noticed the giant bunch of red, white and blue pillars dominating the outlook from the Lakes Entrance foreshore recently.**

Lakes Entrance Aqua Park, or LEAP as it's fondly known, is the region's newest inflatable water park, drawing in people from near and far to tackle its ninja-like obstacles and have some fun in the sun.

The aqua park is in Lakes Entrance following a decision of Council to award a lease arrangement last year.

The 1400-square-metre park is located at 429 Main Beach Walk, Lakes Entrance. If you can't see it from the Cunningham Arm Footbridge, you need to get your eyes checked!

For more information about opening times and ticket prices head to the [Lakes Entrance Aqua Park website](#) or follow them on their social pages – [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).



## Planning supports region's growth

We are supporting the region's economic growth through well-considered planning decisions.

General Manager Place and Community, Stuart McConnell, said significant investment in East Gippsland by existing landowners and new investors saw planning permit applications steadily increase throughout 2020-21 and 2021-22.

"That represents about 700 applications annually, an increase of about 30 per cent. This is significant and means that we currently receive 60 to 80 new applications a month (83 in November 2021) with a value between \$10-15 million," Mr McConnell said.

"An example of the volume for October to December 2021, in comparison to other rural shires, is that we received and issued more than double the number of new applications.

"The number of planning applications is good news for East Gippsland."

For the three-month period, October to December 2021 our planners dealt with:

- Approximately 40 subdivisions, mainly 2-3 lots or boundary adjustments, but including about eight larger multi-lot subdivisions totaling more than 200 lots.
- Approximately 75 applications relating to buildings and works associated with single dwellings or domestic outbuildings.
- Approximately 20 applications relating to industrial, commercial or community uses.
- Approximately 10 applications relating to new or altered jetties, either for single dwellings, single licences, or commercial uses.
- Six applications for Short Term Modular Home consents (Bushfire Recovery Victoria program).

Mr McConnell said a range of measures have been put in place to ensure it can respond to the increased activity in East Gippsland.

"While East Gippsland is not immune to an Australia-wide shortage of planners, we have recruited new staff over the past 12 months and have also put in place resource sharing

with another Brimbank City Council for which we won an award late last year," Mr McConnell said.

We have also engaged contract planners to assist with increased applications. We have some current vacancies and will be advertising for two statutory planning officers soon and we have a new senior planner commencing in March.

Process improvements have been implemented and will continue in 2022. There has been a focus on working closely with the development sector and applicants to resolve issues as they arise.

Community involvement in the planning process is also increasing.

"We regularly receive objections to applications requiring mediation sessions and Planning Consultation Meetings. This community involvement is important as we endeavour to ensure all parties with an interest can have a say, and increased community involvement also takes time as we work through and seek to resolve community concerns."

**Read more >>>**





**OME O**

**OME O PUMPTRACK SHOOTOUT**

**SATURDAY, 19 MARCH 2022**

**\$ 20 Pumptrack Race Entry. Spectators free.**

**MORE EVENT INFORMATION**

**MEET THE PRO'S!**  
PUMPTRACK SKILLS SESSIONS FROM NOON  
Meet World and National Champions up close - Caroline Buchanan, Jack Moir, Jayce Cunning & Sian A'Hern

**RACE THE PRO'S!**  
TIME TRIALS PLUS HEAD-TO-HEAD RACING.  
Get 2 attempts to set your fastest time for a chance in the Pumptrack Shootout Final!

**WATCH THE ACTION**  
AN AWESOME DAY OUT FOR EVERYONE!  
Free spectator entry to be among the action all day & for the Final under lights.

**OME O PUMP AND SKILLS TRACK**  
Where: 6 Creek St, Omeo VIC | When: Event Start Midday

**OME O** **EAST GIPPS LAND** **National Bushfire Recovery Agency** **ROCKY TRAIL**

An Australian Government bushfire recovery initiative

[visitomeo.com.au](http://visitomeo.com.au)

## Racing elite to hit Omeo

**Omeo's BMX pump and skills track will play host to the Omeo Pumptrack Shootout on Saturday 19 March.**

Some of Australia's most successful BMX and MTB riders will hit the Alpine town as part of the elite line-up, including multiple BMX world champ Caroline Buchanan.

Omeo Business Tourism Association together with Council attracted the Omeo Pumptrack Shootout event, to be put on by Rocky Trail Entertainment, as part of the Regional Tourism Bushfire Recovery grant program (RTBR), an Australian Government bushfire recovery initiative.

Mayor, Cr Mark Reeves, said Council

is spending \$4 million to turn Omeo into an adventure hub and year-round tourism destination - and the Omeo Pumptrack Shootout would help put the Alpine town on the map.

"This event will bring a lot of attention to Omeo as a place for families and anyone who loves bikes. The town's Pump Track and Skills Course offers something for every rider - from beginners right through to the elite-level BMXers.

"And once we've rolled out the 121km Omeo Mountain Bike Destination trail network later this year, the town will be one of the nation's premier destinations for mountain biking, too."

Head to the **Visit Omeo website**.

## Support for farmers

Farmers, families and rural communities in drought-affected regional areas are being encouraged to come together to grab a sausage sandwich, catch up with friends and neighbours, and find out what support is available during tough times.

A series of Drought Community Outreach Program events for Victoria's drought-affected communities are being rolled out in February to raise awareness of the Australian Government's drought-support package.

Coordinated by the National Resilience and Recovery Agency, these community-based events will provide information about how farmers and people in regional areas can access the \$10 billion package.

Here are the details of East Gippsland events:

- **Omeo — 8.30 am - 12.30 pm, Monday 14 February at Soldiers Memorial Hall**
- **Nowa Nowa — 10.00 am - 2.00 pm, Wednesday 16 February at Nowa Nowa Public Hall**
- **Buchan — 10.00 am - 2.00 pm, Thursday 17 February at Buchan Mechanics Hall**
- **Mallacoota — 8.30 am - 12.30 pm, Friday 18 February at Mallacoota Mudbrick Pavilion**

Program partners Rotary Australia will provide \$500 debit cards to assist those farming households suffering financial hardship because of the drought.





## Farewelling the PS *Curlip*

**Paynesville bid farewell to a replica of the Paddle Steamer *Curlip* on Thursday 20 January when cranes carefully hoisted the vessel from its temporary site near the foreshore to Council land in Forge Creek, where it will be safely stored until its future is determined.**

In 2016, it was found that the vessel had been damaged by naval shipworm, but repair work came to a halt in late 2020.

The move happened to make way for the town's Slip Road Marine Precinct Project. Not relocating the vessel would have jeopardised the project and \$6 million of external funding.

Options for the *Curlip's* future now include a static display of the vessel or sale to new owners.

## Rainfall making grass slashing a tough task

**Regular rainfall and warmth across East Gippsland in recent months has resulted in very fast and continued grass growth, well beyond the normal spring growth period.**

Crews made every effort to tackle long grass before the year end, but came back to find the same areas had regrown quickly, so our slashing program is running well behind schedule due the warm and wet conditions. Our mowing crews are out cutting and slashing, and Council has also taken on contractors to mow some areas, but when grass is wet, cutting is slower and the finish is not as neat. In addition, water-affected soil means slashing tractors cannot operate without damaging equipment and the environment.

As well as making the grass grow and limiting our ability to get to some areas, the ongoing rain events are impacting our walking tracks and playgrounds, causing erosion that often requires more than one repair effort.

Council's priority in recent weeks has been ovals and the other playing fields, to ensure they are suitable for the start of the cricket season. The focus of our crews has now turned to key roadsides and median strips, as well as gardens.

Every site across the shire remains programmed in to be cut, but the rain has meant that the timetable has been pushed back despite the best efforts of our mowing team and contractors.





# Summer days afield



*Trialing lucerne and arrowleaf clover at Forge Creek*

**Gippsland Agricultural Group Inc hosted a very successful Sowing the Gap Summer Field Day at the GAgG Research Farm in Bengworden, Bairnsdale, last month.**

A chance for local farmers to see nearly every summer mix at one location - some 61 varieties all at the one research farm - the Summer Fodder Field Day gave a great insight into which species are performing in this wet summer we're experiencing.

This field day will be followed up by a series of paddock walks and information days in Buchan, Cann River, Clifton Creek, Ensay, Omeo and Orbost.

Register by calling 0409 436 133 or visit <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx>

## Save the date

**15 February – Red Meat Conference, Bairnsdale**

**9 March – Farming for Success, Sale**

**8/9 April – East Gippsland Field Days**

## Bridging the gap

**Two years on from the Black Summer bushfires, Jarvis Norwood Constructions is making significant progress on the new Genoa River Pedestrian Bridge after our contractors have endured challenges with recent rainfall, flooding and COVID impacting the supply of materials.**

The new bridge will be 111 metres long, made from steel reinforced concrete which will reinstate the pedestrian link from the Genoa Wayside Stop across the Genoa River to the township is vital for the community and visitors alike.

The substructure of the bridge was completed in early February and the truss prefabrication and painting has been completed, which leaves the beams, precast concrete deck and fencing to be installed in March.

Stay tuned for more information on the official opening of the bridge in April, which will involve all stakeholders and the community.

The new bridge is completely funded by us and replaces the historic bridge that was unfortunately destroyed in the 2019-20 bushfires.



*The Genoa River Pedestrian Bridge truss prior to installation.*



*The completed substructure of the bridge.*



## Communities welcome some new faces

Our Place Managers are purposely based within community with the aim of supporting the residents and communities across their designated geographical portfolio area.

Given the East Gippsland municipality is such a large area, Place Managers play a critical role as a conduit between Council and the community – facilitating connections and sharing information with the ultimate goal of strengthening community resilience via their work and engagement.

Place Managers benefit both Council and the community by enabling effective two-way communication, and by engaging with and aiding residents to identify local priorities and supporting them in responding to local issues.

In recent years, our Place Managers have been instrumental during the ongoing bushfire recovery efforts in supporting our communities to act and respond to identified areas of need. Place Managers reflect our understanding that targeted, local-level engagement is required to understand the needs and priorities of our diverse community.

### **Introducing Alistair Moles - new Manager of Community Engagement & Resilience**

I've recently transitioned into the area from Melbourne and am thrilled to be back in the Gippsland region after growing up in South Gippsland (Leongatha).

Most recently, I have been working in state government with the Department of Justice and Community Safety. Prior to this, I worked in the disability support sector, as well as the community housing/homelessness area.

This work history hints to the fact that I'm very passionate about ensuring that everyone has an equal

chance to thrive and be heard in community, and that I really enjoy roles that are meaningful and that allow me to work with people.

At the end of the day, isn't that what it is all about?

**E: AlistairM@egipps.vic.gov.au**

### **Place Managers**

#### **Meg Allan - Mallacoota**

I was born and raised in Mallacoota and have a long family history in the area.

After completing my schooling at the P-12 College, I moved to Geelong to study Politics and Policy at Deakin University.

I have since also completed postgraduate studies in Sustainable Regional Development, focusing on systems and strategic thinking, and disaster-related policy responses.

I have been involved in East Gippsland's recovery journey as a volunteer and am excited to join Council's Community Recovery Team and be part of the amazing work being done in the recovery space.

I'm looking forward to supporting the Mallacoota community as we transition from recovery to resilience and move forward together.

**E: MegA@egipps.vic.gov.au**

#### **Helen Shiel - Omeo**

I live in Toorloo Arm on Bung Yarnda (Lake Tyers). I came to Gippsland as a visitor, then married, living in Orbost and Cabbage Tree, working as TAFE outreach worker.

I moved to Mirboo North when my children were growing up, teaching Community Development with Yallourn TAFE, then Monash University, before coming back to Nowa Nowa where my partner and I owned a caravan park on the Boggy Creek Gorge.

I have worked on a number of

regional community projects, including working with Yarra Ranges Neighbourhood Houses after the Black Saturday Bushfires, and more recently in partnership with Neighbourhood Houses on the East Gippsland Building Community Resilience project that won state awards for community-led prevention and preparedness.

I was also part of a coordinated response to natural disasters in the Northern Grampians Shire, with a focus on the social impact of flood, fire and landslips on business and community.

I have a strong interest in rural women and education, and creating partnerships between community, Government, and agencies (public/private/community) to include local knowledge and perspective. I am looking forward to working with you all.

**E: HelenS@egipps.vic.gov.au**

#### **Margaret Summerton - Clifton Creek and Twin Rivers**

I come from a background of community engagement, cultural development, festival development, volunteer sustainability and major event management. I have worked with several councils during my career, mainly in arts and culture roles.

I have experienced Black Saturday in Nillumbik Shire and Black Summer here in East Gippsland while working with the CFA.

I am a highly organised extravert who loves making plans and doing them. I'm looking forward to getting to know my communities and helping them with their future initiatives and aspirations.

**E: MargaretS@egipps.vic.gov.au**



# BUSHFIRE RECOVERY

## Paula Jorgenson – Wairewa and Errinundra to Snowy Districts

I am looking forward to the next two months working as a casual Place Manager for Wairewa and Errinundra to Snowy Districts.

Growing up in California with a “PTA Mom” (a PTA Mom is a parent-teacher association, community and education-focused mother) I was embedded in community before I knew the word. So it made sense that when I came to Australia, I gravitated to communities – in my personal life, professionally and as a volunteer.

My work and education trajectory started with interdisciplinary arts, graphic design, nature-based summer camps to organisation/group dynamics.

I have worked in grass-roots community organisations, non-profit, government and international corporations and usually find myself facilitating in the spaces between community/client and institution.

A family camping trip to Croajingolong National Park sparked my love for East Gippsland. Homesick for my native geography, I was attracted by the similarities and captivated by the differences. After years as a visitor, I am thrilled to live beside magical Bung Yarnda in Nowa Nowa.

**E: PaulaJ@egipps.vic.gov.au**

## Rebecca Steenholdt – Generalist Place Manager

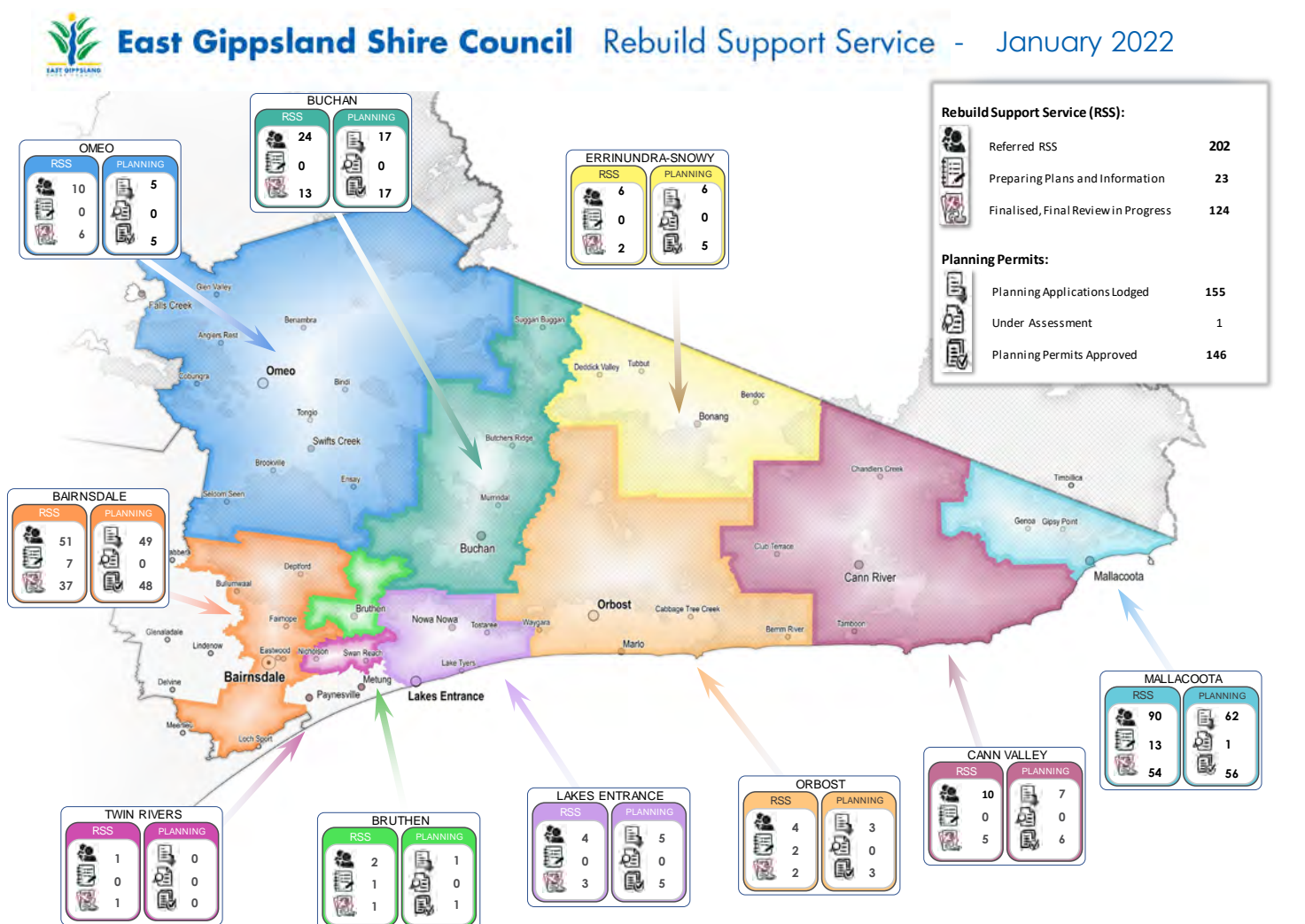
Hello! I’m a third-generation East Gippslandian, spending my formative years in Sarsfield and Swifts Creek, and moving back into the area five years ago to support family.

I have a strong background in operations and events and community engagement. My most recent role has seen me supporting the Buchan and Districts community on their recovery journey with Bushfire Recovery Victoria.

I have a strong belief in supporting small rural communities to see them survive and thrive in the face of natural disaster and adversity. Passionate about representing the region to ensure that we can promote, celebrate and capitalize on opportunities for our magnificent East Gippsland, post the Black Summer fire event.

I am truly excited to be moving into the Council Community Recovery team. My role is a generalist place manager, and I will commence working with Suzie Healy to support the Buchan and Galantipy District communities, as they navigate their recovery and strengthen their future.

**E: RebeccaS@egipps.vic.gov.au**





# Our Councillors



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Note: When emailing a Councillor, type "Att Cr (their last name)" in the subject line.

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