

# Omeo District Recovery Update

DECEMBER 2021



## Timber Towns Transition

The second community meeting of the Timber Towns Transition was held in Swifts Creek on November 10th at Swifts Creek Primary School with a good attendance by community members. The Victorian Forestry Plan will transition the Victorian Timber Industry away from native timber harvesting by 2030. Community members were invited to be part of the discussion in implementing the Local Development Strategy. This approach recognises the contribution of industry, government, community, and the tertiary education sector. There is ongoing discussion on the scope and style of community involvement. The next stage is to finalise the auspice arrangements for the Transition Towns funding and the employment of a project worker.

For more information please contact your Place Manager or Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions on 1300 366 356.

## STAND program announced

Thirty-five East Gippsland communities will soon receive telecommunications systems to help ensure resilient communications are available during emergency events. The rollout across shire, which started on 29 November 2021, is part of the national Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters (STAND) program after Council's successful nomination of locations in the second round of the program.

The program will boost internet connectivity resilience and help locals in

disaster-prone areas stay connected to emergency and support services.

The community facilities to receive the infrastructure investments are halls, reserves and fire stations across the length and breadth of the shire. The upgrades will include satellite-linked Wi-Fi, and, for most community facilities, a Smart TV and meeting system capability is provided to support communities to remain connected through emergency events.

The Commonwealth has committed to fund satellite service costs for the first three years.

Mayor Cr Mark Reeves said the 2019-20 bushfires taught us that we need to make networks more resilient if we're going to ensure that our towns are connected when it matters most.

"These upgrades will provide communities with more resilient satellite internet and AV connections in times of disaster. This is new infrastructure that helps some of our most remote and isolated communities be more resilient by providing another option at a community facility when the mobile telecommunication system fails. That is great progress and a proactive response to the 2019-20 Black Summer fires," Cr Reeves said.

There are currently eight existing municipal and district-level STAND sites across the shire at Bairnsdale City Oval, Buchan Recreation Reserve, Cann River Recreation Reserve, Mallacoota Main Hall, Omeo Recreation Reserve, Orbost Recreation Reserve (cricket club oval) and Painesville Recreation Reserve.

"We successfully nominated an additional 35 sites to support alignment with work to be undertaken as part of the

Community Resilience and Development Program," Cr Reeves said.

"In partnership with NBN and representatives of each committee of management we are working to confirm installation dates."

Local contractors are being used where possible, with contractors from East Gippsland and the wider Gippsland region already engaged to work on the rollout.

Council and community emergency management coordinators will integrate new operational processes into municipal emergency planning and procedures.

Benambra Recreation Reserve, Bundarra (STAND only), Cobungra CFA (STAND only), Ensay Hall, Ensay Recreation Reserve, Glen Valley Hall and Swifts Creek Hall will be part of the 35 newly approved STAND sites, with work tipped for completion by July 2022.

Find out more by contacting your local Place Manager or Paul Oakes, Senior Project Officer on (03) 5153 9500.

## Community Celebrations

Across the Omeo District, a series of community events have been planned to help people reconnect as a community. With the easing of COVID restrictions and financial support from Council through Regional Development Victoria and Bushfire Recovery Victoria funds these opportunities were developed. These community gatherings are able to occur, thanks to the efforts of the Omeo Region Community Recovery Committee. For some communities this is the first chance to meet since the 2019 fires.

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It is also an opportunity to draw attention to the Omeo Region Survey planned to inform the development of a community resilience plan.

The towns of Angler's Rest, Omeo, Swifts Creek, Omeo, and Callis / Brookville (pictured below) have all recently held events, welcoming community members, organisations, Emergency Services, and other agencies in sharing food and music.

On 3 December, Benambra held a free community barbecue and hosted partners from the North East, East Gippsland and Tambo Crossing.

Ensay has been organising a grand feast for all the community to enjoy, this will be held in December or January. For more information:

## **Community celebrations:**

<https://ourrecovery.com.au/omeo-region>

## **For photos and updates**

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

## **Cassilis Cemetery/Recreation Reservice Facilities**

Cassilis Cemetery/Recreation Reserve

facilities are being improved thanks to the dedicated involvement of the Cemetery Trust and Recreation Reserve Committee with Council funding. For the last 15 years, community members have been responsible for the efficient operation of a compost toilet on site. With the amenity aging, DELWP is advising on a new design requiring less onerous maintenance.

## **Tambo Crossing Community Association**

Tambo Crossing Community Association (TCCA) is pleased work has begun for their new shed and meeting place facility in a beautiful location on donated land. With no current meeting place in the community, the TCCA is organising facilitated sessions to invite involvement from across their community in determining the future operation, functioning and activities in this facility.

## **Omeo Shire Community Access Radio Inc (OSCAR) – 3HCR**

Omeo District Health, The Royal Flying Doctor Service, East Gippsland Shire

Council, Omeo Shire Access Radio and Gippsland East Local Learning Education Network have come together to revitalise the community radio, providing opportunities for skill and career development for young people and a public presence on issues of importance and fun.

<https://www.3hcromeo.com/>

## **Congratulations**

To Swifts Creek Bush Nursing Centre for being a finalist in the Federation University East Gippsland Business Awards 2021 in Beauty Health and Personal Care Services sponsored by Monash University.

## **Fencing waste stockpile sites**

Council and DELWP have arranged for fire impacted fencing waste left at approved locations across the region to be periodically collected and disposed of appropriately.

The approved site for Omeo District is Old Night Soil Dump site 181 Depot Road, Omeo and Ensay Blowhard' Gravel Pit, Little River Road, Ensay North.



Omeo Region Community Recovery Committee hosted a series of events across the Omeo District area including Callis/Brookville (above)