

Leading the charge to #BreakTheBias

We marked International Women's Day (IWD) with two great events on Tuesday 8 March, both observing this year's theme, **#BreakTheBias**.

Community members joined Councillors and Council staff in cinematic style at a special screening of 2020 feature film *The Leadership* at Bairnsdale's Sun Cinema.

The documentary-style film addresses systemic obstacles to women's advancement in science and beyond. Mallacoota composer and cellist Kristin Rule completed the score for the film.

Meanwhile, Orbost-born film and TV professional and co-owner of Stadium Signs, Pamela Hammond, was a guest speaker for a lunchtime online event, sharing her story.

Our staff and Councillors also shared their thoughts on what breaking the bias meant to them. A video compilation of these inspirations can be viewed on our **YouTube channel**.



Denise Lamble and Jessica Roberts were all smiles for International Women's Day at our screening of *The Leadership* at the Sun Cinema Bairnsdale.



Jody O'Brien, Megan Richardson and Karen Fleischer.



Mayor Cr Mark Reeves.



Lilly Hodge (Youth Engagement Project Officer) and Rachel Wade.

Acknowledgement of Country

East Gippsland Shire Council acknowledges the Gunaikurnai, Monero and Bidjawan 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.

Our visit to the Orbost Show



Jo Ellison and Rebecca Lamble (Sustainability Officer) were happy to see Costa Georgiadis return to the show for the second year.



Our Agribusiness Development Officer, Kaylene Wickham was on hand providing advice and information throughout the day.



Mayor Mark Reeves and Andrea Priestley (Customer Service Officer) showing what's on offer at the libraries.



Cr Tom Crook with our recycling mascot.

4 April: Council community visit, Orbost Forest Park,
3.30 pm – 4.30 pm

5 April: Council community visit, Buchan Caves Hotel,
12.15 pm – 1.00 pm

5 April: Council Meeting, Buchan Mechanics Hall,
1.30 pm

8 – 9 April: East Gippsland Field Days

25 April: ANZAC Day

Want to take part in a Council meeting?

The community are encouraged to ask questions or present to Council on an agenda item or other matters at a Council meeting. View our [website](#).

Driving the electric vehicle charge



Councillors Mendy Urie, Tom Crook, Jane Greacen and Mayor Cr Mark Reeves promote Council's use of hybrid electric vehicles.

Did you know that we have been adding to our very own fleet of Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEVs) since 2019?

That's right! We're committed to reducing our emissions across East Gippsland and this is just one of the things we're doing to get results.

Councillors Mendy Urie, Tom Crook, Jane Greacen and Mayor Mark Reeves have taken the lead in the uptake of hybrid vehicles and promotion of zero emissions transportation in the region. We also have a number of hybrid vehicles in the corporate fleet.

And in a shire as expansive as ours, it couldn't be more important that Councillors and staff are the driving force behind East Gippsland's commitment to renewable energy alternatives, starting with their use of hybrid electric vehicles.

Councillor Tom Crook said the advantages of embracing the HEV revolution are boundless.

"It's about being part of the solution," Cr Crook said.

"There's currently a global transformation in transport electrification occurring and us having electric vehicles allows us to be a part of that transformation to reduce emissions, to reduce the impacts of climate change and severe weather events like bushfires and floods that we are increasingly experiencing."

Cr Mendy Urie drives her own full electric vehicle. So, how long has she been driving her electric vehicle around the region and what does she love about it?

"What's not to love?" Cr Urie questioned.

"We can help significantly reduce our municipal emissions by investing zero-emissions vehicles and by filling up with

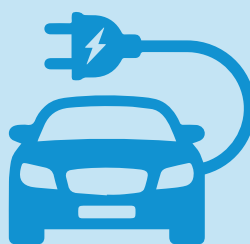
100% renewable energy. It's clean, and it's fun!"

What else?

Our Sustainability Unit has been busy advocating to all levels of government for funding to put in public electric vehicle charging stations across the shire, for the benefit of the whole community. And guess what...success!

We have secured federal and state government funding to install seven fast chargers by June next year. Stage one is funded by the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program and will see 50kw fast chargers installed in Bairnsdale, Omeo, Orbost and Cann River by the end of June 2022.

We'll continue to advocate for opportunities that encourage a wider interest in electric vehicle uptake throughout East Gippsland communities, so watch this space!



2019 1st HEV was introduced to our fleet

2021 A further 3 HEVs brought on board

2022 1 more HEV has been added to our fleet so far...more to come!

SOON! There will be 4 Councillors who have a Council-purchased HEV (1 delivered, 3 are on order)



Did you know?

17% of East Gippsland's 933,000 tons of municipal Co2 emissions per annum come from transport? (EGSC Draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2022-2032)

Red Meat Conference shares vision for future

The chance to share a vision for the future of agriculture in Gippsland brought together more than 250 farmers and agriculture industry representatives to hear from presenters speaking about the critical issues facing the region, with a general theme of Recovery and Resilience.

We partnered with Gippsland Agriculture Group to bring the 2022 Gippsland Red Meat Conference to the Riviera Convention Centre in Bairnsdale on 15 February after three postponements due to COVID-19.

Gippsland Agriculture Group led the event with farmer, conservationist and event manager Craig Bush coordinating the event.

Topics covered included how to bounce back after bushfire; achieving carbon neutrality; stock handling; precision lambing; soil biology and how to pass a farm from one generation to the next without tears.

The day ended with an address from Darren Anderson, producer of Network 10 cooking show Farm



Councillor Trevor Stow, Lana Young (National Recovery and Resilience Agency) and Joe Rettino (East Gippsland Community Foundation) at the Red Meat Conference held in Bairnsdale last month.

to Fork, a show that highlights the produce this country has to offer.

Agriculture is a key driver of economic activity in East Gippsland and one of the largest providers of jobs across the shire. We support the industry through a variety of events and programs including:

- Red Meat Conference
- Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee

- Livestock Exchange, with new sheep and multi-stock pen upgrades
- Agribusiness Program
- The Love Where it's Grown, Caught, Made farm gate program
- A free silage wrap disposal program
- Recent East Gippsland Field Days and upcoming local agricultural shows



Two of the guests at the conference were Troy and Nette Fischer, who run a seedstock and grain business in Wasleys, South Australia.

In November 2015, a 85,000-hectare bushfire ravaged Troy, Nette and their family. The entire farm was destroyed, including fences, infrastructure and machinery. Despite major obstacles, they rebuilt their flock and farm, and in the last six years their business has tripled in size.

The Fischers' presentation covered steps any business can take to prepare for unexpected challenges and remain resilient even in the most difficult of times.

If you missed the presentation, or would like to hear Troy and Nette's story, watch it [here](#) (from 3:08:00).

The content may be confronting for people in our community who have been impacted by bushfire or other natural disasters.

Thanks to the conference organisers for allowing us to share this story.



Ag committee explores Orbost



Marlo Road dairy farmer Alistair Steele explains the use of robots in his milking shed.

The diverse nature of agriculture in Orbost was the focus of a visit to the town by our Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee on Thursday 24 February.

Mayor Cr Mark Reeves and Stuart McConnell and Sharon Raguse from our Place and Community team joined a diverse group of famers and farming experts for the field trip and an overview of the Future of Orbost & District Project.

John, Jenny and Gareth Di Cecco hosted the group at their protea

farm at Corringale. They talked about strong demand for their products from Melbourne and the South Coast and their desire to invest in water infrastructure to prepare for future dry seasons.

The next stop was in Gargans Lane where an overview of the Snowy River Seeds R&D program was discussed. Damien Courtier and Lachie Ritchie provided an overview of the intensive seed corn research and innovation program and their support for the proposed seeds institute facility to be established in Orbost.

Last stop was the Marlo Road dairy of Alistair Steele, where his robotic milking facility was the star of the show with Alistair discussing how his herd has adapted to the robotic milkers, and the data and analysis role that Alistair now plays in making his farm as productive as possible.

The three different approaches to farming presented – including some industry-leading scientific and technical approaches – offered ways to make farming more profitable and efficient and sparked a lot of discussion and interest from attendees.

Outreach events a success

Community Outreach Events hosted by the National Recovery and Resilience Agency and Rotary Australia were held across East Gippsland in February to offer support and advice on drought, bushfire, flood and more.

We were represented at all four events by our Agribusiness Development Officer, Emergency Management staff and place managers, connecting with the farming communities and providing a face for Council and relevant information to farmers.

The events brought together government, charities, not-for-profits and agricultural organisations to present a range of supports available for drought recovery and other challenges.

Rural communities came together to grab a bite, catch up with friends and see what was on offer – including \$500 debit cards provided by Rotary Australia to those suffering financial hardship because of the drought. Most visitors checked out at least five of the 17 services represented and received one-on-one wellbeing support. Many of the farmers and other community members who visited the events said they had stayed far longer than planned.

We are now advocating for another series of outreach events.

For more information, visit recovery.gov.au/drought-community-outreach-program.

Event	Date of event	No. of attendees	Rotary funds distributed
Omeo	14 February	96	\$22,500
Nowa Nowa	16 February	80	\$20,500
Buchan	17 February	100	\$15,500
Mallacoota	18 February	45	\$10,500
TOTAL		321	\$69,000



The Bairnsdale Aerodrome was vital in the response to the Black Summer Bushfires.

Advocacy delivers community results

We've been busy advocating to our state and federal counterparts on a range of opportunities and projects to ensure our region is a desirable place to live, work, play and invest.

We actively engage with our communities to understand needs and aspirations, so we can create and maintain a healthy, connected and sustainable region.

This helps us prioritise the key issues impacting East Gippsland and advocate accordingly.

It was recently announced that our region received \$28 million in grants for 38 separate projects as part of the Federal Government's Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants program. This included eight applications that were directly lodged by us and many more that we played an integral part in, working closely with community groups to develop their funding applications.

[Read more>>](#)

Paynesville proposal – we're listening

We have received a Planning Permit application to construct a five-storey, mixed-use building comprising two commercial tenancies, 30 apartments and a carpark, on land zoned Commercial 1, at 4-6 Devon Road, Paynesville.

This privately funded, mixed-use building would be a substantial development for Paynesville's town centre.

We want to hear from you

We are now seeking community input, which will occur alongside a community information process conducted by the applicant.

As part of our assessment of the application, we also want to provide some information and hear your thoughts on this proposal so we can make our decision informed by community views.

The application documents, plans and artist impressions of the proposed redevelopment are available for review online on our [YourSay page](#) and at our service centres. FAQs are also provided on our YourSay page that may help to answer your questions.

You can also provide written feedback to: **Statutory Planning**, East Gippsland Shire Council, PO Box 1618, Bairnsdale 3875. Feedback must be received by 5.00 pm, Wednesday 30 March 2022.

[Read more>>](#)



Council's 8 successful projects

1. Bairnsdale Airport upgrade, \$9.9m
2. Mallacoota Mudbrick Pavilion upgrade, \$493K
3. Omeo Recreation Reserve Netball and Tennis Court upgrade, \$659K
4. Cann River Skate Park redevelopment, \$561K
5. Raymond Island Community Hall extension, \$146K
6. Lake Tyers Beach Hall upgrade, \$400K
7. Bemm River footpath development, \$1.02m
8. Club Terrace community facility, \$751K

Bairnsdale Airport's ageing water mains are being replaced.

Water main works

This project was identified as a priority project in the Bairnsdale Airport Masterplan. The infrastructure was installed in the time of World War II and has now reached its end of life.

There will be minimal disruption to airside aviation traffic. The project is expected to be completed

before this April's East Gippsland Field Days, which are held at the aerodrome.

The water main upgrade will complement a range of projects that will enable the facility to attract a wider range of aircraft.

In 2018, Bairnsdale Airport was awarded 'National Small Regional Aerodrome of the Year' by the Australian Airports Association.

We also operate airports in Orbost and Mallacoota.

What's On calendar

We are proud to support many exciting major arts, sporting, cultural and community events each year.

Here's some upcoming events support by our various grants programs, hitting our region over the next couple of months.



Omeo Pump Track Shootout

Ride through the endless loops of rollers, jumps and berms on the pump track or practise your jumps and downhill expertise on the skills track. There will be four heats to determine the outright female and male winners.

19 March

12 noon – 8 pm

Omeo Pump and Skills Track, Creek Street Omeo

[More information>>>](#)



Fiona O'Loughlin – Live

Fiona is a master storyteller. In her unique and hilarious fashion, she tackles the topic of what it is like to be a Baby Boomer.

These FREE performances are presented by the Forge Theatre and Arts Hub with generous funding from Bushfire Recovery Victoria. Friday 1 April

Buchan Hall, 7.30 pm

Saturday 2 April
Cabbage Tree Creek Hall, 7.30 pm

[More information>>>](#)



MZAZA in Concert

Award winning MZAZA passionately deliver their stunning blend of folk to music lovers in an intimate concert. Led by mesmerising French-Sephardic vocalist Pauline Maudy, these incredible musicians from around the world harness Balkan and French influences to create a musical ride that taps into the beating heart of humankind.

12–14 April

Various locations

[More information>>>](#)



Bayer Big Fish Challenge Classic

The Bayer Big Fish Challenge seeks to tackle rural mental wellbeing through a friendly fishing competition. Each year registered individuals and teams upload the fish they catch through the Bayer Big Fish Challenge App. 30 April – 1 May
7.00 am – 4.00 pm
Allan Drive, Mallacoota

[More information>>>](#)



East Gippsland Bream Classic

The East Gippsland Bream Classic is Victoria's own catch and release bream tournament series where anglers with a competitive streak can team up with a mate and put their skills to the test against some of Australia's best bream anglers.

26–26 March

7 am – 4 pm

Village Green, Metung

[More information>>>](#)



MZAZA workshops

World music workshops will demonstrate some of the unusual rhythms and ornaments of modal music. Bring your fiddle, guitar, ukulele, harmonica, hand percussion or any other instrument and learn some of the rhythms of the Balkans. World vocals workshops will embark on a musical journey through the poetic and melodic world of Jewish-Spanish and French music and explore words in ancient languages.

12–14 April

Various locations

[More information>>>](#)



Frostbite Gravel XL

Get your winter woolies out and join in on a true alpine gravel adventure conquering some of the longest gravel climbs in the High Country. There are a range of courses available and there will be timed segments on the route to get your heartbeat up!

7 May

6.00 am – 6.00 pm

Omeo, various High Country roads

[More information>>>](#)

Clock's ticking on grants

The final round of Local Community Projects Grants is open and taking applications until Monday 11 April.

Funded under the Victorian Government's Local Economic Recovery (LER) program, these grants will help fund local projects vital for community recovery in bushfire-affected regions. For more information and to apply visit www.vic.gov.au



Minister for Local Government, the Hon Shaun Leane joined Mayor Cr Mark Reeves, Deputy Mayor Cr Arthur Allen, CEO Anthony Basford and our project officers (Morgana Te Paeue pictured) and contractors for a tour of the works underway at the Slip Road Maritime Precinct in Paynesville and the works at the WORLD Sporting Precinct Redevelopment in Bairnsdale on 16 March. Both projects are supported by the Victorian Government. Find out more about both projects on our **Your Say engagement portal**.

Get Active Kids voucher program

East Gippsland sporting clubs and groups with a focus on physical activity can help young people get involved – just by registering as an activity provider for the Get Active Kids program.

This is an important step to helping people afford the equipment or fees associated with active recreation and sports, as the Get Active Kids voucher program is changing this year.

In the past, people paid upfront and then applied to be reimbursed.

Now, by registering with the program, clubs and groups will be able to accept vouchers of up to \$200 to support families facing financial barriers to pay for sporting memberships and participation costs.

The full eligibility criteria and conditions of registration are available in the program guidelines.

Read more>>>

Tamboon Fireguard officially opened



Tim Bull, Member for Gippsland East, Gail Cumming, Frank Herbert and Mayor Cr Mark Reeves officially opening the Tamboon Fireguard shed.

It was great to join the Tamboon community for the opening of their 'Tamboon Fireguard' shed on Thursday 3 March.

The much-needed facility is a credit to all involved, from fundraising, lobbying government and other agencies,



A fantastic day attended by the Tamboon community.

sourcing materials to working together to support the community. We are proud to be involved with this project, and the Tamboon community more broadly, as it bounces back from the fire event and plans for a more resilient future.



Janice Haynes (Forge Theatre and Arts Hub Manager) was among many who enjoyed the screening of *The Leadership* at the Sun Cinema on International Women's Day.



Karen Fleischer and Cr Jane Greacen.



Kerrianne Crane with Cr Tom Crook.



Andrea Dorning, Atina Baker and Leasa Carr.



Rebecca Pantry (Acting Community Programs Coordinator) with Karen Collis.



Rosemary and Scan Couch.

Get support for your business

If you want to start your own business, or you're looking for advice on expanding your business, we can help you make sense of all the information out there.

We can provide information, support and resources to help businesses survive and thrive the challenges of the COVID-19 recovery and beyond.

Link up with the **Gippsland Business Community** to find local businesses, experts, business events, upcoming projects and procurement opportunities or find local job seekers on the **Gippsland Jobs Hub**.

You can also subscribe to our free **Business Connect newsletter** to find out about news, upcoming workshops, events and more. or email our Economic Development Team: **Economic.Development@egipps.vic.gov.au**

Upcoming workshops

Startup Gippsland is holding the following masterclasses:

Business Planning 101

23 March 2022

Bairnsdale RSL

Building a Successful Team and Culture

6 April 2022

The Criterion Hotel, Sale

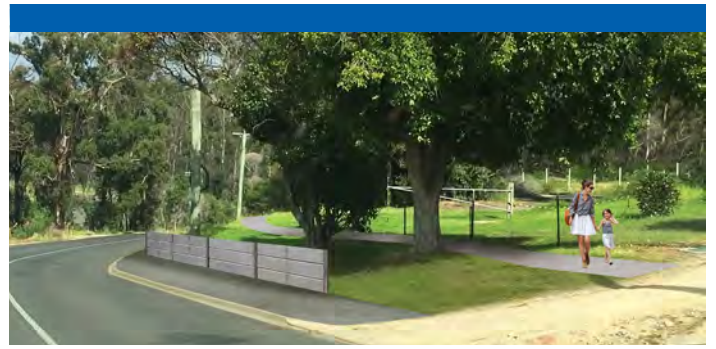
Writing for Business Growth

27 April

To learn more about these events or to register, visit **[Startup Gippsland's eventbrite page](#)**.

Have you seen our remote-control lawnmower in action?

The mower, a new addition to our arsenal in maintaining our large area of public space, is becoming a very valuable piece of equipment as some of the vast area we maintain relatively steep and can be quite slippery when wet.



Work begins on 'Coota footpath

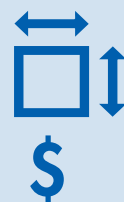
Another capital works project has begun in Mallacoota, this time to improve pedestrian safety.

We are constructing a footpath along Mirrabook Road, starting at the Lakeside Drive intersection and running 450 metres to the corner near Raheen Drive.

The \$582,000 project also includes a pedestrian island which allows people to cross one lane of Lakeside Drive and wait or rest before crossing the other lane.

Drainage infrastructure at the intersection of Mirrabooka Road and Lakeside Drive will also be improved.

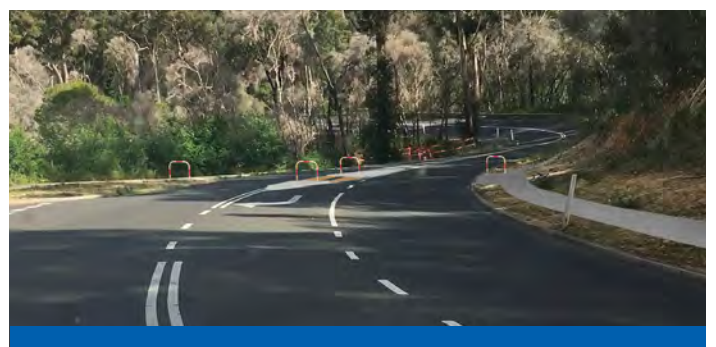
This work will be completed by the end of May. In June, we round out the project with a guardrail along an 80-metre section of road shoulder.



Length: 450 metres

Width: 2 metres

Cost: \$582,000



Join us at the Field Days!

8-9 April
Bairnsdale
Aerodrome



An iconic event on the East Gippsland calendar, the Field Days have been proudly run by the Lindenow Lions Club since 1986.

East Gippsland encompasses a diverse range of agricultural and rural industries and yields a vast range of regional produce, so there are many good reasons to be a visitor or an exhibitor.

We'll be there highlighting Council services, projects and to have a chat. See you there! Head to [East Gippsland Field Days website](#).

Omeo Caravan Park to re-open in April

Work is progressing to have the Omeo Caravan Park reopened in time for Easter.

A flood in early January caused well-documented damage to the park and amenities, local roads and other public facilities such as Livingstone Park and the pump track.

We are placing a high priority on remedial works, reopening the park and providing free interim camping to support the business community and visitor economy in the Omeo Region.

It is likely to take up until Easter for flood remedial works to be completed at the Omeo Caravan Park, after which time the park will reopen.

The current lease for the park ends on 31 March and we are in the process of appointing a caretaker manager to commence as soon as possible from 1 April.

Until a caretaker is in place, the Omeo Service Centre is taking enquiries in early April, regarding existing and future bookings. Please call 5153 9500.

Existing bookings:

- Where provided with confirmation of bookings Council will update the booking register.
- Anyone cancelling a booking will be noted, but refunds will be the responsibility of the current tenant until March 31, 2022. After that date more information will be made available.

New bookings:

- The Omeo Service Centre is only taking bookings for Easter (Friday 15 April) onwards.
- Tentative bookings can be made for 1-14 April but will be dependent on the park re-opening prior to Easter.

With the Omeo dump point currently unavailable, the nearest public dump points are at Dinner Plain car park and Bruthen Caravan Park.

With the support of the Omeo Recreation Reserve Committee of Management, free camping is available at the Omeo Recreation Reserve until the caravan park reopens. Due to other event bookings at the reserve, free camping is not available on 15-17 April.

Council meeting in brief

Council made the following decisions at the February 22 Council meeting:

- To write to the Victorian Minister for Roads and Road Safety asking for an urgent review of the funding model for school crossing supervisors and requesting an alternate operating model. Council is concerned over the increasing use of ratepayer funds to supervise and maintain school crossings given that education is a state government responsibility.
- Awarded a contract for the third construction package for the WORLD Sporting Precinct, Bairnsdale. The contract, worth \$3,589,286, was awarded to Allmore Constructions for construction of the new WORLD pavilion, services infrastructure and connections, and the non-living elements of the landscape design.
- Noted a quarterly update on the progress of Council's capital works and major projects.
- Adopted an updated policy for private jetties in the Paynesville canals. The policy outlines the acceptable form for jetties in the canals and removes the application fee, replacing it with a planning permit application fee, in line with Council's process for other jetties.
- Endorsed two submissions: one to the Municipal Association of Victoria's Rules Review and the other to the Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy.
- Agreed to surrender to Bairnsdale Cemetery to the Crown. During an audit of Council-owned properties, it was discovered the cemetery was in Council's name, which is unusual.

Watch the meeting 

JOIN THE EAST GIPPSLAND FREEZA CREW

Are you aged between 12-25?

Interested in music, events, arts
and culture?

Help plan, organise + deliver events
and activities that you want to see!

We want you in the crew!

Contact
us for
info

Expressions of Interest
open now!

Freeza VICTORIA



Young stars line up for The Push

We have teamed up with youth music organisation, **The Push**, and youth development program **FReeZA**, to bring some of Australia's finest young musicians to Bruthen for the second last show of **The Push All-Ages Tour**.

The tour provides live music for a younger audience.

The incredible evening of live music to be held at Bruthen Inn Hotel on Saturday 26 March from 4.00-8.30pm and will feature genre-bending rapper Allday; musician and activist JK-47; triple j Unearthed competition winner Emily Jansen and local legend Olivia Lay.

This is a COVIDSafe event and will be a drug, smoking and alcohol-free space. This event is also wheelchair friendly.

If you bought tickets for the September and October concerts (which were cancelled), your tickets are still valid for this Bruthen concert. If you can no longer attend, please request a refund via Moshtix.

This Push All-Ages Tour event is being staged by local young people as a part of the Victorian Government's FReeZA youth development initiative that provides industry skills and event-staging experience.

There are limited tickets, **book now**.

Complimentary tickets are available for First Nations young people and those experiencing financial hardship or who hold a Companion Card.

Email tickets@thepush.com.au to arrange.

6 tips for a seamless road trip this Easter

Here are some tips from our road safety crew to help you avoid any bumps in the road and arrive in one piece at your Easter break destination this year.

1. Leave yourself plenty of time to get there

The Easter holiday break will result in extra traffic on our region's roads as people head away for the extra-long weekend.

Prioritise safety over swiftness. It doesn't matter when you arrive, just make sure it's alive!

2. Make sure your car is ready to hit the road

Checked your tyres lately? Before you hit the road, check your tyres' tread depth meets the minimum legal tread depth, which is 1.5mm in Victoria. While you're at it, check your oil levels, radiator coolant, wiper fluid and of course, fuel.

3. Take a break, enjoy the scenery

Plan your rest stops. There are some magical spots around in East Gippsland for you to stop, take a break and enjoy the region's hospitality while you're at it. Plan to stop every two hours and don't drive for more than 10 hours a day.

4. Read the road ahead

Be roadwise! Constantly search the road ahead for changing conditions, look out for hazards and pay attention to road markings and signage signalling a change on the road ahead. Get real-time traffic information by regularly checking the VicRoads website.

5. Watch out for wildlife

Don't forget our fauna friends when driving around the region this Easter. Here in East Gippsland, we're lucky enough to live alongside some of Australia's most amazing native animals and birdlife, so please be on the lookout for any unexpected crossings.

6. Revive for the drive home

A lot of accidents occur because of driver fatigue, particularly after an action-packed holiday. Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) volunteers and Lions Club members operate Driver Reviver sites around the state on holiday weekends and peak traffic days offering motorists a safe place to stop, refresh and have a free cuppa.

East Gippsland Shire Council Road Safety Crew wishes you a safe and happy Easter.





Lorraine Warford marks the end of her 25 year school crossing career with students, Layla 8 and Connor 11.

Lorraine hangs up her stop sign

Bairnsdale 754 Primary School is about to say farewell to its much-loved school crossing supervisor, Lorraine Warford has hung up her stop sign after 25 years of looking after young students.

Since 1997, Mrs Warford could be seen every morning from 8am at the Nicholson Street crossing, stop sign in hand, whistle at the ready and a smile on her face.

Mrs Warford worked her initial 754 Primary stints on Main Street.

"On day one I was nervous. On day two I was nervous – the boss even told me I couldn't hide behind the stop bat!" Mrs Warford said.

Back then, Main Street had no traffic lights, so getting children across the road safely was an even bigger responsibility.

"One morning, the hair on the back of my neck stood up. I could sense something was wrong. I turned and saw a dear old lady driving down the road the wrong way towards us," Mrs Warford recalled.

Mrs Warford sprang into action to prevent an accident, stopping the children on the roadside and getting the wayward elderly motorist to turn around.

"The drivers are not always so great," she said. "But I'm thankful to the kids

for always behaving and following the rules. There's no riding bikes, there's no riding scooters, there's no bouncing balls and they have to keep their feet behind the yellow line, because if they don't, I can't blow the whistle."

Layla, 8, from Bairnsdale walks across with her bicycle every morning and always stops to say hello to Mrs Warford.

"She remembers my name every morning and she's nice," Layla said. Mrs Warford said getting to know the children had been the highlight of her work and she has learnt every child's name every year.

"It was a mission of mine to learn every child's name. And I'm Lorraine to them, not Mrs Warford. That brings me to their level.

"By coming down to their level you earn more respect – and respect is earned not dished out – and that way we all get on really well.

In the 25 years of working at the school, Mrs Warford has seen generations of children, in fact, some of the children that she once used to help cross are now parents themselves.

"It was a shock when I first recognised one mum as a kid I used to help cross at Main Street a long time ago. I looked and I couldn't believe that that much time had passed. But it had. The kids I've looked after have been

great and I'm lucky to have seen them turn into fantastic adults."

Mrs Warford is employed by Council as one of our 22 crossing supervisors and is our longest-serving supervisor of all time.

In her 25 years with Council, Mrs Warford received no complaints and was never faulted in her work. Of the more than 3,000 crossing supervisors stationed across Victoria, Mrs Warford earned a nomination for Victorian School Crossing Supervisor of the Year in 2014 and she has been recognized by her school for her service.

A Bairnsdale resident for 53 years, Mrs Warford said she can remember the days when people still rode horses in town and children came to school on bicycles. Nowadays, she noted that the roads are mainly used by four-wheel drives, which makes the road safety role crossing supervisors play more crucial.

Mrs Warford admitted there is one thing she will not miss about working at the crossing – the cold, wet and foggy winter months.

"My hands freeze in the winter. One day we had hail – and that wasn't very pleasant, being pelted, especially as we can't have umbrellas. I wear layers and gloves and hand warmers and toe warmers, but afterwards I still sit in the car with the heater going."



HOLIDAY SWIM PROGRAM

Monday 18 April to Friday 22 April 2022

Cost: \$55.00

Holiday Program consists of 30-minute lesson conducted each day over five consecutive days. (Monday – Friday)

Incentives for swimming in this program are:

- Enhances Confidence
- Helps improve and refine swimming technique
- Child / Children will be grouped into aged / level ability
- Swim and Survive Program – working with Life Saving Victoria

Enrol Now



Lakes Entrance
Aquadome



Bairnsdale
Aquatic and Recreation Centre

43 Palmers Road | P 5155 3333 80 McKean Street | P 5152 5710

eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/recreationcentres  EastGippyShire

Renew your pet rego by April



Don't forget your furry friend's pet registration needs to be renewed by 10 April.

Visit our [website](#) or phone 54153 9500 for more information.

Sea to Summit nature walk a step closer

The proposed Sea to Summit trail walk from Cape Conran Coastal Park to Errinundra National Park in East Gippsland is a step closer, with the multi-day walking route getting a big thumbs up from stakeholders and community.

State government market research included a review of the walker market, focus groups, a national survey of walkers and an assessment of various walking concepts. It backed creation of the approximately 60km path, equipped with four huts.

The next steps will see Great Victorian Outdoor (DELWP) ask consultants to develop a Feasibility Study and Concept Design process, which will include stakeholder engagement workshops in Orbost.

For more information, including a summary of the market research, visit: vic.gov.au/sea-summit-nature-experience.

Apply now for scholarship

We are excited to announce we are offering a scholarship to new or existing students studying civil engineering or accounting.

We have partnered with Federation University to offer a scholarship worth \$3,000 per year for the next three years.

To be eligible, students need to live in East Gippsland Shire and represent as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

The scholarship aims to create opportunities for students to undertake further study, while removing some of the financial strain. There may also be opportunities to work with us during the summer break and after graduation.

Applications close on Friday 25 March.

For more information and to apply, visit the **Federation University website**.



17 October 2012



21 January 2020



16 March 2022

INVITATION - Genoa Pedestrian Bridge - Official Opening

Mayor Cr Mark Reeves and Councillors invite you to join them for the official opening of the Genoa Pedestrian Bridge.

Wednesday 13 April 2022

10.30am

Park Road, Genoa

RSVP: civicevents@egipps.vic.gov.au or by telephone: (03) 5153 9500 by Wednesday 6 April.

This opening event is subject to project completion, following delays in construction due to recent weather events.

The project to build the Genoa Pedestrian Bridge, destroyed by the 2019-20 Black Summer Bushfires, has been led by Council working with the Genoa and district community. Council has fully funded the project.

Please join us for light refreshments onsite after the official proceedings.



Lynette Harrison from the Lakes Entrance depot gives her thumbs up for those in the community who are recycling right.

Great job East Gippsland!
We have seen a **60%** increase in recycling across the shire since last year. At the same time, there has been **NO** significant increase in contamination levels, which shows that everyone is making a concerted effort to increase our resource recovery and reduce waste to landfill. Yay!

What's On at Forge Theatre and Arts Hub

The Forge Theatre and Arts Hub offers a range of shows to suit everyone. Some of our upcoming shows include:



Tom Burlinson — Now We're Swingin'

Thursday 24 March, 7.30 pm

Performer Tom Burlinson has delved even deeper into the Great American Song Book to create the show *Now We're Swingin'*, a montage of swing classics by Tony Bennett, Sammy Davis Jr, Nat King Cole, Dean Martin, Bobby Darin and Frank Sinatra, through to the songs made famous by supercool swingers of the current era - Harry Connick Jr, Michael Buble and Robbie Williams.



Dinosaur Time Machine

Tuesday 29 March, 6.00 pm

School performances will be held at 10.00 am and 12 noon on Wednesday 30 March. Book through the schools.

Buckle up and take a trip in a giant time machine to get up close and personal with a life-sized T-Rex! *Dinosaur Time Machine* incorporates up-to-date science and discoveries made about dinosaurs and the world that they lived in. It is presented in a fun and visual way, incorporating circus, puppetry, simple narrative and imaginative play in this unique educational theatre production. Suitable for children aged 3-9.



Fiona O'Loughlin — LIVE

Thursday 31 March, 7.30 pm

By popular demand, Fiona O'Loughlin, the master storyteller is returning to East Gippsland. In her unique and hilarious fashion, she tackles the topic of what it is like to be a baby boomer. It is a no holds barred romp! Fiona addresses the challenges and consequences of trying to get along with the Silent Generation, Gen Y and the millennials. Don't miss this one night only performance.

For the most up-to-date information on shows or to book tickets, visit the Forge Theatre page on our website.

Nineteen drought relief projects finalised

We were fortunate to receive \$1 million under the Federal Government's Drought Communities Programme, made available to support local community infrastructure and other drought relief projects for communities impacted by drought.

We've now finalised our 19 projects, working with community groups and agencies, and our approach to

support many small projects across the shire was welcomed. The impact these projects (procured locally wherever possible) have had on the small communities during construction has been very positive, and we're sure the benefit will continue for many years to come as the community puts all the upgrades to good use.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Benambra Hall – installation of air conditioner
- Benambra School Site – standpipe and water tank
- Bendoc Playground – playground upgrade
- Bruthen Hall – painting
- Bruthen Football Club – concrete under clubroom pergola
- Cann River Hall – hall improvements and kitchen upgrade
- Ensay Recreation Reserve – replacement of horse yards and shed
- Goongerah – water tank
- Johnsonville Hall – painting
- Lindenow Hall – hall improvements
- Lindenow Recreation Reserve – replacement of fencing
- Lucknow Recreation Reserve – redevelopment of bore system and water tanks
- Mallacoota Hall and Recreation Reserve – hall improvements
- Orbost Skate Park – shade sails and seating
- Swan Reach Recreation Reserve – installation of 3 air conditioners
- Swifts Creek Recreation Reserve – replacement of scoreboard box and netball shelters
- Swifts Creek Swimming Pool – upgrade of surrounds and amenities
- Wairewa Hall Reserve – playground upgrade
- Water tank upgrades – various recreation reserves

RIGHT: See before and after pictures of some of our projects.



Bendoc Playground – playground upgrade



Bruthen Football Club – concrete under clubroom pergola



Cann River Hall – hall improvements and kitchen upgrade



Ensay Recreation Reserve – replacement of horse yards and shed



Swifts Creek Swimming Pool – upgrade of surrounds and amenities

Community hall resilience improvements

We are pleased to announce that we have completed the following works relating to the Community Resilience and Development Program:

- Bushfire Attack Level assessments (BAL) on all halls
- supply and installation of audiovisual equipment
- Electrical switchboard upgrades and installation of transfer switches in halls, where required, and ember proofing works are progressing.

We have also collaborated with the Department of Jobs Precincts and Roads and NBN on the completion of 37 Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters (STAND) satellite communication systems on community facilities, complementing the existing eight systems currently installed in the shire.

Social recovery reset

Two years on from the 2019-20 Black Summer Bushfires, many agencies and recovery partners are continuing to provide social recovery support for the communities affected by the bushfires.

We are supporting the Social Recovery Working Group to assess the current and anticipated needs and delivery of social recovery and wellbeing support across East Gippsland.

The assessment will be undertaken by:

- Survey to social recovery providers
- Focus groups discussions with networks of social/wellbeing providers
- Interviews with each Community Recovery Committee

The data and findings will be combined into an assessment report with recommendations. This assessment is designed to establish a stronger, evidence-based understanding of the social wellbeing recovery needs and capacities of communities and the agencies servicing them.

The findings of the assessment will help inform social/wellbeing recovery planning processes and work across 2022 and be integrated into longer term strategic plans.

The results will be provided to the Social Recovery Working Group, member/representatives and shared with the Community Recovery Committees.

Council meeting in brief

Council made the following decisions at the Council meeting on 15 March:

- Heard from the Sarsfield Community Association regarding its issue with an application for a National Recovery and Resilience Agency bushfire recovery grant.
- Resolved to issue a Notice of Decision to grant a planning permit for a multi-lot subdivision at 27 Eagle Point Road, Eagle Point. The land is zoned residential and will have 75 lots.
- Heard from a number of residents during Public Question Time regarding Victorian Government vaccination requirements.
- Endorsed notices of motion to take to the Australian Local Government Association's National General Assembly in June. Council's two motions concern implementing fairer processes for Disaster Relief Fund Arrangements, and continuing the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, or a similar non-competitive program.
- Supported a Notice of Motion from Cr Mendy Urie to light the Corporate Centre building in blue and yellow to show support for the Ukrainian people.

Emergency preparedness

We work with communities to help them prepare for emergencies. This 'grass roots' approach ensures emergency planning is supported by local knowledge and community strengths.

Our Local Incident Management Planning (LIMP) model involves our Emergency Management team supporting a community to produce its own plan to manage an incident in the local area, whether it be a large emergency or a smaller incident.

The plans are available on our website and reviewed regularly to ensure the information is accurate and relevant.

If your community would like to work with us to develop a LIMP for your area, please contact us on 03 5153 9500 or email

feedback@egipps.vic.gov.au

LOCAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT PLAN		LOCALITY'S NAME	
WHAT TO DO DURING A LOCAL INCIDENT: FIRE, FLOOD, STORM, ETC			
GET READY NOW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a personal incident plan Make sure vehicle has fuel Pack an emergency kit Prepare your house 	WHEN TO LEAVE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When you hear an incident will impact your area Close windows, doors, curtains, turn off gas and appliances When advised by CFA, SES, DEWLP, Vic Police, Radio Notify family / friends when you leave 	WHAT'S AT YOUR ASSEMBLY AREA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Back up power Ember proofing WiFi TV system Water Heating / Cooling Bathroom/s Pet Area External power outlets 	ASSEMBLY AREA FOR EXAMPLE - BEMM RIVER HOTEL 3-5 SYDENHAM PARADE, BEMM RIVER 3889 CFA STATION (INFORMATION) 2112 SYDENHAM PARADE, BEMM RIVER 3889 STAY INFORMED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police, Fire, Ambulance 000 VicEmergency Hotline 1800 226 226 Bushfire Info Line (BIL) 1800 240 667 Regional Roads Victoria 13 37 79 State Emergency Service 132 500 VicEmergency (Information) www.emergency.vic.gov.au Regional Roads Victoria (Traffic Information) www.albion.net.au/emergency ABC (News/alerts) www.abc.net.au/emergency East Gippsland Shire Council www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au Bureau of Meteorology (Weather) www.bom.gov.au ABC Local - 720AM UHF CB - Channel 40 VicEmergency App (Free)
WHAT TO TAKE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protective clothing including hat, long sleeve top and pants and sturdy footwear Food and water Phone and charger, radio Prescriptions, medication and toiletries Torch and batteries Important documents, photos, insurance, USB sticks, etc Pet needs 	WHAT TO EXPECT AT ASSEMBLY AREA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited visibility Limited access Loss of power and phone communication Crowded at Assembly Area 	DO NOT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> rely on electricity to fight fires drive in smoke or flood water 	

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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