

Mayor Cr Mark Reeves, right, chatting to some of the many people who visited our stand at the East Gippsland Field Days.

New look at Field Days

We were thrilled to have a stall at the East Gippsland Field Days this year but for the first time, we partnered with some of the local producers, from 'Grown, Caught, Made' to showcase some of their farm gates produce.

There were plenty of offerings ranging from honey, mushrooms, jams, sauces, preserves, fresh apples and cooking demonstrations throughout the two days. Councillors and staff were also on hand providing information to visitors on all Council business, services and events.

Congratulations to Carissa Beavis and Margaret McMahon who were the lucky winners of the daily prize draws, valued at over \$250. The prize pack included holiday park and swim vouchers, Happy Bear Honey, keep cup and reusable straws, children's book, activities, and more.



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.



Destination Gippsland won gold at the Australian Tourism Awards. From left: Digital Marketing Manager Elysa Sorahan, Marketing Manager Kelly McCarthy, CEO Terry Robinson, and General Manager Marketing Alison Conroy.

Gold for Gippsland

Gippsland has achieved astounding success at the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards, the tourism industry's peak awards event. Destination Gippsland and Wilsons Promontory Cruises winning three gold medals between them at the awards held on the Sunshine Coast on 18 March.

Destination Gippsland, the regional tourism board and the peak tourism organisation for eastern Victoria, scooped gold in the Tourism Marketing & Campaigns category for its outstanding work, including its market-leading All Kinds of Wonder brand.

We are a member of Destination Gippsland and CEO Anthony Basford sits on the Board.

Wilsons Promontory Cruises won gold in the New Tourism Business, and Major Tour & Transport Operators categories.

The winners were chosen by a 24-judge panel comprising a cross-section of tourism industry experts selected for their knowledge and experience.

The ceremony attracted more than 800 finalists, tourism leaders and industry stakeholders from across the country. To read more about the awards, go to **Visit Gippsland**

25 April: ANZAC Day

26 April: Citizenship Ceremony

26 April: Council Meeting, 6.00 pm

16-17 May: Council visit to Far East Gippsland

16-22 May: National Volunteer Week events

17 May: Genoa Pedestrian Bridge Opening, 10.30 am

17 May: Council Meeting, Genoa Community Hall, 1.30 pm

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](#).





Kate Hodge, Janice Coates, Greg Brick, Anne Brewer and Susie Edwards with Deputy Mayor Cr Arthur Allen, Councillors Mendy Urie, Trevor Stow, Jane Greacen, and Tom Crook; CEO Anthony Basford, General Managers Stuart McConnell and Fiona Weigall, and Buchan Place Manager Rebecca Steenholdt welcomed the announcement of \$1.2 million from Council for the Buchan Recreation Reserve upgrade.

Council commits funding to get Buchan moving

We're getting the ball rolling on the much-needed upgrade of the Buchan Recreation Reserve.

Deputy Mayor Cr Arthur Allen travelled to Buchan to announce Council's \$1.2 million contribution to upgrade the reserve following the community's unsuccessful application for a National Recovery and Resilience Agency Black Summer Grants.

The \$1.2m will come from a Federal Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program grant. Allocating the funding to Buchan spoke to the high priority of the project, including the importance of providing a new pavilion, tennis/netball courts and other facilities.

The redevelopment is one of the recovery priorities identified by the Buchan community through its Community Recovery Committee.

Buchan, Gelantipy and Districts Renewal Association Chairperson Kate Hodge said Council's \$1.2m contribution was a "great announcement".

"It's only the first instalment and now we need our state and federal governments to come to the party and be senior partners. Council's funding gives us great impetus to get moving on the much-needed rebuilding. The challenge now is to find the remaining funding to get it over the line," Ms Hodge said.

"Our reserve is a multi-use facility, is used daily and has five user groups year-round. It is very much the pulse and lifeblood of our community.

"We were heavily impacted – flame affected, by the fires. We lost homes and lives and the rec reserve played a role housing the displaced as a refuge centre. If we had a fire like we had again, it will come into play again," Ms Hodge said.

Federal Member for Gippsland Darren Chester on 14 April announced an additional \$3 million for the project.

Stop Press!

Bushfire Recovery Victoria has just allocated \$3 million to this project!

Council meeting in brief

Council had intended to hold its scheduled Tuesday 5 April meeting in Buchan. However, due to poor weather and flooding, Council instead held an unscheduled meeting at 6pm the same day at the Corporate Centre, Bairnsdale.

Council made the following decisions at the meeting:

- To write to the Victorian Premier, as a member of the Rail Freight Alliance (RFA), in support of the RFA's advocacy in calling on the State Government to support the completion of the Murray Basin Rail Project as originally scoped, ahead of the Victorian election, and call for the network to remain in state ownership and control.
- To waive rates on the approximately 150 properties that have not yet been rebuilt following the 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires, with this waiver extending for up to three years.
- To launch the Youth Ambassador committee and back a related action plan and terms of reference.
- Appointed community representatives to a Disability Advisory Committee tasked with creating a more inclusive and accessible East Gippsland by providing a voice for people with disability.
- Permitted approval for the extension of the leased area of the Riviera Nautic marina facility at Chinaman's Creek to allow for new building and works to extend existing jetties.
- Grant permission to create six lots in a low-density residential zoned area on Meridian Way, Newlands Arm.
- Endorsed a statutory process to vary the South Bairnsdale Industrial Estate Special Charge Scheme.

Watch the meeting here 

Our visit to the Field Days



Propagating for the future

A lot of forethought goes into planning a successful garden. From picking plants and trees that are suited to the environment to understanding your garden aspects, sketching out a landscape that is sure to flourish with minimal upkeep and financial outlay can be an incredibly involved process.

Even during the winter months, when the ground temperature cools and growing conditions slow down, our parks and gardens crews are still hard at work managing, planning, propagating and cultivating the shire's green assets, making sure they thrive all year round.

This time of the year is the perfect time to assess how our gardens are going, particularly after the extreme seasons we've experienced over the past few years. Although the last six months have been predominantly wet, we're looking into the future and considering what plants will be well suited to hotter and drier conditions.

It's cutting time

During the winter period, the crew will be taking lots of cuttings to use in the upgrades of our garden beds. The new streetscape in Bailey Street, Bairnsdale will have a wonderful tree planted that is *Quercus ilex* or the Holy Oak which is native to the Mediterranean region and evergreen. It can withstand harsh dry conditions because of exposure to asphalt road surfaces. The same



Meet Rick Lawrence, Stewart Howell, Jessica Cole and Brad Durie from our Parks and Gardens team who are the propagating gurus.

will happen on the Esplanade in Lakes Entrance. The plants will be smaller as not only will they face heat from the road, but exposure to strong southerly winds straight off the lake and ocean.

The Esplanade has been planted out with *Banksia 'Sentinel'* which hasn't been used previously. It grows to approximately four metres but remains thin so is perfect to grow along promenades and avenues, especially in coastal areas. One plant we have been trialing in public areas is the *Miscanthus* grass, which originates from Africa and eastern Asia.

Experience matters

Our crews often bring in cuttings of their own to propagate and potentially use amongst our assets. With the assistance of our new trainees, the nursery will be brimming with stock going into the next growth period.

For home gardeners, saving your own seed, taking cuttings, or dividing clumps of plants by the roots are the most common ways to propagate.

Tips to grow your own

Here are some tips from our in-house experts about growing your own plants for free!

1. Timing is everything - A good gardening book will help you to understand the best time of the year to take your cuttings. The same applies to germinating seeds.
2. Climate control – Plants have their optimal temperatures for seed germination or striking roots from cuttings. Greenhouses or heated beds are good for controlling the environment. Try a few at a time rather than all at once in case conditions are not ideal.
3. Quality, not quantity - Ensure good airflow and that you're using good quality water administered in small amounts. E.g. Use a spray bottle at regular intervals.
4. Good genes – Always propagate from healthy plant material and use good quality seed raising or propagation mix.



Are you a volunteer?



To celebrate National Volunteer Week (16-22 May), we will acknowledge the important work of volunteers who make our community a better place to live, work and play.

Launching this year, we're calling on volunteers to register or nominate someone for the East Gippsland Volunteer Honour Roll. The honour roll will list the names of East Gippsland residents who have made a voluntary contribution to our community. Names will be added annually each National Volunteer Week, with nominations open to all community members.

Register now

www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au



Foodies ready to hit the road

School holidays are here, so it's time to plan a food-focused farm gate road trip with the kids, a cooler bag and a picnic blanket.

We have teamed up with some of the region's most delicious and delightful travel spots to launch Love Where it's Grown, Caught, Made.

Love Where it's Grown, Caught, Made is about celebrating farm-fresh local produce boutique wineries, fields blooming with beautiful flowers and artisan goods – and taking you off the highway to where it's grown, caught and made.

You can find a selection of products that are unique to each region at our Visitor Information Centres - they're a great place to shop for that special item.

Create your personalised trail at a visitor information centre or at the **Visit East Gippsland website**.

Are you a producer who wants to be a part of Love Where it's Grown, Caught, Made? Head to a visitor centre to talk about the program and register to join.



Gareth and Chelsea Di Cecco's Orbost Florist store is on the Love Where it's Grown, Caught, Made farm gate trail.



In late March, Mayor Cr Mark Reeves and General Manager Assets and Environment Fiona Weigall joined fellow representatives of One Gippsland (the peak advocacy body for Gippsland) at Parliament House to discuss regional priorities for Gippsland. One Gippsland met with Harriet Shing MP and also hosted an Opposition Roundtable, consisting of local members and Shadow Ministers. Cr Reeves said an item that resonated with the group was the mental health and wellbeing of remote communities and the support required for organisations such as bush nursing centres and the Royal Flying Doctor Service – who often carry very heavy loads in our community. How we look after our communities - connectivity, communications, roads and supporting service providers across the region – is important.

One Gippsland advocates to State and Commonwealth Government on policies and programs that support the economic, social and environmental prosperity of Gippsland. It brings together education providers and industry and local government leaders to work collaboratively to address key challenges and opportunities faced by the Gippsland region.

Did you know that monthly Bushfire Recovery Place Updates for Mallacoota, Buchan, Omeo and Cann River (and surrounding districts) are available on our website.



Are you ready for an Art Attack?

We are running creative workshops aimed at young people aged between 11-25 years across the region.

The Art Attack sessions will bring young people even more ways to get connected, creative and re-activated. No artistic skill is necessary, just a desire to create.

During the workshops, participants will explore a range of creative mediums from drawings, painting, fluid art, and circus skills.

If you have ever wanted to explore your art but haven't known where to begin, these sessions are for you!

The sessions are funded by VicHealth and partnered with the Royal Flying Doctors Service Youth Workers and their youth groups.

Workshops will be held at:

- Buchan Recreation Reserve, every Friday until 3 June, 5.00 pm. To register, phone 0477 996 834
- Cann River Community Centre, every Friday night 5 – 8 pm. To register, phone: 5158 6465
- Orbost, first Sunday of the month. To register, phone 0477 996 836



CALLING ALL

East Gippsland Musicians
and performers

Plug-in music sessions
for young people will
be coming back in July.

Stay tuned for more
information in the
coming months.

LIVE AND LOCAL EAST GIPPSLAND

A capacity building program delivering professional development workshops, development of a music database, free micro-festival events and industry forums to support a sustainable music sector.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Council is currently calling for expressions of interest from local music industry professionals to join the program working group.

To register your interest please speak to the Arts and Culture Coordinator on 51539500

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.



Bayer Big Fish Challenge Bream 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>>>](#)



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>>>](#)



East Gippsland Winter Festival

Embrace the chill of the season with an abundant celebration of art, wine, craft beer, local produce and live music at this year's Winter Festival. From Metung to Omeo and all the way to Mallacoota in the far east, this program is jam-packed full of workshops and beautiful art installations for you to experience and explore.

17 June – 10 July

Various locations across East Gippsland

[More information>>>](#)



17 October 2012



21 January 2020



16 March 2022

NEW DATE

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.

Tuesday 17 May 2022

11.30 am

Park Road, Genoa

RSVP: civicevents@egipps.vic.gov.au or by telephone: (03) 5153 9500 by Monday 9 May.

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.

Please note: Photographs or videos taken may be used for future publicity and educational materials, including publications and websites. If you do not wish to be photographed, please notify the photographer at the event.

Council in brief >>>



Cr John White, Cr Arthur Allen, Cr Mendy Urie, Cr Trevor Stow, Youth Ambassador Chair Kiera, Mayor Cr Mark Reeves, and Cr Tom Crook.

Council hears from Youth Ambassador

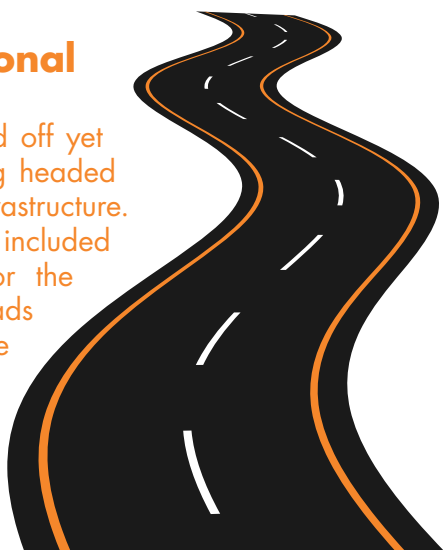
Councillors recently had a presentation from Kiera, chair of the shire's Youth Ambassador program.

Kiera spoke about the Youth Ambassadors 2022-23 Action Plan, which was later adopted at the April 5 Council meeting.

Youth Ambassadors are a group of 12 to 25 year olds who advocate on the needs of young people.

Cash splash for regional roads

Our advocacy efforts have paid off yet again, with \$2.9 million funding headed our way for local roads and infrastructure. This year's Federal Budget included an additional \$500 million for the continuation of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program. The details of the fund are yet to be released but we're confident we'll receive a healthy chunk of that for East Gippsland in the 2023-24 financial year.



Project updates

- The pedestrian crossing and playground redevelopment at the Marlo Triangle Park are now complete.
- Flood water has slowed works on stage 2 of the Mallacoota Seawall, but the project is still on target for completion by the end of June.



Let there be (LED) light!

Contractors from Magnetic Power Services have begun the big swap of 1,760 streetlights throughout East Gippsland to LED. This collaborative replacement program between East Gippsland, South Gippsland and Wellington local governments, will see high energy streetlights replaced by LEDs on major and minor roads.



Snags and confabs

The Wairewa community came together with our bushfire recovery place managers, Emergency Management team and other partner agencies at a barbecue recently.

A great opportunity for everyone to get together, have a chat in person and discuss future needs and expectations.

Roads and runways

With the warmer months almost behind us all our road resealing works have wrapped up. A reminder to drive safely following major rain events and keep an eye out for signs in affected areas! Some recent heavy rainfall through parts of the shire has again put pressure on some of our drains. Orbost Airport was transformed into a film set earlier this month for an Angel Flight promotional video shoot. Our Aerodrome Coordinator worked with Angel Flight crews and a couple of Marlo locals to film the video, highlighting the amazing work this charity does, and the role our airports play to support our communities.



E-waste not, want not

East Gippsland residents made a huge contribution to the recycling and reusing of valuable materials in 2020 and 2021.

Data shows we recycled 86,301 kilograms of electronic waste (e-waste), bringing in our unwanted electronics to Bairnsdale, Bruthen, Lakes Entrance, Mallacoota, Omeo or Orbost.

Remember, items with a plug, battery or cord are e-waste.

Use our A-Z of where to next to check.

Keep up the great work!



CARBON EMISSIONS

SAVING 126,603 KG CO₂E
EQUIVALENT TO
PLANTING 1,899 TREES¹



WATER CONSUMPTION

SAVING 224 M3 EQ. OF WATER
EQUIVALENT TO 444 DAYS OF
HOUSEHOLD WATER USE²



ENERGY EMISSIONS

SAVING 1,640,753 MJ OF
ENERGY EQUIVALENT TO
4,574 DAYS OF HOUSEHOLD
ELECTRICITY USE³



PARTICULATE MATTER EMISSIONS

SAVING 216,011 G OF
PARTICULATE MATTER.
EQUIVALENT TO REMOVING
215,752 KM OF OLD DIESEL
TRUCK TRAVEL⁴

Out in the field

Our Emergency Management team has been out and about lately, working with communities and local authority representatives to review outdated flood class levels.

What does this mean? East Gippsland's flood maps are linked to river gauges which provide a prediction of flood heights expected - minor, moderate and major. These need updating to reflect changes to floodplains, infrastructure and levees. Why? So affected communities



can take action based on the information being provided by authorities, who will be able to predict flood levels more accurately.

Steps in the right direction

Pavement and sealing works for Bailey Street in Bairnsdale have been completed as have the traffic islands. Despite weather delays, all work is likely to wrap up by the end of May. The Mirrabooka Road footpath in Mallacoota is done, and Moroney Street in Bairnsdale is also progressing well, with kerb and channel works complete and road pavement works ongoing.



Paul Kelly rocked East Gippsland



Australian music icon Paul Kelly played to old fans and new when he took to the stage for two rousing performances in Buchan and Mallacoota, played under moonlit skies.

The free, locals-only Rural Recharge shows lifted the spirits of a community that has seen bushfires, drought and pandemic in the past few years.

Communities at both venues came together for the big nights of entertainment with support from Council - including some Council staff volunteers - and the Victorian Government.

Kelly was joined onstage by superstar siblings Vika and Linda Bull with support slots by Gippsland's own Harry Hook - and the dance floor was pumping.

Food and beverages were provided free of charge and the kids who weren't crowding the stage were kept entertained with activities.

You can **watch the video here**.



A night for Bruthen

It was an all-ages experience to remember at Bruthen Inn Hotel on Saturday 26 March when The Push Inc's All Ages Festival roared into town.

The night featured LA-based rapper Allday, Bundjalung hip-hop star JK-47, and Gippsland artists Emily Jansen and Olivia Lay.

Allday made one young gig-goer's night, inviting the youngster on stage to dance up a storm, and all of the artists gave up their time to mingle with the crowd and pose for photographs.

Supported by the Victorian Government, the event is part of a seven-weekend series staged by teams of local young people as part of the FReeZA program. FReeZA gives young people industry skills and experience in organising events in their communities.

Watch the video here.



JK-47 at The Push Inc's All Ages Festival in Bruthen Photo: Kiera Watson

Enjoy your library anytime, anywhere

Did you know no matter where you live or where you go, you can enjoy our libraries?

Gone are the days when you needed to go into a building and browse the stalls to find something to borrow.

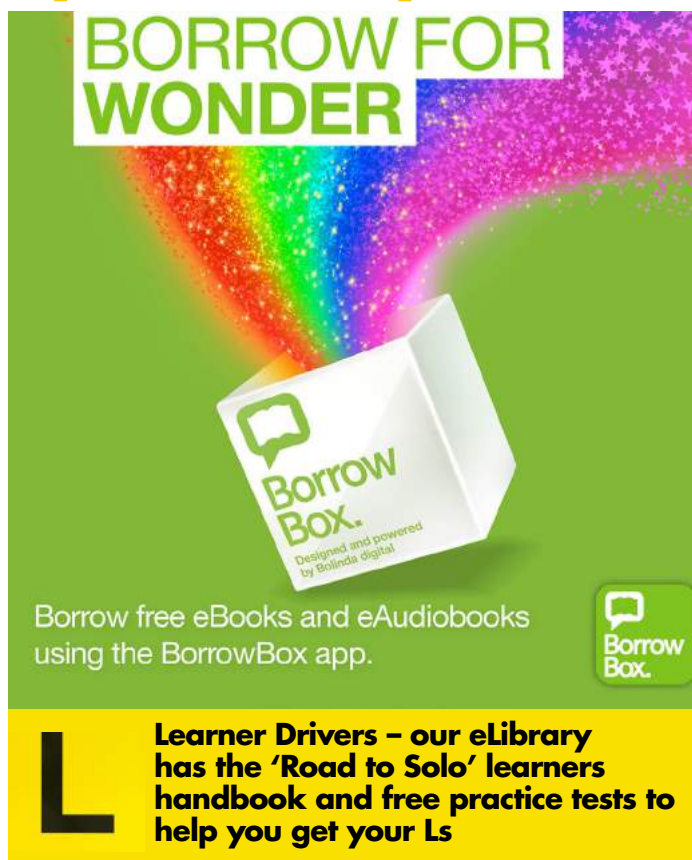
As long as you have the internet, you can download a range of:

- eBooks
- eAudiobooks
- eMagazines
- and reference material

Library members also have access to sites such as:

- Ancestry.com
- Everyday Law – helping Victorians understand the law and the legal system
- Trove - cultural sites from around Australia
- GCF Learn Free – lessons and videos to help people learn the essential skills they need to live and work in the 21st century.

Sign up for an online library membership to get access straight away. More details are on the **Library section of our website.**



BORROW FOR WONDER

Borrow free eBooks and eAudiobooks using the BorrowBox app.

Learner Drivers – our eLibrary has the 'Road to Solo' learners handbook and free practice tests to help you get your Ls

The tools you need to make your event a success

Whether you're planning your first event or preparing to host a well-established one, our new Event Management Toolkit gives you the tips, tricks, checklists, surveys and strategies you need to make it a success.

The ultimate one-stop shop for event

organisers, the toolkit provides all the information you need on:

- event planning,
- sponsorship,
- grants,
- coordinating volunteers and staff,
- how to run committee meetings, and

- post-event reviews and surveys.

You will find a range of event-related resources, including templates and checklists, which will help you plan and execute a successful event.

Check out the **Event Management Toolkit on our website.**

Turning wood into wonders

The Australian Wood Design Exhibition, showcasing the work of local and national woodworkers, has opened at the Orbost Exhibition Centre.

Mayor Cr Mark Reeves spoke at the opening on Saturday 26 March.

Five awards were handed out to artists for the impressive works on show, as judged by timber artist Stephen Hughes and East Gippsland Art Gallery Director Crystal Stubbs. The \$2000 first prize went to Bairnsdale's Trevor Herbstreit for his Scimitar Skeleton Clock, crafted from red gum.

The emphasis of the exhibition is to promote a sustainable timber industry and the exhibition only accepted entries that used at least 75 per cent Australian timber. Entries were not allowed to include rare or endangered timber species, except for recycled works.

The Australian Wood Design Exhibition is on at the Orbost Exhibition Centre, 8 Clarke Street, until Sunday 19 June. Opening hours are Thursday to Sunday from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm.



Artist Trevor Herbstreit with his Australian Wood Design winning piece Scimitar Skeleton Clock.

Omeo Mountain Bike Trail

Work is set to begin on a network of trails that will turn Omeo into a mecca for mountain bikers.

The Omeo Mountain Bike Trails will put our town on the map as a year-round active tourism destination and capture nationwide demand for outdoor adventure.

Work on Stage 1 will begin late this month, with contractor Common Ground Trails, who built the Pump and Skills Track in Livingstone Park, using a workforce of current staff and locals for the build.

It is expected the first trail will be available for riding by December this year, with Stage 1 completed by December 2023.

[Read more>>>](#)



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:



Frankie J Holden and Michelle Pettigrove in How Sweet It Is
Friday 22 April, 7.30 pm

Two of Australia's best-known performers, who happen to be husband and wife, present a show about living and loving. Full of music and laughs from this accomplished pair.



Blowin' In The Wind
Saturday 23 April, 2.00 pm

We will remember them.

A dedication to the 60th anniversary of Australia's first involvement in the Vietnam War (1962-2022).



Grease
6 – 22 May

It's 1959 and Rydell High School's senior class is in rare form. GREASE follows the journey of Danny and Sandy, alongside the 'Burger Palace Boys and the 'Pink Ladies', as they navigate high school in both an homage to the idealism of the fifties and a satire of high schoolers' age-old desire to be provocative and rebellious.



Gilbert, Sullivan and The Great Composers
Saturday 28 May, 2.00 pm

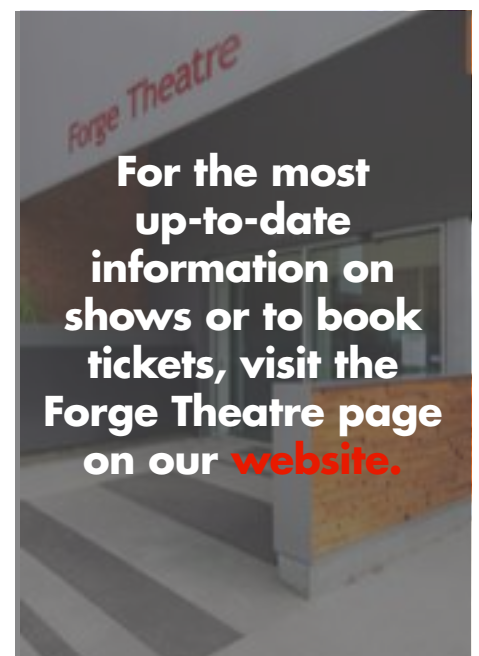
Promac has devised a new show celebrating 25 years of performing Gilbert & Sullivan productions around Australia.



The Rewind 80's Mixtape Tour
Saturday 4 June, 7.30 pm

With their retro hits, cherry lips and high kicks, Rewind 80's take the stage performing tunes from one of music's most iconic eras - the sensational eighties!

The multi-piece live band pays homage to the rock, pop and new romantic artists that had you screaming in front of a television set as you watched MTV as a kid.



Our Councillors



Cr Mark Reeves – Mayor

Direct - 0419 016 581

cr.reeves@egipps.vic.gov.au



Cr Arthur Allen - Deputy Mayor

Direct - 0429 630 474

cr.allen@egipps.vic.gov.au



Cr Trevor Stow

Direct - 0439 285 111

cr.stow@egipps.vic.gov.au



Cr Sonia Buckley

Direct - 0429 567 229

cr.sbuckley@egipps.vic.gov.au



Cr Mendy Urie

Direct - 0436 324 179

cr.urie@egipps.vic.gov.au



Cr Tom Crook

Direct - 0429 554 064

cr.crook@egipps.vic.gov.au



Cr Kirsten Van Diggele

Direct - 0429 629 950

cr.vandiggele@egipps.vic.gov.au



Cr Jane Greacen OAM

Direct - 0428 478 219

cr.greacen@egipps.vic.gov.au



Cr John White

Direct - 0498 001 531

cr.white@egipps.vic.gov.au

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

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