



*The Tambo Crossing community, Council and guests celebrate the official opening of the community's new multi-purpose facility on Friday 20 May.*

## Proud day for Tambo Crossing

### **Proud.**

That's the best way to describe the Tambo Crossing community at the official opening of their new multi-purpose facility last Friday afternoon. East Gippsland Shire Council Mayor, Cr Mark Reeves, who joined more than 50 community members from the Tambo Crossing community to mark the occasion, said there was an overwhelming sense of pride and accomplishment.

"The community was beaming with pride on the completion of their project, and rightfully so. The community has been both persistent and tenacious and the rewards are now evident. The community has a

facility – a meeting place – that will serve them well for years to come," Cr Reeves said.

The purpose-built, multi-use, accessible facility will be a place for the community, emergency services, industry groups, and service clubs to come together and deliver services to support community connections.

It will house emergency vehicle and equipment, and has a meeting room, kitchen, full amenities, and backup batteries and generator.

"The community identified the need for a meeting place back in 2006-2007, and after the last fires the Tambo Crossing Community Association, working with funding agencies and

Council, was able to progress the concept," Cr Reeves said.

"The new facility is a reflection of the community's hard work in promoting and developing the idea and highlights the importance of having a 'hub' for people to meet, connect and support each other," Cr Reeves said.

"As a Council we found a way to ensure the community received a fit-for-purpose facility. We are also proud of our involvement in seeing the project get off the ground, and to deliver the build with our in-house team.

*Continued page 2...*

### **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 facility a hub for community

"The opening served as great occasion to celebrate Tambo Crossing and district volunteers during National Volunteer Week, and to hear first-hand on the day about how important the facility is for their community. Well done to all involved."

The project was jointly funded - about \$426,000 - by the federal and state governments through the Local Economic Recovery Program.

See more pictures from the official opening and volunteer recognition event on page 8.



Tambo Crossing Community Association representatives Kevin Dean, Jen and Amy Smith and Colin MacDonald cut the ribbon to officially open the Tambo Crossing Community Facility with East Gippsland Shire Mayor, Cr Mark Reeves.

## Council out and about in Genoa



Mayor Cr Mark Reeves enjoyed a cuppa and a catch-up prior to the Genoa Council Meeting, including Annette Peisley from the Genoa Town Committee and Mallacoota Place Manager, Meg Allan.

**This month, residents in Mallacoota and surrounding areas had a chance to catch up with Mayor Cr Mark Reeves and Councillors at a community meet and greet.**

The Mallacoota Clubrooms hosted locals and Council staff who came together to discuss local issues over a casual cuppa.

Far East Gippsland residents were able to attend the 17 May Council Meeting which was held in Genoa at their Public Hall.

Five locals turned out for the meeting to hear about topics including the draft Budget, the Mallacoota skatepark redevelopment and a variety of community grants. Locals were invited to ask questions following the meeting either in person or in writing.

Next stop, Orbost on 31 May. [Register your interest here.](#)



Councillors met with community members at Club Terrace on 16 May about the construction of a new permanent community facility following a successful Council funding application.



# Planners win national gong

**We have won a national award with Brimbank City Council for our unique planning partnership.**

The resource-sharing partnership was joint winner of the 'Improving Planning Processes Award' at the Planning Institute of Australia Awards for Planning Excellence.

This partnership shares resources between our councils, builds staff knowledge and expertise, and demonstrates the creativity and agility of councils in difficult times.

Our Planning team is thankful to Kristen Gilbert, Susan Fitton and Eunice Wong from Brimbank for their commitment to the partnership.

In difficult times, this collaboration has provided benefits in the development of staff, the delivery of planning services and the recovery of our community.

Our team has benefitted from the experience of the Brimbank staff and our Brimbank "cousins" have also been exposed to planning issues that they would never have seen in the city.

What started as a conversation between the respective CEOs became a possibility, and then an award-winning reality thanks to everyone involved in the partnership. You can **watch the award ceremony**, which was held in Hobart.



At the Planning Institute of Australia Awards for Planning Excellence, Brimbank City Council planners Susan Fitton and Eunice Wong celebrated with (on mobile) East Gippsland Shire Council's Statutory Planning Coordinator Robert Pringle and daughter Hannah.



Hey kids! Marlo's Triangle Park is now open!

This exciting new play space features slippery dips, a rope bridge, a big wooden boat with a crow's nest, a proper old-fashioned water pump, a sandpit and more. It will keep youngsters entertained all day – and it's sure to attract a few visitors from out of town.



We were pleased to be able to catch up with Minister for Ports and Freight and Minister for Fishing and Boating Melissa Horne on 18 May. Cr Tom Crook chatted with the Minister at Raymond Island (Gippsland Ports received funding for the Raymond Island public jetty in the recent State Budget) about some of our projects. Council is looking forward to a return visit by the Minister to view a range of our projects and opportunities. The Minister also welcomed the first test freight train to the Fenning freight terminal in Bairnsdale.

## Fix it quick!

### Found something in your local area that needs fixing?

Reporting issues with the Snap Send Solve app is super easy and free! If you haven't already, simply download the app on your **Apple iPhone** or **Android smart phone**, snap a photo of the issue and send your report to us. It only takes 30 seconds!

For more information **visit the Snap Send Solve website.**



## Council meeting in brief

There have been two Council meetings since our last newsletter. The following decisions were made at the 26 April and 17 May Council meetings:

- Council backed efforts to partner with relevant parties to improve housing outcomes across the shire.
- Council voted to write to the Agriculture Minister and ask the Victorian Government to deliver on a promise to build a nursery facility in Nowa Nowa.
- Council approved the allocation of \$486,748 in funds from the Community Infrastructure Grants Program to back 16 recommended projects across the shire - from Lindenow to Omeo.
- Adopted recommendations for funding through Council's Arts and Heritage Grants program and to advise all applicants of the outcome.
- Council approved the tender submitted for works on the Mallacoota Skatepark Redevelopment.
- Agreed to advertise its draft 2022/23 Budget and seek community feedback until 12 noon Friday 3 June.
- Endorsed funding of \$39,400 for five projects through the Arts and Heritage Grants Program Round 2 2021-22.

**Read minutes here>>**  
**or watch on YouTube**



**28 May:** Genoa Pedestrian Bridge Opening, Park Road, 10.30 am

**31 May:** Orbost meet and greet, Forest Park, 3.00 pm

**3 June:** Draft Budget feedback closes

**7 June:** Council Meeting, 6.00 pm

**28 June:** Council Meeting, 6.00 pm

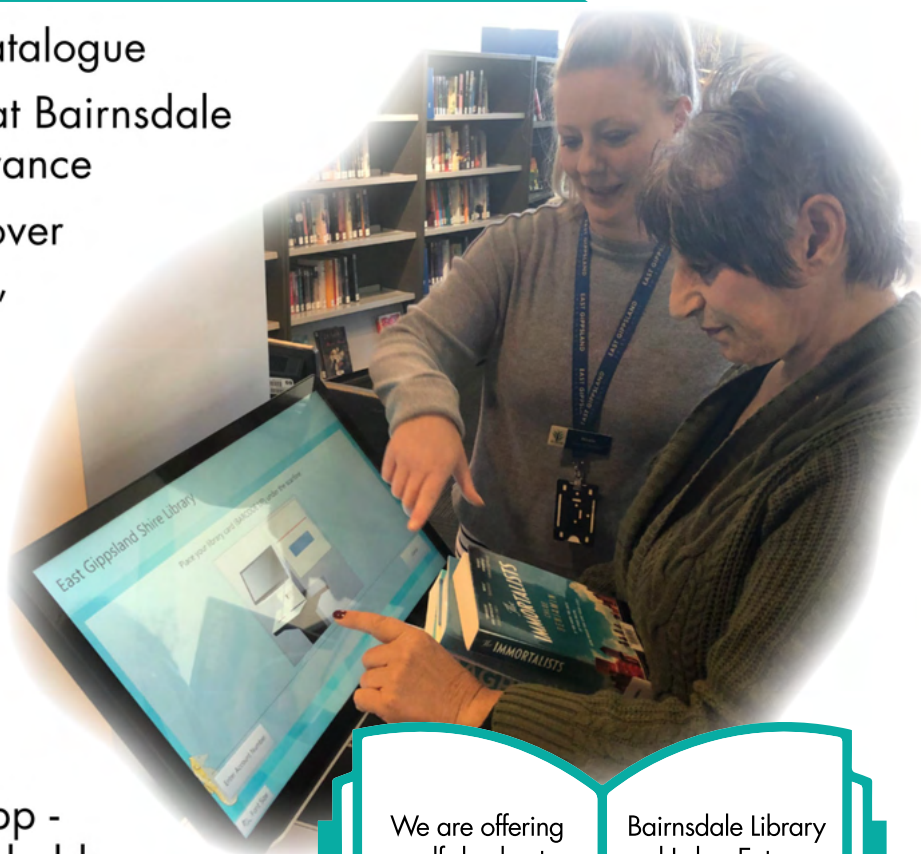




# Libraries adapt to life on the go

## Try our new digital changes today

- New online catalogue
- Self-checkout at Bairnsdale and Lakes Entrance
- Choose from over 4,000 eBooks, eAudiobooks and online magazines
- Download over 400 children's stories
- Libraries Victoria smartphone app - borrow, place holds and find eBooks
- Click and collect



We are offering self-checkout demonstrations daily throughout May

Bairnsdale Library and Lakes Entrance Service Centre  
10.30 - 11.00 am and 2.30 - 3.00 pm

Visit us online, give us a call, or call into your nearest library for more information.

**EAST GIPPSLAND**  
SHIRE LIBRARIES



5153 9500



[eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/leisure/libraries](http://eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/leisure/libraries)



EastGippyShire



# Celebrating National Volunteer Week

**National Volunteer Week was held between 16-22 May, and we took the opportunity to recognise the contribution volunteers make to our community, and to say "thank you" to them.**

Starting in 2021, we hold events across the shire to recognise local volunteers. This year we celebrated with Cann River, Lindenow, and Tambo Crossing. Last year, we joined volunteers in Bairnsdale, Lakes Entrance, Omeo, Mallacoota and Orbost. We also launched the East Gippsland Volunteer Honour Roll, which is a permanent list that recognises and celebrates the contribution and years of volunteering of local community members. The honour roll (see page 9) is published on our **website** and was published in local newspapers during National Volunteer Week.

Nominations for the honour roll are open all year round, so if you are a volunteer or know someone who is, please consider nominating **online** or by contacting us on 5153 9500.



**NATIONAL** 16-22 MAY 2022  
**VOLUNTEER**  
Better Together **WEEK**



Lindenow



NATIONAL 16-22 MAY 2022  
**VOLUNTEER**  
Better Together WEEK



**Tambo  
Crossing**



**NATIONAL** 16-22 MAY 2022  
**VOLUNTEER**  
Better Together **WEEK**



# East Gippsland Volunteer Honour Roll

The East Gippsland Honour Roll recognises and celebrates the significant contribution made by volunteers throughout East Gippsland. The Mayor and Councillors thank all volunteers for the important role they play in our community, and to everyone who took the time to nominate a volunteer for recognition.

The honour roll is unveiled at volunteer recognition events and published in local newspapers during National Volunteer Week (May), and is available on Council's website year-round.

## 2022 INDUCTEES

### 50+ years

Di Dixon  
John Whitbourne  
Phil Lind  
Rhonda Wheeldon

### 40+ years

Brenda Payne  
Chris Power  
Graham Symons  
Joy Bennett  
Kevin Dean  
Linda Wilkinson  
Ruth Christie  
Stephen O'Brien

### 30+ years

Ian Brownrigg  
Maree Piera  
Joan Graves  
John Whitbourne  
Lorna Peterson  
Ronda Manhire  
Wolfgang Drobeck

### 20+ years

Cate Spencer  
Cheryl Peel  
Erika Lind  
Gloria Irvine  
Gwen Newman  
Helen Gottschalk  
Jefte Aronson  
Jessica Armstrong  
John Philip  
Joseph Bandiera  
Kate Commins  
Kay Nelson  
Kristine Cordery

Lindy Crawford  
Lois Hateley  
Louise Anketell  
Margaret Hannington  
Marie Cox  
Marion Dawson  
Neal Greig  
Norma Harrison  
Pat Phillips  
Robyn Smith  
Rod O'Connell  
Rosalie Thexton  
Rosemary Douglas  
Shirley Bardwell  
Simon Lawlor  
Sonya Lawlor  
Susan Grima  
Tony Dodson

### 10+ years

Annie Robinson  
Brenda Murray  
Cass Cunningham  
Chris Nichols  
Chris Robinson  
Dave Butler  
Desma Payne  
Dianne Allen  
Frank Herbert  
Gavin Lind  
Geoff Crane  
Grant Stewart  
Helen Carter  
Irene Yeats  
James MacDonald  
Jane Lloyd  
Jenny Latimer  
Jodie Herbert  
Juris Driscoll-Plavins

Kae Roulston  
Nicole Rankin  
Paul Capes  
Peter Schade  
Sandra Sund  
Sarah Breckon  
Tracey Ah Sam  
Ula Sheather  
Yvonne Romp

### 5+ years

Ann Batt  
Anthony Wright  
Christine Trembath  
Dylan Grayham  
Elise Malberg  
Emily Crane  
Geoff Enever  
Jack Peterson  
John Pruscino  
Kass O'Kelly  
Leigh Barnettby  
Lisa Lee  
Lucas Rowley  
Mary-Ann Harrison  
Natalie Mitchell-O'Connell  
Nick Tomkins  
Raymond Barry  
Robert Harrap  
Robyn Davie  
Sandi Betrame  
Sarah Ridgwell  
Sharon Mekken  
Sheridan Grayham  
Trevor Ashley  
Walter Bower

### Up to 5 years

Ben Lawson  
Christine Reeves  
Claudia Hodge  
Elizabeth Ward  
Hunter Boyle  
Jagpreet Singh  
Jen Smith  
Joanne Fregon  
Karlee Coles  
Kiera Watson  
Marianne Birley  
Sarah Butler  
Shane Elmore  
Shane Peach  
Sherylle Holster

### LOCAL CLUBS

In recognising our volunteers, we also thank the local organisations, clubs, groups and individuals who contribute to various causes, fundraising and community activities both here and afar. A list of local volunteer community organisations is also available on our website. If you would like your club added, please contact us.

The honour roll contains the names of East Gippsland residents who have made a voluntary contribution to our community. Names are added annually each National Volunteer Week. Nominations are open to all community members. You can register your details, or nominate a volunteer/s, at any time during the year. Council has accepted the information supplied from the community as accurate and in good faith.

NATIONAL 16-22 MAY 2022  
**VOLUNTEER**  
Better Together WEEK



 5153 9500

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

 EastGippyShire





Mayor Cr Mark Reeves and Deputy Mayor Cr Arthur Allen congratulate Anthony Basford on his reappointment as Chief Executive Officer.

## CEO Anthony Basford reappointed

**Chief Executive Officer Anthony Basford has been reappointed for five years.**

Mayor Cr Mark Reeves said the reappointment of Anthony provides stability and the opportunity to continue to drive the strategic direction of the organisation.

"Anthony is the right person for the job," Cr Reeves said.

"Having the CEO reappointed now for five years also provides the next council an opportunity to further bed down strategies, processes and policies for the long term. This is the right decision at the right time for the organisation and the community.

"We are excited for the organisation, this Council, the next Council, the

community and importantly the CEO." Cr Reeves said Council made the reappointment at the Council meeting held on 26 April following a recommendation by the CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee after long and due consideration in line with the provisions of the Local Government Act.

Mr Basford thanked the Council for the opportunity.

"It is a privilege and honour to lead an organisation of great people, committed to doing their best for a great community," Mr Basford said.

Over the last four years, Mr Basford has led the organisation through structural changes, the Black Summer Bushfires, pandemic response,

multiple La Niña flood events, the largest capital program in the Shire's history and a Council election.

"The organisation has stepped up and has been agile to the needs of the community in difficult and challenging times," Mr Basford said.

"I am very proud of our response to the Black Summer Bushfire event and how we have supported community to achieve their goals. We have pushed on to deliver services and works programs during the pandemic.

"Now, the work continues as we strive to ensure East Gippsland remains a great place to live, work, raise a family, visit and enjoy life."

[Read more>>>](#)

## Networking makes good business sense

**This June, businesses can join in two industry networking nights as part of 'Events Make Good Business'.**

These free events, supported by Latrobe Valley Authority, will launch three new toolkits designed to advise on the collaboration between event organisers, businesses and community groups. The toolkits outline the benefits, a step-by-step process

to help get started and tips towards creating continuing partnerships.

We are proud to welcome three speakers each night, including our keynote speaker, Vicky Lowry from the iconic Deniliquin Ute Muster. The ute muster is a major regional music festival in NSW featuring the world-famous, record-breaking ute muster. Vicky is attending both events and will share her experience creating

new connections and leveraging events to the benefit of businesses and community groups.

**Event details:**

Wednesday 8 June from 5.30 – 8.00 pm  
Albert & Co, 201 Esplanade, Lakes Entrance

Thursday 9 June from 5.30 – 8.00 pm  
Bairnsdale RSL, 2 Forge Creek Road, Bairnsdale

RSVP by Monday 6 June by [registering at Trybooking.](#)



# Give feedback on draft Annual Budget

## The draft Budget 2022-23 is now available for community feedback.

The proposed Budget will continue the largest capital works program in our history, support local employment and continue the region's economic and social recovery.

Mayor Cr Mark Reeves said the \$91.7 million capital works program would bring significant benefit.

"The 2022-23 capital works program includes \$47.4 million in government grants. This is the result of strong advocacy and working with community to identify, plan and progress projects that will have long-lasting benefit," Cr Reeves said.

"As a result, our capital works program will not only put much-needed infrastructure in place, but it will allow our communities to continue their recovery, connect and take pride in their towns, and help put East Gippsland on a path of economic growth."

"Community feedback on the draft Budget is important. I encourage everyone to take the opportunity to give their feedback by Friday 3 June at 12pm," Cr Reeves said.

The draft Budget proposes an increase of 1.75% in total rates and the municipal charge. It is important to note individual rate assessments will vary based on valuations undertaken by the Valuer-General Victoria.

Bushfire affected residents are still

eligible for a rate waiver for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 years, if they have not yet rebuilt their home.

Council recognises businesses are recovering from economic shocks, so proposes to reduce the rate differential for commercial and industrial properties from 145% to 140%.

Farms get a differential rate which was a 10% discount in 2019-20, 17.5% discount in 2020-21 and 20% discount in 2021-2022. This was in recognition of the impact of the drought. The draft Budget proposes a 15% discount, setting a farm differential of 85% of the general rate.

## Raymond Island Ferry changes

Council will also make changes to the Raymond Island Ferry service to generate more income to offset more of the ferry's significant running costs.

"Operating and maintaining the ferry costs around \$2.24 million a year which is a significant cost to Council and is only offset with income of \$216,000 which is less than 10 per cent of the annual operating cost," Cr Reeves said.

All Raymond Island households will receive one free annual pass, which is transferrable between vehicles. The annual fee for vehicles with trailers and commercial vehicles will increase 1.8 per cent. For the first time we will also introduce a small fee of \$2 for walk on passengers.

## Waste levy proposed

The budget proposes the introduction of a waste levy of \$37 on all rateable properties that receive a municipal charge.

The levy is a direct response to a significant increase in the Victorian Government's landfill levy that is imposed on Council's landfills. Cr Reeves said the \$37 waste levy will mean the costs imposed by the Victorian Government will be spread out equitably between ratepayers.

"Rather than increasing waste disposal fees, we will keep the fees at 2021-22 levels and introduce a levy. We hope this will also help reduce illegal dumping which has increased in recent years," Cr Reeves said.

Chief Executive Officer Anthony Basford said the draft Budget had been developed responsibly, considering many factors.

"Council is not immune from the rising costs Australians are experiencing. The increasing cost of fuel and building supplies is putting cost pressures on the delivery of our services and projects," Mr Basford said.

"We are proactive with our planning, and work with our suppliers and contractors to ensure we get the best value possible for ratepayers."

The draft Budget 2022-23 can be viewed on our website and at our customer service centres.

Feedback closes Friday 3 June at 12pm.

## 2022-23 Capital Works Program highlights:

- **Roads (\$13.9 million)** – including Moroney Street, Bairnsdale upgrade - \$1.9 million; Marine Parade, Lakes Entrance upgrade - \$1.9 million.
- **Bridges (\$2.5 million)** – including Hollonds O'Briens Road timber bridge renewal - \$700K; Bullock Island Bridge - \$1.2 million.
- **Footpaths and Cycleways (\$1.2 million)** – including Lindenow footpath connections - \$500K; Omeo Holiday Park to Livingstone Park footpath - \$200K.
- **Buildings and Improvements (\$13.8 million)** – including Eagle Point Foreshore Hub - \$3.92 million; Gymnastics Pavilion, Lucknow Recreation Reserve - \$1.1 million; Mallacoota Hall and Recreation Reserve upgrade - \$750K.

## • Recreation, Leisure, Parks and Open Spaces

- **(\$42.3 million)** – including WORLD Sporting Precinct Stage 1 - \$10 million; Omeo Recreation Reserve court upgrades - \$600K; Bullock Island Masterplan implementation - \$3.5 million; Livingstone Park, Omeo - \$1.5 million; Slip Road Maritime Precinct, Paynesville - \$4.7 million; Lakes Entrance Foreshore and streetscape works - \$1.5 million; Streetscapes in Mallacoota, Buchan and Bruthen - \$3.5 million; Forest Park, Orbost - \$1.1 million; Jemmy's Point, Kalimna Stage 2 - \$1.8 million; Omeo Mountain Bike Trails - \$3.7 million; Buchan projects - \$1.5 million; Krauatungalung Walk, Lakes Entrance Stage 1 - \$1.8 million.



# Service centres and libraries review feedback opportunity

**Our service centres, call centre and libraries play an important role in our communities.**

We are undertaking a review of these services across the shire to ensure we balance community service proposition, look at areas of under or over servicing, and address how we service our growing service channels in a financially sustainable way.

Council has resolved to consult with the community about recommendations in the review.

We are offering community consultation sessions, including online, between 30 May and 8 June. See our Your Say page for meeting details.

We encourage you to **provide feedback via the survey on our Your Say page or at any of our customer service centres** on any or all of the six recommendations. Feedback closes **30 June**.

## Community consultation sessions

Lakes Entrance: 30 May, 5.30 - 6.30 pm

Mallacoota: 31 May, 10.00 - 11.00 am

Orbost: 31 May, 5 - 6.00 pm

Omeo: 1 June, 5.30 - 6.30 pm

Bairnsdale: 2 June, 5.30 - 6.30 pm

Paynesville: 3 June, 3.00 - 4.00 pm

Online: 30 May 12.00-1.00 pm

2 June 1.00 - 2.00 pm

6 June 5.30 - 6.30 pm

7 June 5.30 - 6.30 pm



## Fiona's 'Top 50' puts spotlight on women

**Fiona Weigall has been named as one of Victoria's Top 50 Public Sector Women.**

A member of our executive team, Fiona effectively strikes the balance of being a 'can do' leader, ensuring high standards and providing a strategic vision for the organisation and region.

The IPAA Victoria Top 50 Public Sector Women was announced at a function in Melbourne earlier this month. Fiona said it was humbling to be recognised among the state's leading public sector female leaders.

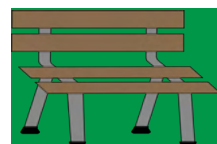
Just five women from the local government sector were acknowledged.

"The accolade is personally very rewarding; I'm very proud to be acknowledged within such esteemed company. I could not, however, be the leader I am without the support and can-do attitude of the great teams of staff colleagues and stakeholders I work with across a diverse range of services and industries," Fiona said.

"To support our community, it's been critical that we managed bushfire recovery projects (often with fatigued teams) and adapted to pandemic changes, but also kept our eye on the future in applying for and successfully receiving tens of millions of dollars in funding for community projects. It's been a team effort." [Read more>>>](#)



Chief Executive Officer Anthony Basford congratulates General Manager Assets and Environment, Fiona Weigall on her inclusion in the IPAA Victoria Top 50 Public Sector Women.



A \$1.82 million upgrade of Orbost's Forest Park is moving ahead, after taking in community members' suggested design changes. We received 752 items of feedback, with an impressive 89% of locals supporting the redevelopment. For more information, visit our [Your Say page](#).



# Old building to go

**With Mallacoota's new \$2.5 million kindergarten now operational, the time has come to decommission and demolish the old building it replaced.**

The old Council-owned kindergarten at 23 Greer Street is structurally unsound and unsuitable for re-use or redevelopment for a number of reasons. These include corrosion of the structural steel mesh in the floor slab and blockwork ties; ground movement caused by the roots of two significant trees, which poses a structural risk; and the lightweight construction of the decades-old building.

Recent investment in community facilities, including the new Sports Pavilion and Community Clubrooms, Mallacoota Hall, and recently announced \$493,000 upgrade of the Mudbrick Pavilion has ensured that Mallacoota has a broad range of new and upgraded facilities to cater for a range of community uses, making retention of this structurally unsound building unnecessary. [Read more>>>](#)



*Councillor Mendy Urie was recently presented with a shield and a medal from the Commanding Officer of the HMAS Choules at Anzac Day celebrations in Mallacoota, with 22 Navy officers present. She passed the special items on to Mayor Cr Mark Reeves at a recent Council Meeting for display in one of our facilities, most likely in Mallacoota.*

## Grants boost community groups

Local clubs, groups and organisations will share in almost \$500,000 as part of our latest round of community grants.

Council endorsed 16 recipients to share in \$472,982 from the Community Infrastructure Grant Program. The successful projects, which must be completed by 1 June 2023 under the funding agreement, are:

- Bairnsdale Bridge Club, \$20,000, replacement of an iron roof on the club building.
- Bairnsdale Squash & Racquetball Association, \$45,454, restoration of flooring.
- Cassilis Recreation Reserve Committee of Management, \$45,454, public toilet upgrade.
- East Gippsland Rail Trail Committee of Management Inc., \$29,090, solar lighting in tunnels.
- Ensay Mechanics Institute Reserve, \$45,454, Community Hall revitalisation - kitchen upgrade.
- Lakes Entrance Golf Club Incorporated, \$45,454, sealing of function centre car park.
- Lakes Entrance Mechanics Institute Management Committee Inc., \$13,636, solar panel project.

- Lindenow Recreation and Bowling Club, \$13,760, lighting upgrade.
- Lindenow Sports Ground Committee of Management, \$34,188, relocation and upgrade of the main entrance to the sports ground.
- Nowa Nowa Hall Committee Inc., \$16,448, Nowa Nowa Public Hall Renewal Project.
- Omeo District Health, \$45,000, community gym equipment.
- Omeo Recreation Reserve Committee of Management, \$21,840, upgrade of windows and doors.
- Orbost Pony Club, \$36,363, equine equipment storage shed.
- Orbost Snowy Rovers Football Netball Club Inc, \$25,000, installation of concrete aprons.
- Swifts Creek Bush Nursing Centre \$35,965, accessible carport and mobility handrails.
- Wy Yung Football Netball Club, \$13,636, upgrade of the club kitchen.

For information on Council grants, visit [www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/community/grants](http://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/community/grants).



## for Paynesville development

A major mixed-use development in Paynesville's town centre has been approved, allowing the construction of a five-storey building in Devon Road, with two commercial tenancies at ground level and 30 apartments over the next four storeys.

The development represents a new era for Paynesville that will bring new activity and vitality to the town. [Read more>>>](#)



# MAJOR PROJECTS UPDATE



## Omeo MTB Trails crew back on site

### **A big shout-out to the fat tyre fraternity.**

We think mountain biking is as awesome as you do, so we're stoked to be able to tell you that the preconstruction phase of the Omeo MTB Trails project has begun.

The trail-making crew from Common Ground trails are back in Omeo and hard at work on the planning phase prior to getting the shovels out for construction in September.

Common Ground will also have trail-makers on site for several weeks to confirm trail alignments (where the trails will go and how easy or gnarly they are), and carry out environmental, cultural and historical heritage assessments for each trail.

This is exciting news for this project, which has seen many unavoidable delays. Thanks everyone for your patience and support.

For more on the MTB Trails and the Omeo Pump Track, [visit omeo.com.au/ride/](http://omeo.com.au/ride/)

## Koala trail upgrade on the go



### **Funding agreement signed, tick!**

The Raymond Island Koala Trail and Discovery Experience project can now move full steam ahead! The first stage of works will see the toilet block completely rebuilt. These works will be undertaken in-house once the demolition permit is approved.

## Facelift for Nowa Nowa

**Nowa Nowa is getting a facelift thanks to the Nowa Nowa Streetscape road upgrade project.**

The Princes Highway, which runs through Nowa Nowa, serving as its main street, will be upgraded.

The project aims to improve the road, safety for pedestrians and drivers, and access and amenity.

Road reconstruction will include new pavement, road widening in some areas, and new kerbing and channelling and drainage. A key safety measure will be an improved layout of an existing T intersection. The town will also get new path connections and landscape work. The \$515,000 project is funded by the Australian Government.



# MAJOR PROJECTS UPDATE

## Slip Road Maritime Precinct progressing

**Paynesville's much-anticipated Slip Road Maritime Precinct project on Burrabogie Island is progressing with work on an improved design set to begin.**

The upgrade of the five-hectare site bordering the narrow McMillan Strait will include new seawalls, boardwalk, boat ramp, jetties, parking, pathways and upgrades to utilities.

Council recently engaged a contractor to carry out further offshore geotechnical works, which will be used to update and improve the design.

After geotechnical works are completed, Carter Marine,

which has been carrying out work at the site, will recommence work to complete the first construction package.

We will provide further updates prior to remobilisation.

Detailed design of further stages, including carpark works, is also progressing.

The project, due to be completed in June 2023, is funded by the Victorian Government, through its Infrastructure Stimulus Fund (\$1.1m) and Regional Infrastructure Fund (\$4m), and the Australian Government through its Community Development Grants Program (\$1m).

For more information, [visit YourSay](#).

## Wheels turning at Bairnsdale skatepark



**Upgrade works at Bairnsdale's Davison Oval Skatepark are underway.**

The Stage 2 redevelopment will continue until the end of June. The skatepark will remain open during works.

The upgrades include:

- new shelters
- seating
- solar lighting along pathways
- CCTV to improve safety
- additional drinking fountains



# We're open

- Generous-sized powered and unpowered sites
- Livingstone Creek frontage
- Camp kitchen, barbecues, open fire and games room
- 2 amenities blocks and laundry facilities
- Pets welcome
- Sewerage dump point

(03) 5152 5646

[info@omeoholidaypark.com.au](mailto:info@omeoholidaypark.com.au)

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

@OmeoHolidayPark



Omeo Holiday Park opened at Easter 2022. It is on the site of the former Omeo Caravan Park.



# What's on calendar

We are proud to support many exciting major arts, sporting, cultural and community events each year. Here are some events hitting our region over the next couple of months.



## Lakes Country Cruise

The Lakes Country Cruise is a gathering of liked-minded people who have a common interest in hot rods and custom cars. Country Cruise entrants will be visiting from all parts of Victoria and the Sapphire Coast NSW to join in activities in Lakes Entrance and Marlo. Show'n'Shine will take place at Marlo Pub on the Sunday. 10-13 June

6 pm

Lakes Entrance and Marlo

[More information>>>](#)



## Circling time – Songs and stories by Kutcha Edwards

From the wings of a darkened stage drifts the evocative, slightly haunting sound of clap sticks. A stoically paced figure slowly emerges singing in his traditional language. This mesmerising introduction heralds a performance by renowned Aboriginal singer/songwriter and proud Mutti Mutti, Yorta Yorta and Nari Nari man, Kutcha Edwards.

1 July

7.30 pm

Mallacoota Mudbrick Pavilion

[More information>>>](#)



## East Gippsland Winter Festival

Embrace the chill of the season with an abundant celebration of art, wine, local produce and live music. From Metung on the Gippsland Lakes to Omeo in the High Country and all the way to Mallacoota in the far east. The festival program is jam-packed full of workshops and beautiful art installations for you to experience and explore during the East Gippsland Winter Festival.

17 June – 10 July

Various locations

[More information>>>](#)



## Deep in the Weeds

Deep in the Weeds is a celebration of the deep dark winter in the deep dark south east. Part of the East Gippsland Winter Festival, Deep in the Weeds is the event for audiences seeking to immerse themselves in the arts, food and wine, culture, nature and well-being. Brought to you by Sailors Grave, renowned for hand-crafted artisanal beers made in the heart of Orbost on the banks of the Snowy River.

8-10 July

5 pm

Old Butter Factory, 7 Forest Road, Orbost

[More information>>>](#)



## Singing workshop with Kutcha Edwards

Kutcha Edwards, proud Mutti Mutti, Yorta Yorta and Nari Nari man shares his songs and stories inspired by the history and struggle of his people. From the first song Kutcha ever wrote to a song written in his fathers' language, Kutcha's Songline has been inspired and influenced by the people and places he has travelled. From campfires to world stages, prisons to universities, Kutcha encourages the power of song to heal the spirit.

1 July

4 pm

Mallacoota Mudbrick Pavilion

=====

2 July

4 pm

Lakes Entrance Mechanics Hall

[More information>>>](#)

# 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:



## **Gilbert, Sullivan and The Great Composers**

**Saturday 28 May, 2.00 pm**

Promac has devised a new show celebrating 25 years of performing Gilbert and Sullivan productions around Australia. In this production Gilbert, Sullivan and the Great Composers, Promac not only perform a selection of hits and highlights of the most popular G&S musicals, but a selection of other great hits from many great composing duos.



## **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.



## **Leaving Jackson - The Johnny Cash and June Carter Show**

**Tuesday 14 June, 7.30 pm**

Take a step back in time to when country music told a true story of life, love and heartache. From the famous Walk The Line and Folsom Prison Blues to the iconic Ring of Fire. For more than 40 years, Johnny Cash and June Carter enthralled audiences around the world with their songs of life, love and heartache. A love story played out through some of the greatest songs ever written.



## **Close to You - The Karen Carpenter Story**

**Saturday 25 June, 7.30 pm**

Join us for one very special night of celebration as Ruth Templer (*The Sound Experience Big Band and the Bobby James Syndicate*) and Adrian Scott (*Air Supply, Kylie Minogue, LRB and The Seekers*) take us on a musical journey through all of the hits of the Carpenters and the soundtrack of our lives.



## **Colorado Children's Chorale** **'Filling the world with song'**

**Sunday 26 June, 2.00 pm**

In a celebration of East Gippsland's community spirit and resilience, a prominent youth choir the Colorado Children's Chorale will perform free community recovery concerts. The internationally acclaimed Colorado Children's Chorale was founded in 1974, and boasts performances in the White House, the Lincoln Centre for the Performing Arts in New York, Royal Albert Hall in London and more.



## **2022 Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow**

**Saturday 2 July, 7.30 pm**

Strap yourself in Australia! The Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow is hitting the highways to home-deliver the freshest and funniest from the 2022 Festival to neighbourhoods across the nation.

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



# BUSHFIRE RECOVERY



**\$5M boost to  
continue undergrounding  
bare-wire powerlines**

## Powerline grants

**East Gippslanders are encouraged to protect their homes and communities from the risk of bushfires by undergrounding their private overhead powerlines.**

The Victorian Government is helping to make communities safer from bushfires by fully funding works to bury powerlines through the Powerline Bushfire Safety Program.

If you are a resident who has a private overhead electric line (POEL) on your property, you are invited to apply to have it placed undergrounded as part of the \$5 million POEL Scheme.

Eligibility consists of owning a private overhead powerline which is:

Either partially or fully bare-wire,

- Fully insulated and subject to a current urgent or significant defect notice issued by AusNet,
- Is overhead (not already undergrounded or in the process of being undergrounded),
- Is in active use (the powerline is connected and energised); and
- Located in a designated High Bushfire Risk Area within East Gippsland Shire.

Applications are open until 30 June 2022. More information can be found on the [POEL website](#) or you can contact the POEL Project Team by calling (03) 9918 7315.

To find out whether or not your powerlines are private, contact AusNet Services on 1300 360 765.

## Small business grant

**To reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 and improve ventilation in areas accessed by customers, the Victorian Government is providing support to public-facing small businesses through the Small Business Ventilation Program.**

Under the program, two types of support are available: ventilation rebate or grant.

A \$500 ventilation rebate is available for public-facing small businesses to take immediate actions such as buying equipment or hiring a qualified tradesperson to undertake minor services to improve ventilation in areas accessible to customers.

Ventilation grants from \$1000 to \$5000 are available for public-facing small businesses who employ staff to invest in larger ventilation projects. Such projects include building works, and engaging professional services or equipment in areas accessible to customers.

Applications are open until 11.59 pm Friday 24 June 2022 or when funds are fully allocated, whichever comes first.

For more details and to apply, visit the [Small Business Ventilation Program website](#).

## Districts pick top tourism projects

**Community consultations and workshops have recently been held in the Cann Valley, Buchan and Errinundra to Snowy districts, with community members discussing potential tourism opportunity projects.**

From the discussions, each district chose top priority projects to pursue.

The priority projects aim to increase the length of time a visitor stays in the region, and how much they spend. They also offer an immediate starting point and highlight a good mix of community-local operator driven initiatives, along with some which require our involvement and key bushfire recovery stakeholders - Parks Victoria, DELWP and Destination Gippsland.

This initiative was a collaboration between district community representatives and our Economic Development and Community Recovery teams. The final district tourism opportunity reports will be available soon.

For further details contact your district's Place Manager or [contact us](#).

# BUSHFIRE RECOVERY

## Valuable cultural awareness training

**Several of our staff recently attended cultural awareness training delivered by Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency.**

The training provided further understanding of how to respectfully work with Aboriginal communities and organisations. The sessions informed our staff of how the enduring trauma - directly caused by historical events - is still pertinent and complex in the Aboriginal community. The session also highlighted how the lack of understanding of the Aboriginal history and culture in the area - significant sites and connections to the land - was emphasised in the bushfire recovery space. Gaining a better understanding of Aboriginal history and culture will support healing and working alongside Aboriginal communities impacted by bushfire and the Covid-19 pandemic with greater compassion and increased engagement and understanding, now and into the future.



*Our General Manager Place and Community Stuart McConnell was in Canberra earlier this month at the National Recovery Resilience Agency planning day. Stuart (right) and former mayor and now recovery support officer Joe Rettino (left) participated in a Q&A panel regarding their lived experience following the 2019/20 Black Summer Fires. Former mayor Natalie O'Connell has recently been appointed as a new director on the NRRR advisory board.*

## Social recovery progress

**Earlier this year we introduced the 'Recovery Reset: Social Recovery Assessment', an initiative being conducted in partnership with Bushfire Recovery Victoria and key stakeholders.**

The assessment aims to identify the current and anticipated needs for social recovery and wellbeing services across the shire. The initiative's first stage is complete, with over 40 service organisations completing an extensive online survey. The survey asked over 30 questions to understand:

- how people are accessing services,
- how clients are coping since the

bushfires,

- gaps in service needs, and
- funding arrangements etc.

More than 20 call-back requests were received from participants for a further conversation to explore community recovery needs in more detail.

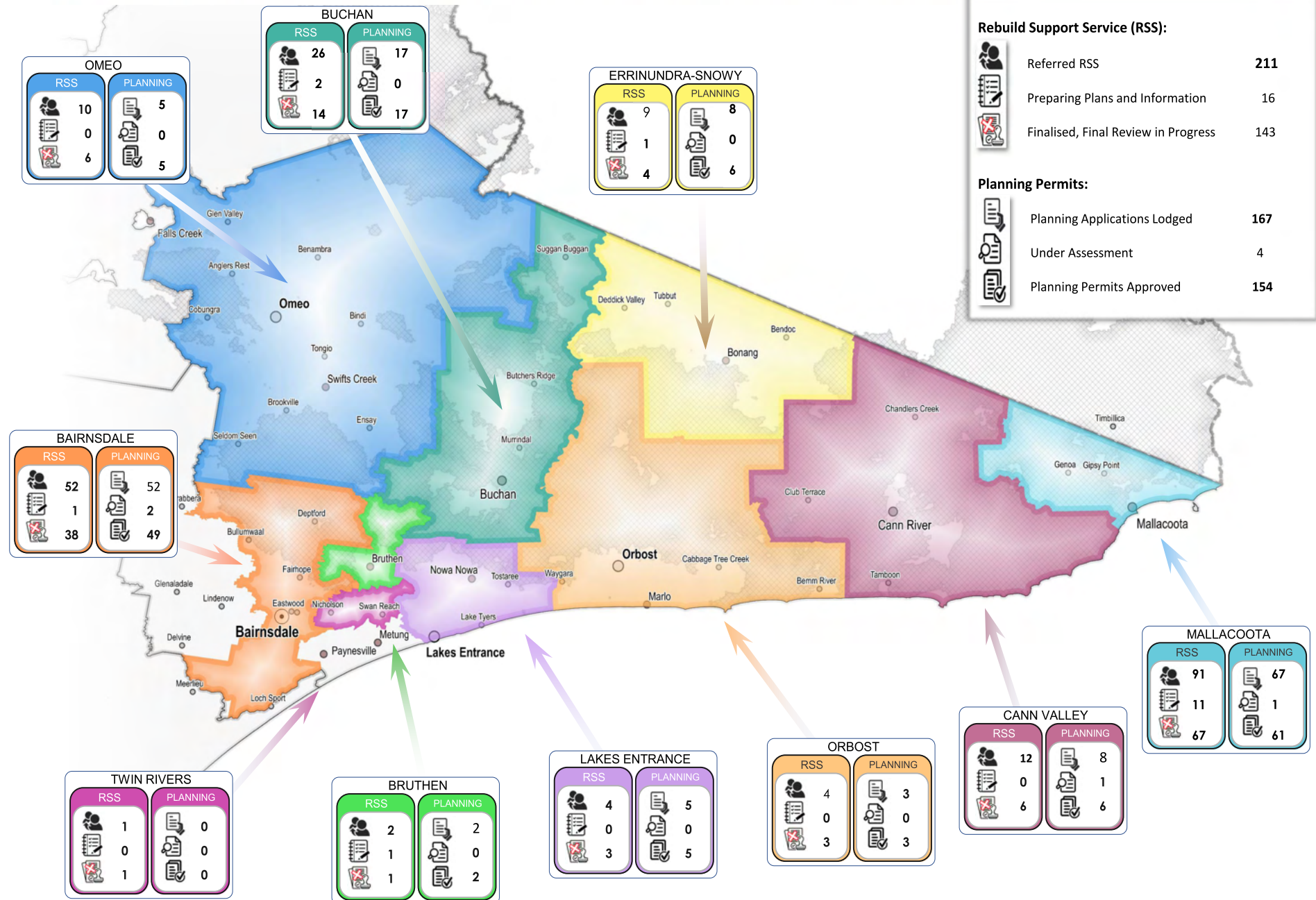
Stage two of the initiative has also recently been completed with 12 focus group sessions between social and wellbeing providers, and discussions with Community Recovery Committees.

We look forward to continuing to share the progress of this important initiative with you over the coming months.





# East Gippsland Shire Council Rebuild Support Service - May 2022



# Our Councillors



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**Cr Arthur Allen - Deputy Mayor**

Direct - 0429 630 474

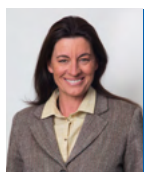
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Note: When emailing a Councillor, type "Att Cr (their last name)" in the subject line.

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community newsletter*

