

MY COUNCIL

My Community



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL | EDITION 20 | JULY 2022

Get up! Stand up! Show up!

What a week!

NAIDOC Week 2022 celebrations kicked off with our traditional flag-raising ceremony at the Bairnsdale Corporate Centre to acknowledge the local Aboriginal community and honour the week's theme - Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!

This year's NAIDOC Week theme encouraged all Australians to work for cultural change, and celebrate culture, history and achievements of First Nations people.

Aunty Lena Morris, chair of Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation's Elders' Council, delivered the official Welcome to Country at the flag-raising ceremony and encouraged everyone to take the opportunity to learn about First Nations' cultures and histories and participate in this celebration of the oldest continuous living cultures on earth.

More activities rolled out over the course of NAIDOC Week, including a street march and barbecue on Wednesday 6 July from the Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Co-operative.



Wilari, 6, and Marion, 4, helped raise the flag at the Bairnsdale flag raising ceremony for NAIDOC Week, held at the Corporate Centre. More pictures 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.



Auntie Lena Morris and grandson Mason, 6, at the NAIDOC Week flag raising ceremony held at the Corporate Centre.



Wilari, 6, and Marion, 4, helped raise the flag at the Bairnsdale ceremony.



Deputy Mayor Cr Arthur Allen addressed the Corporate Centre gathering.



A special NAIDOC Week Storytime for kids was also held at Bairnsdale Library. We were lucky enough to have Uncle Keith Solomon (pictured) come along and play the didgeridoo.



CEO Anthony Basford officiated at the ceremony.

26 July: Council Meeting, Bairnsdale, 6.00 pm

16 August: Council Meeting, Bairnsdale, 6.00 pm

28 July: Citizenship Ceremony, Lakes Entrance, 10.00 am





Kutcha Edwards looking over Tatungalung Country. The Tatungalung people are one of the five clans of the Gunaikurnai community.

Cultural immersion workshop

Our staff were pleased to have the opportunity to take part in a Kutcha Edwards cultural immersion workshop during NAIDOC Week.

Kutcha is a renowned Aboriginal singer/songwriter and proud Mutti Mutti, Yorta Yorta and Nari Nari man.

Through stories, songs and dialogue, Kutcha explored, defined and imparted his understanding of what it is to be an Indigenous person in Australia today and the true history that brought us to this point in time. Our staff had the opportunity to join the cultural immersion workshop in-person or online. Kutcha posed some curly questions to draw out our level of knowledge of Aboriginal Australia, and spoke of the importance of, and connection to family, genealogy and ancestors.

The session wrapped up Kutcha's tour of East Gippsland which included singing workshops and performances in Mallacoota, Lakes Entrance and Bairnsdale.



Got a question for us about what we do for the community?
 Our new 'Our Services' guide might just have the answer you're looking for! This handy guide provides a snapshot of our services and programs, and is a great reference tool for anyone who wants to know a bit more about all the assets we manage and programs we oversee.
Download a copy from our website.

Ahoy shipmates, it's time to play!

Marlo's newest treasure has sailed into Marlo Triangle Park. Hoist the Jolly Roger because this awesome playground will make sure the little hearties have a swashbuckling good time.

Over 100 locals and visitors joined Mayor Cr Mark Reeves – dressed in full pirate attire with a trusty parrot on his shoulder – for the official opening on Sunday 10 July.

The new park has undergone a \$415,00 upgrade with all levels of government coming together to fund this investment. We took the lead with a \$300,000 contribution, and \$115,00 came from the Local Economic Recovery Program, jointly funded by the federal and state governments.

The key features of the upgrade include:

- New pirate ship play structure with a small crow's nest
- Swings and slides
- Firefighters' pole
- Telescope and interactive panels
- Water and sand play area
- Barbecues, seating and drinking fountain

"It was time to upgrade the playground and I know the improved park will continue to be loved by many," Mayor Cr Mark Reeves said.

"The ship here isn't just for pirates, it's for everyone! The New playground



Trusty 'First Mates' Victor (Marlo Primary School grade three student) and mum Conni Greenwood help Captain Mark Reeves (aka Mayor Cr Mark Reeves) to cut the ribbon to mark the new Marlo Triangle Park officially open on Sunday 10 July. Speaking at the opening, Conni said the new playground was fantastic for the community. Conni was a star face painter on the day, bringing ever more joy to the local children.

equipment is already proving popular, while the landscaping complements the native characteristics of the town," Cr Reeves said.

As Marlo becomes increasingly busier it was important to include a new pedestrian crossing on Marlo Road, which provides a safer connection between the park, primary school and western residential area. "The upgrades were identified as priorities by the Marlo community and the outcome is a result of positive collaboration and consultation," Cr Reeves said.

"We incorporated feedback and ideas from

the community including local primary school students, to deliver a park for the people, and we thank the students, Marlo Ratepayers and Residents' Association, community and our staff and contractors for their input," Cr Reeves said.

"We aim for our towns to be 'sticky'. We want visitors to stop, stay, experience and spend. We know Marlo and surrounds has an abundance of attractions, but this upgrade helps make the town an even more attractive destination."

Marlo Ratepayers and Residents' Association president, Shayne Boyd,

said the idea for a refurbishment began with a motion from community member Simon Ruff at a meeting of the group in 2018.

"This led to the formation of a sub-committee to develop ideas and liaise with Council to bring about what we see today. This group include many young parents, who outlined their ideas for the sort of playground that would suit out small community. The result we see today reflects those ideas," Mrs Boyd said.

"Thank-you to the whole community who have got behind this project."

Watch the official opening>>>



'Sailing Master' Liz Filmer (contractor - Liz Filmer Landscaping), Dennis McCann and Captain Mark Reeves.



'Quartermasters' Tanya Coleman and Shayne Boyd (Marlo Ratepayers and Residents' Association).



The playground is sparking the imagination of local and visiting children.



Marlo Coast Guard and Marlo Fire Brigade had the sausages sizzling, led by 'Cook' Scott Woerz.



A picture is worth a thousand words...

Driven through Cann River recently? Then you will have noticed their fantastic new mural on the wall of the SES depot! Simon White is the artist behind the large-scale works, which celebrates the dedication and community support of CFA and SES volunteers, staff from emergency services agencies, and timber workers. Mayor Cr Mark Reeves was at the official unveiling on Tuesday 5 July along with Member for Gippsland East Tim Bull, CFA Commander Don Tompkins, SES Assistant Chief Officer, Regional Manager Anthony McLean and more than 50 locals.

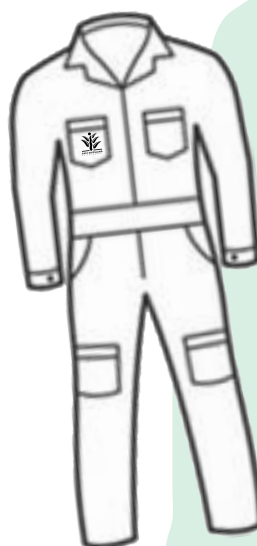


Streets ahead

Stage 1 of the Moroney Street upgrade in Bairnsdale, from Dawson Street to McKean Street is now complete, with sealing, line-marking and underground drainage finished. That means work on Stage 2 is forging ahead with tenders now being evaluated.

COVID restrictions in late 2021 hit the Stage 1 works for a period, mandating that five workers be allowed on site at one time, which delayed the project.

Stage 2 works are anticipated to commence in October, pending availability of materials. People residing along the Stage 2 section of Moroney Street works will be contacted to advise them of the works



Used uniforms avoid landfill

Our ever-so resourceful Waste team recently managed to divert 20kg of used uniforms from seeing out their days in our local landfill. Instead, Melbourne-based recyclers Uppearl were the lucky recipients of this pilot batch of used garbs. East Gippsland doesn't have its own large-scale option for textile recycling YET! But like all areas of waste management, textile recycling appears to be rapidly evolving so we will hopefully have a local solution soon.



Community Grants open

Do you belong to an organisation looking to hold a small event or are you an artist with an idea for a project? Or are you part of a community group that needs some funds for a facilities upgrade? Well, our next round of community grants is now open and you're invited to apply! Get in quick. Applications close 3 August. Need help?

Visit our website for more info and guidelines on how to apply.

Boost your business

Bairnsdale, Bruthen and Buchan business owners and entrepreneurs get ready to boost your business!

The 'Business Boost: Cultivating and Connecting Entrepreneurs' program kicks off with a series of information sessions funded by a Victorian Government Local Economic Recovery grant, to help entrepreneurs and business owners achieve their business goals.

So, if you have a knack for seeing opportunities, a passion for passing on skills and a can-do mindset, **register now** for one the five FREE information sessions to be held around the region from 25 July – 4 August.



Justin joins Australian team

Last month one of our staff members jetted off to Queensland to represent Australia!

Finance Officer Justin Morgan closed the Excel spreadsheets and joined the 14-person Australian Deaf Cricket Team to compete at the Commonwealth Bank International Cricket Inclusion Series.

In Queensland he trained with teammates and competed against England.

The series was the first time Justin had represented Australia. The wicket keeper has been playing cricket most of his life, first heading out onto the field in under 12s for his hometown of Heyfield.

"I really enjoy the friendships you make from

cricket. I had to travel to Brisbane for a training camp to try out for the team. I was pleased to be selected," Justin said after being named in the team.

"Two other Victorians were also selected and the coach is Victorian, so that's good."

Justin and the team gathered in Brisbane to train for a week ahead of the series. The series started with T20 matches, followed by one-day matches with a mix of day and day-night games. The team played eight matches over nine days from June 8-17.

No hearing aids or cochlear implants are allowed to be worn on the field of play during deaf cricket. Deaf cricket includes players who



Justin Morgan represented Australia against England in deaf cricket as part of the International Inclusion Games held in Brisbane in June.

have at least 55 decibels of hearing loss – about the volume of normal conversation.

"That's the only difference between the deaf game and regular cricket matches," Justin said.

All three of Australia's National Disability Squads – blind, deaf, and intellectual disability – played eight games each, with England sending over deaf and learning disability (LD) squads. New Zealand's blind cricket team also competed.

"The competition was tough and fair, and we unfortunately went down 6-2 losing the series. The friendships made and the thrill of representing Australia is something I'll never forget," Justin said.

Australia last played international deaf cricket at the World Cup in 2018. Commonwealth Bank's partnership with Cricket Australia makes cricket the only non-paralympic Australian sport to have fully funded national disability squads.

Omeo netballers aim high

Omeo's netballers are set to score new courts thanks to \$659,000 in Federal Government funding, delivered via the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program, plus Council funding to cover items unable to be claimed under the grant conditions.

Omeo Recreation Reserve's netball and tennis facilities are in poor condition with exposed expansion joints and water running onto the playing surface in wet weather.

Netball Victoria has said it could find the netball courts non-compliant if they are not improved, which would stop Omeo hosting home games. The upgrade of the Park Street venue will include:

- ✓ court resurfacing
- ✓ new perimeter fencing
- ✓ new lighting to meet required standards
- ✓ new player and scorer shelters



Omeo's netball courts are getting a much-needed overhaul

- ✓ a secure storage area for equipment
- ✓ a new pedestrian access path, and
- ✓ an upgrade of the access road and parking area, which will improve access for players, officials and spectators.

Netball and tennis are the only organised team sport activities on offer for women and girls in Omeo, so upgrading the courts will ensure their future of those activities in the region and help maintain a sense of community connectedness.

The project will be managed by us and a preference will be given to contractors who both employ locally and purchase goods and subcontracted services locally.



Courtyard a canvas for local artists

Artists Lee Nickless and Anli Vuong vamp up the cultural hub at Forge Theatre and Arts Hub.

Late last year, a couple local artists answered the creative call to help transform the exterior of our shire's cultural hub into a vibrant, multimedia artwork space. And they've delivered.

If you've visited recently, you may have noticed the large wooden structure in the courtyard of the Forge Theatre and Art Hub has taken on a new lifeform. Thanks to artists Lee Nickless and Anli Vuong, the revamp will not only lift the vibe of the outdoor space for everyday patrons, but also provide a backdrop for small performances when the weather warms up.

Arts and Culture Coordinator Andrea Court said public art like this can really value add to the community.

"Innovative design of public places can create new and exciting meeting and performance spaces and, like in this case, create employment opportunities for artists," Andrea said. "We selected Lee and Anli's artwork from a number of candidates who submitted expressions of interest last year. They've done a wonderful job in capturing the spirit of East Gippsland and stimulating a sense of community pride."

The courtyard installation took Lee and Anli five days to complete onsite. The artists enjoyed working in collaboration, adding a touch of colour and vibrance to the area.

"It felt good to work as a team to create something beautiful for Bairnsdale and add something of value to the Forge Theatre," Anli said. "We took inspiration from Australian

native flowers; grevilleas, banksias, wattle and crowea flowers, using lots of colour to transmit joy, warmth and hope. It was so much fun...my favourite thing to do!"

Lee also enjoyed executing the nature-inspired artwork, which both he and Anli were creatively motivated by.

"With this mural I had the chance of collaborating with Anli Vuong and my birds are appreciating her geometric abstractions," Lee said.

"Anli and I have had many discussions about local birdlife and I guess they are, in a way, a tribute to the appreciation we both have for them. It's great to be able to work as a mural artist on local projects that I feel connected to."

Make sure you check out the new courtyard canvas next time you're at the Forge!

Youth Art Prize opens soon

There is less than a month to go before entries open in the 2022 Youth Art Prize.

Young people who like photography, filmmaking, digital art or traditional arts such as painting, drawing or sculpture – get ready to submit your entry.

The Youth Art Prize is open to people aged 12 to 25 who

live, work or study in East Gippsland Shire.

Prizes are up for grabs for the winners in each age category – as well as the kudos of winning.

Entries open Monday 8 August.

Keep an eye on the **Youth page on our website** and the **Youth Voice of East Gippsland Facebook page** for more details on how to submit your artwork.

Entry is open to people aged 12-25 who live, work, or study in our shire.

Feedback can help our future economy

One of our key priorities is to grow our economy.

We do this by supporting new and existing industries, encouraging innovation, and advocating for the infrastructure needed to meet current and future needs. We would like your feedback on two projects we are working on:

- Draft Economic Development Strategy, and
- Visitor information services review.

The draft Economic Development Strategy takes into consideration businesses working to bounce back the economic hits of the past few years and establish the 'new normal' in the COVID-19 era.

The strategy embraces a 10-year Economic Vision that reflects the economic drivers and opportunities and looks at short, medium and long-term priorities. A four-year Council Action Plan will accompany the strategy. Delivering the strategy will involve coordinating efforts between Council and external stakeholders.

Mayor Cr Mark Reeves said stakeholders have provided valuable input into the draft.

"Involving stakeholders to co-design the draft Economic Development Strategy with us is at the core of this project. The aim was to genuinely engage stakeholders in East Gippsland's economic future, including groups not ordinarily involved in these conversations," Cr Reeves said.

Tourism is one of East Gippsland's major industries.

We operate two accredited Visitor Information Centres and support three unaccredited centres.

We're reviewing how to best deliver our visitor information services in the future.

To help us, we'd like you to tell us about your visitors – how often you have visitors, where they come from and what activities they enjoy while here.

To learn more about these consultations and **give your feedback**, visit the Your Say East Gippsland website.

Feedback on the draft Economic Development Strategy closes Thursday 21 July.

Feedback on the visitor services review closes Tuesday 26 July.



Classification change for Mallacoota Airport



Recent Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) regulation changes for airport certification have led us to opt out of certification for Mallacoota Airport.

CASA standards that airports are now expected to meet has made it impractical for some small regional airports such as Mallacoota to maintain certification.

Costly upgrades would be needed to achieve certification. These include works to tackle erosion; significant vegetation clearance approval and work; upgrading of fire base taxiways and engaging a flight procedure designer to design instrument approach and departure procedures.

Bairnsdale and Orbost airports will remain certified and will operate at a significantly higher compliance level, in line with the new standards and requirements.

Mallacoota Airport will operate at a different regulated standard than a certified airport. This will not change the way the airport is maintained and all aircraft types that currently access the airport can continue to do so.

Of the three airports we operate, Mallacoota would require the most significant works to be completed to meet the new standards.

A key change for pilots will be a halt to Notification to Airmen (NOTAM) on functions and loss of Terminal Instrument Flight Procedures (TIFP). For aerodrome serviceability status, pilots are encouraged to call our reporting officers who can advise on the serviceability of the aerodrome, which includes fuel facilities.

Mallacoota Airport has an ongoing high-level maintenance regime, no landing or parking fees, and has less than 400 annual movements, averaging three flights per week, with the makeup of movements occurring in the summer bushfire season involving firefighting helicopter operations.

The airport is an important asset to the community for bushfire response and both Air Ambulance Victoria (AAV) and DELWP airbase personnel were consulted prior to the decision by Council being made.

Although AAV indicated disappointment in our position, it was understood why the decision had been made and requested we continue to oversee the airport which includes maintenance, an inspection regime and reporting officer call-out service.

AAV said it would continue to use the airport but indicated the loss of instrument approach may affect flying in some adverse weather conditions. DELWP airbase personnel advised they were comfortable with our position and it would not affect its operations.

CBCA BOOK WEEK 2022

20-26 August

Dreaming with eyes open...



THE CHILDREN'S
BOOK COUNCIL
OF AUSTRALIA

#CBCA2022

2022 CBCA BOOK WEEK

20-26 AUGUST

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THE CHILDREN'S
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SINCE 1945 — YOUR CONNECTION TO STORY



EAST GIPPSLAND
SHIRE COUNCIL

Plan for assets gets tick of approval



Did you know that we are responsible for the stewardship of approximately \$1.2 billion of community assets?

From parks, pathways and playgrounds to libraries, lighting, laneways and more, our assets keep communities connected, working and moving – and help make East Gippsland a great place to live.

At the Council Meeting on Tuesday 28 June, Council adopted the Asset Plan 2022-2032, an overview document that summarises the key elements of the more detailed asset management plans for each of the six infrastructure asset classes: roads; bridges and major culverts; community facilities and open spaces; waste facilities; drainage; and buildings.

These assets are used to support the delivery of a range of services to the community through their lifecycle, including acquisition, maintenance, upgrade and disposal.

The East Gippsland Shaping the Future Community Vision 2040 will be delivered through the Asset Plan, Council Plan 2021-2025, Financial Plan, Asset Management Strategy and other Council plans and strategies. The Asset Plan outlines both opportunities and challenges relating to Council's ability to deliver on the Community Vision and strategic objectives including:

- Economic – grant funding, increasing costs
- Built environment – ageing infrastructure, distances between localities
- Social – population changes, community expectations
- Political – policy changes, funding models
- Natural environment – climate change, biodiversity

The Asset Plan was developed with input from the community in line with Council's community engagement policy and is a vital plan that is required every four years, with annual updates to the asset management plans.



The main objective of the community consultation process was to identify the key principles by which assets should be prioritised and invested in over the next 10 years.

The key areas of engagement included:

- a five-minute video explaining Council's assets and asset management processes;
- a community survey to understand the community's view and recommendations for future allocation and priorities for investing in assets;
- a deliberative engagement; and
- a public exhibition of the final Asset Plan.

The main outcomes of these were:

- focus on recreation assets, that promote a healthy lifestyle
- focus on foreshore beautification and facilities promoting tourism
- increase investment in climate change strategies to protect assets
- maintain assets to a high standard rather than replace with new assets
- keep assets accessible for all ages and physical capabilities
- protect the natural environment, flora and fauna

The Asset Plan, which meets the requirements of section 92 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, sets a framework. Over the coming months and years, the actions and strategies identified within the Asset Plan will be implemented.

Its purpose is to provide infrastructure assets for the community now and into the future that are fit for purpose, maintained and accessible, within a constrained financial environment.



Andrew Mylius showing Lara Carter from Nagle College the ropes at Bairnsdale Visitor Information Centre during her work placement.

First steps on a career path

Nagle College student, Lara Carter, has become a familiar face at the Bairnsdale Visitor Information Centre, which hosted her during Term 2 of her studies for a work experience placement.

Every Thursday since 28 April, the Year 11 student has taken part in the centre's activities to gain experience in the tourism sector and identify whether it is a career path that she wants to pursue. Lara's final placement day was 23 June.

Lara said she enjoyed learning about the different ways that tourism offerings are marketed and said that while she initially found engaging with customers to be a little challenging, her confidence grew during the placement.

She thanked the staff and volunteers at the centre for their help and for sharing their knowledge and experience with her.

Work placement allows students to observe a workplace environment and learn about the jobs available in a particular type of business or industry. It helps students understand career options and decide on which path suits them. A successful work placement experience can leave a lasting impact on a young person and lead to a bright future in the industry. Employers also benefit by being given the chance to showcase their industry and make a positive connection with

young people. This experience can provide a valuable gateway to our organisation and industry. Students can provide insight for employers and opportunities to grow the mentoring skills of staff.

Work placement is a watch-and-learn program, so students don't undertake activities that require extensive training or experience.

Lara said she recommends other students undertake a placement, saying it has given her a taste of the industry before she undertakes tertiary study in the sector.

"It's also cool to learn about places that I didn't know were here," she said.

Work placement is a structured program run in conjunction with Victorian high schools, and host employers. Programs are flexible and can be run over a five-day period, or one day per week throughout a full term, or optional days in different industries.

So, after nine weeks of working at the Bairnsdale Visitor Information Centre, what is Lara's suggestion for people visiting East Gippsland? "I'd definitely recommend going to Lakes Entrance, as it has so many activities to enjoy."

We welcome applications for work placement. Contact Fee Blevins, Learning and Development Officer at feeb@egipps.vic.gov.au.

\$100m planning boom

Almost \$100 million worth of property development has been approved in our region in the past six months.

During the same period, more than 450 residential lots have been approved in subdivisions.

Mayor Cr Mark Reeves said 99 planning permit applications were lodged in May.

"That is our highest-ever monthly lodgements," Cr Reeves said.

A number of major commercial developments have been approved in the last six to nine months including Metung Hot Springs, the Sailors Grave brewery restaurant at Cape Conran, Tambo Honey in Bruthen, The Servo in Lakes Entrance, an industrial estate in Bairnsdale, and a residential village in Paynesville.

For the past 12 months, our planning team has been issuing more than 150 planning permits each quarter. There have also been about 150 rebuilding projects through the planning process from the bushfires.

"The vast majority of applications are approved. Council and the planning team work hard to balance development with the valid concerns from residents about what is happening in their neighbourhood," Cr Reeves said.

In terms of value, we are approving between \$15 to \$18 million in developments each month.

"The volume of work is certainly challenging for our planning team, but they are keeping up with the workload. Most regional councils are under similar pressure from an influx of people looking to move to the country.

"It is a good sign for the future prosperity of East Gippsland that people want to invest here, build here, live here," Cr Reeves said.

Making our shire naturally better

We've stepped up our protection for East Gippsland's biodiversity, ecology and ecosystems, by adopting a new environmental protection strategy that charts a course for the next decade.

The Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2022-2032

recognises that East Gippslanders love their mountains, beaches and wilderness, and redoubles efforts to conserve and protect the shire's environment. The strategy, adopted by Council on Tuesday 28 June, demonstrates how we can act, inform, educate and lead to conserve our natural assets. Our natural environment contributes to our residents' health and wellbeing, forms part of our cultural identity, and underpins our tourism offerings and much of our economic activity.

Through a combination of proactive planning, suitable and timely design work and strong advocacy, we want to ensure East Gippsland's natural and built environment is sustainable and meets community needs now and well into the future.

The strategy aligns with the Community Vision 2040, developed

with community, and sets out what we want to achieve by 2040. It recognises that a long-term view is needed to achieve strategic outcomes.

The strategy has seven goals:

1. Conservation of the natural environment and biodiversity
2. Sustainable management of natural resources
3. Community participation in the climate response
4. Respect and alignment with the rights of Traditional Owner groups
5. Environmental sustainability supporting sustainable economic growth and new job opportunities
6. Growth in the circular economy
7. Community resilience to respond to increasing climate risks and natural disasters

During development of the Council Plan 2021-24, climate change was recognised by locals as the greatest threat to the shire's natural environment. The Environmental Sustainability Strategy was developed in response to community input into that Council Plan, as well as the Community Vision 2040, various community plans, a workshop with

councillors and extensive public consultation.

Community interest in the development of the strategy was strong, with 472 website visits; 184 downloads of the draft strategy; 55 survey responses and detailed written submissions from individuals and community groups representing 150 members.

As part of our community consultation we offered the chance to win a prize for completing our survey. The lucky winners of our draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2022-2032 survey prizes are: Robert Edis of Lakes Entrance; Lynne Kahsnitz of Eagle Point; and Sally Kendall of Bairnsdale.



FUN FACTS

We've installed 1,130 solar panels on public buildings across the shire. Combined, they save Council \$63,000 a year.

Before you install solar panels, seek a few quotes for the same-sized system so you can compare options. Be wary of cold callers (especially those that want you to sign up within 24 hours) and make sure to ask for Solar Victoria rebates. For more information, see www.solar.vic.gov.au/solar-panel-rebate.

We're switching to cleaner, greener LED streetlights. We're replacing the remaining third of our 4,714 lights and will hit almost 100% by August. It will save us \$228,000 a year and cut about 24,000 tonnes of carbon emissions over 20 years. That's like taking 5,702 cars off the road!

What's on calendar

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



Vic Bream Classic

Vic Bream Classic is Victoria's own catch and release bream tournament series. Anglers with a competitive streak have the opportunity to team up with a mate and put their skills to the test against some of Australia's best bream anglers.

20-21 August 2022

Marlo

[More information>>>](#)



Quad MTB Series

Quad Crown is a multi-event mountain biking competition series held in four locations around Australia, including East Gippsland. The three-stage race will take place in Nowa Nowa, Colquhoun Forest and Mt Taylor.

9-11 September 2022

Nowa Nowa, Colquhoun Forest and Mt Taylor

[More information>>>](#)



Victorian OFFROAD Championship

Victorian OFFROAD Championship is Victoria's premier off-road racing competition. Generally held over 14 rounds, Omeo will be hosting rounds 1 and 2.

12 October 2022

Omeo

[More information>>>](#)

Your Place Managers

Have you heard about our Place Managers?

We have Place Managers working in our bushfire affected communities to provide support and share information as part of the community-led recovery model.

The Place Managers for our districts are:

Bruthen, Clifton Creek and Sarsfield: Kathryn Macdonald

Buchan and Gelantipy: Rebecca Steenholt

Cann Valley: Annie Kentwell

Errinundra to Snowy and Wairewa: Paula Jorgensen

Mallacoota: Meg Allan

Omeo: Helen Sheil

Orbost: Eva Grunden

Place Managers act as a Council representative in our remote and rural communities. They help to:

- build community connections and capacity
- share information and knowledge in order to strengthen community resilience
- improve two-way communication and supporting outcomes between community and council
- provide a platform where community members can articulate their needs and advise how council can support.

Our Place Managers work with Community Recovery Committees, Bushfire Recovery Victoria and other bodies to help communities in their recovery – which is unique to each community and its priorities.

Community Recovery Committees are the local representative groups who work to keep local voices, know-how and expertise front and centre during recovery planning and delivery. With 56 per cent of our municipality burnt in the 2019-20 Black Summer Bushfire events these representative groups have become a crucial part of a community led recovery in the region. For contact details of your Place Manager, Community Recovery Committee or to download the latest newsletter [visit our website](#).

Omeo Region Recovery Update



Omeo Mountain Bike Track
We marked the official start to Government funding for the Omeo Mountain Bike Trails project with a sod turning at Livingstone Park on 10 June. We are contributing \$1.52m to the project, which also received funding from the Victorian Government's Regional Tourism Building Better Regions Fund (\$1.5m) and its Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 (\$1.50m). The Victorian Government's Regional Tourism Building Better Regions Fund is contributing \$1m. Stage 1 will see 5.6 km of the network built. Secretary for Regional Victoria Danielle Green also announced \$3.2 million in funding for the project.

Helen Sheil
Place Manager - Omeo District
(03) 51 0460 / helen@omeo.vic.gov.au

Mallacoota District Recovery Update



Garrae Pedestrian Bridge

The Garrae Pedestrian Bridge is open again!

The new 117 metre footbridge is a key piece of infrastructure for the area. About 150 people joined the Council's 100th Anniversary celebration at the bridge opening on Monday 18 May.

The bridge is an important part of the area and will be used by many people.

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The bridge is an important part of the area and will be used by many people.

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:



California State University Fullerton University Singers

Wednesday 27 July, 7.30 pm

In a celebration of East Gippsland's community spirit and resilience, the 40-person choral ensemble California State University Fullerton University Singers will perform a free community recovery concert.



A taste of Tamworth

Friday 29 July, 7.30 pm

Put three multi-award winners together in one big concert, and you've got a Taste of Tamworth at its best. Golden Guitar winners, Carter & Carter, Jetty Road and Andrew Swift team up to give you an authentic taste of Tamworth - still Australia's biggest country music festival.



Gene & Judy

Sunday 31 July, 2.00 pm

In one brilliant 80-minute song and dance spectacular, Gene & Judy brings together the extraordinary talents of the legendary Gene Kelly and Judy Garland in a spellbinding concert dedicated to these magnificent stars of Hollywood and Broadway's golden age of musicals.



Edward the Emu

Wednesday 3 August, 6.00 pm

Thursday 4 August, 10.30 am and 12 noon (school shows)

The award-winning creative team from Monkey Baa Theatre Company are back with a brand-new take on another much-loved tale, Edward the Emu. More than an adaption, this is a unique imagining of two beloved picture books, Edward the Emu and Edwina the Emu, combining the plights of both emus in one heartfelt, clever and funny new tale.



Grigoryan Brothers - This is Us

Thursday 11 August, 7.30 pm

This is Us is also a personal declaration from Slava and Leonard that this music, composed during lockdown with each living in different states, is a new direction for them. While they have included original compositions in their programs in the past, this is the first time they will be performing an entire program of original works.



Robertson Brothers 1960s Variety TV Show

Sunday 14 August, 3.00 pm

Don't miss this show with special guest Simon Brook McLachlan, from the original cast of the hit musical Jersey Boys.

With a rockin' live band and an amazing multimedia presentation, expect to be entertained by many of the classic hits from the 60's, through the prism of the variety TV show format. You'll travel back in time to embrace and celebrate the hits of these 60's music legends.

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



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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