



An advertisement has appeared in local newspapers this month featuring CEO Anthony Basford and staff and targeted verbal and physical abuse, threats and disrespectful behaviours as unacceptable conduct which can have a major impact on our staff. "We understand that sometimes people will disagree with a decision of Council or how services are provided and to what level, but this doesn't excuse disrespectful and poor behaviour from people," Mr Basford said. See advertisement page 5. PICTURED: Buck Cerridwyn, Warren Shipp, Anthony Basford, Zoe Jennings, Damien Adams, Kimberlee Peterson, Dan Allmonde, Richard Mosley and Michael Jakins taking a stand for zero tolerance to anti-social behaviour.

## Native timber industry position adopted

**Council adopted a formal position on native timber harvesting at its 16 August 16 meeting, forming the basis of continuing advocacy on behalf of the community.**

The position paper responds to the decision by the Victorian Government to phase out native timber harvesting by 2030. It considers the implications for East Gippsland communities and the supply of forest products. It was developed at the request of and with

significant input from Councillors, and following presentations from a range of industry and environmental stakeholders.

The Native Timber Harvesting in East Gippsland position paper outlines that:

- Council supports a high quality, low volume native timber harvesting industry where communities continue to thrive, forests have multiple uses, biodiversity is protected, and

where harvested timber is used for the highest value purposes.

- While recognising there are a wide range of views in relation to native timber harvesting, Council is particularly concerned about the impact of the Victorian Government's decision to cease native timber harvesting by 2030 on businesses, workers and communities.

**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.

# Timber position

## from page 1

- Council advocates that the practice of clear-fell native timber harvesting be replaced as soon as practical with a new approach to silviculture (utilising thinning and select harvest) that maintains or improves forest health and reduces vulnerability to the impacts of bushfire, while also providing sawlogs for timber processing.
- Support for the use of forest resources by a range of other forest users, including tourism and recreation.
- Recognising there are a wide range of views in relation to native timber harvesting the considers:
- The current Victorian Government plan to cease native timber harvesting by 2030 poses a number of significant risks to East Gippsland communities. Similarly, the status quo (continued harvesting) carries a range of risks.
- The native timber industry as an integral part of the history and identity of many East Gippsland communities.
- The Community Vision developed by the community and adopted by Council in 2021, that the environment will be managed and preserved for all generations, and that the economy will support existing and emerging industries by being agile, innovative, and sustainable.

In 2021, Council jointly commissioned a study (Economic Analysis of the Timber Industry) with Wellington Shire Council. Over the last 12 months Councillors and senior officers have visited native timber industry businesses, undertaken a tour of native forests and coupes, and invited presentations from a range of stakeholders including forest managers, academics and environment groups.

The draft position paper also outlines 10 concerns in response to long-term changes in the native timber industry and Victorian Government's 2019 Victorian Forestry Plan. Council also recognises the critical role that forest contractors play in the management of the forests and particularly the prevention and response to bushfire. It is critical for the safety of our communities that access to the contractors, their skills and equipment is maintained.



Mayor Cr Mark Reeves and Deputy Mayor Cr Arthur Allen welcomed grade six students Benjamin Reynolds (Gippsland Grammar) and Cedric Taylor (St Mary's Primary School) to the Council Meeting held on 16 August in Bairnsdale. The young leaders were at the meeting learning about local government and meeting procedure as part of their Junior Rotary Community Award program. The Mayor presented both students with a pin as a memento.



East Gippsland Shire Council Mayor Cr Mark Reeves has been juggling the busy demands of Mayor and his "day job" as the principal of the Alpine School – School for Student Leadership.

Earlier this month, in his role as principal, Mark (second from left) opened the new Don Valley Campus with School Council President Professor Mark Rose, Council member and past student Hana Williamson (daughter of the late Labor Minister Lynne Kosky) and Parliamentary Secretary for Schools the Hon. Tim Richardson MP.

The school – at a cost of \$8.5m and designed by Peter Maddison of Grand Designs Australia fame – is the fourth campus of the Alpine School model in Victoria, building on the original campus at Dinner Plain, and campuses at Marlo (Snowy River campus) and Glenormiston (Gnurad-Gundidj campus). In its 22 years, nearly 10,000 Victorian students have experienced the life-changing learning opportunity provided at one of the campuses. All campuses conduct nine-week live-in leadership and adventure education programs for students in Victorian government schools. Forty-five students are accommodated at each campus, with 18 staff who teach, supervise, and care for them.

Campus principal at Don Valley is former Orbost resident, Michael Heyne.

**Did you know we have a new recycling program?  
You can now drop off your bottles and jars to your  
closest transfer station which will be crushed into  
fine sand for use on our footpaths and roads.**





Mayor Cr Mark Reeves with East Gippsland's newest citizens.

## Our new citizens

**East Gippsland's newest citizens were officially welcomed at Lakes Entrance Mechanic's Hall citizenship ceremony on Thursday 28 July.**

The participants from Britain, China, France, India, Iraq, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Sweden, Thailand, Vietnam and United States formally pledged their commitment to Australia at the citizenship ceremony.

Mayor, Cr Mark Reeves said it's an honour to be part of such a significant day for these residents.

"It's an opportunity for us to give a warm welcome to 37 of our newest citizens and acknowledge the importance of what it means to become a member of the Australian community," Cr Reeves said.

"Citizenship is the common bond uniting all Australians, whether you are an Australian by birth or by choice. Congratulations to those becoming Australian citizens on making their commitment to Australia."

This year, East Gippsland has welcomed 77 new citizens to the region.

The ceremony can be viewed on our **YouTube channel**.



Eshaan Kannan receiving his citizenship certificate from Cr Mendy Urie, Deputy Mayor Arthur Allen and Mayor Cr Mark Reeves.



Cr Mendy Urie, Deputy Mayor Arthur Allen and Mayor Cr Mark Reeves with Hera Doria who was very excited to receive her citizenship.

*Did you know we conduct citizenship ceremonies on behalf of the Commonwealth Government? We hold four ceremonies each year. The next ceremony will be on Australian Citizenship Day in Bairnsdale on Saturday 17 September.*



## Council meeting in brief

At the Council Meeting on Tuesday 26 July, Council:

- Wished Councillor (and former mayor) Mendie Urie a very happy birthday.
- Accepted petitions, questions of Council and public submissions on the East Gippsland Service Centre and Library Review and the Mallacoota Streetscape Upgrade.
- Confirmed and endorsed the nomination of Cr Tom Crook to the Recycling Victoria Local Government Advisory Committee. Councillors noted that Cr Crook is experienced in environmental matters and would take to the committee East Gippsland's unique requirements in relation to both the management of waste and participation in the circular economy.
- Was presented with the draft Media Policy, which outlines how Council manages media communications, relationships with media outlets, stakeholders and community. Councillors opted to further consider the policy before adoption.
- Council endorsed the Independent Review of the East Gippsland Planning Scheme – an independent audit and report which is a requirement of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (the Act), in accordance with section 12B and included consultation with Council officers, regular users of the planning scheme and stakeholders in relation. The review sets the framework for continuous improvement of the planning scheme.

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

# COMMUNITY MEET & GREET



You're invited to have morning tea with the Mayor, Councillors and staff in Lindenow and Bengworden next month to chat directly about projects and issues of interest to your community.

## **Lindenow**

Monday 5 September

10.30 am – 12.00 pm

Lindenow Recreation Reserve, Henry Street, Lindenow

## **Bengworden**

Tuesday 6 September

10.15 am – 11.15 am

Bengworden Community Hall, 1800 Bengworden Road, Bengworden

**Everyone  
welcome!**

**16 August:** Council Meeting, Bairnsdale, 6.00 pm

**6 September:** Council Meeting, Lindenow, 1.30 pm

**5 September:** Meet and Greet, Lindenow,  
10.30 am – 12.00 pm

**17 September:** Citizenship Ceremony, Bairnsdale, 10.00 am

**6 September:** Meet and Greet, Bengworden,  
10.15 am – 11.15 am

**20 September:** Council Meeting, Bairnsdale, 6.00 pm







## Would you accept being

**Treated disrespectfully X**

**Threatened X**

**Verbally abused X**


**Physically abused X**

We understand that people will sometimes disagree with a decision or the level of service Council provides but remember, we:

- ✓ **Have the right to a work environment free from abuse**
- ✓ **Are doing our best to respond to queries and complaints**
- ✓ **Live in and are part of this community**

Disrespectful and poor behaviours can have an impact on Council staff. We are your neighbours, parents of your children's friends, volunteers, sporting teammates, and customers for local businesses.

***To everyone who treats us with respect, thank you.***

 **5153 9500**

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

 **EastGippyShire**

 **PO Box 1618, Bairnsdale 3875**



# Rates and rentals

## It's that time of year again.

Rates notices are rolling out across the shire but this time, you'll find an extra letter in the envelope.

### What is it?

A letter from our Mayor Cr Mark Reeves encouraging property owners to put secondary properties into the local rental market.

### Why?

For many residents in East Gippsland, finding rental accommodation is a challenge.

To support those people in our community, we're encouraging property owners to put secondary properties into the local rental market to assist in resolving the local rental shortage.

Cr Reeves said people are being forced to live in campgrounds because of the lack of rental accommodation and we're hearing from business owners that they can't attract staff because of the lack of housing.

"We have also been made aware of people who would move here if they could find a house," he said.

"An adequate supply of rental accommodation supports local families, and people moving to East Gippsland, often returning 'home'. In turn, it provides local businesses and their workforce security, meaning a positive flow-on effect to service industries that support local families and our economy.

### What are the benefits?

It is an approach taken by other councils with some success. More than 80 homes were made available for rental after the Black Summer Bushfires in the Eurobodalla in response to their Council's request. If that generosity was shown here, many people finding it difficult to get into the rental market, including working families, would benefit. Being a landlord can also make good business sense.

### What are we doing to address the issue?

While we have limited powers to help people impacted by a lack of rental accommodation, we have been proactive in planning, decision making and advocacy to support growth.

Cr Reeves said Council is also advocating strongly to the Victorian Government for immediate action to address the lack of housing in the region in the short to medium term through the provision of temporary housing, pending reconstruction of housing lost during the Black Summer Bushfires.

"I don't make the request lightly. I realise this is a big decision, but by placing your property into the rental market you would be helping your community."

Anyone considering putting a property into the rental market should contact a local real estate agent directly.

## Council meeting in brief - 16 August

- Moved a condolence motion for former Councillor and Mayor, the late Harvey Bates MBE.
- Received petitions relating to Cann River and Noorinbee Storm Water Drainage, East Gippsland Library and Service Centre Review.
- Acknowledged and supported the recommendations contained in the State of the Environment Report released on 19 July 2022 by the Minister for the Environment and Water, and decided to write to the Minister advocating for the implementation of recommendations and that adequate resources are provide to Council to ensure matters of environmental significance with the shire can be appropriately managed.
- Received and noted the bi-annual Audit and Risk Committee report (January-June 2022) and adopted a revised Audit and Risk Committee Charter.
- Added 6 roads in Paynesville, Raymond Island (2), Wiseleigh, Lindenow South and Bairnsdale to Council's Register of Public Roads.
- Awarded a contract extension to RPN Holdings Pty Ltd & Southridge Pty Ltd (Green Care Mulching) for 12 months for green waste processing and removal services.
- Awarded a contract to Cadbuild Constructions Pty Ltd for \$518,733 (ex GST) for a full refurbishment of the existing changerooms, including full redevelopment of the ablutions, independent trainers' room, and coaching room, to support female-friendly facilities at Bairnsdale City oval.
- Awarded a contract for \$1.508 million to Cranes Asphaltting & Bitumen Sealing Pty Ltd for stage two of the reconstruction of Moroney Street, Bairnsdale. Works include new underground drainage, kerb and channel, footpath, parking lanes, tree planting and intersection upgrades.
- Accepted tenders from Cranes Asphaltting & Bitumen Sealing Pty Ltd and Fowlers Asphaltting Pty Ltd (schedule of rates) for three years with the option of two extensions up to 24 months at Council's discretion, for the asphaltting of various roads Council-managed roads in the shire.
- Transferred committee responsibilities for the Beaufort Memorial Gardens (Bairnsdale) from the from the Beaufort Memorial Gardens Committee to the Bairnsdale RSL Sub-branch.
- Affirmed its position that it does not support an amended planning application for a planning permit application for a major promotional sign at Newmerella (current before VCAT).
- Adopted the draft Position Paper – Native Timber Harvesting in East Gippsland.

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





# Collaborating with Bass Coast Council



Councillors visited Bass Coast Shire Council earlier this month to discuss the future of Gippsland tourism, climate change, community resilience, environmental effects and toured coastal erosion sites in Bass Coast.

## International study targets farmers

**International researchers have approached Council to collaborate on worldwide research looking into the impacts of extreme events on agricultural producers.**

Lund University, in conjunction with the University of Montana (United States), is surveying agricultural producers in the United States (Montana), Sweden (Skane), Bangladesh, Cambodia, Martinique and East Gippsland.

Dr Guy Jackson, from Lund University Centre of Sustainable Studies, said they are reaching out to specifically understand the experiences of East Gippsland and Wellington agricultural producers who have experienced extreme weather events, such as drought, heatwaves, floods and bushfires.

"We hope to learn how individuals have experienced extreme events over time, better understand any impacts these events have had on you, your family, and/or your businesses, and who you believe is responsible for their management,"

Dr Jackson said.

"Your responses are important and will help inform our understanding of the impacts of extreme events on Victorian farmers and pastoralists." Mayor Cr Mark Reeves said East Gippsland had a wide range of experiences to share.

"This is a great opportunity for not only our farmers and agribusinesses, but for our region to be included in important international research," Cr Reeves said.

"Having this opportunity for our agricultural sector to share lived experiences of some of the most challenging circumstances with international researchers is testament to what our farmers have been through, their resilience, and that East Gippsland is a valued contributor to this sector.

"We look forward to the findings contributing to science and policy development both locally and internationally."

East Gippsland Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee's Ken Eckersley also welcomed the opportunity.

"I encourage everyone on the land in East Gippsland to participate in this important short survey about experiences of extreme events," Mr Eckersley said.

*If you are a farmer in East Gippsland or Wellington, you are invited to complete the survey and provide your feedback. The survey and related information can be accessed **online**.*



Hard copy surveys are available at our customer service centres and libraries or by contacting our Agricultural Development Officer, Kaylene Wickham.

This research survey follows the East Gippsland Farmer Survey conducted by us last year.

# Snapshot of 2022-23 capital projects

## **Bairnsdale and District - \$16.10m**

Eastwood playground: Construction to commence 2023 financial year  
Port of Bairnsdale: Planning and concept design work is underway  
Bairnsdale City Oval lighting and scoreboard upgrade: Works to be complete by Q4 2023.

Moroney Street, Bairnsdale upgrade (stage 2): Contract awarded and works starting soon.



## **Bruthen and District - \$421,000**

Bruthen streetscape: Planning and design is almost complete. Regional Roads Victoria will deliver the works through 2023.

## **Buchan and District - \$2.09m**

Buchan streetscape: Design and planning is underway – construction to start in 2023.

## **Cann River and District - \$3.60m**

Cann River skatepark upgrade: Concept work being completed with the community. Construction to begin in 2023.

Club Terrace Community Facility: Community consultation on design is occurring. Construction starts in 2023.

## **Lakes Entrance and District - \$5.22m**

Nowa Nowa streetscape: Detailed design underway; construction to begin by the end of 2022

Lakes Entrance Foreshore Park: Designs are endorsed by the Project Reference Group. Following a tender process, construction for delivery during 2023.

Lake Tyers Beach Hall upgrade: Consultation with the committee is complete. Works start in early 2023.

Jemmy's Point (stage 2): – design is underway for the beatification of the lookout at Rotary Park, including a new toilet block. This project will now include the construction of a walking loop track around Kalimna. Works are planned for 2023.

## **Lindenow and District - \$737,000**

Lindenow footpaths: Community consultation on concept designs will begin in coming months. Council is working with Public Transport Victoria and VicRoads to achieve the best community outcome.

Lindenow Recreation Reserve, lighting upgrade: Designs are complete and committee consultation is scheduled. Works will start next year and be complete before the start of the football season.

## **Mallacoota and District - \$1.40m**

Mallacoota Mudbrick Pavilion upgrade: The project will move to detailed design before Christmas.

Mallacoota streetscape: Community consultation is completed, and we are awaiting detailed design. Construction is expected to start early in 2023 after the holiday season.

Mallacoota Foreshore Holiday Park toilet blocks: Block 1 will be upgraded this financial year. Work will be scheduled around peak periods.





### Metung and District - \$1.61m

Chinamans Creek, Metung toilet upgrade: Works have started with completion expected mid-2023.

Shaving Point, Metung boat ramp upgrade: Concept designs are complete and engagement with the community representatives' group will begin shortly.

Nungurner Road safety improvements: Funded under the Federal Government's Black Spot Program.

Works will be scheduled in early 2023 and include the installation of new dragon's teeth line marking on corner approaches and improved delineation.

### Omeo and District - \$6.46m

Swifts Creek Recreation Reserve upgrade: Undertaken in stages. Netball courts to begin by end of 2022.

The pavilion is still in design and expected to be a 2023 construction project.

Omeo Recreation Reserve upgrade netball and tennis court: Contract awarded and construction to begin shortly.

Omeo Mountain Bike Trails (stages 1 and 2): Stage 1 construction is underway with Stage 2 to follow. First trails expected to be open mid-2023.

Other complementing projects, bridges, paths, toilet blocks are in the final design stages and will be constructed throughout 2023 and 2024.



### Orbost and District - \$907,000

Forest Park, Orbost upgrade: Concept designs and community consultation is complete, and this project will now move to detailed design. Construction commences in the second quarter of 2023.

Bemm River footpaths: Due to vegetation impacts, a review of design alignment of the paths is underway. Community will be engaged before construction works commence in 2023.

Sydenham Inlet Road safety improvements: Funded under the Federal Government's Black Spot Program.

Works include line marking and dragon's teeth on corner approaches, warning and delineation signs and guideposts.

### Paynesville and District - \$5.72m

Eagle Point Foreshore Hub: Construction is starting shortly with completion expected mid-2023.

To see the final designs, go to YourSay.

Raymond Island Community Hall extension: Designs have been sent to the committee for review. Construction will likely commence late 2022.

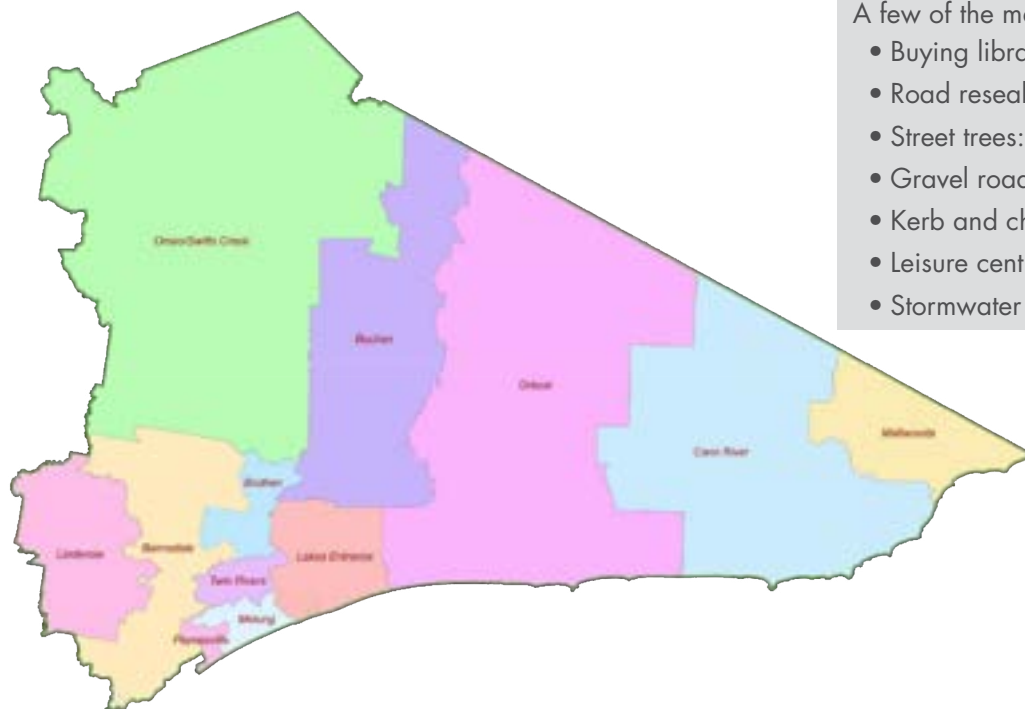
Slip Road Maritime Precinct, Paynesville, including repair to the Harbour Seawall: Detailed design for the engineering of the seawalls is underway. Specialist geotechnical experts have been engaged to help.

### Shire-wide projects - \$19.47 million

Funding for projects and programs that cover multiple districts.

A few of the many shire-wide items are:

- Buying library resources: \$200,000
- Road resealing: \$3.82m
- Street trees: \$50,000
- Gravel road renewal: \$1.20m
- Kerb and channel replacement: \$400,000
- Leisure centre equipment renewal: \$52,000
- Stormwater infrastructure: \$845,000





Spring sale season means a hive of activity at the East Gippsland Livestock Exchange. However, before sales are held, significant preparation work is completed to ensure livestock welfare and sale success. Read story on following page.

## Biosecurity focus for Foot and Mouth

**The region's farmers can rest assured that we've been proactively preparing for any impacts related to the overseas spate of Foot and Mouth (FMD).**

Following a briefing by Agriculture Victoria on the risk and effects FMD could have on the farming industry across Victoria, we have moved to reassure farmers we're doing everything we can to ensure we're fully prepared, should an outbreak occur.

Mayor Cr Mark Reeves said Council manages the East Gippsland Livestock Exchange and annually reviews and updates its Livestock Standstill Plan as part of its annual auditing process.

"The East Gippsland Livestock Exchange prides itself on its biosecurity practices and has been proactive in preparation for any outbreak related to FMD," Cr Reeves said.

"The facility has a saleyard standstill plan and all agents who sell through the yards have been briefed on its detail. Staff are in the process of sourcing equipment

such as foot baths and PPE to ensure they are fully resourced if an outbreak occurs.

"We understand the key to our regions biosecurity is livestock traceability; all livestock that are sold or go through our yards in transit are traceable via the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS).

"This ensures the facility is, and remains, one of the safest and most bio-secure facilities in the region. We're also encouraging all farmers remain vigilant in their NLIS practices and ensure their farm biosecurity plans are up to date.

"We all need to make sure we're prepared to take the appropriate action when required to protect our livestock industry from an outbreak."

For more information about Foot and Mouth Disease and the precautions you can take, please visit the **Agriculture Victoria website.**

For upcoming webinars AgVic webinars on the matter, **visit their events page.**

- Victoria is the largest producer of food and fibre products in Australia, with a gross value of agricultural production of more \$15.9 billion per annum.
- Victoria's livestock industries have a high dependence on export markets, with 70 per cent of livestock products exported.

**DID YOU  
KNOW?**



# Preparation puts a spring in sales

**Spring sale season is in full swing at the East Gippsland Livestock Exchange and to ensure well-presented cattle and successful sales is the preparation and condition of the yards.**

Our livestock exchange team takes great pride in the preparation and presentation of the saleyards year-round, but ahead of the spring sales season the yards receive extra attention.

The saleyards offer soft flooring, and the livestock welfare benefits are significant in comparison to concrete flooring. With curfews to ensure cattle are yarded for six hours prior to weighing and remain until departure after the sale, they could be standing for up to 24 hours. Soft flooring is also instrumental in biosecurity. Should there be any diseased cattle in the yards, the floor can be removed and replaced to make the area safe and useable again, eliminating the risk of further contamination or disease spread, and reducing the impact on the industry and economy.

East Gippsland's spring sales are some of the biggest on the region's livestock market calendar, attracting hundreds of buyers from around Victoria and interstate, vendors from all corners of East Gippsland and further afield, and onlookers making for a great social occasion. Regular market days are also held weekly with other feature sales throughout the year.

## **Soft floors equal happy cattle**

The livestock exchange team's work starts well ahead of sale day.

With 14 lanes of pens, replacing the soft floor is completed in stages to ensure all scheduled sales continue uninterrupted.

The first stage is to rip up the old soft floor and turn it over to dry out. Most of the old soft floor material is removed. It is nutrient rich and makes a high-quality organic garden soil mix which is on-sold to local contractors (to off-set the cost of new sawdust).

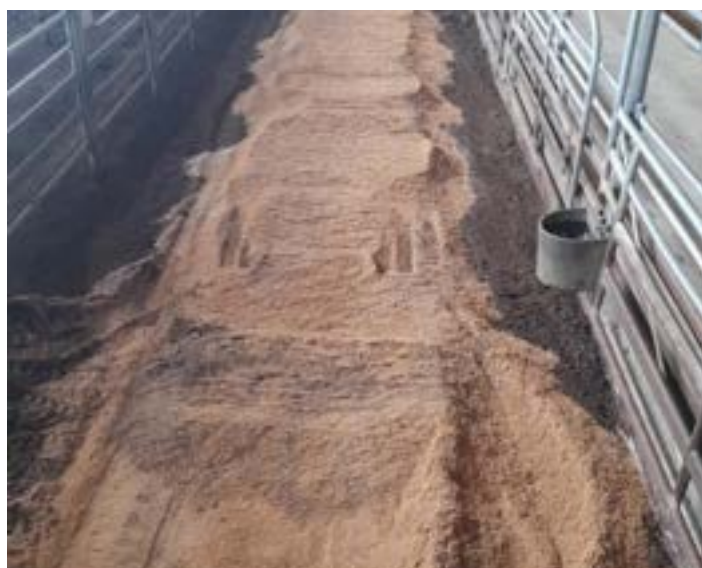
A thick layer of new sawdust is then spread and mixed with the remaining product by livestock movements, and the pens have a fresh new floor!

The frequency of refurbishment works is dependent on livestock throughput numbers - the more cattle sold the more often the floor is replaced.

This work was previously undertaken by a contractor, however with a new skid steer machine and by holding onto the old machine for a little longer, Council has saved a minimum of \$8,000 by completing this recent work with internal staff.



*Ripping up and remove the old soft floor material ready to be replaced.*



*Spreading fresh sawdust to refurbish yards.*



*The pile of new sawdust and the nutrient-rich organic material removed from the yards.*

# Can you identify asbestos?

**Asbestos can be difficult to recognise and should be handled with care to avoid risk of exposure.**

Asbestos is present in millions of Australian homes and can easily be disturbed when doing renovations or maintenance. If a home was built or renovated prior to 1990, there is a very good chance it has some asbestos. Unfortunately, our staff have recently found asbestos dumped in green waste and in household recycle bins.

To protect yourself and our waste site staff, please make sure that all asbestos is disposed of according to safe asbestos handling regulations and preferably through a licensed asbestos remover.

Asbestos can be found throughout your property in such things as:

- Backing for tiles and splashbacks
- Cement roofing, gutters and downpipes
- Fencing
- Insulation in roofs and conduits
- Meter boards
- Outbuildings such as gardens sheds and the outdoor toilet
- Underneath carpet or vinyl flooring
- Wall cladding and ceilings.

In East Gippsland, asbestos can only be disposed of at Bairnsdale Landfill and deliveries must be booked.

For more information on safe removal and disposal of asbestos visit [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au) and [epa.vic.gov.au](http://epa.vic.gov.au)

And remember, if in doubt, use a licensed asbestos remover.



## Coota certification take off

**Mallacoota Airport is the focus of Council and community discussions with Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) after a CASA change saw the aerodrome lose certification.**

While the airport continues to serve as a reliable hub for Angel Flight, police, fire emergency support and ambulance services, as well other users, concerns have been raised about the recent loss of CASA certification. We recently joined with representatives of the Mallacoota community and local MPs to meet with CASA senior executives.

The meeting agreed that CASA and our staff would meet as a matter of urgency and take the appropriate steps to transition Mallacoota Airport to certification and restore the airfield to pre-existing service levels.

CASA and Council expect to be in a position to report back to the community and the aviation sector within two weeks on any further action required, and likely timelines to achieve certification.

Mallacoota Airport remains open and functional and will continue to be operational while the discussions continue around the restoration of Instrument Flight Procedures and certain Notice to Airmen functions.

Council has also sought reassurances that specialised

helicopter operations such as the Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) remain able to use instrument procedures.

The airport currently accommodates:

- Emergency services such as Air Ambulance Victoria, Victorian Police (VICPOL) and firefighting support
- Recreational flying
- Charter flights
- Angel Flight services

Mallacoota is not the only airport impacted by the CASA change.



Aerial view of Mallacoota Airport





Community Laws Officers Chris Boyer, Zoe Jennings with Keeva, Buck Cerridwyn with Moose and Jody Haberfield.

# Getting to know...Zoe Jennings, Community Laws Officer and pet adopter

**Zoe Jennings, a sixth generation East Gippslander, has been a community laws officer with Council for almost eight years, and has recently adopted a dog from Bairnsdale Animal Aid.**

**Firstly, tell us how you became a 'pet adopter'**

Working as a local laws officer/ranger with Council I work closely with the staff at Animal Aid. As an animal lover I could have adopted 100 dogs and cats by now, but Moose was 'the one' I couldn't resist and had to have him, so I applied and was successful.

**Tell us a bit about yourself and more about Moose.**

I grew up in East Gippsland and I'm sixth generation on my family farm at Broadlands so very local, I have been with Council for almost eight years as a local laws officer.

Moose was 10 weeks old when I adopted him so is about eight or nine months old now. We have two other large breed dogs who he adores. He doesn't know he is small and tries very hard to be the

boss and regularly steals food from our Labrador. He has been a great addition to our fur family on the farm and my two young daughters love him to bits.

**What do you enjoy most about your role?**

Doing something different nearly every day, being regularly challenged mentally interpreting law and, whenever possible, being able to help the community.

**What's the most challenging thing you face in your line of work?**

People not understanding what we actually do as local laws officers and having to see animals in horrible situations.

**What do you like most about working and living in East Gippsland?**

I love being in the country and having so many wonderful areas so close like the mountains, beach and bush.

**What are the top three things about adopting a pet?**

1. Not contributing to back yard breeding.

2. Having all the vet work done and knowing the animal is healthy and temperament tested.

3. Support from Animal Aid.

**What should you look out for when adopting a pet – your top three tips?**

1. Spend time with the animal to see if you and your family click and they will fit with your lifestyle.
2. Research the breed you might adopt.
3. Animals can sometime change once you get them home it can take a few months for them to decompress and feel comfortable.

**Where can people go for more information about adopting a pet?**

Animal Aid's website or call in to have a chat with the lovely staff.

For more information **visit the Animals and Pets page our website** or go to the **Animal Aid website**.



Councillors met with DoT's Gippsland representatives Pas Monacella, Manager Development and new Regional Director Beth Liley, to advocate on the shire's priorities and works in the pipeline for East Gippsland.

## Driving regional road and transport upgrades

A productive meet and greet with the Department of Transport last month...

A few items on our advocacy agenda that were discussed:

✓ Great Alpine Road upgrade

- ✓ Benambra-Corryong Road sealing of remaining gravel section
- ✓ Marlo Road upgrade
- ✓ Mitchell River Bridge duplication and improvements to the eastern approaches to Bairnsdale
- ✓ Bullumwaal Road upgrades.

## One down, one to go

Stage 1 construction of Bullock Island Bridge is now complete with one newly completed lane now open to traffic.

And even better news is that the project is on track for completion by December 2022, in time for the busy tourist season.

The footpath will remain closed due to nearby construction activity.



## Bloomin' lovely

Our Parks & Gardens crews have been enjoying the winter sun, pruning the hundreds of roses in many of the townships. Pruning roses is a labour of love. It takes years of shaping to get a consistent form, starting with the removal of dead, diseased, and any crossing wood. Once this is done, the eventual shape then presents itself. When the new foliage eventually comes, the crew will keep an eye out for any pests and diseases that may emerge such as aphids and black spot. At this stage, the plants will be given a good dose of nutrients to help them bloom.





## A playful space

Plans for an exciting new project are underway in East Bairnsdale.

We've engaged the community on the concept planning phase for the Hoddinott Reserve upgrade. Plans are to create a recreational destination for the local community with contemporary and interactive play facilities, new seating amenities and landscaping to reinvigorate and enhance the reserve. This will include an accessible and inclusive play space for 4-12 years of age, shade tree planting and soft landscaping and picnic facilities. We're excited!



## Energising our community

Lakes Entrance Secondary College students in years 8 - 10 and VCAL have been boosting their energy levels of late, as part of a community program where they get to make use of the Lakes Aquadome facilities to work out.

Designed to get students out of the classroom and interested in exercise, each school group has been hitting the gym and pool at the centre twice a week for an hour-long session. The first half of the eight-week program has proven popular, having a positive impact on the teenagers' mental and physical health, while picking up new skills for the future.

## Connecting communities

A step in the right direction! A Heritage Victoria permit for the proposed shared path project linking the Buchan township to the Caves Reserve information centre was recently granted.

This is a significant milestone for the Buchan Linkages and Streetscape Project, which has seen many months of collaboration between Council, Heritage Victoria, Parks Victoria and GLaWAC to achieve.

Works will likely get underway mid-October with a finishing date of April 2023.

For more, visit <https://yoursay.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/buchan-streetscape>

## An efficient upgrade

The new recycling centre shed at the Lakes Entrance Transfer Station was erected earlier this month, as part of the site's upgrade project. The improvements will enable a more efficient traffic flow through the site and assist in diverting recyclable material from landfill. Win win!



# Let's get 'Live and Local'

**Calling all East Gippsland musicians, venues and live music fans – we want you to help it foster a more lively local music scene, support home-grown talent and turn our shire into a live entertainment destination.**

We will be hosting 'East Gippsland Live and Local', a program delivered in partnership with the NSW Live Music Office that will serve up professional development workshops, a local industry forum and even music micro-festival events. The initiative will play an important role in getting bands and musicians new and old into our pubs, bars and halls and provide a boost to the towns that host our local talents.

The first event to be held will be the East Gippsland Local Music Industry Forum, on Tuesday 23 August from 5.30pm at Albert & Co in Lakes Entrance.

To have your say at the forum, head to [www.trybooking.com/CBQNY](http://www.trybooking.com/CBQNY).

For more information and to register your interest in the wider East Gippsland Live and Local program, including professional development workshops and micro-festivals, contact us.



*Have you signed up to our East Gippsland Music Database of musicians and venues? The database will help you find and book performers for events and help musicians connect with the public, find new gigs and grow their fan bases. To register visit [bit.ly/eglivelocal](http://bit.ly/eglivelocal) or contact us.*

## School zone safety



**Keeping children safe as they travel to and from school is everyone's responsibility - and observing reduced-speed zones near schools plays an important role.**

Research has shown reducing vehicle speeds to 40km/h or less reduces the chance of an incidents and significantly reduces the level of injury if a child is struck by a vehicle. We're now able to offer schools the chance to use a trailer-mounted electronic message signboard to display a 40km/h speed limit sign

and caution drivers to slow down at school drop-off and pick-up times.

This trailer will be sited at schools across the shire and will display a 'School Zone Ahead' message and 40km/h limit sign to remind drivers of the importance of travelling at a safe speed around children.

The signage trailer is currently at Bairnsdale Secondary College but will move around a scheduled circuit of schools. The schedule may be altered to meet the needs of schools that have increased concerns about speeding motorists.

## North Arm Boat Ramp upgrade complete

**North Arm Boat Ramp, Lakes Entrance, is ready to welcome boaters after a significant upgrade, which has made the area even more of a must-visit fishing destination.**

The upgrade includes replacement of the ramp and concrete apron, new jetties, a floating pontoon and a fixed jetty – and make it safer to get out on the water at one of the busiest boat ramps in our shire.

Lakes Entrance is one of the state's most iconic boating destinations and recreational fishing economy there is key to the community.

"Whether it's in the Gippsland Lakes, or offshore catching game fish, this new ramp and infrastructure such as the weigh gantry will serve our community and visitors very well, and in turn, support businesses. I thank the Victorian Government for its investment in this project," Mayor Cr Mark Reeves said.

Due to some supply chain issues, there are a few minor items to be completed. These are the installation of solar lighting, rubber fenders, ladders and grated deck panels. When Council has all materials, it will complete these installations in one go.

The work complements work being done by the Victorian Fisheries Authority to return the lakes to a recreational fishing mecca through the Gippsland Lakes Recreational Fishery Plan – and includes the removal of commercial netting.

The \$677,000 project was funded by Council, the Victorian Government (\$47.2 million) and the Australian Government (\$3.47 million via a Recreational Fishing and Camping Facilities grant).



# Business program reaps big results

**Some businesses in East Gippsland have collectively made \$5.4 million in productivity improvements thanks to their participation in the Grow Your Business Group Program.**

The program delivered simple, measurable and effective business improvement training opportunities at no cost to the businesses. Multiple employees from each business participated in the course, which centered around group learning and incorporating projects focused on business needs to transfer learning into the business.

The \$5.4m in savings is the best result from the four occasions when we have run the program.

Marking the end of this year's program at an event on 27 July were 11 participating businesses.

Cr Jane Greacen OAM attended on behalf of the Mayor and said Council recognises the importance the manufacturing sector plays in supporting the East Gippsland economy.

"Manufacturing is one of East Gippsland's largest sectors with a number of very important small and medium size manufacturing businesses supporting our economy. Implementing changes that have saved these businesses a combined \$5.4m is incredible.

"The program was an overwhelming success and the feedback we've had from the participants about the impact it has made on their individual businesses

is very positive," Cr Greacen said.

The program is part of the Australian Small Business Improvement Groups (ASBIG) model and was delivered by OPTIM Improvement.

Lynden Kennedy from Kennedy Trailers said the program was a great alternative to the full lean manufacturing course he had completed in the past.

"This course was all the big lean manufacturing concepts and ideas in a much shorter, concentrated course. It works really well for bringing new employees up to speed quickly, while keeping the company lean and innovative for the future," Mr Kennedy said.

One of the participants representing ZCG said the ASBIG program helped them make many improvements throughout their production area.

"We implemented what we have learnt in this course, cutting down wastage and making every job/task easier and more enjoyable. I'd strongly recommend this course to all local businesses," the spokesperson said.

Wood Street Windows' Julie Barling said her business was always evolving and inviting outside knowledge as it is an everchanging and demanding industry.

"It has been fantastic to be a part of the ASBIG training program. The staff have gained a lot of knowledge and have grown in confidence in making and implementing change in our environment,



*It was all smiles when Ray Clark from Optim Improvement and Cr Jane Greacen OAM presented Ebony Baker and Aaron Barling from Pelz Haulage with their certification of completing the course.*

using tools learnt from the course," Ms Barling said.

"This is a course any business can be involved in and gain knowledge and better their processes and productivity just like we have. Thank you to both ASBIG and the East Gippsland Shire for allowing us to be a part of it.

Cr Greacen said Council was very pleased with the level of engagement from the participants.

"We appreciate the commitment from the businesses involved in the program – especially in these trying times where the pandemic and isolation requirements posed challenges the program had never seen before."

Workshop facilitator, Ray Clark from Optim Improvement, said the course had four false starts in 2021 due to lockdowns.

"We eventually started with an online program via Zoom for the businesses that wanted to start making improvements immediately. In 2022, the businesses suffered from labour shortages, sickness and isolating and

the inability to recruit new employees," Mr Clark said.

"On top of this there were supply shortages and delays and even unseasonal weather all making it a difficult period. Amazingly, most of the businesses were able to make substantial improvements to productivity, cost reduction and shortening lead times. This in part was due to the ASBIG program having a small amount of targeted training, the use of simple techniques that were time efficient, and an emphasis on simplicity and easy to implement solutions."

We're looking forward to continuing similar small business programs to further assist local industries into the future, by enabling businesses to learn the necessary skills and techniques to optimise their businesses through simple actions that require little capital investment.

For more information on future business development programs, please subscribe to our **Business Connect newsletter.**

# Keeping up appearances

## Love a good makeover? We do!

We also love supporting local businesses, which is what we've been doing as part of the Shopfront Improvement Rebate Program.

Thanks to a funding hit from Regional Development Victoria, some of our favourite East Gippsland businesses have been able to festoon their facades and help enhance the overall appearance of the local area.

The program has assisted 52 successful businesses across the shire so far, with a rebate of up to \$2,000 per business. Works have included new and upgraded signage, repainting of facades, landscaping, light fittings, new windows and doors to name a few.

Other types of projects that are considered for funding include:

- shopfront displays,
- new/improved external signage,
- painting of the shopfront/façade,
- minor repairs to structural façade elements,
- awnings and verandas,
- installation of store lighting visible from the street,
- improved accessibility.

The project also delivered one-on-one visual merchandising to more than 20 businesses across the region, with further support still ongoing. For more information, **email Anne Kaiser.**



Before: Holston building, Omeo



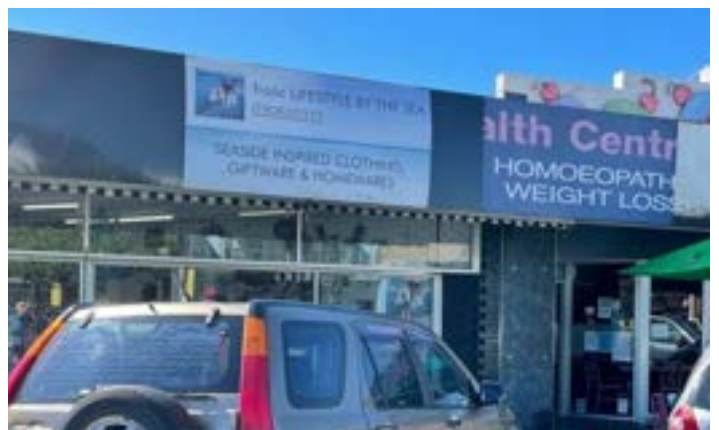
After: Holston building, Omeo



Before: The Long Paddock, Lindenow



Before: The Long Paddock, Lindenow



Before: Frolic, Lakes Entrance



After: Frolic, Lakes Entrance



East Gippsland  
**YOUTH ART PRIZE**

Entries close on  
Tuesday 11 October  
For more information  
[www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/community/youth](http://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/community/youth)

**NOW OPEN**

Calling Creative artists aged 12- 25 years in East Gippsland.

Artworks can include drawings, paintings, photographs, digital illustrations or 3D visuals and short 2 – 3 minute films. Photographs of larger physical works will be accepted.

Cash prizes will be up for grabs for winners and runners up in each age group.

*Start preparing now!*

**Need more information?**  
Lilly Hodge Youth Engagement Officer or Andrea Court  
Arts and Culture Coordinator  
Phone: 03 5153 9500

Brave Arts, YOUTH AMBASSADORS, and other logos.

## A team effort on climate

**Cold isn't it! The chilly mornings across our shire are enough to create a bit of confusion between weather and climate.**

Weather is all about short-term conditions (our cold mornings) while climate is the average daily weather for an extended period. So even though it's frosty outside, we have a climate problem.

Climate change is having a significant impact on our shire and needs to be managed, so we're in talks with Wellington, South Gippsland and Latrobe councils to form the Gippsland Climate Action Alliance (GACA). Baw Baw Shire Council is also intending to join soon. There are already climate and greenhouse alliances across the rest of Victoria. Climate Change Alliances are formal partnerships of local governments driving climate change action across Victoria's 79 municipalities.

The Alliances work across their networks, communities and partners to deliver regional mitigation and adaptation programs, including the implementation of joint initiatives at a scale typically beyond the reach of individual councils, such as the Victorian Energy Collaboration - the largest emissions-reduction project undertaken by

local government; electric vehicle charging networks; and bulk LED streetlights changeovers.

Find out more about Victorian Greenhouse Alliances on their [website](#).

The Alliances will assist us to deliver on our climate change commitments outlined in the **Council Plan 2021-25** and the recently adopted **Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2022-32**.

We thank the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DEWLP) for providing establishment funding and GCCN for undertaking the role of auspice.





Crs Mendy Urie, Kirsten Van Diggele and Arthur Allen (Deputy Mayor), Sean Phillipson (EGCMA), Crs Mark Reeves (Mayor) and Trevor Stow, Bec Hemming (EGCMA), Darrin McKenzie (DELWP), Jeremy Neilson (DELWP), Cr Tom Crook, and (on screen) Crs Sonia Buckley and Jane Greacen discuss the health of the Gippsland Lakes.

## Waterways health in spotlight

**East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning met with Councillors this month to discuss erosion issues and the general health of the Gippsland Lakes.**

A range of topics were covered, including the regulatory framework created by the Marine and Coastal Act, some recent collaborative programs looking at coastal erosion issues, information regarding the health of the Lakes and the role of each agency.

Councillors meeting with the EGCMA and DELWP aligns with our **advocacy strategy**, which seeks greater support for data on the health of the Gippsland Lakes.

To learn more, download the **Love Our Lakes Environment Report**.

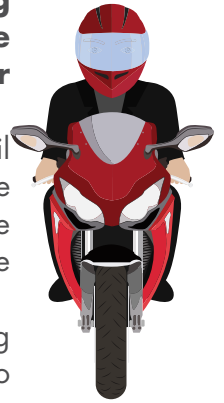
## Tribute ride returns

**We're excited to be welcoming the Barry Sheene Tribute Ride back to East Gippsland after two-year hiatus.**

Mayor Cr Mark Reeves said Council was delighted to be welcoming the return of the popular event, and the economic and social benefits the ride brings to the region.

"Council plays an active role in having the event start in Bairnsdale and also provides \$2,000 in sponsorship," Cr Reeves said.

"The tribute ride has been an incredible event raising funds for charity over the past 18 years. It's also a fantastic way to showcase East Gippsland, as riders not only stop and spend in our towns but also enjoy some of the great touring roads and hospitality our region affords.



*For those interested in seeing the spectacle of bikes, riders will be leaving Service Street, Bairnsdale, at 8am on Thursday, October 13, before leaving for Phillip Island.*

"As someone who enjoys getting out on the open road myself, I know our region's touring routes are a drawcard. It's a great sight to see all the motorcycle enthusiasts in East Gippsland in the lead up and following the MotoGP."

To participate in the ride, register online at the MotoGP **website**.

*Barry Sheene Tribute Ride returns in October, starting in Bairnsdale to Phillip Island raising funds for cancer charities.*

## LED streetlights lighting the way

**We're just weeks away from achieving 100 per cent LED streetlighting across the shire! That's over 1,600 lights that we've upgraded.**

Streetlights are Council's biggest electricity user, so the LEDs, which use significantly less energy, will save \$228,000 in ratepayer money annually.

East Gippsland, South Gippsland and Wellington Shire councils took a collaborative approach to replacing high-energy streetlights with LEDs.

Now, East Gippsland only has four locations left to switch over, including 31 decorative lights in Eastwood.

The new LEDs reduce energy consumption and maintenance costs, last longer and provide a more

even light than the old bulbs, and the project across the three shires will cut 25,000 tonnes of greenhouse emissions by 2040.

And better still, the old lights are being recycled: the glass is turned into products such as glass wool insulation for homes; the mercury is distilled and reused in the dental industry to manufacture amalgam; and the aluminium bodies, steel screws and copper wires are cast into ingots for use in industry. That means only 2 per cent goes to landfill.

The project is fully funded by the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program – Phase 2.



# 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.



## Metung Food, Wine & Wellness Festival

Showcasing the spectacular array of East Gippsland's best food and wine, the Metung Food, Wine & Wellness Festival is on again at the Metung Hot Springs. You will also be able to indulge in wellness at its finest.

**30 October 2022**

**Metung Hot Springs**

[More information>>>](#)



## Wild Harvest Seafood Festival

The Wild Harvest Seafood Festival is a food and wine event highlighting the unique abundance and variety of seafood in East Gippsland. The event runs for 3 days with a program encompassing markets, workshops, forums and more.

**11-13 November 2022**

**Mallacoota**

[More information>>>](#)



## SuperTrail East Gippsland

SuperTrail East Gippsland is part of the SuperTrail running events across Australia. This running event is held over 2.5 days and features trails from the family-friendly 2km tracks to a challenging 55km trail. Prize money available.

**18-20 November 2022**

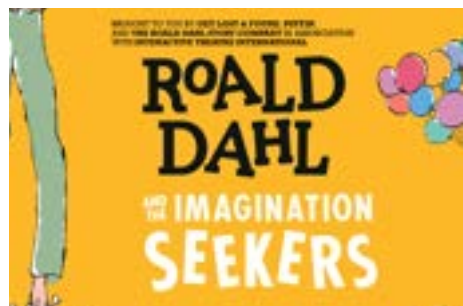
**Mitchell River National Park**

[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:



## Roald Dahl and the Imagination Seekers

**Saturday 3 September, 11.00 am**

A family show inspired by the works of Roald Dahl. All around the world Roald Dahl's words are disappearing, not only from books but children's minds too! Now only an organisation known as the ancient guild of tale tenders can save the stories and they need your help.



## Bach to Broadway

**Sunday 4 September, 2.00 pm**

The classics from J.S Bach through to contemporary Broadway Hits. This new production from Promac will highlight some of the classic opera songs from all the great European Opera Houses and wind its way through to contemporary Broadway hits from the 'City that Never Sleeps'... New York. As well as the fascinating story behind some of the world's most loved songs and their composers.



## Summer of the Seventeenth Doll

**Thursday 15 September, 7.30 pm**

Ray Lawler's much-loved tale of two Queensland cane cutters who, for 16 years, has travelled back to Melbourne for five months of partying and romance with their barmaid girlfriends. This 2021 production of the Australian classic *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* celebrates the 66th Anniversary of this iconic play.

**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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community newsletter*

