



Australia Day Awards celebrated

Our East Gippsland Shire Australia Day Awards tapped into the Australia Day theme of 'We're all part of the story – reflect, respect, celebrate'.

Held in Newlands Arm for the first time, the awards included a Welcome to Country by well-respected Gunaikurnai community member Kaylene Williamson, a flag unfurling by the Bairnsdale Scouts and Paynesville Sea Scouts, entertainment by East Gippsland Brass, and an Australia Day address from local ambassador, Helen Martin.

The Newlands Arm Residents and Ratepayers Association kept sausages and bacon and egg rolls sizzling throughout the morning and a local coffee van had a busy time making coffees.

Mayor Cr Mark Reeves was impressed by the calibre and contributions of the nominees and winners.

"These individuals represent everything great about our region and about being Australian," Cr Reeves said.

"Despite different backgrounds, talents and interests, each has contributed to our community. They are wonderful role models for our region and very much deserving of this special honour.

"The quality of nominations was fantastic. Hats off to all



East Gippsland Shire Citizen of the Year, Simon Hof of Sarsfield (right), with Mayor Cr Mark Reeves.

finalists and to everyone who took the time to nominate such worthy people and events this year," Cr Reeves said. A video of the awards presentation is available on our YouTube channel at [youtube.com/EastGippyTV](https://www.youtube.com/EastGippyTV)
More page 4.



More than 150 people celebrated the outstanding contribution of individuals and community events at the annual Australia Day Awards, held at Newlands Arm Community Centre on Saturday 21 January. For more, see page 4.

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.



The 32 conferees with Mayor Cr Mark Reeves and Tim Bull MP after becoming Australian citizens.

32 new Aussies on Australia Day

East Gippsland's newest citizens have been officially welcomed at an Australia Day citizenship ceremony on 26 January in Bairnsdale.

The 32 conferees from Britain, Canada, Denmark, Greece, India, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland and Switzerland formally pledged their commitment to Australia in front of a large crowd of more than 120 family and friends at St Mary's Parish Centre.

Mayor, Cr Mark Reeves said citizenship ceremonies are one of his favourite events.

"It's a joyful occasion for families and friends, as well as the conferees, who have chosen Australia as the place they want to call home," Cr Reeves said.

"Citizenship represents a commitment to Australia and its people, the values we share, and our common future and the ceremony is an opportunity for all Australian citizens to affirm this commitment.

"Our newest citizens represent a wide range of backgrounds and ages. Some have lived in East Gippsland or Australia for many years, while others are more recent arrivals to our great country. Congratulations to those becoming Australian citizens on making their commitment to Australia."

- >>> [Watch the ceremony](#)
- >>> [Read more and view the photo gallery](#)



Sale Useni and Amanda Vowell, with children Maya-Lise and Xavier Useni-Vowell, all became Australian citizens on Australia Day.



The Abejuela family – Vince, Melanie, Vivienne, Kirk and Vaughn.



Kylie Clack, of Paynesville, with Member for Gippsland East Tim Bull (left) and Mayor Cr Mark Reeves.

Upcoming meetings

Tuesday 28 February

Tuesday 21 March

Tuesday 11 April

Council meetings are open to the public and residents are encouraged to take part through the question time portion of the meeting. Meetings are held at the Corporate Centre, 273 Main Street, Bairnsdale and start at 6pm and are streamed live on Council's website. The agenda is available the Friday before each meeting.





Kylie Pinkerton (Library Program Team Leader), young gardener Eliza Miller, Fiona Miller (Library Officer), Grace McCaughey (Seed Library volunteer and library member) and Mayor Cr Mark Reeves at the launch of the Seed Library at Bairnsdale Library.

Get your garden growing with Seed Library

Interested in growing your own herbs and vegetables but not sure where to start?

Borrow your way to a productive garden with our new Seed Library available at the Bairnsdale Library.

Mayor, Cr Mark Reeves, Bairnsdale Library staff, community member Grace McCaughey and volunteers launched a Seed Library in December. As part of a wide range of library programs, the new Seed Library is a free borrowing service for budding and experienced gardeners alike, where you can:

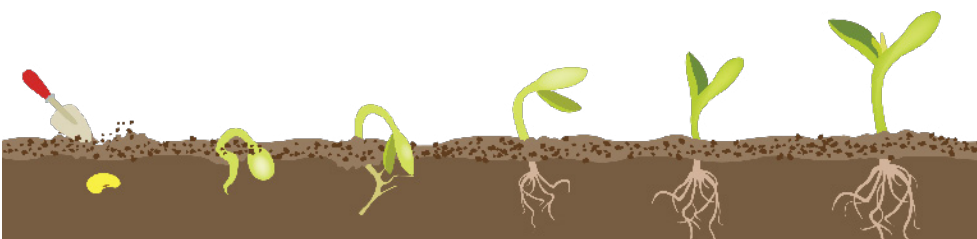
- Borrow up to three packets of seeds (appropriate for the season) at a time
- Plant the seeds in your garden and watch them grow
- Donate any saved seeds back to the Seed Library for the next person to borrow.

"The Seed Library has many benefits including the role gardening can play in our wellbeing, encourages people to grow their own food (which also helps with living expenses), creates connections with others and it's just another reason to visit the Bairnsdale Library," Cr Reeves said.

"This initiative wouldn't be possible without the support from local supplier Goodman Seeds, who has donated many of the seeds to get the library started; library member and Seed Library expert Grace McCaughey; and staff at the Bairnsdale Library."

More information >>>

Any library member can request up to three packets of seeds which include vegetables, herbs or flowers. Seeds are suitable for planting in a backyard garden, small balcony, or even in a recycled planter on a windowsill.



Council meeting in brief

At the 7 February Council meeting, Council:

- Awarded a contract to build a new community facility at Club Terrace – the old building being destroyed in the 2019-20 bushfires. The new building will be used for training; telehealth; Red Cross services; Royal Flying Doctor Service; bush nurse attendance and more. It will have full connectivity to communications and backup power with an allocated generator and Sky Muster system.
- Resolved, via an amended motion, to issue a notice of decision to grant a subdivision permit for a two-lot subdivision in Carpenter Street, Lakes Entrance.
- Heard a petition against a proposed toilet at Koala Park, Raymond Island.
- Deferred an item on appointments to Council's new Economic Development Advisory Committee to the February 28 meeting. The deferral provides more time for Councillors to discuss and consider this item.
- Noted a report on the progress of our 2022-23 program of capital works and major projects. The quarter two update shows of our 251 separate projects, 22 have been completed, 183 are progressing, and 10 projects have been withdrawn or transferred. The remaining projects are either on hold or have not started.

Watch the meeting

Meet our Australia Day Award recipients

Citizen of the Year - Simon Hof

Simon has been helping Sarsfield's recovery from the Black Summer Bushfires. As part of the Sarsfield Community Association, Simon has led the committee with enthusiasm and dedication to obtain the best future for Sarsfield.

He has been passionate in driving surveys to find out what was important to the wider community as he always advocates the role of the committee is to serve the community.

Simon has inspired many people to step up into leadership positions on the committee.

He inspired the rest of the committee to keep fighting when a grant application for a new hall, playground, and community space was denied on a technicality. He kept the committee positive and drove public awareness of the issue – to the point the decision was reversed.

Simon has been president of the Sarsfield Community Association for two years and is also president of the Sarsfield CFA.



Mayor Cr Mark Reeves with finalists for Citizen of the Year: Amanda Bodinnar, Val Asmus, Stan and Ann Barker, Trevor Clues, Simon Hof, Gary Ball, Marion Dawson, Ryan Findley, Tracey Le Maitre and Tarsha Dixon (Maureen Webb not pictured).

Young Citizen of the Year - Tillyrose Hambling

Tillyrose is a fundraising dynamo. She is a fundraising leader for her school and has raised funds for multiple foundations throughout her young life.

Tillyrose was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at age seven. When she was nine, she raised \$1500 for charity by cutting off her waist-length hair. The hair was used to make wigs for sick children.

Taking part in STEPtember, Tillyrose and her family raised \$3000 for a cerebral palsy charity.

The MS Readathon has also benefited from Tillyrose's charitable endeavours – with almost \$2000 raised over three years.

Tillyrose has been an active member of Girl Guides for seven years and is working towards her Junior BP Badge. Tillyrose is an exceptional young woman who has stayed positive and supportive of others despite her own challenges.



East Gippsland Shire Young Citizen of the Year Tillyrose Hambling with Mayor Cr Mark Reeves.



Finalists for Young Citizen of the Year: Ava Aly-Mehlert, Olivia Lay, Tillyrose Hambling and Morgan Chester.



Kaylene Williamson (right), who conducted the Welcome to Country, with Bairnsdale Scouts leader Caroline Love.



Mayor Cr Mark Reeves with Community Event of the Year - National Tree Day representatives Ann Robson and Maxine Semple.

Community Event of the Year - National Tree Day
 Bairnsdale's National Tree Day event is organised by Bairnsdale Urban Landcare Group. Each year the group works with the Bairnsdale Scout Group and the community to educate and provide a hands-on opportunity for the public, especially children and youth, to revegetate and maintain the Mitchell River Walking Track.

An annual event over the past decade, its ongoing legacy is the natural environment that has been created as a consequence of the mass planting events. This in turn has created a wonderful outdoor venue for recreation and leisure.



Finalists for Community Event of the Year: National Tree Day, Metung Fun Run, and Outer East Gippsland Youth Fest.



Mayor Cr Mark Reeves with Australia Day Ambassador Helen Martin and Council CEO Anthony Basford.



The national anthem was performed by East Gippsland Brass.



Bairnsdale Scouts and Paynesville Sea Scouts came together to unfurl the flag.



The crowd enjoyed egg and bacon rolls as well as snags cooked by the Newlands Arm Residents and Ratepayers Association.



Keynote speaker at The Succession Expo is Sam Marwood, founder of social enterprise Cultivate Farms.

Farmer succession expo coming soon

We are helping farmers tackle farm succession by hosting The Succession Expo: Family, Farm, Finance, Future, in Omeo on Tuesday 14 February and Buchan on Wednesday 15 February.

The keynote speaker will be Sam Marwood, founder of social enterprise Cultivate Farms, who will share innovative approaches to farm succession planning and community revitalisation.

East Gippsland farmers have said succession is a key area where support is needed. The succession process includes matters relating to land assets, business structures, retirement and pensions. It also requires difficult conversations about the needs of family members.

In addition to Sam Marwood's keynote address, the events, in partnership with RFCS Gippsland, Gippsland Community Legal Service, ConnectWell, and Agriculture Victoria, will have speakers on topics including financial and legal considerations, wills and power of attorney, and pension matters.

Tickets are on sale via TryBooking with a discount for farm businesses and family groups.

Community safety announcement

There is a reported increase in fires, property damage and injury across Australia linked to lithium-ion batteries.

We encourage community members to understand how to safely use, store and charge products that contain lithium-ion batteries.

Websites with helpful information include:

Product Safety Australia
Fire Rescue Victoria



Disaster funding review welcomed

We will welcome the opportunity to provide input into an independent review into Australia's disaster funding arrangements announced by the Albanese Government on 1 February.

Andrew Colvin APM OAM, who led national recovery efforts after the 2019-20 Black Summer Bushfires, is heading up the review to ensure government investment in disaster funding is fit-for-purpose and effective in the face of increasingly frequent and more severe natural disasters.

Mayor Cr Mark Reeves said the region has a long history with natural disasters.

"What we know is there is considerable lived experience that can contribute greatly to improvements in how disaster-prone areas of Australia, including East Gippsland, can be resilient in the face of natural disasters by being supported through preparation, response and recovery," Cr Reeves said.

"The scope of the review is encouraging, and its success will be in a fit for purpose natural disaster model that is effective on-the-ground in natural disaster-exposed communities."

Cr Reeves said Council and the broader East Gippsland community looks forward to being actively involved in the review by sharing our lived experiences, learnings, challenges and successes.

Cr Reeves said Council has several advocacy priorities that have a natural disaster preparedness, recovery and resilience focus.

[Learn about Council's advocacy priorities >>>](#)
[Read more about the review announcement>>>](#)

Slip Road project delayed

Onsite works at the Slip Road Maritime Precinct in Paynesville have been delayed and are expected to restart this July.

We have engaged a coastal and maritime consultancy to review the project's detailed design and redesign any elements required. This will ensure the best outcome for the community.

The detailed design instructs the contractor on the work required and specification of materials.

Construction began in January 2022 with onsite piling works and offsite prefabrication.

Council expects to receive updated working drawings in June. This will allow the construction contractor to return to the site in the first week of July.

The upgrade of the five-hectare site bordering the narrow McMillan Strait will include new seawalls, boardwalk, boat ramp, jetties, parking, pathways and upgrades to utilities. The site fencing and the no boating zone will remain in place.



Sign up for a clean up

We are encouraging everyone to 'Step Up to Clean Up' and make a difference to your community this Clean Up Australia Day - Sunday, March 5.

You can join an existing event or register your own clean up at a different site. It is best for events to be registered at least two weeks before Clean Up Australia Day so you can receive your Clean Up Kit in time.

We support the efforts of volunteers by accepting the collected rubbish free at our waste sites.

You will need to ensure you are using your official Clean Up Australia Day bags and your event has been registered. Bags will be accepted from March 1-15. We cannot collect the bags.

Visit the Clean Up website for details of how to create or join an event.

Become a swim teacher with us

If you are considering becoming a swim teacher at our recreation centres we can show you how to get your qualification.

Swim teaching can become a rewarding career that offers flexibility and a fun environment; experience is not required, however a passion for water and working with children is a must.

Swim teacher courses are being held this month at Lakes Aquadome, 43 Palmers Road, Lakes Entrance.

Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety course

Saturday 18 February

9.00 am to 5.00 pm

Cost: \$325

Register now

Teacher of Babies and Toddlers course

Sunday 19 February

9.00 am to 2.00 pm

Cost: \$325

Register now

We are always on the lookout for fun and enthusiastic teachers who love water as much as we do. If you are already qualified and would like to become a swim teacher at our recreation centres, visit our website to view any vacancies **East Gippsland Shire Council - Recruitment Portal**





Library Lovers' Day

This Tuesday 14 February is Library Lovers' Day.

It's a day for celebrating the important role libraries play in communities and letting librarians know you appreciate these special public spaces.

Our libraries will be running 'Blind Date with a Book'. It is a challenge to our patrons to try something new by borrowing a hidden book.

You will find out what it is once you have committed to borrow the book. We encourage you to persevere with it even if you are initially reluctant. You may discover a new genre you never thought you would enjoy.

Blind dates will be available on February 14 at our libraries in Bairnsdale, Lakes Entrance, Mallacoota, Omeo, Orbost and Paynesville.

Pet's details up to date?

Reuniting you with your lost cat or dog is faster and easier when your pet's registration details are kept up to date, so we're calling on everyone to ensure that their pet has a current registration tag.

Animal registration renewals are being sent out soon, so cat and dog owners are asked to make any necessary changes to registration details before Thursday 16 February. Renewals are due by 10 April each year under Victorian legislation.

If you have a puppy or kitten, it must be microchipped and registered from three months of age.

Registration fees help provide services for our pets including education programs, the animal shelter, and monitoring of pet shops, boarding kennels and catteries to ensure that your pet is cared for properly.

Ownership and transfer forms are available at our Customer Service Centres and our website.

To get renewal notices sent by email, visit registrations.pml.com.au/egscanimals

If your pet has moved out of the shire or has died, or you are experiencing financial hardship, contact our Community Laws team on 5153 9500.

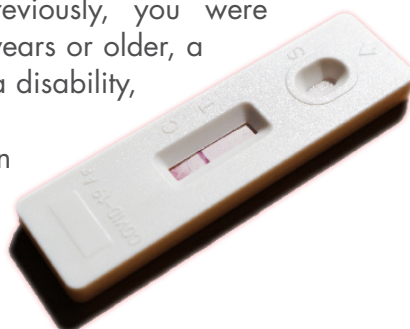
Free RATs available

Free COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) are available for community members to collect from the following facilities:

- Bairnsdale Corporate Centre: 273 Main Street
- Bairnsdale Library: 22 Service Street
- Lakes Entrance Service Centre: 18 Mechanics Street
- Mallacoota Service Centre: 70 Maurice Avenue
- Omeo Service Centre: 179 Day Avenue
- Orbost Service Centre: 1 Ruskin Street
- Paynesville Service Centre: 55 The Esplanade

The Victorian Government has made RATs available to all community members at our service centres. Previously, you were eligible to collect RATs if you were 70 years or older, a concession card holder or person with a disability, immunocompromised or their carer.

If you have symptoms or have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19, please do not collect RATs until you are well. If you can't get to a location, a guardian or carer can collect your free RATs for you.





We held a Nature-Based Tourism forum last year to prepare tourism operators and communities for an ecotourism boom.

Tourism bounces back

As you might have noticed over the Christmas and New Year break – tourism has returned to East Gippsland as people flock here to experience our unspoilt beauty, local hospitality, food, art, culture and events.

A recently released visitor survey report by leading tourism economics and research body Tourism Research Australia has revealed the strongest tourism results for East Gippsland in 14 years, as Australians make up for lost travel opportunities during the pandemic period.

The surge in national and international visitors brings renewed hope of a strong recovery in the tourism sector and an economic boost across East Gippsland.

The Australian Government tourism research group's September quarter 2022 report revealed results that it describes as "very positive" for East Gippsland, with the shire's visitor economy surging to impressive visitation and expenditure numbers and outperforming the state overall. Travel was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020/21, with significant rates of decline recorded due to travel restrictions, implemented from early 2020. International visitor numbers suffered a steep decline.

The bounce back, however, has surpassed previous visitation and spend levels, with visitation up a record 23.3% to 2,726 million and expenditure up a massive 64.8% on last year to \$638 million.

Regional marketing bodies East Gippsland Marketing Inc and Destination Gippsland, Business and Tourism Associations, Chambers of Commerce and Council have worked together to create and implement strong marketing promotions and tools, such as the Visit East Gippsland website, resources, and business and event support. Our Economic Development Team has worked to attract tourists at every level, from attracting major events via the Gippsland Regional Events Strategy, providing visitor services through our accredited Visitor Information Centres, and hosting media and tourism agents, down to providing industry training and development to help strengthen our destination appeal.

We are also striving to attain Ecotourism Australia's globally recognised ECO Destination Certification. Tourism Research Australia's next National Visitor Survey will be released in April 2023 and we're confident that this is just the start of better things to come for tourism in our shire.

New facilities for air ambulance

An ambulance patient transfer facility will be built at Bairnsdale Airport following our successful application for funding.

We will receive \$1.546 million from the Australian Government's Regional Airports Program (Round 3).

It is very important to us, and East Gippsland residents, that emergency services have appropriate facilities to enable them to support our community.

Following development of our Bairnsdale Airport Masterplan in 2020, we have been advocating for funding for the masterplan's priority projects.

Air Ambulance Victoria (AAV) is a daily user of the airport, which hosts the second highest number of fixed wing patient retrievals of any Victorian regional airport.

The patient transfer facility will provide patient privacy; protection from the weather; and a place to

care for the patient while waiting for the aircraft, particularly when patients condition requires urgent evacuation or deterioration prior to aircraft arrival.

It will also have environmental control measures to improve patient and staff safety during transfer between different transport platforms.

We have earlier received funding to upgrade one of the runways and the airport's main water supply.

Liz's career milestone

Our Finance Manager, Liz Collins, recently achieved 45 years' service in local government.

Liz's career has taken her to a number of councils and there have been plenty of changes in both finance and local government since Liz's first day at the City of Sale on 23 January 1978.

"Back then we produced about 6000 rates notices. We had to type up each rate notice in duplicate.

"Then along came an accounting machine which was an exciting innovation. It used punch paper tape and read magnetic stripped cards. It would print out in A3 a continuous stream of printing paper, which were then put in folders.

"There was no such thing as a photocopier; but what we had was a spirit duplicator, where you placed a document, that had been typed on a special form, on a drum and rolled it to make multiple copies.

"The auditing process back then involved the auditor adding and checking every single financial transaction that Council made. Now, auditing is completely different in how they review all the financial data.

"In those early days at the City of Sale the Rate Collector used to calculate rates by hand and write them up on a rates and valuation card, add them up and check that she and the accounting machine got the same answer.

"Technology in the mid-1980s saw the accounting machine replaced with a mainframe computer and dumb terminals and we thought that this was a total technological revolution. There was a room filled up with these huge cabinets and we did daily backups onto mini discs.

"The fax machine and telex were also revolutionary at the time. They allowed us to send and receive information quickly. Before then, everything would be by mail. You'd send a letter off and have to wait a couple of weeks to get a response back. There was no email until much later, probably the mid 1990s.

"That technology was the norm for many years and then technology just went to a whole new level and today people can get messages and pay bills with a smartwatch. The amount of change has been amazing," Liz said.

After 11 years Liz moved to the Shire of Avon, based in Stratford, as the Assistant Shire Secretary.

"April 10 was rate payment day. People would queue up around the block to pay by cash or cheque. In those days councils ran their own elections. We would go out to the towns and small community halls, set up the polling station and after the close at 6pm would go back to the office and count the votes."

Liz also recalled work protocols that are long gone.

"Some of the things that used to be normal at work would be shocking today. Women were not allowed to wear pants in the office; it was skirts or dresses only. I remember enforcing that rule and now I always wear pants to work!

"People could smoke inside – even when serving customers. There was also no such thing as maternity or paternity leave, women were just expected to resign when they had children.



Liz Collins recently achieved 45 years' service in local government.

"One of the biggest, non-technology changes occurred while I was at Shire of Avon. In 1994 Avon amalgamated with four other councils to form Wellington Shire Council.

"I do think it was a good thing. Many small councils wouldn't have had the resources and ability to survive and meet community expectations, considering the range of responsibilities councils have and the legislative requirements that local government works within.

"The changes in business operations were also significant. It changed the way local government delivered its services and our finance legislation and regulations changed.

"In the early days, local government's prescribed accounting and budgeting was different to commercial businesses. In the early 1990s that changed and local government accounting is now no different to any other business in terms of complying with accounting standards. This was a big change for all councils and over time how we do budgets and reporting completely changed with new legislative requirements."

Following a few years at Wellington, Liz moved to Pyrenees Shire as General Manager Corporate Services, and she returned back to Gippsland to Latrobe City Council.

While at Latrobe City, open plan offices were built.

"I thought that it wouldn't work after all those years having an office, but I loved it. I still sit out with my team now and couldn't imagine going back to an office."

Liz has been at East Gippsland Shire for almost 10 years.

"My first love is finance. You spend so much time at work so you have to love what you do. Accounting in local government is like working in 150 different businesses, it has so much variety.

"I undertook all of my study during my working life which I might never have done if I hadn't worked in local government. The variety of jobs in local government is amazing, there's not many careers that aren't catered for in this sector," Liz said.

"The people I've met along the way and the lifelong friendships I've made from my first day until now is all because I entered the wonderful world of local government.

"I feel very fortunate to not only have spent 45 years in this great industry of local government; but also for the opportunities I have had along the way and to be able to look back and see where the sector has come from to where it is today is truly amazing."



Cr Kirsten van Diggele, tied the knot with partner Dan Clark, on 14 January at The Vines on Avon in Maffra. "I had the most beautiful day, surrounded by amazing people; it honestly couldn't have been more special." Cr van Diggele said. "It was also a very hot day, but we made the most of it with icy poles and plenty of cold drinks." Pictured: Cr van Diggele and husband Dan Clark with Cr Trevor Stow and wife Shirley, and Deputy Mayor Cr Arthur Allen and wife Diane Allen.



Samantha Mallaghan supervises one of the 16 school crossings throughout the shire.

School's back and so are our crossing supervisors

School's back – so we are calling on every road user to help keep our children safe.

School speed zones apply 8.00 am to 9.30 am and 2.30 pm to 4.00 pm every weekday during school terms. In these areas, the speed limit is set at 40km/h for roads with a normal speed limit of 80km/h or lower, and 60km/h for roads with a higher normal limit.

Our crossing supervisors monitor 16 key school crossings across the shire. If one of our supervisors displays a stop sign or when pedestrians are on the crossing, please stop until the crossing is clear.

Take care around school buses; use designated drop-off and pick-up areas; adhere to local parking restrictions and never double park and please, never look at your phone while driving.

The start of the school year is a great reminder to stop, look and listen before crossing a road and to keep checking until safely across. Let's make our school crossings safe for everyone.



The Shrine of Remembrance's 'Changed Forever: Legacies of Conflict' exhibition is coming to The Forge Theatre. Images by Paula Bronstein, Getty Images.

Changed Forever: Legacies of Conflict to open at Forge

The Shrine of Remembrance's 'Changed Forever: Legacies of Conflict' exhibition is coming to The Forge Theatre and Arts Hub in Bairnsdale on Friday 10 February.

Changed Forever uses art, objects, photographs, audio-visuals, interactive displays and personal stories to explore the impact of

global and civil conflict on people's lives and contemporary Australia. This includes migrants who have resettled in Australia from war-torn countries and the experiences of recent veterans of overseas service in the Australian Defence Force. For more, visit www.shrine.org.au/changedforever

WORLD looking good

Did you know that we've used a 100% recycled rubber material in the court surfaces for the synthetic hockey pitch and netball courts as part of the WORLD Redevelopment in Bairnsdale?

The redevelopment reached a key milestone in mid-January with the commencement of surfacing of the precinct's synthetic hockey pitch. Workers began by applying a black rubber (recycled) shock pad which took around three weeks to install. The shock pad is now being overlaid with synthetic surface material, which takes about two weeks to install. Surfacing on these parts of the project is scheduled to be completed this month.

We're also aiming for a March completion of the marshalling building, subject to material availability.



CEO Anthony Basford toured the WORLD Sporting Precinct in mid-January to view the synthetic hockey pitch being laid. Behind him are the bags of recycled material set to be used to create the rubber shock pad.



Aquadome for all

Why do people love the Lakes Entrance Aquadome? We're finding out with monthly member profiles on our lakesaquadome.com.au website.

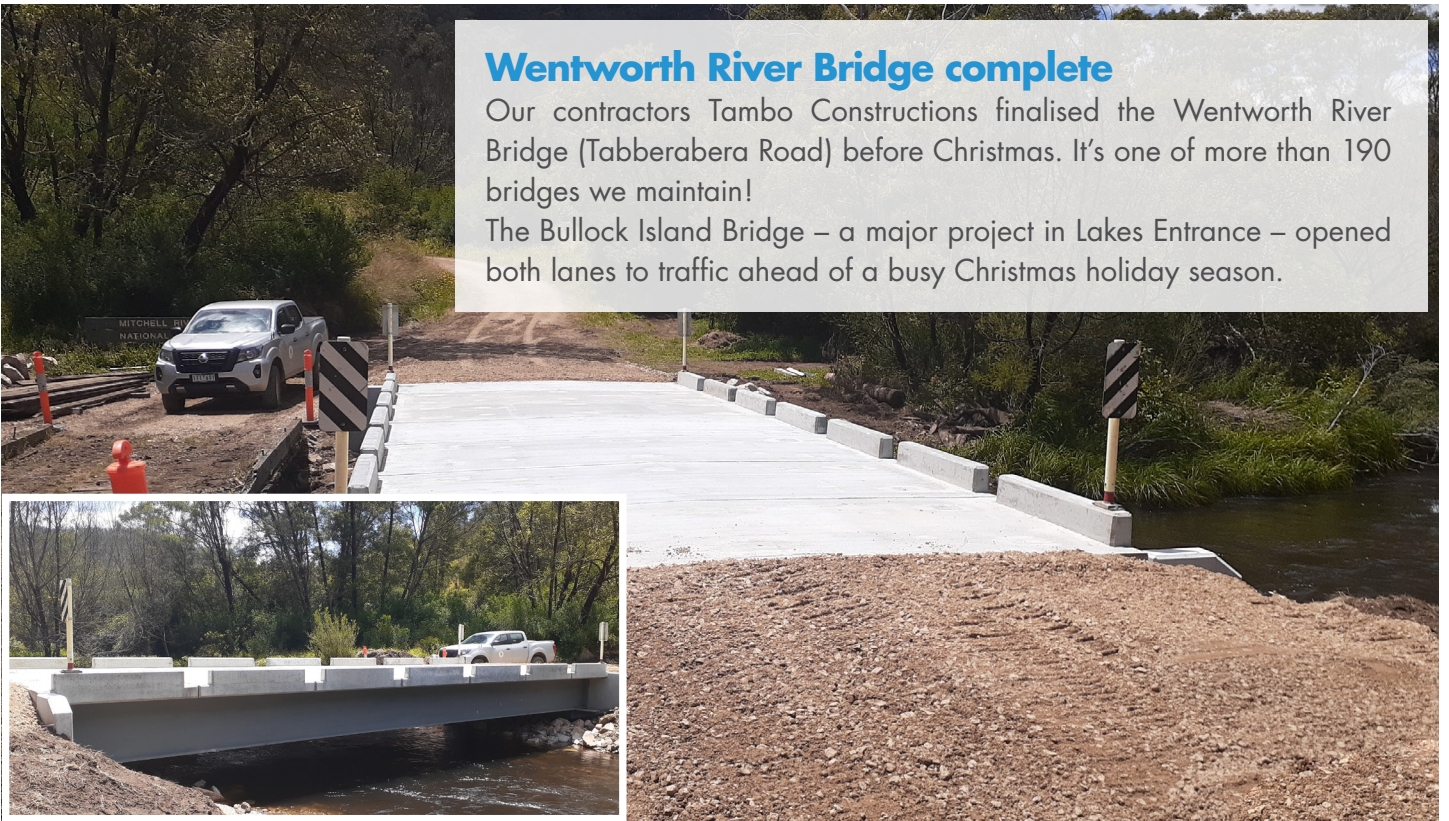
This month, we learn more about Ian and hear how regular swimming sessions help his multiple sclerosis. Ian's one of our early morning swimmers and knocks out 60 laps a session.

Our recreation centres in Lakes Entrance and Bairnsdale can cater for your health and wellbeing needs, so visit us soon.

Wentworth River Bridge complete

Our contractors Tambo Constructions finalised the Wentworth River Bridge (Tabberabera Road) before Christmas. It's one of more than 190 bridges we maintain!

The Bullock Island Bridge – a major project in Lakes Entrance – opened both lanes to traffic ahead of a busy Christmas holiday season.



Streetscaping starts

Department of Transport's Eastern Alliance has started the civil works component of the Bruthen Streetscape project. This work was scheduled to start after the school holidays to minimise disruption to summer trading.

We are also replacing the picnic tables and installing additional tables within the western median area. New garden beds will also be constructed in coming week, in line with the landscaping plans for this project.

Moroney Street - Stage 2

Works are progressing well between the McKean Street roundabout and the Taylor Street intersection as part of the stage two works to reconstruct Moroney Street, Bairnsdale. Drainage works have almost been completed throughout this section with pavement works now underway. We are anticipating stage two to be completed by the end of June.

Slipway redevelopment

The first half of 2023 will see significant improvements made at the Slipway site in Lakes Entrance – a priority project in both the Lakes Entrance Foreshore Management Plan and Lakes Entrance CBD Masterplan.

The redevelopment works include:

- Installation of a tiered deck over the existing concrete slipway to create a waterfront public space.
- Minor renovation of the two historic winch sheds to enable safe public use.
- Construction of public access amenities including compliant ramps.
- Resurfacing of the existing bitumen hardstand area.
- Upgrade of onsite power.



Bruthen Lions Club Park toilet

This project is now complete. The project provides a new single-unit accessible/parents toilet facility at the Bruthen Lions Club Park is now available for the community.

Bruthen Lions Club contributed funding for this project and worked closely with us to construct the facility.



What's on

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.



Alan Cross Memorial Triathlon

Grab a family member, friend or colleague and come along to join in on a fun community event.

This is an untimed event and it's all about getting out there, getting active with people and having fun.

19 February

Paynesville Foreshore

[More information>>>](#)



Bemm River Hobie Kayak Bream Series

The 2023 Hobie Kayak Bream Series 14 offers kayak anglers a competitive fishing tournament. Strike Pro Round 3 will resume at Bemm River, an undisputed favourite on the hobie calendar for what is set to be a dynamite weekend of fishing!

1-2 April

Bemm River Foreshore

[More information>>>](#)



Hooked on Lakes Entrance

Family fun day to celebrate commercial and recreational fishing in the East Gippsland region. The day will incorporate cooking demonstrations from local chefs, fishing clinics for kids, stalls with local produce, and education and information about all things fishing. Also on the Foreshore will be the Lakes Entrance Twilight Market with a duck race.

12 March

Lakes Entrance

[More information>>>](#)



Studebaker Car Club National Meet

The club was formed in 1967 to preserve and foster the ownership of all models and products of the Studebaker marque. The Studebaker Car Club will have approximately 120 classical cars on display from 9.00 am – 4.00 pm

8 April

Lakes Entrance

[More information>>>](#)



Gippsland Lakes Paddle Challenge

Experience and paddle the open water conditions on the Gippsland Lakes. Start at Paynesville for the elite paddler or Metung for the recreational paddler to finish at the Iconic Lakes Entrance Footbridge.

6 May

Paynesville/Metung/Lakes Entrance

[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:



Diesel

Friday 3 March, 7.30 pm

Having crafted his homage, a killer solo blues album 'Alone With Blues' (Aria Top 20, #1 Australian Blues And Roots Airplay Chart), Diesel hit the road exclusively in NSW in 2021, showcasing The Blues and his greatest hits, in an intimate two set solo concert performance with a brief intermission - designed, especially for theatres.



The Winner Is...

Saturday 4 February, 2.00 pm

This new production will have everything you could ever want in a high-class professional production. With full narrative The Winner Is takes you on a journey of only the Academy Award-winning songs that have lit up our silver screens for over 80 years.



Rewind 80's Mixtape Tour

Saturday 18 March, 7.30 pm

The siren call of the 1980s - spandex and all - is beckoning crowds in all areas of Australia. Rewind 80's promises to pull out all the stops from the decade of big hair and even bigger tunes. The multi-piece live show is set to bring out two live party sets, asking guests to prepare to be immersed in a huge celebration of nostalgia.



Wallflowering

Thursday 30 March, 7.30 pm

Wallflowering, by award-winning Australian playwright Peta Murray, is a delightfully amusing and poignant play about the nature of marriage, the pursuit of happiness and the perfect foxtrot! The play revolves around the lives of Peg and Cliff Small, an ordinary, suburban, middle-aged couple who were once prize-winning ballroom dancers. The action is interspersed with ballroom dancing by a younger couple, who represent not only Peg and Cliff in their glory days, but also the older couple's romantic, idealised view of themselves.



Bunkasaurus

Saturday 22 April, 1.00 pm

Two fools in too much trouble... a raucous new all-ages adventure for kids!

A jaunty new adventure from the DIY masters of puppetry and theatrical wizardry, Bunk Puppets promise to rip open your imagination with their cast of slapdash puppets, bizarre characters and riveting illusions!



Spirit of the ANZACs

Sunday 23 April, 2.00 pm

Spirit of the ANZACs - A salute to the ANZACs and the Vietnam Veterans will again contain many songs, stories, and indeed laughter that came from WWII, and the Vietnam War all in front of a backdrop of incredible images on the big screen.

This production is dedicated to the brave men and women who gave their lives in service of our country.

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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