



BairnsdaleConnect

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Autumn 2017

For immediate release — Thursday 13 April 2017

Bairnsdale Connect is an update from East Gippsland Shire Council on projects and programs planned for Bairnsdale and District.

Service Street Upgrade to commence

Since our last update to you, council awarded the contract for the next stage of the Re-imagining Bairnsdale CBD improvements to Cranes Asphalt and Bitumen. A new roundabout at the corner of Francis and Service Streets will be constructed first, with work commencing 24 April.

It is business as usual in the Bairnsdale CBD with access to the Francis and Service Street traders maintained throughout the project. There will be minor changes to parking and interruptions to traffic flow. Those directly affected by the works will receive weekly project updates and direct consultation.

There are over 3000 car parking spaces available in the Bairnsdale CBD. Council has developed an easy-to-read parking map to help you understand the various parking locations and restrictions that apply.

You can view the document online here: eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/Bairnsdale

The \$709,000 project is funded via the Australian Government Roads to Recovery Programme (\$573,000), council's capital works budget (\$93,000) and East Gippsland Water (\$43,000). Construction works will include:

- A roundabout at the Francis Street and Service Street intersection including raised pedestrian crossings;
- Street tree planting;
- New street furniture;
- Upgraded public lighting along Service Street and at the new intersection;
- Upgrades to existing footpaths; and
- Protection of the existing trees within Service Street.

We have commenced construction drawings for the upgrades to the western side of Nicholson Street and the Service and Nicholson Street roundabout. The extensive community consultation in 2016 resulted in a hybrid design of the proposed designs which retains some parallel parking along the northern side of Nicholson Street in front of Target.

Throughout all stages of Re-imagining Bairnsdale CBD Project, we will work closely with the traders and landowners who will be affected by the works.

Council's Your Say East Gippsland website has a page dedicated to information on the streetscape project: yoursay.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/nicholson-service-st-redevelopment



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Re-imagined culture in the CBD

Two lively creative projects that engage young people and promote Aboriginal arts and culture are underway in Bairnsdale.

The first project will see local artist Ms Tracey McKeown collaborate with a wide range of local contemporary and Aboriginal artists and pre-primary students to develop artworks based on children's simple line drawing designs. The artists have selected 12 naïve drawings to re-imagine in their preferred artistic medium with the final designs being printed onto vinyl banners and wrapped around the bollards in the Nicholson Street Mall.

The second project, also coordinated by Ms McKeown, features laser cut steel inlays in the shapes of animals of East Gippsland. These designs will be developed by local Aboriginal artists Alfie Hudson and Alan Solomon, with council seeking final permission to use the designs from traditional landowners. The inlays will be embedded into the footpaths along Francis and Service Streets when the streetscape works are undertaken later this year.

The animals to be featured will be chosen by the artists and have some significance to Gunaikurnai culture or the location that the animals originate from. Service Street faces the mountains therefore bogong moths, ring-tailed possums and reptiles will be featured. The inlay designs connect to the Legend Rock Mural in the ALDI car park on Nicholson Street.

Once the inlays have been installed into the new streetscape, animal footprints will be painted on the footpath using a concrete sealer that will show up when the concrete gets wet, i.e. when it rains. Ms McKeown will work with Mr Hudson and Mr Solomon to design the animal footprints.

Both projects are fully funded by council through the public art fund.

\$50 million for Princes Highway East

The Australian and Victorian Governments have announced a major upgrade of the Princes Highway from Sale to the NSW border. Funding of \$50 million has been allocated for 'betterment' or improvement works, not maintenance, on this important freight and tourism route. These works will be planned and coordinated by VicRoads. VicRoads is looking to identify improvement works that contribute to route safety, accessibility and reliability for all modes of transport, along with neighbourhood amenity and economic activity.

Recognising that Bairnsdale is intersected by the Princes Highway, VicRoads is seeking feedback from the community to identify issues of concern along this route. Input from the community will be used to compile a list of proposed works to be considered under the upgrade program.

A community feedback session is therefore scheduled for Bairnsdale on 3 May at St Mary's Parish Hall 2 Pyke Street from 2pm to 7pm. You are encouraged to come along and contribute your ideas.

If you can't make the session on the 3 May, VicRoads will also be at the East Gippsland Field Days on the 28 and 29 April and a second round of community consultation is planned for mid-late 2017.

For a project bulletin about these works please visit:

eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/Your_Say/70M_road_upgrades_for_East_Gippsland

If you are unable to attend any of the information and consultation sessions, and want to have your say, a feedback form can be downloaded from the web page mentioned above and mailed to the VicRoads project team.



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Paynesville Food Van Fiesta

Paynesville is gearing up for a busy evening on Easter Saturday, as the foreshore once again plays host to the Paynesville Food Van Fiesta. Developed by East Gippsland Shire Council, last year's inaugural event exceeded expectations attracting an estimated 2500 people.

The event on Saturday 15 April runs from 4pm to 10pm and includes music from SHIFTY and Karavana Flamenca, children's activities and a jumping castle, a screening of animated film 'Hop' from 8pm and fireworks at 9.30pm.

This year's food van line-up includes: Tham Dynasty, Boathouse Pizza Bar & Grill, Forge Creek Lamb, The Travelling Squid, Café Rosso, Lakes Soft Serve, Paynesville Volunteer Coast Guard, Beef at the Farm Gate, Won Hung Lo Dumplings, Little Red Bucket, Mitzi's Cakes, STKBB Burgers, Street Feast, Sweet Forbidden Journey, Vutu Nepali Kitchen, Bites on Wheels, Two Fat Indians, Wyanga Park Winery, Bullant Brewery, and Riviera Meats.

For more information and a sneak peek of the tasty treats on offer visit the event's Facebook page: facebook.com/paynesvillefoodvanfiesta

Macleod Street roundabout works progressing well

There are changed traffic conditions at the intersection of Macleod and McCulloch streets in Bairnsdale as East Gippsland Shire Council builds a roundabout. Part of this project also involves East Gippsland Water replacing a water main. The roundabout is expected to be completed by June and will deliver significant safety improvements. We thank you for your patience whilst these works are underway.

Council grants support projects across shire

A number of groups and organisations were successful in the latest round of Council Grants, which were awarded by East Gippsland Shire Council at its March meeting.

Council received requests for a total of \$194,620 of funds in the community, and arts and heritage categories, and was able to support 30 projects to a total of \$78,356.35.

This round council has supported projects ranging from workshops for teenage boys, volunteer instructor training, a birdlife brochure, community computers, youth festival, fun runs and tree guards, to an artist in residency and oral history projects. The projects will tell uniquely East Gippsland stories and support communities across the shire.

The community, and arts and heritage categories provide grants up to \$5,000 to community groups. Applications for the next round of grants will open in early June. More information can be found on council's website eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/Community/Council_Grants

Recreation Reserves to enjoy electricity charge reductions

As part of East Gippsland Shire's electricity contract we have been able to negotiate for some of our community managed recreation reserves and facilities to also access these lower utility rates. In Bairnsdale, six facilities will now enjoy lower electricity charges, allowing them to spend the savings on other important aspects of maintaining these significant community facilities.



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Coming soon: free older driver road safety seminar

Following the success of last year's road safety seminars, council is planning to hold an Older Driver Road Safety information session in 2017. It is proposed that the sessions will be held in Lakes Entrance in early June 2017. They are aimed at all members of the community and will also provide important information for family and friends to support older drivers.

Topics include: supporting older drivers to continue to drive safely; how to choose safe vehicles; how to stay fit to drive; health and medication impacts on driving; road rules update; how to be a safe pedestrian; considerations prior to purchasing a scooter and how to assess your own driving ability.

Dates will be advertised in the Council Noticeboard section of the Bairnsdale Advertiser or you can register your interest by contacting Rhonda James by email feedback@egipps.vic.gov.au or telephone 03 5153 9500.

Koorie Community virtual meeting place

Council's vision for our community is a future of mutual respect and harmony. We will respect the views of others and act with courtesy and consideration.

We recently developed a page on council's website as a virtual meeting place and information board for local Koorie events, updates on our Reconciliation Action Plan, news and links to some of our partner organisations. eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/Community/Groups_in_Our_Community/Koorie_Community

If you have an event or information you would like listed please contact Kath Macdonald 5153 9500 or email feedback@egipps.vic.gov.au.

Explore your Customer Service Centre and Library

Bairnsdale Customer Service Centre is first point of contact for any council enquiries you may have. Did you know that we also provide free Wi-Fi at the Bairnsdale Library? Our friendly Customer Service Officers can also help you with printing and scanning for a small cost. We have a well-appointed, modern meeting room available for hire, which seats up to twenty people.

The Bairnsdale Library has weekly Storytime and Rhymetime sessions, and movies and Tech Savvy Seniors sessions are scheduled on a monthly basis.

Discover more events on our website: eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/Libraries/Library_Events

One Million Stars to End Violence project update

One Million Stars to End Violence project will shortly finish and council's tally of stars is within reach. The East Gippsland community have produced 8,000 stars with our target 10,000 easily achievable by the end of April. A big thank you to all the wonderful star makers in the community: from health services and neighbourhood centres to schools and friendship groups too numerous to name individually.

Come and Play, all of May – Celebrating the Arts of Gippsland 2017

Creative Gippsland is thrilled to announce the successful artists in residence for Come and Play, all of May – Celebrating the Arts of Gippsland 2017. The artists were chosen from an outstanding field of over thirty exciting and talented artists from around Australia and Gippsland. The artists will be resident in one town in each of the six Gippsland councils. Elliot Hughes a musician and composer will be the resident artist in East Gippsland. Watch the Creative Gippsland website for more information: creativegippsland.com.au