Winter 2018
For immediate release — June 13, 2018

Bairnsdale Connect is a quarterly newsletter from East Gippsland Shire Council. Our aim is to produce a regular newsletter that provides residents with accurate information about your place in East Gippsland.

This newsletter will feature events, activities, projects and programs planned for Bairnsdale and District.

The Bairnsdale District comprises of the following localities: Bairnsdale, East Bairnsdale, Wy Yung, Eastwood, Lucknow, Clifton Creek, Flaggy Creek, Sarsfield, Forge Creek, Goon Nure, Wattle Point, Bengworden, Mount Taylor, Granite Rock, Ellaswood, Bullumwaal, Melwood, Waterholes, Deptford and Banksia Peninsula.

If you found this newsletter interesting, please share with your networks across the District and encourage your networks to signup to receive the newsletter automatically. Signing up is as easy as following this link:

Bairnsdale Sporting Facilities Plan

The Bairnsdale Sporting Facilities Plan 2018 identifies a set of strategic directions for the provision of sporting facilities in Bairnsdale for the next fifteen years.

Following months of community conversations and consultation, the draft strategy is now available for viewing and public comment.

We are interested in hearing your thoughts on the goals and strategic directions and any other comments you may have.

How to get involved:

- Read the draft strategy on Your Say East Gippsland https://yoursay.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/bairnsdale-sporting-facilities-plan or at any council customer service centre;
- Read the frequently asked questions; and
- Complete a short survey.

Feedback closes 5pm, Monday June 25, 2018.

Further information: Suzie Healy, Community Facilities Planner

The Bairnsdale Sporting Facilities Plan was jointly funded by the Victorian Government and East Gippsland Shire Council.
East Gippsland Shire Solar Bulk Buy

East Gippsland residents and businesses can take advantage of bulk buying rates for solar technology through a new initiative launched Thursday June 7.

The East Gippsland Shire Solar Bulk Buy program will run for 12 months and aims to increase the availability of solar in the region. In addition, for every system sold, a percentage will be donated to install solar on a local community facility.

The program was launched at The Hub in Dalmahoy Street, Bairnsdale, which also doubled as an information session for people interested in learning more about the program. Additional information sessions will be held in Lakes Entrance, Orbost, and Omeo in June and July.

A session specifically for the business community will be held in Bairnsdale; however, business owners are welcome to attend their nearest session.

A bulk buy offers discounted prices for respected solar brands, due to the volume of sales. Yarra Energy Foundation will co-ordinate the rooftop solar installation, making it cheaper and more accessible to the community.

A council requirement is to use local installers to install systems sold through the program.

Solar energy has been recognised as an important way of reducing the impact of power prices while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Both are key council objectives.

Details of the two-hour information sessions are:

- **Lakes Entrance**: Thursday June 21, from 5pm at council offices, 55 Palmers Road
- **Orbost**: Thursday July 5, from 5pm at Orbost Service Centre, 1 Ruskin Street
- **Omeo**: Tuesday July 5, from 5pm at Old Soldiers Memorial Hall, 179 Day Street
- **Business session**: Wednesday July 18, from 5pm at Bairnsdale Library, 22 Service Street

At the information sessions, Yarra Energy Foundation and Jim’s Energy will give an overview of solar panels along with commercial and home battery systems available for purchase. They will answer questions on the available options.

For more information on the East Gippsland Shire Solar Bulk Buy program or to register your interest phone 1300 866 634 or visit [www.eastgippslandbulkbuy.com.au](http://www.eastgippslandbulkbuy.com.au)

Further information: Wayne Burton, Sustainability Project Planner
East Gippsland Shire Council has partnered with energy experts Yarra Energy Foundation to bring East Gippsland a solar bulk buy program that offers security and trust.

Prices start at $2,999
eastgippslandbulkbuy.com.au | 1300 866 634

**HOW IT WORKS:**

1: Register your interest by calling 1300 866 634, or by visiting eastgippslandbulkbuy.com.au;

2: Our trusted solar provider Jim’s Energy will contact you to arrange an obligation free tailored East Gippsland Shire Solar Bulk Buy quote;

3: Review your quote and if you choose to continue, pay a deposit;

4: The exciting part: solar is installed on your home or business by a local installer contracted by our provider;

5: We donate rooftop solar to a local East Gippsland community group.

The more solar panels that are sold through East Gippsland Shire Solar Bulk Buy, the more panels will be donated to a community organisation. For more information, visit eastgippslandbulkbuy.com.au

The East Gippsland Shire Solar Bulk Buy has been funded by the Victorian Labor Government under Round 2 of the New Energy Jobs Fund.

**Community Information Sessions**

**Launch Event**
Gellion—27 Dalmahey Street, Bairnsdale
7th June, 6pm—8pm

**Shire Offices** — 35 Palmer Road, Lakes Entrance
21st June, 5pm—7pm

**Orbost Information Session**
Orbost Service Centre — 1 Rusk St, Orbost
5th July, 3pm—7pm

**Onoe Information Session**
Old Soldiers Memorial Hall Onoe
17th July, 5pm—7pm

**Bairnsdale Business Information Session**
Bairnsdale Library — 22 Service St, Meeting Room 1
18th July, 5pm—7pm
Improving the Bairnsdale skatepark at Davison Oval

Council is planning to upgrade the Bairnsdale skatepark facility as a part of the capital works program and will be developing concepts plans which are more contemporary in design.

We believe this will allow for greater community use and create an inviting space for our community to enjoy now and into the future.

During an initial consultation period from April 12 to May 7 Council received 306 completed surveys from targeted user groups before engaging the services of a professional skatepark design team Baseplate/EastbyWest. Preliminary design work was presented and further feedback invited by conducting a Community Engagement Workshop on May 31. Design discussion with 10 interested community representatives of mixed age and ability proved very successful in helping to develop concept designs to recreate a destination skate park for all present and future user groups. These individuals will form part of a representative reference group for further detailed design development.

You can view the engagement snapshot, or read the full report on Your Say East Gippsland https://yoursay.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/bdalesk8park. We will provide project updates to interested stakeholder groups and individuals through Your Say East Gippsland and Bairnsdale Connect.

Further information: Elizabeth Heath, Community Facilities Designer

Council community grants now open!

The Council grants opened on Wednesday June 6 and all applications need to be submitted by Wednesday August 1, 2018. Program staff will be holding Grants Information Sessions across East Gippsland to assist applicants by walking through the application process, advise on how to best frame your project ideas and answer any questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lindenow</td>
<td>Lindenow Hall, Main Road, Lindenow</td>
<td>Monday June 18</td>
<td>3.00 to 4.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swifts Creek</td>
<td>Swifts Creek Community Centre, Great Alpine Road,</td>
<td>Friday June 22</td>
<td>12.00pm to 1.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bairnsdale</td>
<td>Bairnsdale Library, Meeting Room 1, Service Street</td>
<td>Tuesday June 26</td>
<td>5.00 to 7.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tubbut/Bendoc/Goongerah</td>
<td>Tubbut Neighbourhood House, McKillops Road, Tubbut</td>
<td>Thursday June 28</td>
<td>12.00pm to 2.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cann River</td>
<td>Community Centre, Main Street, Cann River</td>
<td>Friday June 29</td>
<td>11.00am to 12.30am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further information: Kathryn Macdonald, Acting Community Development Coordinator

eastgippsland.vic.gov.au feedback@egipps.vic.gov.au @egsc
Our Commitment to Reconciliation

Council launched its cultural awareness film on May 29 to coincide with National Reconciliation Week and received a Highly Commended award in the HART Awards (Helping Achieve Reconciliation Together) on June 1.

Titled ‘Our Commitment to Reconciliation’, the film aims to help council staff and the wider community better understand the history and culture of local Aboriginal people and their communities. The film will be shown as part of the induction process for new council staff, with the idea for the film stemming from council’s Reconciliation Action Plan.

The Aboriginal community within East Gippsland is about three per cent of the population. Council identified the importance of increasing our knowledge of this sector of our community. Councillors and all staff completed cultural awareness training a couple of years ago. This training was fantastic, but we wanted a way to be able to share this information with new staff on an as-need basis. This film allows us to do that.

The original training sessions included a presentation by Aunty Dr Doris Paton followed by a visit to the Krowathunkooloong Keeping Place with facility manager Rob Hudson. Both have been involved in the making of the film.

Both the original training and this new film cover some history of Aboriginal people, both pre-dating European settlement and in more recent times, Aboriginal people’s customs and the importance of Country, as well as the importance of family and the role Elders play.

The launch included a Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony was undertaken by Wayne Thorpe through the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC). Council has worked with local organisations Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Cooperative (GEGAC) and GLaWAC to develop the film.

The film has been deliberately produced in a way that allows it to be customised to other businesses, meaning more organisations can include cultural awareness training for their staff in a cost-effective way. We already have several large East Gippsland employers looking to adapt this film for their organisations.

You can watch the video on our YouTube channel: http://ow.ly/T4Rv30khCBW. To find out more about council’s Reconciliation Action Plan and local Aboriginal organisations, visit the Koorie Community page: https://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/Community/Groups_in_Our_Community/Koorie_Community

Find the footprints on Service Street

A touch of magic has been added to the Bairnsdale streetscape with native animal footprints appearing on the new footpath when it rains.

The project was managed by local artist Tracey McKeown, with the animal prints developed by renowned Aboriginal artists Alan Solomon and Alfie Hudson.

Did you catch the short video on Facebook? http://bit.ly/2Jw87nF.
New roundabout on schedule

East Gippsland Shire Council’s project to construct a roundabout at the intersection of Grant and Pearson streets, Bairnsdale is on schedule.

A road safety audit identified a roundabout would best address ongoing road safety issues at the intersection.

Crash data and the findings of the road safety audit identified cross traffic crashes as an ongoing problem at the site.

Construction began in April. In addition to the roundabout, the project includes constructing kerb outstands, installing new and modified drainage, line marking and street lighting.

There will be minor disruptions to traffic flows during the works, which are expected to be completed by July 2018.

The project has received $467,000 funding under the Australian Government’s National Black Spot Program.

East Gippsland NDIS Readiness Project

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is the new way of providing support for Australians with disability, their families and carers. The NDIS will become available in the Outer Gippsland area from January 1, 2019.

The Outer Gippsland area covers the local government areas of East Gippsland and Wellington. It’s important to understand how the NDIS works and whether you are eligible to participate. If you are, you will develop a plan with the NDIS to help you access the supports you need.

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) is the independent Commonwealth government agency responsible for implementing the NDIS.

To support participants and families transition to the NDIS, Rural Access will run training throughout East Gippsland and will continue to provide up-to-date information on the council website.

Further information: Rebecca Pantry, Rural Access Project Officer
National Tree Day: July 27 and 29, 2018

Planet Ark and dedicated volunteers have planted more than 24 million trees across Australia. This year, they need your help to plant a million more. Landcare groups are keen to connect with schools as soon as possible.

If you already have a connection with a Landcare group please let them know you are keen to participate in a National Tree Day activity this year: Schools Tree Day Friday 27 July and National Tree Day 29 July.

Further information: Visit www.tree_day.planetark.org or phone 1300 88 5000

Silage Wrap Recycling Trial

East Gippsland and Wellington Shire Councils will offer silage wrap recycling during a four week trial from Monday July 16 to Monday August 13 2018. The drop-off point in East Gippsland is the Bairnsdale landfill at 200 Johnstons Road, Forge Creek. The cost is $11 per bulk bag. Please separate silage wrap, which can be recycled, from net wrap, which cannot be recycled. Farmers are encouraged to use this service to dispose of their wrap.


Pick My Project

The Victorian Government has a new community grant called Pick My Project. Victorians aged 16 and over can submit ideas for projects that benefit their community – such as environmental projects, sport or recreation activities, community facility upgrades etc.

Eligible ideas will be put forward for community voting. During voting, applicants will work with their networks and encourage their community to vote for their project. Local projects will be chosen by local residents. Communities will get to vote for the projects they think are most important.

Projects can cost between $20,000 and $200,000, and funding will be spread across Victoria.

Applications close Sunday June 24, 2018.


Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants

The Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants of up to $5,000 each (excl GST) are now available. They are open to Victorian schools, kindergartens, childcare centres, Scouts, Guides, and youth groups.

Projects need to focus on:

- Improving biodiversity (develop, improve or restore) habitat for Victoria’s native flora and fauna.
- Educate, involve, and engage young people in valuing and caring for Victoria’s natural environment.

Projects can be direct action (with an on-ground component), indirect action (with an education component), or a mix of both. Applications close Friday July 20, 2018.

ResourceSmart Schools

Energy Champion Challenge
An Energy Champion Challenge is open to all Victorian schools. By saving electricity there’s a chance to win $5,000. ResourceSmart Schools can use assistance from the ResourceSmart Facilitator to help apply.


Water Focus
A grade 5/6 class at Bairnsdale Primary School and year 9 EcoWarriors from Nagle College recently undertook an interactive water activity to debunk the myth of commercial bottled water is better than tap.

Students developed their own criteria around what makes the “best water.” Criteria is prompted to include such things as clarity; taste; smell; cost; emissions (from energy used to make bottles and transport); public health benefits (e.g., additives such as fluoride).

Next, they undertook a blind tasting from five sources:

- Bairnsdale tap water
- Filtered Bairnsdale tap water
- Rainwater
- Australian bottled water
- International bottled water (French)

In both classes Bairnsdale tap water came out as the overall winner!

Further information: Beck Lamble, ResourceSmart Schools Facilitator

Pollinator pics for Landcare Calendar

The East Gippsland Regional Landcare Calendar 2019 will have the theme of Pollinators - bees, birds and bats and more. Get out your camera, or dust off some existing pics and send them in.

Photographs need to be landscape, electronic and a min 300 dpi.

Please provide: details of who took the picture; where it was taken; details about it; and if you’re from a Landcare Group, which one.

Closing date for photos is September 30, 2018.

Further information and email your contributions to Far East Landcare Facilitator: penny.gray@fevl.org.au

Interesting App

Victoria Field Guide App
**Did you know?**
The average family car travels about 15,000 kilometres a year and generates about 4.3 tonnes of pollution. By walking and saving a litre of petrol, you’ll also save 2.3 kilograms of CO₂.

**Princes Highway East update from VicRoads**

Work is already well underway between Sale and Stratford, while the next section between Stratford and Bairnsdale will get started in early June.

This includes new overtaking lanes near Lindenow Road, road widening, shoulder and property entrance sealing, and the installation of flexible safety barriers and rumble strip line-marking.

These upgrades will reduce the risk of people being seriously injured or killed in run-off-road and head-on crashes, which were the leading cause of fatalities on Gippsland roads last year.

There will be significant roadworks on Princes Highway between Sale and Bairnsdale throughout the rest of 2018 as these lifesaving upgrades are completed.

During this time drivers will need to slow to 40km/h when travelling through the roadworks and should allow an extra 10-15 minutes to their journey between Sale and Bairnsdale.

The Victorian Government is investing $1.1 billion to implement Towards Zero, a plan to reduce Victoria’s road toll to fewer than 200 deaths by 2020 and reduce serious injuries by 15%.

The Princes Highway East between Sale to Bairnsdale has been identified as one of Victoria’s top 20 highest risk rural roads.

In the five-year period leading up to 2015, there were 54 serious crashes along this stretch of road, where five people tragically lost their lives and 17 people were seriously injured.

*Further information: VicRoads, engage.ssrp@roads.vic.gov.au, 0468 314 107*
Tech Savvy Seniors
Smartphones and email

Free training sessions teaching older people how to access information and stay connected with their family, friends and communities.

Introduction to smartphones: Learn the basics of navigating your way around a smartphone (iPhone or Android) with a touchscreen.

Introduction to email: A workshop covering the basic steps you need to help keep in touch with your friends and family using email.

Victorian Tech Savvy Seniors is a Seniors Card Age Friendly Partners Program with Telstra. It is designed to give older people, particularly those in regional and rural areas of Victoria the opportunity to develop skills to use technology for socialising, accessing important services, or conducting personal business.

Bookings are essential as places are limited. Phone 5152 4225 or book in person at the library for this FREE event.

Introduction to smartphones
10.00 am – 12.30 pm

Introduction to email
1.30 pm – 4.00 pm

Bairnsdale Library
Tuesday 3 July

Orbost Service Centre
Wednesday 4 July

Lakes Entrance Service Centre
Thursday 5 July

Paynesville Service Centre
Friday 13 July

Bairnsdale Library
Friday 20 July
Movie Screening
Goodbye Christopher Robin

Join us for the screening of Goodbye Christopher Robin
The story recounts the origins of the Winnie the Pooh stories and the troubled relationship between the author and his family; particularly with his son Christopher Robin Milne.

Phone 5152 4225 or book in person at the library for this FREE event.

Monday 2 July
Bairnsdale Library
2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Tuesday 10 July
Omeo
Service Centre
2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Tuesday 10 July
Orbost
Service Centre
2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Wednesday 11 July
Lakes Entrance
Service Centre
2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Thursday 12 July
Bairnsdale Library
2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Friday 20 July
Paynesville
Service Centre
10.30 am – 12.30 pm & 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
You are invited to Be Connected

Join us! We need you!

Create your free account today and begin your learning journey

To continue providing some of our popular technology classes, East Gippsland Shire Libraries needs you to join the Be Connected Network beconnected.esafety.gov.au

For further information, phone 5152 4225 or inquire in person at the library.

When you register, be sure to nominate your local East Gippsland Shire Library:

Bairnsdale Library
Lakes Entrance Service Centre
Mallacoota Service Centre
Omeo Service Centre
Orbost Service Centre
Paynesville Service Centre

Australian Government
Be Connected
Every Australian online.
Find Your Treasure

2018 BOOK WEEK
18–24 AUGUST

To celebrate Children’s Book Week 2018, you are invited to enter our annual

DRAW A PICTURE/WRITE A STORY COMPETITION

For more information visit your local library or phone 5152 4225.

EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL