



Lakes Entrance Connect

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

What's happening with the Lakes Entrance CBD Masterplan?

In early 2016 East Gippsland Shire started work on a masterplan to guide future improvements to the Lakes Entrance town centre. This initial work included consultation with over 600 local residents, agencies and visitors. The draft masterplan was adopted 'in-principle' by Council in July 2016. This gives council officers the ability to finalise the report and start to scope up the projects that were included as high priorities within the masterplan.

If you have not seen the masterplan, it is available to view on the East Gippsland Shire website:

http://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/documents/plancom_directorate/strategic_plans/lakes_entrance_cbd_improvement_project_draft_masterplan.pdf.

Since then, council officers haven't been idle. We have successfully obtained competitive funding for two of the projects that were identified within the masterplan. These projects, *Lanewayz of Lakes* and *Safer at the Junction*, are underway and are separately reported in this edition of Lakes Entrance Connect. We recently applied for funding to improve some of the bus stops along the Esplanade – so let's hope we get that funding too!

We have been working hard to advocate for more funding for some of the bigger projects including the Veloway, dual use pathway, and the Lakes Square. We are very happy that these projects will now be part of the suite of projects being considered through a joint funding announced by Australian Government MP Darren Chester Member for Gippsland: <http://www.darrenchester.com.au/media-room/1815-million-dollar-upgrade-for-rosedale-roundabout> and his Victorian Government counterpart Harriet Shing MP Member for Eastern Victoria: <http://www.harrietsHING.com.au/news/70m-of-safety-upgrades-for-major-gippsland-highways>

More about these projects and the funding opportunity it presents for Lakes Entrance are outlined below.

\$50 million for Princes Highway East

The Federal and State 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 the Princes Highway runs right through Lakes Entrance, 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 Lakes Entrance on 19 April at the Mechanics Hall, 18 Mechanics Street, from 2pm – 8pm. There will be presentations at 2.30pm, 4.30pm and 7pm. Light refreshments will be provided after each presentation. You are encouraged to come along and contribute your ideas. This consultation will also be used to finesse some of the ideas that came out of the Lakes Entrance Masterplan project including the dual use path and the Lakes Square.

If you can't make the session on the 19 April, 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 http://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/Your_Say/70M_road_upgrades_for_East_Gippsland.

If you are unable to attend 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.

Lanewayz in Lakes Project

Gray Street and laneway clean up

A joint initiative between East Gippsland Shire Council, Gippsland Community Correctional Services - Community Work Program and RSL Lakes Entrance commenced on 16 February with the clean-up of the Gray Street car park.

The Gippsland Community Work Program participants weeded the existing garden beds, cleared the vacant block of land at Staunton Street, cleaned the laneway where the Love Lakes Mural will be installed and painted the car park fence. In April the car park beds will be planted and mulched with local native plants and trees to improve the amenity of the area.

Love Lakes Mural Workshops

More than 150 people attended the printmaking workshops over the summer holidays. Over 270 prints were developed for use in the final mural design. The project was well supported by the community, with some people taking the time to develop their design at home before printing artwork at the workshop.

We have been able to capture native flora and fauna, the history of the buildings where the mural will be located and the importance of the fishing industry in Lakes Entrance. Tony and George Aceri, the landowners where the mural will be installed, were able to come along to a workshop, which ensures that the former life of the building as a supermarket is captured in the mural.

Lakes Entrance Primary School enjoyed participating in the project, with printmaking workshops held at the school on 16 and 17 February.

A reference group meeting was held 28 February where the final design was approved. The artists have installed the majority of the mural. We are working on an explanatory panel and an activation event will be held in the coming months. Entrapment points along the laneway are being addressed by landowners and traders. The walls have been painted, furniture ordered, along with planters and plants. Work will continue in the laneway until May.

Lanewayz in Lakes Project is funded by the Victorian Government Community Crime Prevention Program.

Working with Traders

Council officers have been working closely with traders in the Barkes Avenue, Staunton Street, Mechanics Street and the Esplanade precinct as part of *Lanewayz in Lakes* and *Safer at the Junction*. Conversations with LEADA have also taken place to discuss how local businesses can get involved in, and benefit directly from, these works. Thank you to those who have so warmly embraced the opportunities that these projects will bring.

The Economic Development Unit is planning to deliver a Visual Merchandising and Customer Service training program for retailers in Lakes Entrance. You can register your interest by emailing economic.development@egipps.vic.gov.au and let us know what type of support programs you need for your business.

Street Design Masterclass

With lots of streetscape and safety improvements work underway in Lakes Entrance, it was the ideal location for East Gippsland Shire to host a community Street Design masterclass recently. The masterclass attracted over thirty trader and community group representatives from over eight separate East Gippsland townships – including a strong contingent from Lakes Entrance itself. The masterclass focused on best practice in street design and discussed street design and its importance in making great and sustainable places. In particular it focused on ensuring that streets were designed to make people “*Stop, Stick, Stay and Spend*”. We are sure you will hear more about this as part of the streetscape design work for Lakes Entrance.

Merrangbaur Heights Development Plan

At its meeting on 7 February, Council adopted a Development Plan for the final stage of the Merrangbaur Heights Development (54 Thorpes Lane). The Development Plan is a necessary step before the land owners could seek a planning permit to subdivide the land. In making its decision to approve the Development Plan, Council thoroughly considered some of the concerns raised by nearby residents and inserted some additional conditions into the approval to address these residents' concerns. The Development Plan will facilitate the release of approximately 152 residential housing lots and will also ensure that the developers contribute financially to some important future road connections. More information about this decision can be found in the minutes from the Council meeting

http://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/Council/Meetings_and_Agendas/Council_Meeting_07_February_2017?minutes

Seawall Update

Thank you to everyone for tolerating some minor inconvenience prior to Christmas as the seawalls close to the footbridge underwent some important maintenance. The works were complete in time for the busy summer months and ensured that there was no need to close the adjacent car park.

The section of footpath to the west of the Coastguard building remains closed as we finalise the design for the repair of this seawall. We are currently working on a design that is both functional and looks good for this important part of the foreshore, and hope to be able to share this design with the community shortly.

The Victorian Government will also soon commence some repair work to the Narrows section of seawall on Bullock Island.

Bumper tourist season in Lakes Entrance

Lakes Entrance Customer Service Centre had another busy holiday period with just over 13,500 enquiries from December to February. January was the busiest we have seen in five years', with just over 5,100 enquiries. The Easter holiday period is also anticipated to be busy, so let's hope we're blessed with fine weather that will make it a great holiday experience for our visitors.

Explore your Customer Service Centre

Lakes Entrance Customer Service Centre is first point of contact for any library and council enquiries you may have. Did you know that free Wi-Fi is also available? Our friendly Customer Service Officers can help you with printing and scanning for a small cost. We also have a small meeting room for hire, which seats eight. Customer Service Officers provide general information to locals and visitors. Discover more Library events on our website:

http://eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/Libraries/Library_Events

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 Lakes Entrance, two facilities will now enjoy lower electricity charges, allowing them to spend the savings on other important aspects of maintaining these important community facilities.

Colour Fest kicks off National Youth Week celebrations

A crowd of 1000 young people from as far as Mallacoota and Omeo gathered in Lakes Entrance on 31 March to kick off National Youth Week. Headlining the event was Colour Fest, a safe place for young people to socialise with strict drug, alcohol, smoke and discrimination free zone.

Colour Fest started with a Welcome to Country by Alan Coe. The Lakes Entrance foreshore was abuzz with free activities: live music by local artists including Matt Bentley and DJ Beef, a Youth Ambassador chill out zone, a barbeque, photo booth, bucking bull, bungee run, bocce, spray art workshop, t-shirt screen printing, drumming circle, art workshops, fake scars, fairy floss and air brush tattooing to name a few.

The event finished off at sunset with the crowd pleasing Colour Throw which was a highlight of the event. The response was very clear that young people want to see more events like Colour Fest in East Gippsland. National Youth Week events are supported by the Victorian and Commonwealth governments and East Gippsland Shire Council. The annual festival brings young people together, showcases local young talent and celebrates the important role young people play in our community.

East Gippsland Skaters showcase talent

Over 300 spectators and 75 competitors took part in a skate, scooter and BMX competition at the Lakes Entrance Skate Park as a part of the Australian Beach Games on 18 March. Competitors travelled from as far as Rye to compete in the games which were enjoyed by all. East Gippsland Shire Council, YMCA Australian Skateboarding League, Australian Beach Games and East Gippsland FReeZA Group worked together to ensure the event was a success.

The Victorian Skatepark League series is the largest and most established series of skate and BMX competitions in Australia. The competition is a great platform to recognise young and talented riders.

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 Lakes Post or you can register your interest by contacting Rhonda James by email feedback@egipps.vic.gov.au or telephone 03 5153 9500.