Special edition: Autumn 2018
For immediate release — Thursday, April 19, 2018

Lakes Entrance 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 information about upcoming events, activities, projects and programs planned for Lakes Entrance and District.

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: http://bit.ly/LakesConnect

Lakes Entrance Growth and Adaptation Strategy

East Gippsland Shire Council, with support from the Victorian Government, is preparing a strategic plan for growth and adaptation in Lakes Entrance towards 2050.

Consultation activities on the Lakes Entrance Growth and Adaptation Strategy will run over April and May.

We need your help to identify important community values (key assets, infrastructure, features and qualities) in Lakes Entrance, and how best to manage risks to these values arising from growth and natural hazards.

GET INFORMED

- Visit the Project Hub at the Lakes Entrance Service Centre from April 19 to May 28, 2018.
- At the Project Hub, you’ll be able to read more about the project, leave feedback or fill out a survey. From April 30 to May 4, the project team will be working from the Hub and available to answer questions about the project.
- Contact Kate Nelson, Director Community and Strategic Development: legas@egipps.vic.gov.au or telephone 03 5153 9500

GET INVOLVED

- Come along to the Community Workshop on May 3, 2018 from 5.30 to 7.30pm at the Mechanics Institute Hall.
- Fill out the online survey which will be active until May 28, 2018.

Further information: Kate Nelson, Director Community and Strategic Development
Lakes Entrance company, AlbCon has won a $1.361 million contract to replace the full 216-metre bluestone seawall along the Esplanade with precast concrete panels.

The seawall replacement works and boardwalk construction contract was awarded at the April Council meeting.

Council staff discussed potential designs with Gippsland Ports and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. Two designs deemed suitable for Lakes Entrance—a rock armour seawall or precast concrete panels.

A 90-metre section of the wall and adjoining footpath has been fenced off for some time.

Council requested tenders for repairing this section of the seawall as well as replacement of the full 216-metre seawall, using both design options.

In this particular location, it was recommended to use precast concrete panels as it is close to the marine harbour for fishing vessels, recreational boats and Coastguard precinct.

As you can see from the artist’s impression above, the project will include a boardwalk to connect to the existing walkway.

Council staff will work with the contractor to negotiate a project start date. Look out for further updates about this important project on Council’s website, in local newspapers and in future editions of Lakes Entrance Connect.

Further information: Elisabeth Burnett, Project Engineer
Safer crossings for Church Street

Church Street provides an important connection within the township of Lakes Entrance. As a part of the streetscape project for the area, a Road Safety Audit was conducted to identify opportunities to improve vehicle and pedestrian safety.

As a result of the audit, traffic calming works and additional pedestrian crossing points have been installed at the Mechanics Street and Carpenter Street intersections.

This work was completed before Easter, with the final stage of works at the Bulmer Street intersection anticipated to be completed by the end of April.

The Australian Government has fully funded this $330,000 project under the Roads to Recovery Program.

Further information: Damian Crozier, Project Supervisor

Lights are on at the Junction

The Lakes Entrance CBD project, Safer at the Junction, is a step closer to completion with new lights recently installed on the existing light poles in Barkes Avenue and Gray, Mechanics and Box Streets. New lighting poles and lights are anticipated to be installed by Ausnet Services in Mechanics and Staunton Streets by the end of April. The final stage of this project will include lighting, closed-circuit television (CCTV) and kerb and channel works in the Gray Street carpark.

Safer at the Junction is funded by the Victorian Government Department of Justice and Regulation Public Safety Infrastructure Fund. The purpose of the project is to improve the security, safety and overall aesthetics of this important transport and pedestrian link with the precinct in Lakes Entrance. Works completed to date include lighting and CCTV in Barkes Avenue and the laneway between the Esplanade and Gray Street.

Further information: Sueanne Claringbould, Community Planning Coordinator

Image: New lights on existing poles in Mechanics Street
Image: Lighting in Barkes Avenue improving the safety around the Gray Street carpark
Image: New lights in Barkes Avenue

eastgippsland.vic.gov.au  feedback@egipps.vic.gov.au  @egsc
Safety works complete at Bullock Island

The first of many works planned to better accommodate pedestrians and vehicles that share Bullock Island have just been completed.

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) Regional Manager Land and Built Environment, Carole Macmillan said Bullock Island is a very popular and busy spot for locals and visitors alike who come to fish and view the commercial and recreational boats on their voyage to and from Bass Strait.

“The works recently completed in partnership with East Gippsland Shire Council aim to ensure the area is much safer for those on foot, by providing a physical barrier between them and vehicles driving and parking on the south-west corner of the island,” Ms Macmillan said.

“There’s now a decent buffer zone between the carparks and the foreshore seawall to give people more space to comfortably enjoy the area, marking a small step towards the wider road realignment and carpark works planned in the Bullock Island Master Plan.”

East Gippsland Shire Council Mayor, Cr Joe Rettino said the works were part of a much bigger Master Plan for the island.

“The Master Plan was designed in conjunction with the community and endorsed by Council in 2015,” Cr Rettino said.

“The Master Plan recognises the need for significant recreational and amenity upgrades to Bullock Island to make it a ‘must see’ destination for locals and tourists visiting Lakes Entrance.

“These recent works are a smaller component of plans for improved pedestrian access and shared pathways across the island,” Cr Rettino concluded.

The recent works, including the realignment of the road, car parking and improved seawall protection, have strong support from Bullock Island based Gippsland Ports.

CEO of Gippsland Ports, Nick Murray said the improvements, particularly the road and parking realignments, have made traffic movement on the island much safer and controlled for vehicles and pedestrians, “which is critical for our operation.”

“By ensuring vehicles are parked further back from the seawall, our vital infrastructure for our dredging operations is much better protected, and we avoid having to disrupt visitors to move vehicles in that section of the island for access,” Mr Murray said.

The Bullock Island Master Plan can be viewed on Council’s website: http://bit.ly/bullockisland

eastgippsland.vic.gov.au  feedback@egipps.vic.gov.au  @egsc
Princes Highway East – Lakes Entrance

The Australian and Victorian Governments have provided $50 million to upgrade the Princes Highway between Sale and the NSW border.

Works at Lakes Entrance
Lakes Entrance has been identified as a priority location for improvements to pedestrian and cycling safety and connectivity.

As part of the $50 million funding, VicRoads will improve pedestrian safety and access along the Esplanade with new crossing signals at Barkes Avenue and Mechanics Street. The existing shared path will be extended and widened which will result in some minor changes to the existing car park.

This is in addition to works already being completed in Lakes Entrance including a new pedestrian crossing and improvements to the car park at Jimmy’s Point and a service road at Laura Street.

Have your say
We want to improve pedestrian safety and access at the Princes Highway and Myer Street intersection.

Thanks to community feedback received during previous engagement, we’ve developed two concept designs:

1. Closing vehicle access to Myer Street
2. Only allowing vehicles to make a left turn in and left turn out of Myer Street

You’re invited to have your say on the preferred option by taking part in an online survey available from Thursday 5 April. Visit engagevicroads.vic.gov.au or vicroads.vic.gov.au and search for Lakes Entrance.

To obtain a hard copy of the survey, write to PO Box 158 Traralgon 3844 or email dippslandprojects@roads.vic.gov.au

Based on this feedback, VicRoads will determine a final design and present it to the community by July.

Timeline
Work on the new pedestrian crossings are expected to begin in early to mid-May and are expected to take three months to complete. Work on the shared path is expected to begin later this year.

Which option do you prefer?
Have your say online:
Option 1: Closing vehicle access to Myer Street

- Full closure of Myer Street
- No access into Myer Street from Princes Highway

Option 2: Only allowing vehicles to make a left turn in and left turn out of Myer Street

- Myer Street left lane in and left lane out only

---

Which option do you prefer? Have your say online:
An update from Gippsland Ports

Transit Only Zone – Entrance to the Port of Gippsland Lakes

The Gippsland Lakes is a very popular boating destination, attracting commercial and recreational power vessels, sailing vessels, personal water craft and paddle craft. These vessels take part in a range of activities including towed water sports, commercial and recreational fishing and sightseeing to isolated locations only accessible by water.

The ocean access entrance supports the maritime industry including offshore and lake charter operations, commercial fishing and offshore support vessels servicing the Bass Strait oil and gas fields.

The Entrance Channel, The Narrows, Reeve Channel, Hopetoun Channel and Cunningham Arm are a strategically important intersection of waterway channels. They are also the busiest area and carry the most diverse vessel traffic in the Gippsland Lakes.

Gippsland Ports advise that many vessel navigational risks had been identified in this area. These risks were assessed by agencies including Gippsland Ports, Maritime Safety Victoria (MSV), Victorian Fisheries Authority and the Gippsland Water Police.

Strong currents, increased and diverse vessel traffic and the conflicting uses in the area could lead to serious marine incidents with potentially catastrophic consequences.

To control these identified risks; a Victorian Vessel Operating and Zoning Rule (VOZR) was proposed to create a Vessel Transit Only Zone (TOZ) near the entrance to the Gippsland Lakes covering parts of:

- Reeve Channel downstream of the entrance to North Arm (The Narrows),
- The entrance into Cunningham Arm,
- The eastern entrance into Hopetoun Channel,
- The Entrance Channel between the training walls, and
- The waters within the footprint of the Lakes Entrance Bar.

After a process of stakeholder consultation; the proposed TOZ was forwarded to Maritime Safety Victoria, approved by the Safety Director of MSV and is now being established by Gippsland Ports.

The TOZ will prohibit anchoring, fishing or drifting in the areas above.

Recreational and commercial prawn fishing occurs at night within the area of the TOZ with the highest concentration of prawning activity being in Hopetoun and Reeve channels near their intersection with the Entrance Channel.

Daytime fishing activity and sightseeing also occur within the TOZ area.

As a result of the consultation process, stakeholders requested a modification to the boundary of the proposed TOZ to allow an area of the intersection of The Narrows and Hopetoun Channel next to Rigby Island to be available for prawning and fishing. This request was accommodated in the approved TOZ now being put in place.

Further information: Gippsland Ports, 03 5150 0500 during office hours
Nyerimilang Jetty

The long planned for new destination jetty and access at Nyerimilang Wharf (between Lakes Entrance and Metung) will be well underway this month.

The new facility will allow for eight vessels on the site of the historic Nyerimilang Wharf. The vehicle access track, from the old wharf up to the Nyerimilang Park day visitor facilities, will be rehabilitated as an interpretative walking track.

A joint project between Parks Victoria and Gippsland Ports, the jetty will be constructed inhouse by Gippsland Ports staff with onshore access works managed by Parks Victoria.

Parks Victoria will continue to work with Traditional Owners and the Friends of Nyerimilang managing the protection and promotion of the area’s rich cultural values.

As well as supporting recreational boating, the project will contribute significantly to the local economy through employment, transport and logistics, tourism and regional development.

The project is funded by Gippsland Ports and the Victorian Government through the Boating Safety and Facility Program.

Further information: Gippsland Ports, 03 5150 0500 during office hours

Lake Entrance gas connection – update from Enwave

Planning approvals for the supply facility/station have progressed. Construction of this facility is anticipated to commence in late April and will take approximately three months to complete.

The laying of the pipes in the ground is known as gas reticulation work and this is progressing well. Enwave are expecting to finalise the remainder of the network build by May, ahead of having the gas supply facility ready.

Tas Gas Retail are accepting applications for gas connections prior to the network being completed. Application forms can be located on the Tas Gas Retail website https://www.tasgas.com.au or by contacting 1800 760 771.

Enwave wishes to extend their appreciation to the residents and traders who have been very patient throughout this process.

Further information: Peter Dutton, Enwave
Creative Gippsland is pleased to announce a creative program involving a month of workshops and artist residencies to celebrate the arts in Gippsland this May. Over 200 activities, demonstrations, workshops, master classes, artist’s talks, residencies, bus tours and more across the region – with twenty in East Gippsland alone.

In 2018, Artist in residences have been developed, six artists from diverse disciplines spanning photography, literary arts, pavement art, weaving, music and performance will spend two weeks in a small town in each of the six Gippsland councils.

This program has been developed to bring new ideas into the area, getting the artists working with local groups and potentially developing new skills.

**Red Dress & The Sugar Man**

A knockout cabaret show intelligently constructed, written and wonderfully performed by Marissa Quigley.

Marissa tells the tragic noir-style tale of Romeo and Rosie, teasing out the characters and taking us deeper into their worlds. Captivating performance poetry guides us from song to song as Marissa applies her strong, smoky singing voice as her band tastefully present the evocative music of Tom Waits to create a world of desire, doubt, temptation and desperation.

Friday May 11, doors open at 6pm for a 7pm start, Bellevue on the Lakes, 201 Esplanade, Lakes Entrance

**Fantastic opportunity for songwriters and performance poetry artists**

Skills development workshop with Marissa Quigley.

Saturday May 12, 12 noon, Mechanics Hall Lakes Entrance. Cost $10.00 per person.

*Further information: Andrea Court, Arts and Culture Coordinator*

**Land Water Sky exhibition at East Gippsland Art Gallery**

This year the Reconciliation Week theme is *Don’t Keep History a Mystery*, which invites Australians to Learn, Share, and Grow by exploring our past, learning more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures, and developing a deeper understanding of our national story.

The exhibition Land Water Sky is presented by East Gippsland Gallery in partnership with East Gippsland Shire Council and acknowledges the cultural contribution of Aboriginal people in this region. The exhibition is open until June 9 and features a stellar line up of artists from Gunaikurnai Country Gippsland: Ray Thomas, Charlotte (Penny) Hood, Ronald Edwards Pepper and Steaphan Paton.

*Further information: East Gippsland Art Gallery*

**We’re becoming more social**

You can now like us on Facebook, where we share what is making news in East Gippsland: https://www.facebook.com/eastgippyshire.
Dinosaurs and Fossils
Museum Victoria Outreach Program

With the aid of fossils, dinosaur bones, replicas and photographs, we go back in time to reflect on the existence of these ancient animals.

The session that is aimed at children aged 5 to 12, is led by a presenter skilled in early learning and includes specimens, objects, replicas and photographs. Most of the items presented can be handled.

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

Tuesday 8 May
Bairnsdale Library
4.00 pm – 5.00 pm
Junior LEGO enthusiasts are invited to attend our after-school LEGO Club sessions

The sessions are held at Lakes Entrance Service Centre, and will incorporate freestyle creativity and some themed construction activities.

Donations welcome
The library will gladly accept donations of old or new LEGO brand pieces for our LEGO Club collection.

Bookings for each session open the day of the previous session. Phone 5152 4225 or book in person at the library for these FREE sessions.

Lakes Entrance Service Centre
3.40 pm – 4.40 pm

Wed. 7 February 2018
Wed. 7 March 2018
Wed. 4 April 2018
Wed. 2 May 2018
Wed. 6 June 2018

Children aged six and under must be accompanied by an adult.
Victorian Tech Savvy Seniors
Digital Photos and Windows File Management

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

Windows PC File Management: Learn how to work with your files, including: Where to find your files – How to save your files – How to move your files – Creating folders – Cut, Copy and Paste and Using a USB drive/Flash drive.

Managing Digital Photos: Learn the many ways to store, manage and share your digital photos.

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.

Windows PC File Management
10.00 am – 12.30 pm

Managing Your Digital Photos
1.30 pm – 4.00 pm

Orbost Service Centre
Wednesday 2 May 2018

Lakes Entrance Service Centre
Thursday 3 May 2018

Bairnsdale Library
Friday 4 May 2018

Paynesville Service Centre
Thursday 10 May 2018

Bairnsdale Library
Thursday 17 May 2018
Unspoken (What Will Become of Me?)
Takes participants on a roller coaster of emotions - from laughter to reflection, to a place where unspoken anxieties on end of life can become comfortable conversations. Explore themes of ageing, declining capacity, diminished autonomy and a sense of identity.

A FREE event for the whole family at the Forge Theatre and Arts Hub

Unspoken is a 3.5 hour event all about you!
Each session includes a humorous performance, Q & A, interactive art installations activities and information sessions.

Wednesday 30 May 2018

FREE EVENT (Bookings essential by 5pm Friday 25 May)
Venue: 80 McKean Street, Bairnsdale
Session Times: 12 noon to 3:30 pm
5:00 pm to 8:30 pm
FREE light snacks and refreshments

Book Online: www.trybooking.com/TZMT
Box Office: 5152 1482

Forge Theatre and Arts Hub (03) 5152 1482
www.trybooking.com/TZMT
Bairnsdale or Lakes Entrance Visitor Information Centres or Shire Service Centres

Presented by East Gippsland Shire Council Community Programs and local partners

Health Issues Centre

Victoria State Government