



# TUBBUT TATTLE

ISSN 2200 - 5243

November 2025

Next deadline: November 25th

Tubbut Neighbourhood House

E-mail: [tubbutnh@outlook.com](mailto:tubbutnh@outlook.com)

Phone: 0482855670

Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

<http://www.tubbutnh.com> Like us on Facebook

## BONANG BIG ARVO

14<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Bonang Hall 213 Bonang Road Bonang.

Come join us for an afternoon of service information and a night of foot stomping great local music.



**Services will be from 3:00pm – 5:00pm.**



Dinner will be from 6:00pm.

Band to follow from 7:00pm.

Music by: Snowy Jammers



**Some of the services attending are as follows:**



St Vincent de Paul – Welfare Team.

Orbost Regional Health Staff- GP, Women's Health, Physio, Vaccination Nurse, Birgit from our Wellness Clinics.



CFA – Bendoc.



Mental Health Community Engagement Officer.

Latrobe Community Health – Gamblers Help/ Addiction Service.

DEECA.



East Gippsland Shire Councillors/ Staff.

Equine Therapy.



Far East Landcare.

Tubbut Neighbourhood House.

Local Artists Corner.



# CLASSIFIEDS

**Available for parties and anything—Tubbut pizza oven (Bonang Hall also has one available for public hire**



## Septic getting full?

Robert Hampshire will pump out your loo. Septic tanks, porta-loos— no problems Truck has capacity to handle 2 tanks/trip Phone: 0417423983  
Please keep your old glass bottles for Robert too as he is a passionate collector.

## Bobcat contractor for hire

Slashing, clearing, small earthworks, levelling, preparation for sheds, carports, water tanks and paving and clean ups  
Ring Steve 0407190258 or email [stephenscroepe@bigpond.com](mailto:stephenscroepe@bigpond.com)

**Report road issues -  
Regional Roads Vic  
133778**



## Wallabia Wildlife Shelter

Rehabilitation and rescue of injured and orphaned native wildlife  
Call Joe or Rena

0497200927  
24 hours

**Tattler Contributions:** We welcome your articles, news, reports on local groups, photos from local events, milestones, interesting stories, poems, biographies, births, deaths, historical items, and more. *We also welcome any letters to the editors.*

The Tubbut Tattler is produced by the Coordinators of the Tubbut Neighbourhood House which is funded by the Victorian Government. Material herein is the responsibility of the authors and does not represent the views of the DVICG or Tubbut Neighbourhood House unless stated. We welcome material from, and of interest to, people in the border areas of East Gippsland and NSW.

## FOR HIRE

The Tubbut Neighbourhood House has the following for Hire:

Trailer—\$5.00 per day

Wood Splitter—\$10.00 per day

*You can also borrow many of our gadgets:*

Laminator, recording VHS to DVD player, Laptop, tablet, digital photo scanner, convert photos, slides or negatives to digital, record records to USB

**Delegate Multi-Purpose Service**  
11 Craigie St, Delegate  
(02) 64598000

**The Delegate MPS Assessment and Treatment Care Centre (ATCC)**

### ATCC

The Delegate MPS Assessment and Treatment Care Centre (ATCC) is not an Emergency Department, for all Emergency type presentations please proceed to the nearest Emergency Department at the Bombala MPS, or phone 000 for an Ambulance. The ATCC is open Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4pm, please call Delegate MPS (02) 64598000 to make an appointment. Outside of these hours, please consider if your presentation is an Emergency and therefore not for Delegate MPS.

Our nurse-led ATCC is offering:

- Wound Care
- Nursing Assessments
- Blood Pressure readings
- Blood Sugar readings
- Suture or Clip removal
- Injections with Doctors written order
- Other procedures that do not require a doctor

### Pathology

Wednesday 9:30am-10:30am. No appointment necessary. Not available on public holidays

### Other Community Health Services Available on request

- Dietician
- Diabetes Educator
- Immunisations
- Podiatry
- Child and Family Health Nurse
- Generalist Community Health Nurse
- Women's Health Nurse

To refer to any of the above please ring Community Health Central Intake Team on ph. 1800 999 880

### Victorian Visits

Community Nurse Visits Victorian Clients every fortnight. For referral or information ring ORBOST Regional Health (03) 51546666 or Delegate Community Health Nurse on (02) 64598000

**Handy Man available  
call Peter on 0492888057**

## JACK OF ALL TRADES, MASTER OF CONCRETING

### BB'S Concreting and Earthworks

Specialising in concreting and excavating with a 3 tonne excavator featuring hydraulic grab and auger. Tip Truck and crane for hire to move anything from crushed rock and wood piles, to furniture and other household needs. Demolition, site clean-up and rubbish removal available, as well as handyman services to help with repairs and maintenance and much more.

Brodie Bendle

Mobile: 0423 946 592

Email: [brodiebendle@gmail.com](mailto:brodiebendle@gmail.com)

# Art Workshop



Bill Insche will be back on the 22nd and 23rd of November for another ceramic workshop at Tubbut  
10am start on Saturday and Sunday.

Please bring your own lunch and snacks.  
Tea and coffee provided  
Phone 0482855670 Email: [tubbutnh@outlook.com](mailto:tubbutnh@outlook.com)



Some photos of the work coming out of these workshops



# Wellbeing Space News

## MEET YOUR NEW SERVICE LIAISON WORKER



Hello, my name is Tama and I'm very excited to be joining the communities of Bonang, Bendoc, Goongerah and Tubbut as your new Service Liaison Outreach Worker. My role is to help connect you with visiting health and community services, making it easier to know what's available and when providers are in the area.

I have lived in Goongerah since 1998, with a couple of breaks away for the kids to attend high school. I have a background in breeding horses and mini goats, youth work, community services and equine assisted therapeutic services and I'm passionate about supporting small, remote communities. I look forward to meeting you, hearing about your priorities, and working alongside you to make sure services are accessible and useful for everyone.



ERRINUNDRA TO SNOWY  
WELLBEING SPACES  
Tubbut Bendoc Goongerah

Sorry we are late with the introduction to Tama. We did receive the email from Tama but forgot to put it in the last Tattler.

### Practitioner Timetable for the remainder of the year

| PRACTITIONER                    | TUBBUT               | BENDOC               | GOONGERAH            |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| BIRGIT                          | 29/10                | 30/10                | 28/10                |
|                                 | 12/11<br>26/11       | 13/11<br>27/11       | 25/11                |
|                                 | 10/12                | 11/12                |                      |
| LACHLAN                         |                      | 6/11<br>20/11        | 11/11                |
|                                 |                      | 4/12<br>18/12        | 9/12                 |
| SKIN<br>CHECK -<br>LAUREN       | 8/12<br>Morning      | 8/12<br>Afternoon    | 9/12 Morning         |
| PHYSIOTHE<br>RAPIST -<br>NICOLE |                      | 27/11                |                      |
| FIRST AID<br>COURSE             | BONANG<br>HALL 29/11 | BONANG<br>HALL 29/11 | BONANG<br>HALL 29/11 |



ERRINUNDRA TO SNOWY  
WELLBEING SPACES  
Tubbut Bendoc Goongerah

## ESSENTIAL FIRST AID TRAINING



### TRAINING INCLUDES:

- ✓ CPR
- ✓ Wound Care
- ✓ Choking Relief
- ✓ Burn Treatment

**SATURDAY 29 NOV, 2025**  
**9 AM - 4:30 PM**  
**(IF DOING CPR ONLY 9 -12)**

**AT THE BONANG HALL**

**CONTACT YOUR LOCAL NH OR  
TAMA - SERVICE LIAISON**

☎ 0448 639 754  
📧 [www.tama.green@orh.com.au](mailto:www.tama.green@orh.com.au)

This is free  
and a free  
lunch is  
provided



ERRINUNDRA TO SNOWY  
WELLBEING SPACES  
Tubbut Bendoc Goongerah

- MAKING USE OF THIS VALUABLE SERVICE IS ESSENTIAL FOR CONTINUED FUNDING TO KEEP IT GOING BEYOND JUNE 2026

Your concerns are being heard and we are working hard to restore consistency of service providers

- Health nurse Birgit attends E2S fortnightly
- Physiotherapist Nicole has begun monthly visits to E2S
- Health Nurse Lachlan has begun monthly visits to E2S
- Outreach Service Liaison Tama has begun with E2S
- We have secured Molemap skin checks, Blooms hearing checks, Acupuncturist and Osteopath, once logistics are sorted, we will let you know dates for bookings



I am currently working on a 6 month calendar for 2026, so you can know in advance and book. We are still working hard to secure a regular Doctor, Podiatrist, Chiropractor, Pathologist...

PLEASE LET TAMA KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS - 0448 639 754 or [tama.green@orh.com.au](mailto:tama.green@orh.com.au)

Telehealth is an essential service out here to see your Specialist. We can help you set up an appointment with your Specialist to save hours travel to visit in person.

# Wellbeing Space News

## Free Skin Cancer Checks Coming to Goongerah, Tubbut & Bendoc – 8 & 9 December 2025

Lauren from MoleMap in Bairnsdale is excited to be visiting the Goongerah, Tubbut and Bendoc communities this December to offer **free full-body skin checks** for local residents, funded from E2S.

### What is MoleMap?

MoleMap is a leading skin cancer detection service that specialises in the early identification and monitoring of skin cancers and melanoma. Our comprehensive skin checks combine full-body checking with a dermatoscope (a specialised magnifying tool) from your scalp to soles of the feet, close-up imaging of any suspicious spots using a specialised camera, and expert analysis of the imaged spots by specialist Dermatologists. We help detect skin cancers at an earlier, more treatable stage—potentially saving lives.

### Who am I?

My name is **Lauren Brookes**, and I'm a senior **Melanographer** with MoleMap and opened the Bairnsdale clinic in 2019. I am an AHPRA Registered Nurse of 20 years, with most of my nursing life working in Bairnsdale Hospitals Emergency Department. I'm passionate about educating my patients and community about sun safety and skin cancers and the importance of skin checks and early detection of skin cancers. I am thrilled to be able to provide this service to your community.

### What's on offer?

I'll be offering **free full-body skin checks** for residents of **Tubbut** in the morning of **Monday 8th** and **Bendoc** in the afternoon of **Monday 8th December** and **Goongerah** in the morning of **Tuesday 9th December 2025**. Each check includes:

- A thorough examination of your skin from head to toe
- Imaging of any moles or lesions that appear suspicious
- Expert Dermatologist review of any imaged lesions
- A detailed report with any recommendations for treatment or review, along with the photos

Sun safety education and advice

These skin checks are completely **free of charge**, but **appointments are essential** as spots are limited.

### Why book a skin check?

Skin cancer is so common in Australia, and early detection is key. By the age of 70, 2 out of 3 people will have been diagnosed with a skin cancer. Even if you haven't noticed any changes or don't think you're at high risk, it's still a good idea to get your skin checked—especially if you spend time outdoors, have fair skin, or have a history of sun exposure or sunburn.

**To book your appointment**, or for more information, please contact your Neighbourhood House or Tama – Service Liaison worker 0448 639 754

## The Errinundra to Snowy Wellbeing Space is a health clinic serving the communities of Goongerah, Tubbut and Bendoc.

Led by a community Nurse Care Coordinator, the clinic visits:  
**Fortnightly**

**Goongerah on Tuesdays**  
**7023 Bonang Rd, Goongerah**

**Tubbut on Wednesdays**  
**2584 McKillops Rd, Tubbut**

**Bendoc on Thursdays**  
**Dowling Street, Bendoc**

**For more information or to make an appointment call**  
**0456 167 011**

If you would like to book a time out of business hours, or if the Wellbeing Space day in your area does not suit you, the Community Nurse Care Coordinator may be able to arrange an appointment that is easier for you to attend.

### Services include:

**Health education**

**Health checks and health care plans**

**Telehealth appointments and support**

**Pathology**

**Wound care, dressings, suture removal**

**Urine analysis**

**Help filling medical forms, My Aged Care and Home Care Packages**

**Hosting service providers such as GPs, Women's Health Nurse**

**Mental health support via referral**

**Help navigating health services**

Other services will be added as they become available.

**If you have any questions about the services available at the Errinundra to Snowy Wellbeing Spaces call 0456 167 011.**

# Far East Gippsland Track Clearing

## Far East Gippsland Track Clearing 16-19 October 2025

### By Andrew Mortlock – Pajero 4WD Club member

Another great Track Clearing event was staged in Far East Gippsland from 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> October. The 19<sup>th</sup> annual event organised by Parks Victoria and this year in the Snowy River National Park and the Errinundra National Park.

Volunteers from the Pajero, Land Rover, Range Rover and Ineos 4WD Clubs took part in the adventure, guided by 6 Parks Victoria Rangers and assisted by the Friends of Errinundra.

We journeyed up to Bendoc to our camp site at Wilson's Hut, a lovely camp site next to a century old hut. It was a beautiful place to wake up to each day, with Kookaburras sounding the alarm and Flame Robins and Tree Creepers providing the breakfast entertainment along with the "Dawn Chorus".

### Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>

A total of 10 volunteers were on hand along with two Parks Rangers (David Butterworth (Butters) and Will), and Kerry from the Friends of Errinundra group. Our specific task was to clear the Rooty Break and Goonmirk Rocks walking tracks in the Errinundra National Park, which had both become overgrown and difficult for walkers to access. We started on the Rooty Break Track, a lovely walk that winds its way down from Goonmirk Rocks Rd to Coast Range Rd. We divided into two groups to attack it from each end. A large tree crown blocked a section at the bottom, but the chainsaws whirled and removed it in quick time. A leech dined on my leg to provide the only low light of the day!

We moved on to the Goonmirk Rocks Track, a relatively short track which loops around the highest part of the Errinundra, around 1,000m above sea level. There was not much work here for the chainsaws, but the brush cutters had the track looking very nice again for the walkers. Kerry, our Friends of Errinundra rep, and John Hasler provided some fascinating information about the various plant species in the area



### Friday 17<sup>th</sup>

Another couple increased our volunteer numbers to 12, along with 4 Parks Rangers. Today's task was to clear the Old Growth Walk. It is a stunning 5km return walk in Errinundra NP, which winds through some of Errinundra's tallest and oldest trees, including Mountain Ash, Messmate, Shining Gums and Grey Gums, not to mention the towering tree ferns. The weather today was highlighted by low cloud and drizzling rain, conditions which brought the enchanting rainforest to life. It was hard to focus on our tasks and not get lost in the beauty of the forest.

We divided into 3 groups, each with specific equipment and tasks. 4 of us went with Ranger Gary to carry chainsaws and support equipment to clear any large timber off the track. Carrying that amount of equipment was arduous, but we pushed our way through the dripping tree ferns. We finally made it to the end, where we found a huge tree crown which had fallen on the board walk and destroyed sections of it. After documenting the damage we started the return walk, clearing some large trees along the way. It was hard work, and it was a relief to finally make it back to the vehicles.

### Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>

The focus now shifted to the Snowy River National Park. Some of my favourite tracks are in this region and the adrenaline and anticipation surged at the thought of opening and clearing the Snowy tracks.

The work force had now increased to around 25, including 20 volunteers from the 4WD clubs as well as 5 Parks Rangers. I can't speak highly enough of the Rangers, who's local knowledge was invaluable. It was great to see Area Chief Ranger Dave Burton, along with Butters, Robyn, Gary and Mel to lead our teams, and we soaked up their stories and experience about managing such an enormous and iconic National Park, along with their knowledge of the flora and fauna of the parks. Over the years of attending this event I have developed such a close bond with the Rangers, and I have learnt so much about this amazing country and about the dedication of this amazing group of Parks Vic professionals.

My team was led by Rangers Butters and Robyn, and our task was to open and clear the Bowen Track, along with Reeds Track and the northern part of the Deddick Trail.

It was a stunning low-range drive, and only two medium sized fallen trees slowed us up a bit, not making too much of a dent on the 2-stroke. We stopped for lunch on Mt Tower and took in the breathtaking views, highlighted by the snow-covered Main Range and Mt Kosciuszko in the distance.

We eventually popped out on to McKillops Bridge Rd and made the bone rattling drive back along the corrugated road to Bendoc, where we met up with the other groups for a lovely BBQ dinner, followed by a Q&A session with the Rangers. It was the perfect end to an amazing 3 days.

Some of the volunteers stayed on to help with further track clearing in Errinundra on the Sunday, however we had to make tracks back to Melbourne and we said our goodbyes.



# What's On



## BOMBALA & DISTRICT CHAMBER MARKET

**SATURDAY  
NOVEMBER  
22ND**

Along the Bombala River banks

Enquiries to [bombalamarkets@gmail.com](mailto:bombalamarkets@gmail.com)



**There is now a recycling bin for  
small batteries at Bonang Hall**



### Local Concreter—Tubbut and surrounds

All types of concrete work—slabs, driveways,  
paths, sheds, repairs and more

17 years experience

Contact: Jason 0413633255

Email: [twojsconcreting@gmail.com](mailto:twojsconcreting@gmail.com)

Our next Community Lunch will  
be on the 26th of November, at  
the Supper Room in Tubbut  
Please let us know if you are  
coming so we can cater  
appropriately

### Bonang and Bendoc Waste Transfer Stations

#### Accepted waste

General Waste  
Household recycling  
Clean paper and cardboard  
Building and construction  
Glass  
Polystyrene  
Scrap metal  
Whitegoods  
Mattress (Bonang only)

#### NOT accepted waste

Asbestos  
Batteries  
Concrete & bricks  
Clean fill  
Electronics  
Contaminated soil  
Gas bottles  
Motor oil

Information taken from, [https://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/  
environment-and-waste/landfills-and-transfer-stations](https://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/environment-and-waste/landfills-and-transfer-stations)

#### Transfer Stations open

##### Bendoc

Monday 8-11 am  
Wednesday 12-3pm  
Saturday 8-11 am

##### Bonang

Monday 12-3pm  
Wednesday 8-11 am  
Saturday 12-3pm

**Don't leave your  
recycling in  
plastic bags.**

# The Local Rag

2.

## THE ALAM FAMILY

### INTRODUCTION:

John Alam recently visited Bill Heard on Delegate Hill. During their conversation John mentioned he had been a resident of Delegate during the years 1934 until 1946. John's father, George Alam bought the shop, (the one now closed, next to Delegate Hotel) from Mr. Peter Joseph, where he also set up the Ford Agency and put in petrol pumps and a garage. Below is reproduced information about Delegate when the Alam family lived there, taken from tapes which John Alam kindly sent to us.

. . . . .

John Alam: At the shop site there was a bakery and, in fact, the whole block had been built around with various sheds including a cow shed and a chook shed. We used to milk, and such was the life in Delegate when we moved there in 1934.

There were six children in the family. My mother had been a school teacher whom my father had met out in the Riverina.

I have my sister Margaret with me (now Margaret Michael).. She bought that business from Bill Ingram (the same business as above) in 1948. Margaret and her husband Alan were there from the years 1948 to approx. 1965, when the business was then sold to Noel Begley.

Also here is my sister Dorothy. She was six months of age when we first arrived in Delegate in 1934, and like my brothers and sisters, was educated at the local convent school at Delegate. I myself went there until 1944, then I followed in my father's footsteps and went to St. Joseph's College. My three sisters, Inez (the eldest), Margaret and Dorothy, went down to boarding school in Glebe Point.

Dorothy Alam: I went back to Delegate in 1954 and I was teaching at the local public school there. It was a two teacher school at the time, I was the assistant. I taught there for about a term, and then I was transferred to Bombala Central School, where my husband was teaching.

John Alam: And Margaret you raised in all, ten children in Delegate? You've since added an eleventh since being in Sydney.

John Alam: Tell us some of the circumstances, and what Delegate was like in 1934 Dad?

George Alam: Delegate was a good old country town alright. Of course you move into a climate altogether different to the rest of the state. Delegate's climate is exceptional really, altogether different. Delegate is a nice little town, there's no question about that. Right out of this world. Anything that you brought along, innovation wise, was always a god send to the people and they showed their appreciation alright. The climate, well it was really a climate! It was enjoyable, and it was the greatest place in the world to rear a family of young children, — so long as you're wealthy enough to keep them warm. There's nothing wrong with Delegate. It is quite a good solid district and good people there. They've got to be good to stay there. Their surroundings are really first rate for any man inclined to the outdoors. You've got all types of weather in both summer and winter.

The main road was quite as good as the rest of the state, but once you left the main road, well, you'd want to be used to the type of country and be prepared for it, and take your implements with you, like your chain saw.

. . . . .

# The Local Rag

## DELEGATE 1934 - 1946

3.

George Alam:

Starting the Ford Agency there was a bit of an eye opener. The people thought Delegate was saturated with cars but it hadn't been started even. Everyone had a car within a short time after that.



John Alam: One of the old residents of Delegate Hill was Bill Heidemann.

- Bill had a T Model Ford. He lived on the south eastern side of the hill. He would drive his fabulous old Model T Ford in each Saturday, and he would park it in front of the store with great gusto, along with half a dozen of your traded in cars plus any new model Ford that you had down from Sydney.

George Alam: Oh, there was only one Heidemann you know. He wasn't a wealthy man by any means, but living out in a spot like he did — he lived well. He was very sincere when he came in once and he wanted me to give him a new car, either Ford or any other type that I would sell him, in exchange for his old one. He wasn't joking. He wanted a new car for his car, and of course <sup>today</sup> that same car would buy two new cars, but in those days no—because most of the cars in those days that were running around were as old as his but in better condition.

John Alam: We used to go down to Cabanandra on Boxing Day for the races and on the following day the proceeds were shared between the two hospitals of Orbest in the south, and Delegate in the north. That was quite an annual event. What do you remember about Cabanandra?

George Alam: Cabanandra was the same as the rest of Delegate, in that it was just as cold. It's a very pretty spot and the people there were a particularly nice type of people. They had to be to live down there. They were lucky to have a good main road.

John Alam: You told us about Mrs. Ingram (Mrs. J. H. Ingram), who had eighteen children.

George Alam: Yes, eighteen children, no doctors. She was a lovely old lady. When I knew her she had had the eighteen children and they were grown up. She was really a remarkably good woman, a really good woman, and her husband was known as <sup>The</sup> Rajah. He was a Rajah too, even at his age. He was a father to eighteen and to rear eighteen he was a good man, and I mean good in every respect.

John Alam: Reg, one of the sons later set up a store at Bonang.

George Alam: And it was very successful too, and Reg was quite a good fellow. Very sturdily built he was, and quite a capable chap. A good family man. I don't think he had a big family from memory but he was a good store keeper and a good man for the district, there was no doubt about him.

John Alam: Another well known man down there was Harold O'Hare, who used to be a good friend of yours, somewhat of an eccentric fellow. He was also something of an inventor. He had a hot air engine down there early in the 1940's, that he had patented, but I don't think that ever came to anything.

George Alam: He had an idea of inventing the perpetual motion and he wasn't joking—but he was a good chap though, Harold, 'cause I seem to be able to get to the bottom of him, where as other people couldn't. He may have been bashful but in other ways he was quite bright. He still figured that he could get perpetual motion, which of course was an extreme idea. (continued next issue).   
THANKS TO JOHN ALAM - Helen.

# News from the Shire

## Council launches new pool and spa safety inspection service

With warmer weather on the way, East Gippsland Shire Council is reminding residents to make sure their pools and spas are safe and meet state safety regulations. To help, Council has launched a new Pool and Spa Safety Barrier Compliance Inspection Service, giving property owners another simple option to meet their obligations.

For \$385, the service includes:

- An initial inspection by a Council building inspector
- A written report
- One follow-up inspection
- Issue of a Certificate of Barrier Compliance
- Lodgement on Council's database

Victorian regulations require all pools and spas capable of holding more than 300mm of water to have a compliant safety barrier. They must also be registered with Council if they remain erected for three or more consecutive days. Otherwise, owners must either register by the fourth day or dismantle the structure.

This includes:

- In-ground and above-ground swimming pools
- Spas, hot tubs and jacuzzis
- Indoor pools
- Inflatable and relocatable pools

Council's new service is optional – residents can continue to engage a private registered building inspector if they prefer.

For more information on pool and spa safety, visit the Victorian Building Authority website: [www.vba.vic.gov.au](http://www.vba.vic.gov.au)

## Council welcomes proposed improvements to mobile coverage

East Gippsland Shire Council has welcomed the release of the Federal Government's draft legislation on its Universal Outdoor Mobile Obligation (UOMO) that will expand mobile service coverage across the country.

The Uomo will require mobile carriers to provide reasonable access to mobile services outdoors almost everywhere across Australia, benefiting remote and rural pockets of East Gippsland.

Council has extensively advocated for more reliable telecommunications infrastructure in the region, particularly following the 2019-20 bushfires. This work has included ongoing collaborative work with telecommunications providers, working in partnership with the Australian Local Government Association and developing a unified approach with other Gippsland councils. Priority advocacy areas have included voice and data telecommunications becoming a regulated essential service, mandating emergency roaming for all carriers, mandatory infrastructure reliability standards, investment to enhance the reliability of infrastructure in the context of climate change and a community partnership model in remote areas to maintain backup infrastructure prior to and during events.

Mayor Cr John White said this new legislation will be critical in securing more widespread and reliable telecommunications coverage for the shire's rural and remote communities, offering more equitable access to services and digital technologies.

"This obligation is a step in the right direction; however, further improvements are needed to strengthen telecommunications services and infrastructure in our shire. Key areas of focus for our future advocacy efforts include improvements to emergency roaming, mandatory service reliability standards and more reliable back-up infrastructure for remote areas," John said.

"These changes to the way telecommunications services are delivered in East Gippsland will help our towns to become more reliably connected, especially at critical times like when disasters strike and our remote communities become isolated.

"We will continue to proactively campaign for these improvements on behalf of our communities and work with all levels of government to encourage more reliable and equitable telecommunications access that supports community safety and connectedness."

Other telecommunications improvements introduced in the shire include supporting our local incident management plans with the installation of Sky Muster satellites at 45 identified assembly areas, as part of the national Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters (STAND) program.

"The work we completed with these communities across East Gippsland before and after Black Summer ensured the successful rollout of the program, which included 38 sites with AV/TV installations to support utilising the STAND systems," John said.

In addition, high-risk and more remote sites had more resilient power systems installed, with some remaining sites set to receive these upgrades in the future.

Emergency screens strategically located across the shire also provide emergency information, and the new East Gippsland Emergency Dashboard can assist the community to be better prepared and informed before, during and after an emergency



# News from the Shire

## Council moves road maintenance contract to Whelans

East Gippsland Shire Council has announced a change to its road maintenance arrangements, with Whelans Group to take on additional responsibility for maintaining the region's road network.

Whelans has assumed delivery of services spanning areas west of Orbost to the shire border, and north through to Omeo and Benambra, which were previously managed by Cranes Asphaltting & Bitumen Sealing Pty Ltd.

The move follows a formal agreement between the two contractors and Council, ensuring a smooth handover and continued maintenance across the shire.

Whelans had been managing two areas, which predominantly serviced the Far and Northeast sections of the municipality. It will now expand delivery of services to cover all areas of the shire.

Council's Acting CEO, Stuart McConnell, said the decision supports the practical retention of local jobs and service continuity.

"We have supported the proposal from Cranes to novate the contract to Whelans and Cranes has done this with as a priority to ensure service standards and no local job losses for the East Gippsland community," Mr McConnell said.

Cranes Managing Director Michael Crane said his company was proud of the work it had delivered in partnership with Council.

"We've built a lot of strong relationships across the shire and take great satisfaction in the work our crews have done over the years," Mr Crane said.

"The Crane family has chosen to pivot their focus and pursue other opportunities. As such we're pleased to have worked with Whelans through this transfer to ensure local jobs are retained through a smooth transition.

"We wish Whelans every success and thank Council for the opportunity to be part of the region's road maintenance and improvements."

Whelans Group CEO Leigh Brennan, speaking on behalf of Company Director Charlie Whelan, said the company was proud to take on the expanded role.

"We've worked closely with Council for many years and know the importance of maintaining safe, reliable roads for local communities," Mr Brennan said.

"Our team lives and works here, so we take real pride in delivering quality outcomes across East Gippsland."

Mr McConnell thanked Cranes for their significant contribution since 2019 and said Council looked forward to continuing to work with Whelans to maintain local roads.

"We appreciate the cooperation of all parties involved in this transition."

Cranes Asphaltting has been a key partner in maintaining and improving East Gippsland's roads for the past six years, including during fire recovery.

Council's ongoing performance monitoring will ensure high standards are upheld

## Faster planning approvals for East Gippsland

East Gippsland Shire Council has almost halved its planning permit approval times, making it faster and easier for landowners, residents, and businesses to get the green light on their projects.

In the September quarter, median approval times fell to just 43 days – down from 84 days during the same period last year. The percentage of permits approved within the legislated 60-day timeframe also jumped from 52% to 81%, reflecting a strong focus on service improvement and efficiency.

Mayor Cr John White said the results demonstrate the impact of targeted reforms and a renewed commitment to customer service across Council's planning operations.

"We've worked hard to streamline our internal processes and cut unnecessary red tape to better support our community," John said.

"Even with increasing complexity in the State's planning system, our team has delivered faster results – helping landowners move forward with confidence."

These results place East Gippsland ahead of both the statewide and Gippsland regional averages, exceeding Council's own performance targets.

Cr White said the achievement reflects Council's broader commitment to supporting growth, reducing regulatory barriers, and improving the customer experience.

"It's about making it easier to do business and improve services for the people who live and invest in our region," John said.

"Planning isn't always simple – our team regularly works through complex legislation, neighbour concerns, and the need to balance local aspirations with State requirements."

Town planner and director at Crowther and Sadler, Kate Young, agrees that they have certainly noticed an improvement in the processing of applications.

"This results in real benefits for our clients by delivering faster outcomes, meaning projects don't lose momentum."

"The improved efficiency assists us with maintaining a good working relationship with Council's Planning department."

To further support the community, Council staff are available daily to assist with planning enquiries. A new, easy-to-use online customer platform will also launch soon, giving residents faster, clearer access to planning information specific to their properties.

# News from the Shire

## Exploring East Gippsland just got easier

As spring warms up, East Gippsland Shire Council is making it easier than ever to get out and explore with the launch of new visitor signage kiosks and the revamped Visit East Gippsland website.

The 25 kiosks, now installed in key locations including Paynesville, Raymond Island, Johnsonville, Howitt Park (Bairnsdale), Lakes Entrance, Lake Tyers Beach, and Nowa Nowa, highlight local attractions across four distinct designs representing the Gippsland Lakes, Alpine High Country, Snowy River Country, and Coastal Wilderness regions of East Gippsland. Each kiosk is designed to inspire visitors to explore more of the region.

Each sign features a QR code linking directly to the new Visit East Gippsland website, giving visitors instant access to everything the region has to offer. The website provides a comprehensive guide covering where to eat, drink, and stay, as well as details on attractions and experiences. A trip planner tool allows users to build and share personalised itineraries, while locally curated blogs and itineraries provide inspiration from those who know East Gippsland best.

To enrich this experience, Council is encouraging collaboration between businesses and the community to create engaging blogs, itineraries, and other content to attract and inform visitors. A live business listing register is also available, enabling any East Gippsland tourism-related business to apply for a free 12-month listing with the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW) – normally valued at \$295. ATDW-listed businesses may also appear on sites such as Visit Gippsland and Visit Victoria. More details on the ATDW promotion and the Expression of Interest form can be found at:

<https://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/leisure/tourism>

Mayor Cr John White said the kiosks and website are the perfect tools for locals and visitors to take advantage of the warmer weather and explore the region's unique offerings.

"Spring is the ideal time to get out and discover East Gippsland, from our stunning coastline to the picturesque high country," Cr White said.

"These new kiosks and the Visit East Gippsland website make planning your adventures easier, helping you find hidden gems and experiences across the region."

Visitor Information Centres remain open, offering friendly and knowledgeable staff to help along the way. Together with the kiosks and website, they ensure everyone can easily explore the region this spring

Visit the website today at [visiteastgippsland.com.au](https://visiteastgippsland.com.au) and start planning your next adventure.

## Nominate someone who makes a difference

East Gippsland Shire Council is inviting the community to recognise outstanding local achievements by nominating deserving individuals, organisations and groups for the 2026 Australia Day Awards.

The awards shine a light on the everyday heroes who make East Gippsland such a wonderful place to live, work and thrive. They acknowledge significant contributions in areas such as volunteering, community service, sport, arts and environmental initiatives.

Nominations are now open in the following categories:

### Citizen of the Year

**Young Citizen of the Year** (under 27 years of age on 26 January 2026)

**Community Event of the Year** (for events held in 2025)

Mayor Cr John White encouraged residents to consider nominating someone whose dedication deserves recognition.

"We are fortunate to have many individuals and groups in East Gippsland who go above and beyond for our community," John said.

"The Australia Day Awards provide an excellent opportunity to thank those who work tirelessly to support others, often without seeking any reward or acknowledgement. By nominating them, we are celebrating their contribution and showing our gratitude.

"These awards rely on the local community to identify and put forward those who are making a difference. It's a chance for us all to reflect on the people and efforts that make East Gippsland such a vibrant and supportive place to live."

All nominees will be formally recognised at the Australia Day Awards ceremony in January 2026.

Nominations close at 5.00 pm on Sunday 7 December 2025.

Nomination forms are available online at [eastgippsland.vic.gov.au](https://eastgippsland.vic.gov.au), at Council's Customer Service Centres and via the mobile service bus.

# Word Search

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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| A | L | S | B | E | Y | M | Y | E | L | B | A | C | C | X |
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Bloom  
Basic  
Bench  
Blast  
Begin  
Batch  
Caravan  
Crave  
Cabin  
Cable  
Crash  
Diamond  
Deep  
Dwell  
Elegant  
Egg  
Essential  
Frog  
Fantastic  
Feel  
Fetch

## Sudoku

"The aim of Sudoku is to complete the entire grid using the numbers 1-9. Each number can only be used once in each row, once in each column, and once in each of the 3x3 boxes. Visit [www.sudokuoftheday.com](http://www.sudokuoftheday.com) for further tips and help about how to play – and good luck!"

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"The best way to appreciate your job is to imagine yourself without one." — Oscar Wilde

"Whether you think you can, or you think you can't — you're right." — Henry Ford

"Things work out best for those who make the best of how things work out." — John Wooden

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| 1 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| 6 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 7 |
| 9 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 7 |
| 7 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 2 |
| 5 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 9 |



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