

TUBBUT TATTLER

ISSN 2200 - 5243



Next deadline: August 18th

August 2026
Tubbut Neighbourhood House

E-mail: tubbutnh@outlook.com

Phone: 0482855670

Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

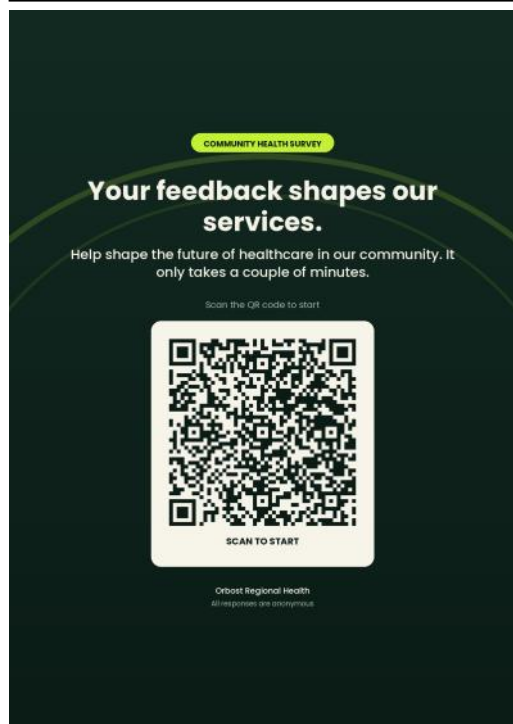
<http://www.tubbutnh.com> Like us on Facebook

Orbost & District Community Health Survey

This survey gives community members an opportunity to share your views on local health and wellbeing needs, priorities, and future services,

The survey only takes a couple of minutes to complete, but the feedback gathered will play an important role in helping shape the future of healthcare and wellbeing in our community.

Every response counts



Redress for Historical Institutional Abuse

Did you or someone you love experience abuse or neglect in an institutional setting before 1990? Apply for Redress by 31 December 2026 for a payment, counselling and a personal acknowledgement or apology.

<https://www.dffh.vic.gov.au/redress-historical-institutional-abuse>

Errinundra to Snowy (E2S) Program Update Staffing Changes

Our Registered Nurse **Lachlan Tompsett** is now delivering care at the Wellbeing Space at Bendoc and Goongerah on a fortnightly basis, following the resignation of our Bendoc Enrolled Nurse **Stephanie Miller**. The program supported Lachlan to complete immunisation and ear cleaning training, which are services now available to our community members.

Although **Tama Green** is no longer with the program, we extend our thanks for her great work setting up a range of specialist visits to the Wellbeing spaces, including skin and hearing checks, osteopathy and podiatry. Tama made these new providers feel comfortable and welcome visiting the region by organising their travel and accommodation.

Our Nurse Coordinator **Birgit Schaedler** will continue to provide care at Tubbut Wellbeing Space and organise the external specialist visits that Tama established.

Contact Details

Our Nurses work part-time, but if you need to get in touch with them, please call:

Birgit Schaedler on 0456 167 011

Lachlan Tompsett on 0439 159 815

Nurse Visit Hours

Due to travel times from Orbost, all nurses at every Wellbeing Space will see clients between 10 am and 3pm.

Specialist Visits

The program will continue to fund specialist visits until our Primary Health Network funding finishes on 30 June 2027. These visits include:

Monthly physiotherapy between October 2026 and June 2027.

Hearing checks at Bonang Hall in January and June 2027.

Skin checks at Bonang Hall in October 2026 and April 2027.

Osteopathy in October 2026 and February, April and Jun 2027.

Optometry in May 2027.

Podiatry and acupuncture services – visit dates to be confirmed.

We will confirm appointment booking processes as soon as possible.

Your Support Matters

We really appreciate the community continuing to support us to deliver the E2S program. Your attendance at the nurse and specialist visits helps with the ongoing sustainability when our Primary Health Network funding finishes. Thank you for making the effort to attend on a regular basis, and encouraging your family and friends to attend too.

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 stephenscroope@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

**Handy Man available
call Peter on 0492888057**

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

Tubbut Neighbourhood House

Word Search

E	N	E	I	R	T	C	D	R	A	Z	Z	I	L	B
L	O	T	K	X	J	Z	F	W	M	H	R	H	W	N
C	B	F	S	Q	W	S	J	R	Q	N	A	K	D	Y
I	L	W	Y	L	L	I	H	C	O	I	Y	P	B	Q
C	A	Q	T	O	J	Z	N	G	L	S	L	Q	T	M
I	C	N	Y	V	T	F	S	D	O	C	T	S	C	B
Z	K	P	U	E	Q	W	R	N	Y	F	L	J	H	K
J	I	G	S	R	J	Y	H	B	O	E	X	S	D	G
L	C	T	K	C	W	F	O	I	E	W	U	O	N	W
H	E	S	F	A	K	R	Q	T	T	L	B	I	T	S
P	I	U	Q	S	L	A	C	D	S	E	Z	A	U	R
F	R	O	S	T	B	I	T	E	O	E	O	V	L	K
W	Y	P	P	I	N	N	P	Q	E	V	H	U	X	L
V	G	R	X	D	K	G	V	R	Y	N	M	V	T	V
Z	F	Q	S	N	O	W	F	S	L	E	E	T	Z	L

Black ice
Blizzard
Chilly
Fog
Freezing

Frost
Frostbite
Hail
Icicle

Overcast
Rain
Ski
Sleet
Sleet

Slush
Snow
Snowball
Whiteout
Windy

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

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 for further tips and help about how to play – and good luck!

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

Goongerah Hall Committee of Management

Tri Annual General Meeting

The Goongerah Hall Committee of Management will hold its tri-annual elections for committee members on

Sat 22nd August at 12:00pm at Goongerah Hall.

This is an opportunity for those interested to join the committee for its next 3 year term.

For more information contact Anthony Bunt (secretary) on 0459513294

All welcome

Community Lunch
19th August
Tubbut Supper
Room
12 noon

Neighbourhood House August activities

Tuesdays

Tech help

- basic assistance with phones, laptops, and computer use
- how to use apps
- or just come in and use our computers and internet
- Have a coffee or tea and have go at our jigsaw puzzles

Wednesday

Learn to mend your clothes.

- Bring your damaged clothes along and learn how to repair them.
- If you already know how to sew feel free to use the sewing machine

Thursday

Craft day

- Learn to knit or/and crochet
- Bring your own expertise and help others who are learning
- Card making we have the supplies, you bring your style (and \$10 to go towards restocking)

The Wellness Space



LINKING OUR REMOTE
COMMUNITIES WITH
SERVICES THAT MATTER

June was a BIG month for E2S Wellbeing Spaces

We had visits from

Shelly – Acupuncture

Osteopathy

Sophie – Audiology

Tom –

Dr. Rob - GP

Thank you to everyone who came to support our – your Service

July was less hectic, as we had some changes to the Program, which we are still working on. We will communicate these to you via our Governance Committee.

In the meantime, fortnightly Nurse visits to each area will continue. Lachlan is back on board and will look after Goongerah and Bendoc. Birgit will concentrate mostly on Tubbut, but can also offer home visits to those who are unable to attend.

Extra visits in July from

Simon – Podiatry
Osteopathy

Tom –

were well attended

We are waiting for an update on Acupuncture and plan our months ahead.

Have you tried our booking platform yet? Feel free to give us feedback about it.

HOW TO BOOK ALL E2S APPOINTMENTS

ONLINE BOOKING PLATFORM



OR Use this Link to book. [https://](https://www.picktime.com/home/E2S)

www.picktime.com/home/E2S

Book directly through
Birgit – 0456 167 011
or your local Community Centre
Bendoc – 02 6458 1531
Tubbut – 0482 855 670

See the calendar for dates of the attending Nurse in your community, book an appointment or just pop in to see them.

You can also expect a phone call from your Nurse Lachlan in the coming weeks, to introduce himself. We are hoping to host a morning tea in his areas to meet him in person.

**Questions, Feedback, Concerns? Call
Birgit - 0456 167 011**



August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 Birgit - Goongerah and home visits all areas	5 Birgit - Tubbut Osteo Am - Goongerah Pm - Bendoc	6 Osteo - Tubbut	7	8
9	10	11 Lachlan - Goongerah	12	13 Lachlan - Bendoc	14	15
16	17	18 Birgit - Goongerah and home visits all areas	19 Birgit - Tubbut	20	21	22
23	24	25 Lachlan - Goongerah	26	27 Lachlan - Bendoc	28	29
30	31					

Pajero 4wd Club



Far East Gippsland Seasonal Gate Closure with Parks Victoria and 2 Melbourne based 4WD Club volunteers 13th and 14th June 2026

Report by Prue Hasler

Members of the Pajero 4WD Club and Melbourne 4WD Club travelled the 450 kms to Bendoc from Melbourne and assisted 6 Parks Victoria (PV) Rangers close gates for the annual Seasonal Closures. Camping at Wilsons Hut just south of Bendoc, they joined 6 PV Rangers from the Bendoc – Cann River area of the East Gippsland Parks Victoria district.

Led by PV Team Leader Robyn Korn, Butters, Will, Lisa and the 2 new PV Rangers led various convoys to remote and rugged parts of the Snowy River, Alpine, Errinundra and Croajingolong National Parks to close all the gates requested. Some of the tracks were quite difficult with some winching required and back tracking to reach all the gates. The new Rangers picked up some 4WDing tips from the experienced 4WD club members. Some of the tracks were in the worst condition seen in decades.

A feature of working with PV Rangers is the sharing of their knowledge about flora and fauna and Park management along the way. The Croajingolong group were fortunate to see 3 whale pods along the coast. One team discovered a new campground to base a club trip.

Safety briefings were held early on the Saturday and Sunday mornings with a division of the group into the various convoys. As the area is remote forest it is important for PV to travel with another vehicle for safety. The Bendoc area alone covers over 250 thousand hectares of difficult and remote bush terrain. Despite concerns for large trees across tracks, no chain sawing was required.

The group enjoyed a Saturday night dinner in NSW at Delegate (the Bendoc Hotel's kitchen was closed) and a warm fire at camp in Wilson's Hut. A diesel heater a club member had taken helped ward of the freezing nights. Preparations are now underway for the 20th annual 4WD and Walking Track Clearing 4 days in October.



Local School History

INSPECTOR'S REPORT BOOK.

School No. 2808 At Bonang
Date of Visit 25/2/1924 Time spent, from 8.5 to 10.5
F. A. Osborne, Inspector of Schools.

Visited for inspection.

1. Grounds:- The paddock of Mr. Clancy is used as a playing area. There is also the physical training is done. A small area has been fenced for a school garden and for agricultural plots. These are kept in order.

2. Building, Sanitation, Records. Since last visit a new school room has been erected on the old site. It has an iron roof and a chimney, but is not lined. It is understood the building will be lined before the winter. There is not much furniture, but what there is, is well cared for. The records are complete, and the maintenance account is balanced to the date of January. The present head teacher has procured several prints of merit for wall decoration. Weather records are kept. There are no meteorological instruments. There are a few books which the children are encouraged to

fell that the proper examination of this year will be on a more satisfactory footing.

3. Instruction:- The standard reached is still low for the reasons fully set out in the previous report. Now pupils are beginning to show real interest in their studies and are working. Self-effort will produce better results, and the head teacher is complimented on rousing it. Pupils are being trained to read and recite with understanding and the daily attention to spelling will strengthen this subject. Writing is still weak owing to careless letter formation. The head teacher intends to teach correct letter formation, in groups, and to see that pupils adopt correct height and slope of letters. Efforts are being made to teach pupils to express their thoughts in correct form. This will have a beneficial effect on the written composition. The daily morning observational talk is

read. It may be possible in time to raise local funds with which the necessary equipment could be procured.

3. Organisation:- In attendance at this school, there are now 10 pupils. All grades are represented except II and III. The classification is allowed. The graph shows some retards, but these are properly accounted for. The necessary work and text books, also supplementary readers, have been procured, and, in general, suitable arrangements have been made for the work of the year. A new time table has been prepared to meet the present needs of the school. The work programme is complete to date, and is approved. The promotion examination of December 1920 has been conducted and recorded in an indifferent manner. Many of the instructions issued to the previous head teacher have not been carried out. The question was discussed with the present head teacher, and it is

regularly taken. Arithmetic is not a strong subject. Daily attention is being paid to tables, mental tests are given regularly, and with constant oral explanation of methods and much teaching from the B.B., results should soon show improvement. In the geography, local features are used as aids to interpret the unseen. Thus practical outdoor geography is provided for. Pupils are encouraged to move smartly in their physical exercises. Brisk bodily movements will have a beneficial effect on slow-moving minds. The teaching of songs has begun. The present head teacher has a good attitude to his work, and interesting developments are expected.

5 Discipline and tone are very good.

6 No pupils are conveyed

7 Nil

8 Head Teacher:- Mr. H. Williamson
J. G. J. fairs to F. A. Osborne,
Bainbridge.

Visited for inspection

1. Grounds:- The paddock of Mr. Clancy is used as a playing area. There is also the physical training to be done. A small area has been fenced for a school garden and for agricultural plots. These are kept in order.

2. Building, Furniture, Records. Since last visit a new school room has been erected on the old site. It has an iron roof and a chimney, but is not lined. It is understood the building will be lined before the winter. There is not much furniture, but what there is, is well cared for. The records are complete, and the maintenance account is balanced to the 9th of February. The present head teacher has procured several prints of merit for wall decoration. Weather records are kept. There are no meteorological instruments. There are a few books which the children are encouraged to read. It may be possible in time to raise local funds with which the necessary equipment could be procured.

3. Organisation:- In attendance at this school, there are now 10 pupils. All grades are represented except IV and VIII. The classification is allowed. The graph shows some retards (retards was a commonly used verb or noun meaning things that delay or hinder progress) but these are properly accounted for. The necessary work and text books, also supplementary readers, have been procured, and in general suitable arrangements have been made for the work of the week. A new timetable has been prepared to meet the present needs of the school. The work programme is complete to date, and is approved. The promotion examination of December 1920 has been conducted and recorded in an indifferent manner. Many of the instructions issued to the previous head teacher have not been carried out. The question was discussed with the present head teacher and it is felt that the progress examination of this year will be on a more satisfactory footing.

4. Instruction:- The standard reached is still low for the reasons set out in the previous report. Now pupils are beginning to show real interest in their new studies and are working. Self-efforts will produce better results, and the head teacher is complimented on rousing it. Pupils are being trained to read and recite with understanding, and daily attention to spelling will strengthen this subject. Writing is still weak, owing to careless letter formation. The head teacher intends to teach correct letter formation, in groups and to see that pupils adopt correct height and slope of letters. Efforts are being made to teach pupils to express their thoughts in correct form. This will have a beneficial effect on the written composition. The daily morning observational talk is regularly taken. Arithmetic is not a strong subject. Daily attention is being paid to tables, mental tests are given regularly, and with constant oral explanation methods and much teaching from the B.B., results should soon show improvement. And the geography, local features are used as aids to interpret the unseen. Thus outdoor geography is provided for. Pupils are encouraged to move smartly in their physical exercises. Brisk bodily movements will have a beneficial effect on slow-moving minds. The teaching of songs has begun. The present head teacher has a good attitude to his work, and interesting developments are expected.

5. Discipline and tone are very good

6. No pupils are conveyed

7. Nil

8. Head teacher:- Mr. Williamson
Temporary

Available Concessions -Victoria

Energy

Victorians on low incomes can receive concessions and benefits to help pay their energy bills.

The Victorian Government offers a range of concessions to eligible households to make the cost of **essential services** more affordable. For more information on concessions and benefits see the links below.

If you have a relevant concession card, you may be eligible for one of these concessions:

Annual electricity concession – you must provide your concession card details to your electricity retailer in order to receive the annual electricity concession

<https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/annual-electricity-concession>

Excess electricity concession – find out what you can do when your annual electricity costs are more than you expected

<https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/excess-electricity-concession>

Excess gas concession – if your winter gas bill is more than you expected, you may be able to claim a concession if you have a relevant concession card

<https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/excess-gas-concession>

Life support concession – if you are a concession card holder using a life support machine at home you could be eligible for concessions on your electricity and water bills

<https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/life-support-concession>

Medical cooling concession – to receive a concession on electricity bills related to medically-required cooling, your medical condition must be confirmed by your doctor

<https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/medical-cooling-concession>

Non-mains energy concession – concession card holders who source non-mains energy for their heating, cooking and hot water can apply for a concession to help cover their yearly energy costs

<https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/non-mains-energy-concession>

Winter gas concession – discounts on gas bills are available for eligible concession card holders to help ease the cost of living during the winter months.

<https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/winter-gas-concession>

Hardship – relief grants for paying overdue energy or water bills are available to low-income Victorians experiencing unexpected hardship

<https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/hardship>

Victorians can also access the following supports:

Energy Assistance Program – Victorians who need additional support with their energy bills can seek help through the Victorian Government's Energy Assistance Program.

<https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/households/help-paying-your-energy-bills/energy-assistance-program>

Victorian Energy Compare – Victorian Energy Compare is the Victorian Government's free, independent energy price comparison tool. Use the tool to help you find the best energy offers for your household.

For more information, visit , <https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/households/help-paying-your-energy-bills>

The Parent Portal brings trusted Victorian Government services together in one simple tool on the **Service Victoria app** and website.

You can use the Parent Portal to access a digital version of your child's 'green book', record milestones and find local kindergartens and primary schools.

Concessions and Benefits—Health

<https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/health>

You should check the details of your concession card to find out which health benefits you are eligible for.

Other agencies offer a variety of concessions and benefits to eligible cardholders to assist low-income Victorians with health bills. If you have a relevant concession card, you may be eligible for one of these concessions:

Ambulance transport - emergency ambulance transport is free-of-charge for some concession cardholders

Dental services - most concession cardholders can access affordable dental health services for general, specialist and emergency care

Essential medical equipment payment - you can apply for an essential medical equipment payment even if you receive a similar benefit from the Victorian government

Eye care and glasses - affordable eye care and visual aids are available for the disadvantaged in our community

Hearing services - free hearing checks and hearing aids are available for eligible concession cardholders and their dependents

Multi-purpose taxi program - Victorians with permanent or severe disabilities can receive discounted taxi fares.

Patient travel subsidies - Victorians who must travel long distances to receive specialist medical services can have their travel costs partly reimbursed

Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme - the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme makes most prescription medicine affordable for concession cardholders.

Rates and property

<https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/stamp-duty-concession>

The DFFH and other agencies offer a variety of concessions and benefits to eligible cardholders to assist low-income Victorians with housing bills. If you have a relevant concession card, you may be eligible for one of these concessions:

Fire services property levy concession - concession cardholders should check their council rates notice to see if they receive a discount on the fire services property levy

Municipal rates concession - Victorian home owners with eligible concession cards can claim a deduction on council rates

Stamp duty concession - if you are a concession cardholder and you are considering buying property, you could be fully or partially exempt from stamp duty.

Council's cultivating a new Agricultural committee – room for two

East Gippsland Shire Council is calling for Expressions of Interest from local farmers, producers and agribusiness representatives to fill two vacancies on the Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee (ASAC).

ASAC is Council's direct line to the paddock – giving farmers, producers and agribusinesses a real say in the decisions that affect them. It's how Council stays plugged into what's happening across one of the region's most important industries.

Council is after people who are hands-on in the sector and keen to help shape its future.

Mayor Cr Ashworth said the committee is a vital link between Council and the region's farming communities.

"Agriculture is a cornerstone of East Gippsland's economy and community. The Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee brings together local knowledge and experience to help inform Council's decision-making on issues that matter to our farmers, producers and agribusinesses.

"We encourage applications from people with a broad range of agricultural backgrounds who are keen to contribute their expertise and help shape the future of the industry in East Gippsland.

"The Committee provides advice on a range of matters affecting the sector, including industry resilience, strategic planning, emerging issues, natural disasters, water security, biosecurity concerns and Council policies that impact agricultural businesses and communities.

The successful applicants will join a committee that includes representatives from key agricultural organisations, Councillors and industry representatives from across East Gippsland. Committee meetings are held quarterly, with additional meetings convened as required.

For applicants from the further reaches of shire, Council have introduced reimbursement of costs incurred and there is the option to join online.

Successful applicants will serve out the remainder of the current committee term (to November 2027), with the option of a further two-year term after that. Read the full Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee Charter.

Expressions of Interest form can be accessed online through Agricultural Assistance.

Applications should include:

- A summary of your agricultural industry involvement
- Relevant industry, community or committee experience
- Skills and attributes you'd bring to the table
- A completed EOI form.
- Applications close: 10 August 2026, 5.00 pm

For more on the Committee and its role, contact Council's Economic Development team.

Send applications to:
Kaylene Wickham Agribusiness Development Officer
East Gippsland Shire Council
Email: economic.development@egipps.vic.gov.au
Phone: 03 5153 9500

New film and documentary streaming service

East Gippsland Libraries members now have access to a world-class, on-demand streaming platform with the launch of Kanopy, a digital service offering thousands of films, documentaries, TV series and educational programs, all included with a free library membership.

Each member will receive 15 viewing tickets per month, providing flexible access to a diverse catalogue of high-quality content from around the world.

Kanopy features content from major studios including A24, Paramount, Warner Bros. and MGM, along with documentaries, classic films, Australian cinema and television series from leading broadcasters such as the BBC, PBS and The History Channel.

The platform also includes:

- The Great Courses collection, featuring expert-led educational lectures
- Kanopy Kids, a dedicated children's section with parental controls and curated, age-appropriate content
- Films in more than 100 languages, supporting culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- Seamless access across mobile devices, desktop computers, smart TVs, Apple TV, Chromecast and more

Mayor Jodie Ashworth said Kanopy is a valuable addition to the library service, expanding access to quality entertainment and educational content for the community.

"Kanopy expands what our libraries can offer the community, giving members access to a remarkable collection of films, documentaries, television series and educational content from around the world.

"Whether you're looking to learn something new, explore different cultures, revisit classic films or simply enjoy quality entertainment, Kanopy makes that content accessible to everyone through their local library.

"Mayor Ashworth said the new service also comes at an important time for many households facing cost-of-living pressures.

"At a time when many households are carefully managing their budgets and making decisions about which subscriptions they can afford to keep, Kanopy provides access to high-quality streaming content at no cost to library members.

"It's a simple way to enjoy great entertainment, discover new stories and access educational programs without the expense of another monthly subscription," Mayor Ashworth said.

Kanopy is available to all East Gippsland Libraries members from 9 July.

For more information, visit the East Gippsland Shire Council website or one of the six libraries across the region.

East Gippsland and Wellington win state award for innovation

East Gippsland and Wellington shire councils have jointly won the Innovative Leadership Initiative Award at the annual LGPro Awards for Excellence held in Melbourne on Thursday 19 June for a new system that protects residents' data and saves ratepayers' money.

The recognition celebrates the councils' collaborative leadership in delivering what has been described as a first of its kind for Victorian councils: a shared, cloud-based electronic document and records management system (EDRMS) named the Shared Services Initiative: Rural Councils Records Management Transformation.

The new EDRMS system has transformed how information is managed, protected, and accessed across both organisations.

The LGPro Awards for Excellence promote and celebrate outstanding work being undertaken by individuals and teams working in local government across Victoria, spanning 15 award categories.

The Innovative Leadership Initiative Award recognises the two councils' commitment to driving real improvement across the sector.

Wellington Shire Council Mayor Cindy Madeley said the award reflects the strength of regional collaboration.

"This achievement demonstrates what can be accomplished when councils work together with a shared vision," Cr Madeley said.

"By combining our resources and expertise, we have created a sustainable, scalable solution that not only improves our internal operations but strengthens the services we provide to our communities."

The project emerged from shared challenges: outdated legacy systems, increasing compliance demands, manual processing, and cybersecurity risk. The councils' response was a formal shared services model which has delivered significant, measurable outcomes.

Both councils have reduced manual processing by more than 250 hours per week, cybersecurity protections have been substantially strengthened, paper reliance reduced, and business continuity improved. The councils say the project will achieve substantial cost avoidance over the next five-year period.

East Gippsland Shire Council Mayor Jodie Ashworth highlighted the broader significance of the initiative.

"This award is recognition of something genuinely innovative – two regional councils working together to solve real problems, lead digital transformation, and protect the communities we serve," Cr Ashworth said.

"It shows that scale is no barrier to leadership in local government. We are proud of the work our teams have done alongside Wellington, and proud to be contributing to better practice across the sector."

The councils have committed to sharing what they have learned to help other councils adopt a similar approach.

News From the Shire

Council adopts “careful and financially sustainable” Budget

Average rate increase of 2.5%, below the State Government cap and below CPI
More than \$54.4 million in capital works investment, with \$22.7m funded by grants
\$1.5m in savings and efficiency measures to help manage rising costs
\$483,000 in pensioner rebates

East Gippsland Shire Council has adopted its 2026/27 Budget, with a focus on supporting community, protecting critical services, and ensuring the organisation remains financially sustainable over the long term.

Adopted at Council's meeting on 23 June 2026, the Budget demonstrates a careful balance between service delivery, infrastructure investment and responding to cost-of-living pressures facing the community.

Mayor Cr Jodie Ashworth said the Budget had been developed at a time of ongoing cost pressures and economic uncertainty.

“Factors such as inflation, higher fuel and insurance costs, and rising expenses associated with delivering essential services have required careful and considered decision-making,” Cr Ashworth said.

“These are challenges facing households and businesses every day and Council is also not immune.

“This is a Budget that continues our commitment to putting the community first. It has been developed over many months, with significant contributions from community, officers and Council across the shire.”

As a Council delivering services across 21,000 km² – approximately 10% of Victoria – there is an ongoing challenge of efficiently delivering services across a large and dispersed region.

“Our demographics and geography often require duplication of services to ensure all communities are supported, including multiple service centres, waste transfer stations, libraries and open spaces. This comes at a cost that must be balanced against our commitment to support communities,” Cr Ashworth said.

Rates below State cap and CPI

For the second consecutive year rate increases have been kept below the State Government cap.

Cr Ashworth said that in setting the rate, Council made a deliberate effort to limit cost-of-living pressures and financial impacts on businesses while continuing to deliver the services and infrastructure our communities rely on.

“The average rate increase is set at 2.5%, below the State-imposed cap of 2.75% and well below inflation, which is currently around 4.2–4.9%. We also use a differential rate across residential, commercial/industrial and farming properties to share the rating load. We have kept the rise even across these groups.” Cr Ashworth said.

“This means difficult decisions must be made as costs continue to rise faster than revenue. We encourage any ratepayer experiencing financial hardship to contact us.”

Rates make up about half of Council's revenue and are necessary to maintain core services.

“Supporting our ageing population is a key priority. In 2026/27, \$483,000 will be provided in pensioner rate rebates, in addition to the State Government concession, to assist eligible pensioners with rising living costs,” Cr Ashworth said.

Fuel costs add up

Fuel prices have risen sharply, driven in part by conflict in the Middle East.

Chief Executive Officer Fiona Weigall said the Budget includes approximately \$880,000 in additional fuel costs across Council services, including road maintenance, parks and gardens, and waste collection.

“Waste services are particularly sensitive to fuel price increases due to the scale and frequency of collection across a large geographic area,” Ms Weigall said.

“These costs, combined with processing and disposal expenses, continue to place upward pressure on the cost of waste and recycling services. We are actively working to reduce fuel use where possible while maintaining service levels.”

Community programs valued

The Budget highlights the wide range of community programs Council supports and recognises the important role volunteer committees and groups play.

“We will fund 79 committees that manage many of our halls and sporting reserves, along with providing funding streams for community projects, and arts and cultural initiatives that contribute to the fabric of East Gippsland,” Cr Ashworth said.

Striking the right balance

To support long-term sustainability, the Budget includes \$1.5m in savings and efficiency measures, in addition to the \$2m in ongoing savings achieved in 2025/26.

Ms Weigall said these measures help manage rising costs while protecting frontline services and maintaining alignment with Council Plan priorities.

For 2026/27, \$54.4 million has been allocated to the Capital Works Program, with \$31.8m funded through Council operations and \$22.7m from grants and external contributions.

Ms Weigall said that in line with Council's principle of making the most of existing assets, \$36m is allocated to asset renewal.

Securing external funding remains critical as councils are expected to deliver more with fewer resources.

“We have actively listened to our community and ensured their feedback has guided our decision-making. The priorities we've heard – maintaining essential services, managing costs and investing in infrastructure – are reflected in this Budget.”

The adopted 2026/27 Budget and supporting fact sheets will be available on Council's website and at service centres and libraries.

“We've worked hard to strike the right balance – keeping rates as low as possible while still investing in roads, community facilities and the services that matter most to our residents,” Cr Ashworth said.

The Budget aligns with Council's Plan and Community Vision, directing available resources to priority areas identified through community engagement and strategic planning frameworks.

Cr Ashworth said community feedback played an important role in shaping the Budget.

“We have actively listened to our community and ensured their feedback has guided our decision-making. The priorities we've heard – maintaining essential services, managing costs and investing in infrastructure – are reflected in this Budget.”

The adopted 2026/27 Budget and supporting fact sheets will be available on Council's website and at service centres and libraries.

Businesses encouraged to share insights to shape East Gippsland's economic future

East Gippsland businesses are being invited to have their say on the opportunities and challenges facing the region through East Gippsland Shire Council's Business Insights Survey.

Survey invitations will be emailed to businesses and industry organisations through Council's business contact lists, partner networks and business databases.

Mayor Cr Jodie Ashworth said the survey was an important opportunity for businesses to help shape the future of East Gippsland's economy.

“Our businesses are the backbone of East Gippsland's economy, creating local jobs, supporting our communities and driving investment across the region,” Cr Ashworth said.

“Every survey response will help us better understand the challenges and opportunities facing businesses across East Gippsland, strengthen our advocacy, and ensure our future economic development priorities reflect the needs of our business community.”

The survey will gather feedback on business conditions, opportunities for growth and the barriers businesses face, helping Council identify priorities for future investment, business support and advocacy.

Businesses that receive an invitation are encouraged to complete the survey and share their experiences. The findings will help shape Council's economic development planning and strengthen advocacy for investment that benefits the region.

Businesses with questions, or those who believe they should have received a survey invitation, can contact Council's Economic Development team at

economic.development@egipps.vic.gov.au.

Key messages:

- The survey gives businesses an opportunity to share their experiences, opportunities and challenges, helping Council better understand the issues that matter most to the local business community.
- Insights from the survey will inform Council's economic development initiatives, investment priorities and advocacy efforts to ensure future support reflects the needs of businesses across the region.
- By participating, businesses can contribute to a clearer understanding of what is needed to support growth, resilience and investment across East Gippsland.

News from the Shire

Rates below State cap for second year

- Average rate increase of 2.5%, below the State Government cap and below CPI
 - Municipal charge is \$263.40
 - 37% of farming properties are exempt from the municipal charge
- Rates are 51% of total revenue

East Gippsland Shire Council has, for the second consecutive year, kept rate increases below the Victorian Government cap and CPI.

In releasing its 2026/27 Budget this week, Mayor Cr Jodie Ashworth said Council has worked to limit cost-of-living pressures and financial impacts on businesses while continuing to deliver the services and infrastructure our communities rely on.

"The average rate increase is set at 2.5%, below the State-imposed cap of 2.75% and well below inflation, which is currently around 4.2–4.9%," Cr Ashworth said.

"Rates are necessary to keep our core services running. Our teams work around the clock to deliver essential services – from waste and recycling collections to roadwork and street cleaning, libraries, public health and safety, and keeping our parks and gardens in great shape for everyone to enjoy.

"Our demographics and geography often require duplication of services to ensure all communities are supported. This comes at a cost that must be balanced against our commitment to support communities."

Rates make up 51% of the revenue Council receives to deliver services to our community.

Cr Ashworth said Council's approach to rate setting recognises the cost-of-living pressures faced by many in our community.

"Support is available for ratepayers experiencing financial hardship, including payment arrangements and relief options. We encourage anyone having trouble to contact us to discuss the support available."

The Victorian Government introduced rate capping for local government in 2016. The cap sets the maximum overall increase a council can apply to general rates and the municipal charge each year.

For 2026/27, the Victorian Government has set the rate cap at 2.75%. This means total income raised from general rates and the municipal charge cannot increase by more than 2.75% compared to the previous year.

"We have set the rate increase for 2026/27 at 2.5%, which is below the rate cap and well below current inflation expectations. This decision reflects our recognition of ongoing cost-of-living pressures.

"In 2026/27, \$483,000 will be provided in pensioner rate rebates, in addition to the State Government concession, to assist eligible pensioners with rising living costs."

The lower rate increase is supported by \$1.5m in embedded savings and efficiency measures, which are on top of over \$2million of ongoing savings made in 2025/26.

- Materials and services costs are assumed to increase above CPI, while insurance premiums are forecast to increase by 20%.
- The municipal charge is \$257 for 2026/27 and 37% of farming properties are exempt from the municipal charge as they are part of a single farming enterprise.

"We've worked hard to strike the right balance – keeping rates as low as possible while still investing in roads, community facilities and the services that matter most to our residents," Cr Ashworth said.

From 2027/28 onwards, rates revenue is assumed to increase in line with conservative CPI assumptions. The Financial Plan assumes annual growth of 1% in the rates base and in demand for Council services, in line with recent years.

Rates are calculated using the Capital Improved Value (CIV) of each property. Council does not control the valuation process, with property valuations conducted annually by the Valuer-General Victoria.

Cr Ashworth said Council is mindful of the impact that annual property valuation movements can have across different property classes and takes this into account each year when setting differential rates.

"For 2026/27, the Budget is designed so that, on average, property owners across all classes experience a similar percentage rate increase of 2.5%."

Council uses a differential rating system. This means there is a different rate in the dollar for different property types or categories.

- General residential – 100% rate in the dollar - generating \$42.8m
- Commercial industrial – 129% rate in the dollar - generating \$6.2m
- Farming – 74% rate in the dollar - generating \$6.2m

User fees support cost recovery

Most user fees will increase by around 2.75% in 2026/27. These increases reflect Council's annual review of fees and charges to support appropriate cost recovery, as well as ongoing cost shifting from other levels of government in areas such as animal registrations and waste services.

Cr Ashworth said an example is where the average increase in animal registration fees of between \$3.50–\$20 a year (+13.5%).

"The Victorian Government has increased the statutory payment required to be made for every dog and cat registration or renewal by over 90%. We have not passed on the full amount as we have committed to staging the increases to reduce the burden on pet owners."

Likewise, we have seen cost-shifting with waste fees and related charges, Cr Ashworth said.

"Waste services operate on a full cost-recovery model. A combination of the increase in the Victorian Government's landfill levy imposed on Council as well as other compliance cost increases, and escalating fuel prices have had an impact on waste fees."

All fees and charges are outlined in the Budget. The adopted 2026/27 Budget and supporting fact sheets will be available on Council's website and at service centres and libraries.

Main 2026/27 waste fees and charges changes

Kerbside waste service charges (3 bins – waste, recycling and organics) will increase from will increase from \$473 to \$512.

- The Victorian Government landfill levy will increase from \$51 to \$57.60.

Waste charges at transfer stations have been stable over several years, however will increase by about 10 per cent due to increasing cost to maintain current service levels. For example, a 6x4 general waste trailer will now cost \$45, up from \$41.

The green waste disposal fee will increase from \$14 to \$16 per cubic metre, contributing approximately \$640,000 based on forecast volumes, which represents around 70 per cent of processing costs. This remains one of the lowest green waste charges in Victoria.

Election candidates asked to back better roads

Years of wear, heavy vehicle use and more frequent extreme weather are placing increasing pressure on East Gippsland's road network as East Gippsland Shire Council seeks stronger funding commitments ahead of the 2026 State Election

Council says pressure on the shire's road network is worsening, and it is seeking stronger funding commitments from all parties and candidates contesting the 2026 Victorian Election to address long standing maintenance gaps.

East Gippsland covers 10% of Victoria's total land mass with 3046 kilometres of Council-managed sealed and unsealed roads.

"East Gippsland is a nationally significant food and freight region," Mayor Cr Jodie Ashworth said.

"We need a road network that is safe, reliable and fit for purpose so we can continue to support local jobs, grow our economy and ensure our communities remain connected."

"Investing in regional roads is not just about fixing potholes – it's about strengthening our communities, supporting industry and ensuring the resilience of our region for the future."

Council has backed a call for a \$1.5 billion statewide regional roads package, arguing that East Gippsland's extensive road network is not being maintained at a standard that reflects its importance to the state.

Mayor Cr Jodie Ashworth said the region depends heavily on its road network.

"East Gippsland's roads are critical for freight, tourism and everyday travel, but too many are in poor condition," Cr Ashworth said.

"We are seeing more short-term fixes and ongoing speed restrictions instead of lasting solutions."

Key corridors such as the Princes Highway and Great Alpine Road continue to be affected by heavy vehicle use, severe weather events and general deterioration.

Council is calling for a coordinated package including immediate maintenance reform, targeted upgrades and a more sustainable long-term funding model, alongside stronger Commonwealth-State collaboration.

Investment in regional roads is essential to safely and efficiently move freight, support agricultural production and tourism, reduce travel delays and transport costs, strengthen disaster resilience, and ensure communities can reliably access jobs, education, healthcare and other essential services.

Council's advocacy package in the lead up to the Victorian government election includes priority investments in roads, health, housing, flood and drainage infrastructure, sporting facilities, emergency services, forestry transition and public land management, along with reform of the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund levy.

In addition to these priorities, Council will also continue advocating on the range of projects and programs that matter to East Gippsland communities, as outlined in the East Gippsland Shire Council Plan 2025-2029 on Council's website.

News from the Shire

Council backs farmers on pest management, plantations and rising costs

East Gippsland Shire Council's Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee (ASAC) met in last month with a focus on highlighting increasing pressures on the region's agricultural sector and reinforcing the need for stronger coordination, evidence-based advocacy and industry collaboration.

East Gippsland's farming communities are facing real and growing pressures, from pest animals to rising input costs, and Mayor Cr Jodie Ashworth said committees such as ASAC play an important role in ensuring those issues are heard.

"This committee plays a vital role in ensuring the voices of farmers are heard and that the challenges facing the sector are brought to the table," Mayor Cr Jodie Ashworth said.

"We are committed to backing that work through strong advocacy and coordination, and ASAC provides an important link between Council and one of East Gippsland's most significant industries."

Pest animal management was a key focus of the meeting, following Council's recent release of the Pest Animal Management Advocacy Paper. Representatives from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and Agriculture Victoria provided an update on current practices, limitations and areas of responsibility. Members shared strong feedback on the escalating impact of pest animals on farm productivity and wellbeing, calling for a more coordinated cross-tenure approach and proactive management across both public and private land.

The committee also discussed Council's proposed plantation position paper, focusing on the economic implications of land use change and community concerns regarding the expansion of timber plantations. Members highlighted the importance of robust economic analysis to better understand the impacts on agriculture, regional employment and future land use.

Broader industry challenges were also raised, including rising fuel costs and their impact on farm productivity and profitability. The committee emphasised the need to gather local evidence to support targeted advocacy on input costs, while also discussing emerging opportunities for industry diversification and regional job creation.

Key priorities and next steps

The committee provided the following advice to Council:

- Facilitate stronger coordination on pest management by connecting agencies and landholders
- Support ongoing stakeholder engagement and information sharing
- Progress a plantation position paper informed by broad industry input
- Assess economic impacts of land use change across the region
- Strengthen advocacy on rising fuel costs through industry evidence
- Monitor and support emerging initiatives such as the Game Meat Hub Pilot
- Share key reports, including the Livestock Exchange review outcomes, once finalised.

ASAC brings together representatives from across the agriculture sector, including farmers, industry bodies and government agencies, helping ensure Council's decisions are informed by those working in the industry every day.

The Committee will continue to meet throughout the year, with updates on these priorities to be shared with Council and the community as work progresses.

What's On

Antiques Evaluation Day 2026

Hunt out your treasured heirlooms, art, books and antiques and bring them along to get an idea of their worth and origins. \$5 per item, maximum of 3 items.

Sunday 9th August at Orbost Arts Centre - 8 Clarke St Orbost
10:00am—2:50pm

Register at : <https://www.orbostartscentre.com/event-details-registration/antiques-evaluation-day-2026>

No bookings - take a ticket when you arrive. \$5 per item, maximum of 3 items. Our panel of 2 specialists, Jon Dwyer and Dennice Collett, will be offering evaluations of antiques to give you an idea of their worth and origins. This is your opportunity to find out more about those pieces you've had sitting in the cupboard, hanging on your wall or handed down from ancestors. Jon Dwyer is widely acknowledged as one of Australia's leading art experts and respected valuer. Jon has been in the art business for over thirty-nine years coming from a three generation "Art" family. Throughout his career has solid working experience with both Australian and international art, as well as acting on behalf of a number of key Australian Public Institutions. Jon has an extensive knowledge of all areas of the Australian and International Art market from traditional, through to Modern and Contemporary. Jon Dwyer has expertise in the following areas: International Art; Australian art; International and Australian Sculpture; Artworks on paper; Books; Furniture; Prints; Collectables and Memorabilia. Dennice Collett is a highly respected valuer and specialist in the following categories: Furniture, all periods; Ceramics, all periods; Silver, all periods; Oriental; Objects of vertu; Australiana; Antiquities. Dennice has extensive in-depth knowledge of the Decorative and Visual Arts acquired over many years and has acquired a wide range of valuation expertise. She is a skilled writer and presenter, having provided contributions for The Australian Catholic University, The Johnston Collection, and delivered presentations to the Johnston collection, Melbourne chapter of the Silver Society, various Antiques clubs and Rotary.

BEAUTIFUL BYGONES

06 Aug 2026, 10:00 am – 20 Sept 2026, 3:00 pm

Orbost Arts Centre



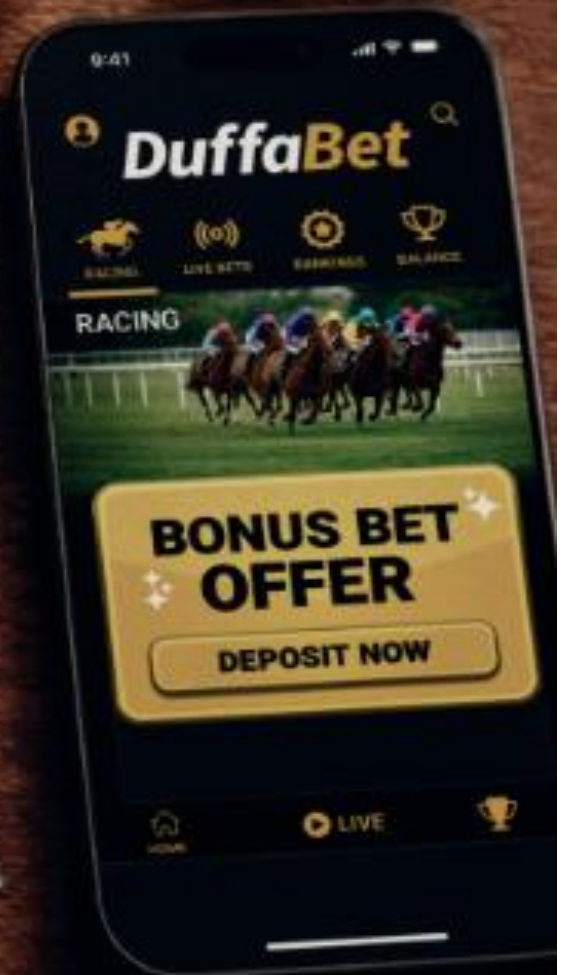
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SET LIMITS BEFORE YOU BET

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Q Beat Dumb Thumb

VGCCC
Victoria Gambling
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Commission

VICTORIA
State
Government