

# TUBBUT TATTLE

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March 2025



Next deadline: March 25th

**Tubbut Neighbourhood House**

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

Phone: 02 64580295

Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

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

**YOU CAN'T CONTROL FIRE.  
BUT YOU CAN CONTROL  
WHEN YOU LEAVE.**

When the Fire Danger Rating is Extreme or Catastrophic, leaving early is your safest option. Download the Vic Emergency app or go to [emergency.vic.gov.au](http://emergency.vic.gov.au)

**HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW FIRE?**

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



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# 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](mailto: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  
03 51540196  
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 Craigie St, Delegate

### Wellness Clinic

**For bookings call 1800 999 880**

A clinic where well people come for health monitoring and a variety of nursing procedures such as :

Wound care

Blood pressure readings

Blood sugar readings

Non-urgent and pre-operative Electrocardiograms

Health Assessments

Suture or clip removal

Injections with Doctors written orders

Other procedures that do not require a Doctor

### Pathology clinic (conducted by Pathology West)

Wednesday 9.30am—10.30am

No appointment necessary.

Every week except public holidays.

### Women's Health Clinic

4th Thursday of the month at Delegate MPS

Phone 1800 999 880 for an appointment

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)

# Tubbut Neighbourhood House

**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:

**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.**

**Deddick Valley Isolated  
Community Group Meeting  
March 12th  
10am**

**At Tubbut Neighbourhood House  
New members always welcome.**

**The ceramics workshop will be held on the 19th and 20th of March at Tubbut.**

Here's a list of things to bring if you can;

Old shirt/smock (clay is messy)

Board to work on (ideally timber or cement sheet)

Sponge

Old toothbrush

Plastic bags

Rolling pin

Ice-cream tub (or similar plastic container for water)

The power is going to be out on the 19th so we will be firing up the generator.

**Community Lunch  
Tubbut**

**19th of March**

**12 noon**

**Everyone is welcome**

**We're always looking for talented individuals to lead engaging workshops and share their expertise.**

**If you would like to offer your services please contact us at the Neighbourhood House**



# Wellbeing Spaces

## The Spaces

01



### Tubbut

Largest wellbeing space with high levels of audio privacy, conveniently co-located beside the Tubbut Neighbourhood House. Bathroom in adjacent building. 2hrs from Orbost, 1hr 30 min to Bombala.

02



### Bendoc

Large space located within the Bendoc Neighbourhood House, audio privacy can be problematic during opening hours of the House. Bathroom within building. 1hr 45 min from Orbost, 40 mins to Bombala.

03



### Goongerah

Smallest space, to have audio privacy must be booked on a day when the co-working space is not in use. Bathroom within building. 1hr 15min from Bombala and Orbost.

## Book a Space

Contact your nearest Wellbeing Space to reserve a room or workstation. We recommend planning at least a week ahead. Bookings can occur outside of staffed hours at Tubbut and Bendoc by arrangement. Each space has a nearby AED and accommodation.

### Tubbut

Neighbourhood House opening hours: Tue - Wed - Thur 8.30am-4pm  
Call: 02 6458 0295  
Email: [tubbutnh@outlook.com](mailto:tubbutnh@outlook.com)

### Bendoc\*

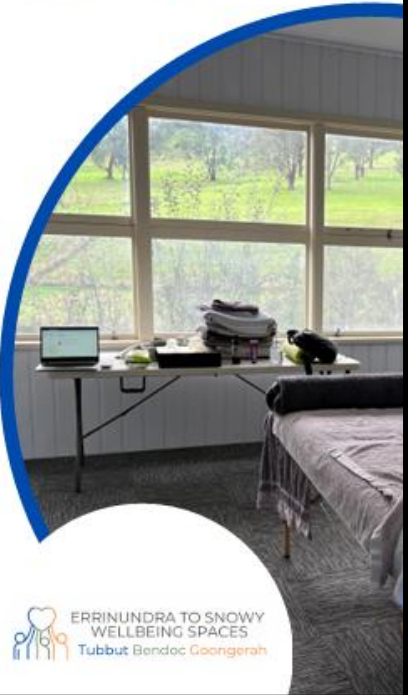
Neighbourhood House opening hours: Tues 12pm-4pm; Wed 9am-1pm; Fri 9am-1pm; Sat 9am-12pm  
Call: 02 6458 1531  
Email: [bendocpa@bigpond.com](mailto:bendocpa@bigpond.com)

### Goongerah\*

Goongerah Hall Committee is a volunteer-led organisation.  
Email: [goongerahhall@gmail.com](mailto:goongerahhall@gmail.com)

\*Note that these rooms are not specially sound-proofed, please discuss your privacy needs when you book.

## ERRINUNDRA TO SNOWY WELLBEING SPACES



ERRINUNDRA TO SNOWY WELLBEING SPACES  
Tubbut Bendoc Goongerah

## Using Microsoft HoloLens

The Microsoft HoloLens is a device that connects people who aren't in the room (i.e. a specialist or trade) with your world, in the room.

**For the wearer (in the room):** It's a mixed reality headset, meaning it combines virtual objects (holograms) with your physical surroundings. You (or your service provider) can wear the HoloLens like glasses, and it projects 3D images, such as videos or models, in front of you. The wearer can be the patient/customer, or someone helping the patient/customer.

**For the caller (anywhere else in the world):** They use the Microsoft Teams interface and will see what the wearer sees. They can then provide verbal or visual cues, interacting directly with a patient/customer who is either wearing the headset, or through a nurse/service provider who is in the room providing support.

**For example:** if you're wearing a HoloLens, you could take a tradesperson on a tour of a building so they could quote a job. If you visit the Community Nurse, the Nurse can wear the HoloLens and receive directions from a GP or specialist about how to bind or treat a wound, or zoom in on a skin blemish.



## For Individuals (Working or Studying)

Are you a local resident or a visitor to the area needing a professional space to work or study? The Wellbeing Spaces have you covered!



Access to **Starlink Internet** and **Microsoft HoloLens** tech at all three locations, perfect for remote work, online courses, or staying connected with colleagues.

### Dedicated Workstations:

- Tubbut & Bendoc: Workstations available at the Neighbourhood Houses and in the Wellbeing Spaces.
- Goongerah: Wellbeing and Co-Working Spaces with modern shared amenities.  
*Note Goongerah is not covered by mobile phone coverage but voice over internet calling capabilities will work.*



**Focussed and Productive Environment:** Somewhere away from the distractions of home that will help you get your focus tasks completed.

## For Businesses and Organisations

The Wellbeing Spaces offer businesses and service providers dedicated facilities across Bendoc, Tubbut, and Goongerah to meet local clients safely and professionally.

### 01 BOOKABLE CONSULTATION ROOMS

Secure and private spaces, ensuring confidentiality when meeting with clients. Each space contains a massage/medical bed and sit-stand desk setup with client seating.

### 02 HIGH-SPEED INTERNET

Reliable internet connection for virtual consultations, online meetings, and seamless service delivery.

### 03 FLEXIBLE USE

Ideal for mental health, allied health, financial planning, legal consultations, business support, and more.

### 04 TECHNOLOGY TO BRIDGE THE DISTANCE

Plug and go technology - docks provided on desks to connect to monitors. Access to Microsoft HoloLens available for supported consultations with distance medical professionals/service providers.

# What's On

**mental health & wellbeing local**  
Free support in your community

## Free Suicide Prevention Training

practice to help you know what to say

Safe, evidence based, information and skills practice to increase your confidence talking to someone thinking of suicide.

Information on how to access private, personal support for yourself or a loved one will be available.

People making a difference with safeTALK



For more information on your Mental Health and Wellbeing Local visit [betterhealth.vic.gov.au/mhwlocal](http://betterhealth.vic.gov.au/mhwlocal) or call 1300 000 352

wellways

Latrobe Regional Health



Mental Health and Wellbeing Local respectfully acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands and waters of Australia. We are committed to inclusive communities and the contribution of lived experience in mental health.

### Event Details

**When:**  
10.00am - 2.00pm  
Tuesday 15th April

**Where:**  
Bendoc Community Centre

**RSVP and additional info:**  
REGISTRATIONS ESSENTIAL

Questions or registrations  
Call or Text  
Susie 0476 112 665

## Dogs in public places: On or off leash - that depends when and where you are!

There are almost 40 Council-owned or managed parks and reserves where you can take your dog/s to have some off-leash play time. We've even got some fully fenced options in the shire for those who may not feel as confident getting their dog to recall in a public place.

Some basic rules of respect using shared use open spaces still apply.

### ANIMALS ON BEACHES AND FORESHORES

Animals, including dogs and horses, must not swim in beach areas or stay in foreshore reserves between 1 November and 30 April in each year. They can pass through, but not stay in these areas identified as popular areas throughout the summer period. Refer to **General Local Law 2017**.

The areas that this applies too can be found under [Schedule 6 of the General Local Law 2017](#) and is aligned to the new Order No 2 recently adopted by Council.

• Fully fenced dog off-leash areas

Council facilities:

- Bairnsdale - part of the Bosworth Road former landfill site, which has been redeveloped and was officially opened on 3 December 2019; and
- Lakes Entrance - in Palmers Road (next door to the Aquadome).

Private facility:

- Brackenbush Unleashed - 117 Hoggs Lane, Lakes Entrance (a Pick My Project-funded community facility)

## Have your say on the Errinundra to Snowy Wellbeing Spaces - Survey deadline extended!

In December 2024, Errinundra to Snowy district residents received a paper survey in the mail (note: envelopes were blank and may have been mistaken for junk mail). This survey is your opportunity to share feedback on the Wellbeing Spaces in Tubbut, Bendoc, and Goongerah.

Larter Consulting are collecting feedback on the service on behalf of the Deddick Valley Isolated Community Group. **Please take a moment to fill the survey - whether or not you've used the service.** Your feedback is important to plan for improvements and future funding applications.

Participation is voluntary and you may skip any questions you prefer not to answer. Your responses will remain confidential, with only the Larter team having access to your data. All data will be de-identified and no personal information, such as your name, will be included in any reports or quotes.

### Survey deadline extended to 31 March 2025

You can either click on the link below to complete the survey online or return the paper survey using the reply-paid envelope provided.

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/XW5YC7R](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XW5YC7R)

If you didn't receive a survey in the mail and prefer a paper version, you can contact the Larter team or pick one up at:

- Tubbut Neighbourhood House
- Bendoc Neighbourhood House
- Bendoc Post Office
- Goongerah Hall
- Bonang Community Hall

For more information, contact the Larter Team on 0400 999 268



## Library Bus

Bendoc - recreation reserve 10.30am - 11.30am

Bonang - hall 12.30pm - 1.30pm

Goongerah - hall 2.45pm - 3.45pm

March dates - 13th & 27th

April dates - 10th & 24th

The toilets at the Bonang Hall are currently closed.

A new building is in progress next to it so it is a work site.



# The Local Rag

## INTERVIEW with ROY JAMIESON

I visited Roy Jamieson recently at his home in Bendoc to interview him for The Local Rag. Roy was happy to be interviewed and provided me with a very entertaining and educational evening. Besides delving into Roy's family history I took the opportunity to focus on the history of timber milling in the area, a subject which Roy knows well having spent most of his days sawing or getting timber around Haydens Bog and Bendoc.

The story begins on January 19th 1920 when Roy was born in Delegate. His mother had journeyed from Combiobar on horseback for the birth and baby Roy was helped into the world by Mrs. Stone of Delegate.

At that time Roy's parents and elder children were living at Combiobar. His mum Rachel was one of the Combiobar farmer family. His father, Bill had lived all his life in the Bendoc area.

Prior to marrying Rachel, Bill worked in his youth at the first steam powered mill in the area. The mill at Haydens Bog was owned by Goodman and later by Hamilton Reed who subsequently rented it to Bill Mustard. Before this mill started up the only timber milling done in the area was by hand powered pit saws.

After working for Bill Mustard, Bill went into partnership with his brother Ernie in a new mill at Haydens Bog. This mill was powered by a 3H.P. and a 5H.P. Lister petrol engine.

Bill moved to Combiobar and selected an area of land totalling 400 acres. The selection land cost 10 shillings an acre on easy terms. A short time later he married Rachael. Bill continued to work at the Haydens Bog mill during the week and returned home to be with the family and work the farm on the weekends.

In 1922 Ernie and Bill moved their mill to Combiobar on a horse drawn wagon. A water race was constructed at this mill to deliver water to a flume beneath the saw to carry the sawdust away. In those days, timber milling was for local consumption; there was no export of sawn timber from the region, so mills were best located where farms, towns and mines were being built.

In 1926, Bill, Rachel and children Roy, Bertha and Harry moved back to Hayden's Bog, where Jamieson's mill was reestablished. Bill bought 128 acres of land at the Bog, and later selected 196 acres in 1930. The farm provided pasture for the mill horses, and cropped mainly for oaten chaff.

When he was seven, Roy started school at Hayden's Bog, with about twelve other children from local farming families. The school's first teacher was a man named Ossie Green, who taught one week at Hayden's Bog alternating with a week at Combiobar. Ossie's teaching techniques were not to Roy's liking. The fear of punishment interfered with the children's ability to learn. With the replacement by subsequent teachers, Roy's education began. At fifteen, he left school and went to work with his father and uncle.

August 1984

# The Local Rag -continued

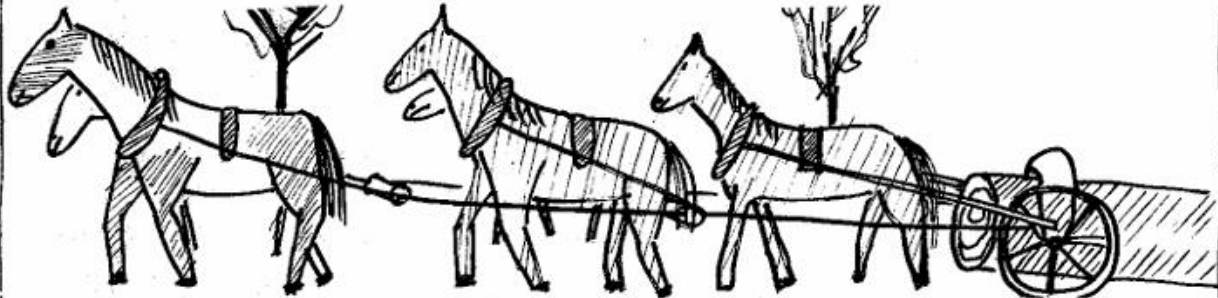
In 1932, Jamieson's Bros. Mill was converted to steam power. The 8 hp steam engine was powered by waste timber, and water was delivered to the mill on a 3 horse wagon. Two loads were required to fill the engine's tank.

The timber came from the Hayden's Bog public forests and from private land clearing, mainly mess-mate and cut-tail. Sawdust at the mill was collected in a large wheel-barrow beneath the saw which had to be emptied twice an hour. The saw dust was burnt.

Trees were felled by crosscut saw and pulled up to 2 miles to the mill by a 5 horse team, which was trained to operate to verbal command, without reins. The team pulled a 'Jinker' which lifted the front end of the log off the ground. The largest logs hauled by a 5 horse team were up to 3' 6" in diameter and 25 ft. long. For one week, the mill would work at getting 2 logs/day, then spend 2 weeks sawing them up. It was a 6, and sometimes 7, day week.

Roy worked at the Bros' mill for 2 or 3 years until Bill bought Ernie's share of the business and shifted the mill onto Crown Land at Second Creek on the Cottonwood Range, a couple of miles from Hayden's Bog.

Messmate was again the main species milled with a bit of Cut-tail and Peppermint. Falling was done by one man using a cross-cut saw with a 'lazy stick' to support the free end of the saw and keep it horizontal. A three horse team was used to pull the logs to this mill, the trees being closer to mill than at Haydens Bog.



In Roy's memory, Bendoc has always been a small town, the gold mining community having moved on years before. The Victoria Mine however continued operations until around the time of the war. Roy worked at the mine for a time. It was located about 4 miles from town, most of the workers lived in company housing at the site. The pumps and lifts at the mine were powered by steam engine. Later electric lighting was provided to workers huts from the steam plant.

During the '30s several other mills commenced operations in the area. Jack Mawson set up in Bendoc with an 8H.P. steam engine and Macdonald Bros. built a mill in Bonang.

The first sales of timber to city markets was begun by W.H.Jamieson and Sons in the late '30s. Timber was carted by truck to Bombala station and then to Sydney. They received 27 shillings per 100 super feet ( $\$11.50/m^3$ ).

The 2nd. World War brought on increased demand for sawn timber. Jamiesons' mill was given a 'priority 3' status and was required to supply sawn timber to the army which was shipped to New Guinea for heavy structures including bridges.

They also milled Silver Wattle for ammunition boxes and fruit cases

They also milled Silver Wattle for ammunition boxes and fruit cases

To be continued next issue

# The Local Rag

## THE BALLAD OF THE BLOGGS' SEARCH FOR THE C.O.F. <sup>1</sup>

Now listen to the painful tale  
of Ms. and Mr. Bloggs,  
who built according to the Regs.  
in Dash St., Backblocks County.

They planned a house of solid brick  
All fully air-conditioned  
With all-electric wall-to-wall  
of concrete all foundation;

With roof and beams and noggins all  
quite fully up to par  
For hours they studied the UBR's  
And sent in plans galore.

They were inspected 20 times;  
10 times the Chamber steps they  
climbed, imagining that being  
correct would white out any crime.

They paid, and paid and paid and paid,  
twas hardly economic;  
permits and plans and bills galore  
were simply astronomic!

No matter how they worked and planned  
how could they ever know  
As Owner-builders in that Shire  
they'd get no C. of O.<sup>1</sup>

The years went past. They took their toll,  
the money all was spent.  
The Bloggs—there were four by now—  
just had to pitch a tent.

One day this letter came to them  
By special delivery:  
"The Council asks that you Show Cause  
Why you should live this way."

I'm told the Bloggs' family  
Has found a commodious cave.  
They've left no forwarding address  
and ask that I should say:

To Council officers one and all  
Who unannounced should chance to call,  
Their welcome will be very chill  
Under that steep and distant hill.

1. Certificate of occupancy

by Circe (Cec)



May 1984

## SLUGZ SLUGZ SLUGZ SLUGZ SLUGZ

slugz are an annoying bunch of  
slimey sluggish creatures that can  
make gardening into an expansive  
nightmare (must have lost at least  
30 dollars of seeds to them) As we don't  
like chemical warfare we tried as all  
the organic books tell ya, sawdust, ashes,  
beer, vegimite diluted, crunched up eggshells,  
.... But what if it rains? the first two  
mentioned sink into earth, the next two  
get washed out and the eggshells really  
work as this cuts up their slimy bodies  
But whose got enough eggshells for a  
whole garden?! So we used defender pellets  
it worked abit but soon after, they just  
seemed to munch on it and live happily after.  
We created Super Slugz! so then we went  
out on slugnatch and that really works  
well, we get a bowl full each evening and  
when you close your eyes guess what you'll see?  
And last night I read somewhere to try  
1/2 upside down orange peels and so I did  
this morning. They look very colorful in the  
empty wintergarden and this evening we  
went on the old slugnatch again and for  
curiosity looked inside the upside down  
half orange and guess what?!  
They were having a ball!!

That's all, thank alot!

Barbara Conod

May 1984

A baby .....

A baby  
can tear you limb from limb or  
fill your cup to the brim

kiss you cuddle you  
poke you, muddle you

look at you as if you're new  
feed the toilet with your shoe  
any number of things it will do  
to make life a puddle to  
splash and waddle through  
no boots, no clue  
how you will feel when the sky is blue  
or whether the weather is turning  
on, you

take deep breath and watch for  
a rainbow while the baby  
grows.

a baby  
makes chances extremely slim  
of keeping your backyard neat and trim  
a baby

yearns to be with its kind  
lo and behold, you'll want to mind  
Sally and Gretchen, Willy and Pete,  
all the small kids from down the street!  
at times, it seems to a wellmeaning parent  
that the hours in the car could be better spent  
patching a fence or pitching a tent,  
but never mind, you've been warned  
you've only yourself to blame eh what?  
and oh in the morning, it's a struggle  
you're yawning, just longing to snuggle  
into the pillow one minute more;  
but it's off with the sheets and up on your feet  
to find milk and sugar all over the floor.  
Now, a baby,

I suggest, is not at its best  
in this nuclear family compound.  
perhaps in a village,  
there'd be less spillage  
and a few more smiles to go round.

Fiona

Aug 1984

Tracey church ago 7



July 1984



## Council connects with Orbost community

Orbost was the first stop on East Gippsland Shire Councillors' community visits program for the year, spending the day in town last Tuesday with community leaders and residents about what is important to them.

The day started with a business morning tea at Built QA in Newmerella, a locally owned business co founded by Lachlan Heather and Luke Priestley who have teamed up with Dahlsens to produce light gauge steel framing.

Mayor Cr John White praised the start-up's progress, highlighting its innovative approach and the positive impact on the community. The group observed firsthand how raw steel product is processed into wall framing components, and the significant labour and time required to construct each frame and discussed the positive employment opportunities this creates.

"This is one of the really good news stories for Orbost, so far. You've transitioned and you are now employing many locals who lost their jobs in the timber industry closure. Well done!" John said.

The group visited several key Council-run sites and met with staff around the community including the Orbost Service Centre, Orbost Waste Transfer Station, Orbost Recreation Reserve, and Lochiel Park.

The group had the opportunity to speak with Orbost Snowy Rovers Football Netball Club President, Royston Nettleton, about the club's future plans. These include demolishing the old change rooms, building new netball facilities and public toilets, upgrading the netball courts, and sealing the curb and channel along the roads surrounding Lochiel Park.

The group expressed their gratitude to all the locals who joined them for the community lunch at the Orbost Arts Centre.

"We enjoyed connecting with you and hearing your thoughts and ideas for the community's future," John said.

A few key topics raised during the day included:

- The condition of footpaths, drainage and road surfacing
- Road and pedestrian congestion around Orbost Community College
- Garden maintenance scheduling and frequency
- The future of the Slab Hut and Orbost Arts Centre

"While not every idea can be acted on immediately, please know that we are actively listening, learning, and prioritising areas that will help shape our community's future," John said.

"Your input plays a vital role in guiding our planning and decision-making to create meaningful, positive outcomes for everyone who lives and works in the region."

The group also made a visit to the iconic Orbost Visitor Information Centre (Slab Hut), a walk along Nicholson Street to inspect the streetscape, and a productive meeting with the Future of Orbost and District

Project Governance Group before taking a look at the works completed at the Snowy Railway Bridge on the way out of town.

There will be more councillor community visits across East Gippsland throughout the year. Sign up to East Gippsland Shire Council's Community Matters newsletter for updates here: [Community Matters Newsletter \(eastgippsland.vic.gov.au\)](mailto:CommunityMattersNewsletter@eastgippsland.vic.gov.au)

## Supporting our community through financial hardship

East Gippsland Shire Council is offering support to community members struggling to pay their rates due to financial hardship.

Mayor Cr John White said that there is a Hardship Policy in place for residents, offering a compassionate and accessible framework for ratepayers who are struggling to manage the payment of rates and charges in these challenging economic times.

"The most important step is to reach out to us as soon as possible, so we can understand your situation and offer support. We focus on collaborative solutions, free from judgment," John said.

"The Hardship Policy ensures that all ratepayers, regardless of their situation, receive the support they need. We want everyone to know that if they're facing challenges, we're here to help in any way we can."

The Hardship Policy offers various options for support:

Flexible payment plans tailored to individual needs, allowing smaller payments over a longer period, without interest.

Options for deferring rates and charges until a future date when paying the rates will be more manageable.

Waiver of rates and charges for those facing financial hardship.

A simple and straightforward application process.

"We understand that seeking help can be difficult, but we've made every effort to simplify the process for our community," Cr White said.

"Our Customer Service teams can assist with most questions about your payment options over the phone or at our service centres.

Our rates team will also be visiting Ensay, Benambra, Omeo, Paynesville, Cann River, Mallacoota, Orbost and Lakes Entrance in mid-March, providing more opportunities for ratepayers to receive direct assistance."

Anglicare Victoria is also offering free, confidential financial counselling at the Corporate Centre, 273 Main Street, Bairnsdale, from 9.30 AM – 12.00 PM on 17 March, 14 April, and 12 May.

To speak with a counsellor, please call East Gippsland Shire Council on 5153 9500 to make a booking.

"We are committed to providing support to our ratepayers who are experiencing payment difficulties. By working together, we can find solutions that assist our ratepayers," John said.

Council provides more information about available support on its website, including dates and times officers will be available in the community.

# News from the Shire

## **A new, disproportionate State Government levy impacting rural and regional Victoria must be urgently reconsidered.**

In December, East Gippsland Shire Council first raised concerns that the Government's new Emergency Services Levy would place a significant financial burden on local ratepayers. Last night, Council reaffirmed its strong opposition to the levy.

At the first Council meeting of the year, Mayor Cr John White, with unanimous support from Councillors, called on the Municipal Association of Victoria, Rural Councils Victoria and the Victorian Ratepayers and Residents Association to write to Victorian Treasurer the Hon. Jaclyn Symes MP.

This advocacy would highlight the significant financial impact of the proposed Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund on Victorian property owners and call for a reconsideration of the variable rates structure.

"The new levy is an attack on our small businesses, farmers and households at the worst possible time," John said.

"We have already written to the Treasurer, highlighting the key issues of this new levy."

The current Fire Services Property Levy will be renamed to the Emergency Services and Volunteer Levy, calculated using two components: a fixed amount and a variable rate. All Victorian property owners are required to pay this levy, except for certain exemptions and concessions.

From 1 July 2025, the prescribed variable rate component will increase (estimated) as follows:

- Residential land — 99%
- Commercial land — 100%
- Industrial land — 64%
- Primary production land — 189%

"In our area, the greatest impact will be on primary producers. We have 3,519 primary producers who will see increases due to these levy changes. The levy hike will result in substantial and unbudgeted cost increases – amounting to thousands of dollars for many," John said.

"As a rural Council that is the second largest in the State, with agriculture being one of our top three industries, I have serious concerns about this levies impact on our farming and commercial communities – especially off the back of the timber industry transition in East Gippsland.

"These increases will put further pressure on ratepayers already struggling during a cost-of-living crisis.

"There has been no consultation from the Government, no additional resourcing provided to implement these changes ... the financial impost is a double whammy on our ratepayers and Council. Our resources only stretch so far. To collect this State tax, we may be forced to make sacrifices in areas that make a difference for our community.

"This comes at a time when local government is under considerable financial stress as highlighted in the recent State Government Inquiry into Financial Sustainability. Our view is that if this new levy is not scrapped entirely, it should at least be administered by the State - just as land tax is."

The local agriculture sector will have the opportunity to have its say on the operating model for the **East Gippsland Livestock Exchange** in March.

In March 2024, East Gippsland Shire Council started a commercial review of the saleyards as part of its continual improvement process.

Council is not selling the saleyards. The aim of the review is to present Council with options for the most effective operating model for the facility, while maintaining Council ownership, and in consideration of the following key objectives:

- To ensure the business delivers the best outcome for the farming community
- To ensure the business is managed to a high industry standard
- To ensure the business is financially sustainable for the future

The scope of the project includes analysis of saleyard operations including the onsite facilities, throughput, processes, relationships, comparative benchmarked saleyards, and broader livestock movements and industry trends. The review will also identify the key strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and risks of operating models.

### **What's happened so far:**

- Industry expert consultant AEC Group Pty Ltd has produced a commercial review report of saleyards.
- The report was informed by consultation with key stakeholders, including livestock agents and staff.
- A summary report for public release is currently being prepared.

### **What's next:**

- Further consultation with key stakeholders, including the local farming community, will be essential to support Council in making an informed decision about the best operating model (under Council ownership).
- Community consultation is planned for March 2025. This will include an online survey, and in-person engagement opportunities at the saleyards (on sale days), through agriculture groups and at livestock events such as the High Country Calf Sales and Orbost Show. These opportunities will be advertised when the survey opens.
- Feedback will be provided to Councillors for consideration as part of their decision-making process.

You can follow the East Gippsland Livestock Exchange Commercial Review Your Say page for further updates and to receive alerts on when you can provide feedback.

# Puzzles

## Word Search

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

- Average
- Bright
- Champion
- Diligent
- Excellent
- Fine
- Great
- Happy
- Inspiring
- Jolly
- Knowledge
- Limit
- Master
- Nice
- Opulent
- Persist
- Quip
- Rapid
- Special
- Terrific
- Unusual

## Sudoku

Puzzle provided by [www.sudokuoftheday.com](http://www.sudokuoftheday.com), visit them and get a new sudoku everyday

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

## Word Ladder

Change one letter at a time to change top word to bottom word

Crazy

Scare

Scant

Drone

Thank

Prank

Puzzle answers on back page



# Recipe

## Zesty Lemon Meltaway Biscuits

### Ingredients

#### For the biscuits

- 1 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 1/2 cup icing sugar
- 1 3/4 cups all purpose flour
- 1/4 cup corn flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon lemon zest
- 1 teaspoon lemon extract
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

#### For the glaze

- 1/2 cup icing sugar
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon lemon zest

### Directions

Preheat oven to 175C and line baking tray with parchment paper

In a large bowl, cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add the lemon zest, lemon extract and vanilla extract, mix until combined. In a separate bowl, whisk together the flour, corn flour, and salt. Gradually add this dry mixture to the wet ingredients, mixing until combined. Scoop teaspoon sized portions of the dough and roll into balls. Place on the prepared baking sheet spacing them about 5 cm apart. Gently press down on each ball with a fork and slightly flatten the biscuit. Bake for 10 –12 minutes, or until the edges are slightly brown. The biscuits will still be soft in the centre.

#### Prepare the glaze:

In a small bowl which together the icing sugar, lemon juice, and lemon zest until smooth.

#### Glaze the biscuits:

Once the biscuits have cooled on a wire rack, drizzle the glaze over the tops of each biscuit.

Let the glaze set for a few minutes before serving.

## Turkish Pide

### Ingredients

- 500g (3 1/3 cups) plain flour, sifted
- 1 tsp (7g/1sachet) dried yeast
- 1 tsp sugar
- 1 tsp salt
- 375ml (1 1/2 cups) warm water
- Olive oil, to grease
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tsp sesame seeds
- 1 tsp nigella seeds
- 1 egg yolk

### Directions

Combine flour, yeast, sugar and salt in a bowl. Make a well in the centre, then add water. Use a wooden spoon to stir until combined, then use hands to bring the dough together in the bowl.

Turn the dough onto a lightly floured surface and knead for 15 minutes or until smooth and elastic. Brush a bowl with oil to grease. Place dough in the bowl and lightly coat with oil. Cover with a damp tea towel. Set aside in a warm, draught free place for 1-1 1/2 hours or until the dough has doubled in size.

Place a baking tray on the middle shelf of the oven. Preheat to 230C. Turn dough onto a lightly floured surface and cut in half. Flatten slightly with hands. Place each half on separate pieces of floured, non stick baking paper. Cover with damp tea towel and set aside in a warm draught free place for 15 minutes.

With floured hands, stretch each piece of dough into a 18 x 40cm rectangle. Leave on non-stick baking paper. Cover with damp tea towel and set aside in a warm draught free place for 10 minutes. Combine sesame seeds and nigella seeds.

Whisk egg yolks and oil in bowl. Brush the top of each pide with the gee mixture. Use floured fingers to make indentations on top and sprinkle with seeds. Remove tray from oven and slide one pide onto tray. Cook for 8-10 minutes or until golden. Cool on wire rack. Repeat with second pide.

Word Ladder		
Crazy	Scare	
Scant		
Craze	Share	Slant
Crane	Shark	Plant
Crone	Shank	Plank

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