

TUBBUT TATTLE

ISSN 2200 - 5243



Next deadline: March 19th

February 2026
Tubbut Neighbourhood House
E-mail: tubbutnh@outlook.com
Phone: 0482855670
Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday



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 & more

Our next community lunch will be on the 18th of March at Tubbut Supper Room

Delegate Show
7th March
at Delegate Show Grounds



AUSTRALIAN WOOD DESIGN EXHIBITION 2026
28 March to 28 May
AUSTRALIA'S #1 WOOD DESIGN AWARDS

- ACQUISITION PRIZE
- REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE
- TOURIST GIFTS
- AMATEUR
- FURNITURE
- WOOD TURNING
- SAPLINGS (UNDER 18)
- PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Orbost Arts Centre
8 Clarke St, Orbost

OPEN 7 DAYS, 10AM - 3PM

www.orbostartscentre.com
admin@orbostexhibitioncentre.com



Deer hunting area additions in Alpine National Park

The deer hunting area within Alpine National Park has been expanded by the addition of approximately 90,000 hectares in the eastern alps including areas surrounding Suggan Buggan, Limestone Creek, Native Dog Flat, Charlie Creek; Buckwong Creek, Willis and to the east of Tubbut. No firearms signs are being removed in these areas to avoid confusion. Several areas nearby remain off-limits for deer hunting including the areas surrounding Tom Goggin, Mt. Pinnabar Surveyors Creek, the Tingaringy, Cobberas and Indi wilderness zones, and all reference areas.

Hunters exploring the new deer hunting areas must ensure they are fully aware of where they can and can't hunt or travel with a firearm. The GMA are currently updating deer hunting maps that will be added to the GMA website in the future. In the interim, hunters are advised to familiarise themselves with the additions included on the scheduled plan for the Gazette Notice.

Deer hunting area additions in Errinundra National Park and Snowy River National Park

Hunting will begin in the Snowy River and Errinundra National Parks on Sunday 15 February 2026. This change, covering approximately 130,000ha of Snowy River and Errinundra National Parks, was announced by the Victorian Government in July 2025 and passed by Parliament in November 2025.

Hunting will be seasonal from 15 February to 15 December each year, inclusive. Hunting will not be permitted west of the Snowy River or within 100m of campgrounds and picnic areas. Hunting will not be permitted within Reference Areas.

Hunting is stalking only, the use of dogs to hunt deer is not permitted in these parks. Pest animals and other species must not be hunted in these parks.

For maps on hunting areas download the More to Explore app from the App store or find out more at <https://www.exploreoutdoors.vic.gov.au/where-to-start/hunting-and-fishing-in-victoria>

The More to Explore app is your guide to enjoying Victoria's vast forests. Find information on almost 500 visitor sites and 370 recreation trails in the 3.1 million hectares of state forest around you!

Wellbeing Spaces



LINKING OUR
REMOTE

2026 IS HERE! Thank you everyone who supported the E2S Wellness Spaces and benefitted from our team of Nurses and Specialists. Thanks to those of you who have made good use of the Wellness Spaces, we have been granted **EXTENDED FUNDING UNTIL JUNE 2027!**

*******No more long commutes for quality healthcare; We bring the clinic to you AT NO COST*******

See the calendar for dates of attending Nurse in your community, book an appointment or just pop in to see them. Physiotherapist Nicole will be in Bendoc in February and in Tubbut in March and in Goongerah in April. Book her through Tama or Birgit.

DON'T LET THOSE NAGGING ACHES HOLD YOU BACK. Focus on Physiotherapy.

Nicole provides professional assessments and tailored exercise programs that reduce recovery time, increase flexibility and prevent future setbacks. She has been briefed on how active our lifestyles are and can support with injury rehabilitation, posture correction and preventative care.

If you are seeing the Acupuncturist, a Physiotherapy regime can accelerate healing and strengthening. We are extremely lucky that a holistic approach is available for us.

TRADITIONAL BASKET WEAVING & CREATIVE ARTS WORKSHOP

Facilitated by Corringe Creators – Susan & Kylie – and Creative Arts Therapist Kate Butler

Bonang Hall – 7th March | 10am–3pm | Lunch provided

Step into a rich, shared creative experience guided by two complementary facilitation teams.

Proud Gunai-Monaro women **Susan and her daughter Kylie** bring forward five generations of weaving knowledge through their Corringe creations. Together, they will introduce participants to the traditional practices of harvesting and preparing Basket Grass and spiny-headed Mat-rush—the fibres traditionally used by Aboriginal people to weave baskets, eel traps and nets. Learn to weave these grasses into meaningful creations that honour stories of land, family and culture.

Alongside them, **Creative Arts Therapist Kate Butler** will be sharing her own facilitation approach. Kate works with individuals and communities to create welcoming, trauma-responsive and inclusive spaces for artmaking, connection and shared experience. Her sessions centre creativity, community care and intuitive, arts-based expression, inviting participants to explore themselves and each other in gentle, accessible ways. Her artistic passions—poetry, collage, mixed media and abstract expression—shape the atmosphere she brings to her groups and community work. Join us for a day of culture, creativity and connection as our facilitators weave together their unique skills and traditions.

FOR BOOKINGS OR ENQUIRIES CALL TAMA: 0448 639 754

March 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
2	3 Nurse Birgit Goongerah	4 Nurse Birgit Tubbut	5 Nurse Birgit & Nurse Steph Bendoc	6	7 Basket Weaving Bonang	8
9	10	11 Acupuncture Tubbut AM Bendoc	12 Nurse Lachlan & Nurse Steph Bendoc & Acupuncture Goongerah	13	14	15
16	17 Nurse Lachlan Goongerah	18 Nurse Birgit Tubbut	19 Nurse Birgit Bendoc Physio at	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

FREE | BOOKINGS REQUIRED

EAST GIPPSLAND
SHIRE LIBRARIES

Women's Health Information Session for Seniors



Join us for this information packed session!

Are you or someone you know interested in hearing from your local care professionals?

We are pleased to welcome guest speakers Carolyn Nelson, McGrath Foundation Breast Care Nurse, and Heather Daly, a specialist in women's health and continence. They will be joining us to share valuable information and insights from their fields of expertise.

There will be opportunities to ask questions during the session, as well as the option to speak privately with either Carolyn or Heather.

Bairnsdale Library
Monday 23 March
10.00 am - 11.30 am

Lakes Entrance Service Centre
Thursday 12 March
10.00 am - 11.30 am

Mallacoota Service Centre
Wednesday 18 March
1.30 pm - 3.00 pm

Omeo Service Centre
Thursday 5 March
11.00 am - 12.30 pm

Orbost Service Centre
Wednesday 11 March
10.00 am - 11.30 am

Paynesville Service Centre
Monday 23 March
2.00 pm - 3.30 pm

Book Now

At your library
5152 4225

www.trybooking.com/eventlist/eastgippslandshirelibraries

Scan the QR code



Wellbeing Spaces

WE ARE MODERNISING AND STREAMLINING. WELCOME TO OUR NEW ONLINE BOOKING PLATFORM

SCAN TO BOOK



OR go <https://www.picktime.com/home/E2S>

You are still welcome to book directly through Tama or your local Community Centre

Optometrist Albert coming to Bonang Hall

16th and 17th March

BOOKINGS TAKEN NOW

Seeing an optometrist offers essential protection for your vision and overall health. Regular eye exams can catch issues like refractive errors, glaucoma, and cataracts early—often before you notice any symptoms—making treatment more effective and helping preserve long-term eye health. Optometrists can also detect signs of broader health conditions such as diabetes and high blood pressure by examining the blood vessels and structures within the eye. This makes routine eye care a simple but powerful part of maintaining both clear vision and overall wellbeing.

International Women's Day webinar

GIPPSLAND WOMEN'S HEALTH

Understanding Perimenopause/Menopause: A Conversation for Everyone

Join us this International Women's Day for an important conversation about midlife women's health.

Hosted by Gippsland Women's Health and presented by Gippsland GP; Dr Romey Giles, this session will help you understand perimenopause and menopause, what changes to expect, and how women can be supported to stay healthy, confident, and connected at every stage of life.

Perimenopause and menopause are natural life stages experienced by half the population, yet many people feel unprepared for the physical, emotional, and cognitive changes that can occur.

In this practical and evidence based session, Dr Romey Giles will explore:

- What perimenopause and menopause are and when they happen
- Common symptoms and why they occur
- Impacts on health, relationships, workplaces, confidence and daily life
- Safe and effective treatment and support options
- Practical strategies to support wellbeing now and into the future

This webinar is designed for women, partners, colleagues, families, friends and anyone wanting to better understand midlife health. Together, we can build knowledge and create more supportive workplaces, families and communities.

When: Tuesday, 10 March
Time: 12.00pm - 1.00pm
Where: Online

Register now!

- Scan the QR code
- Go to www.gwhealth.asn.au/events/
- Call 1800 805 448 (Mon- Thurs)
- Email admin@gwhealth.asn.au

International Women's Day

imha
independent mental health advocacy

Learn about your rights, Have your say!

Online workshop for people who identify as women

Independent Mental Health Advocacy is delivering a free online workshop on rights and self-advocacy for consumers of mental health and wellbeing services and their supporters.

The workshop covers rights under the Mental Health and Wellbeing Act 2022, as well as IMHA's 6-step self-advocacy model.

This workshop is specifically for people who identify as women.

Date	Time
Friday 13 March 2026	2 - 3pm

How to sign up?

- Scan the QR code
- Email workshops@imha.vic.gov.au
- Call 9093 3701 and ask to speak to the workshops team.

Questions? Email or call us.



We strive to offer safe and inclusive services



Interview with Keith Bradshaw cont.

Keith Bradshaw's Story—Part 3

From Sept
2013 Tattler

Keith meets Nancy

We've read that Keith worked nights delivering milk in Melbourne. Now we hear how he spent his daylight hours.



I was training horses. I spent a bit of time going to the races, going to the trots.

Were you a betting man?

Not really. This pony here (*Keith points to painting of a fine looking chestnut*), we bet on him three times. And he got up every time. Star Reporter. He was mine and Nancy's.

Ah, we are at the stage of the story when you met Nancy. About four or five years after I started the milk round, she came to light.

How did that happen?

She heard about me and the horses and she bought a horse for Christopher (her son) and she wanted him broken in. I got him going but he was a pretty touchy little coot. I got him going and I rode him back to Nance and she said to me, "How's he going?"

I said, "He's going good."

She said, "You're holding his head too tight."

I said, "Well you get on and show me how to ride him." So she did and she went off up the road on him and he pelted her in a heap in the middle of the road. That was the second meeting with Nance.

She was holding the head too loose?

Oh yeah. I knew what he was going to do. I said, "Well you get on and show me," and she did and got pelted. She had a bit more respect for me after that. That was that, off I went, I thought, "Oh I don't want to know that woman." I give her the horse and said, "Look, if you don't work him every day for the next month or so, he's going to be no good.

"No problem," she said.

I said, "Obviously you can ride. So ride the horse and he'll be fine. But hold his head a little tighter."

Might have been nearly two months went past; I come home one morning and Nance came running down the side all huffing and puffing. I said, "How're you going?"

"Oh no good, no good. That horse you broke in for me, he's just gone and bucked a kid off and I've had to take him to the doctor."

I said, "He bucked after all this time? And you've worked him?"

She said, "He's never had a saddle on him."

I thought, not many people would say that. At least she was truthful. She wasn't blaming me, which I thought she was trying to.

She hadn't worked him at all and to put some kid on him. I thought, at least she's bloody honest.

I said, "I'll come over and knock him into shape but I don't like it. I told you you would have to work him. They get touchy when they're like that. Look, he's no good to you. I'll sell him and I'll get you a mare I've heard would suit you."

So I did that, bought the other mare for her and didn't see Nance around much then. Off they went, they were right.

Anyway I won a race at Colac – it'd be some months later I suppose. I was going to give the horse a couple of days out in the paddock that I had further over. It was behind her shop, a newsagent, in Westbreen.* I rode him over there and Nance must have seen me coming – she was hanging her washing out or something in the backyard and got up on the fence and was waving out to me and I went over.

She said, "What's this horse you're on?" I said, "He's a trotter." Nance didn't hold trotting people in very high standing. All her friends were doctors and God knows – into galloping. She had an interest in a galloper.

"What do you do with him?" I said, "I race him now and again. I raced him yesterday" and she said, "How'd he go?" I said, "Oh, he won."

She said, "What! He won? And you didn't tell me. I would have liked to have had a few bob on him. Next time you're going, let me know. I'll come with you." And from then on for the next fifty years I don't think I did anything with a horse without Nance being around. From then on for the next bloody fifteen years. A funny association really.

**Westbreen is on the border of Pascoe Vale and Glenroy.*



Nancy at Cabanandra

Interview with Keith Bradshaw cont.

Keith Bradshaw's Story—Part 4 The Trotting Years

From Oct 2013
Tattler



Nance rented a property in Keilor. That's when I left home and took the horses there to Keilor with the Keeshan family. (Keith was 21 and it was 1954.) We put a track in and all there. That's been gone many years. That all disappeared in the seventies. *A whole other Melbourne. How long were you doing trotting?*

I was into trotting for eighteen years altogether.

Why did you stop?

That pony – *pointing to oval portrait of a horse on his wall, Star Reporter, a pacing gelding* - bugged me up in trotting, really. The point is, with any of these things, the controlling bodies. They like everything their way. And I'd not be on the scene for a couple of years. I'd be still mucking about with the horse and getting him going and take a long time to get them going and when you're only working one or perhaps two you mightn't go to the races for eighteen months. And of course, I turned up with him, and we backed him first up and he won in his very first race. I brought him back the following year and I started him at Ballarat and Geelong where I thought the fields were too good for him and the track didn't suit him – Well, Ballarat suited him but Geelong didn't – but he ran third at Ballarat and he ran third at Geelong. So then I was hoping to back him again and I thought that's jiggered it up now because I've shown him up or he's shown me up I didn't think he'd do that but he did and I didn't think he would run a place in that field which was good but not to the point of backing him, anyway so we went to Ballarat and he drew number four at Ballarat and we thought he could win this, I thought we've run to thirds, we didn't have a lot of money to put on him we won't get much of this.

I said to Nancy when I was harnessing him up, go round and see what price they're laying him, she come back and said, "I can't believe it you know he's 66:1."

I said, "What?" This was the first race of the night, 66:1. We had a couple of chaps that backed him for us, but with our money. They didn't back him with their money which perhaps

they should have and then later they backed him for themselves and then the professional punters thought well somebody knows. He dropped down to 7:1 from 66 so the professional punters all come in and backed him to 5:2 from 66:1. I wasn't worried about what price he started at and didn't find out about all this until next time I started him.

Well I get the blame for all of that, you know this is the greatest bloody plunge of all time and he gets up and wins it and wrecked the meeting apparently, emptied the bags out of the bookmakers. Being as naïve as buggery of course, the stewards can't say anything to me then, I mean I won, but then they had a look at the books and there's a fortune taken out of the bloody ring – a fortune, so of course, me being naïve again, I went to Geelong field and there were 2 horses in it that I knew I couldn't beat so I don't back him, I didn't do anything.

Any way he ran fourth or fifth and I thought that's a good run for him. And there of course the stewards dragged me in and said "What's going on with this horse?"

I said, "What do you mean what's going on with him?" He said, "You didn't support this horse today."

I said, "No I didn't support him, why?"

"Well you supported him very heavily at one of the biggest plunges we'd seen at Ballarat and you come here today and don't have a penny on him."

I said, "At Ballarat I thought he'd win, and by the way, I never got a fortune out of it. I had a few bob on him, what people do after that you can't blame me for."

But they didn't believe that, so they said, "Well you're entitled to support him tonight," and I said "No I'm not," and they said "We're telling you that you are."

I said, "But hang on a minute, he can win at Ballarat I

Interview with Keith Bradshaw cont.

think and I back him, I come to Geelong and I don't think he can win so I don't back him, what are you blokes on about?"

They said, "There's no way known you could know he wouldn't win tonight."

I said, "What? All right, we'll have a look at the figures."

They were saying, "Don't you be cheeky or we're gonna do this."

I said, "Look now be fair dinkum. I won going 2:14 over the mile at Ballarat and that was a really good run for him. Tonight they've gone 2:11, I said he couldn't do it."

He said, "You'll have to go outside and we'll discuss this."

They brought me back in and told me "We're giving you the benefit of a very grave doubt." Ever after that they just dogged the hell out of me. Every time I drove they'd have me in for something.

I had another pretty handy horse after him that I bred. Shane we called him at home, but it was Celtic Air, he won a few races for us but you couldn't set him up because he looked to be a really good horse. Old Shane, he was just a dog stayer you know and they all knew him, he didn't cause me much bother but then I went to Terang and we backed him at Terang and I had won 2 races with him before then. I'd worked with people that are still racing today, the Welshes, and I took him up there and worked him. Old Lou said to me, "That horse, I don't think he could get beaten at Terang. I don't bet very often but I'm gonna back him."

So we went to Terang, I led all the way and as far as I was concerned he won it easy. Still the stewards called me in and said that I cost the bloke that ran second the race. I said no, I didn't do that, but there were three stewards, one that I got on very well with, he was a really nice bloke, but the other two.... Keith Greenwood (steward) was always there and he always backed me up, he was an honest bloke.

The stewards said, "We're taking the race off you," and they kicked me out. When they brought me back into the room. Keith Greenwood said "You've been pretty badly done by here and if you cost another person a race, you automatically get a month's holiday, but I can tell you you're not getting that too on top of this," he said to me in front of them. Anyway away I went, we done our dough and had to drive all the way home from Terang.

When abouts was that?

It would have been 1967 -1968 I suppose.

And you didn't get re-instated?

No, nothing. I was getting a bit sick of it by then.

Oh yeah, like through the trotting years that was bloody marvellous, you know, but then it started to turn sour and you couldn't enjoy it. See they didn't know what I was up to and they didn't like it, but I kept rubbing salt into their bloody wounds a bit too you know. You know like they put him up to 66:1, for what reason I'm not sure. Let's put it this way, I think I had a lot more ability than they ever thought I had. A bloke gave a horse 23 starts I think it was, and I think in that 23 starts he beat two horses home or something. And he was a good horse, and I knew how bloody good he was too; anyway he said to me that the stewards said if he doesn't go away next start, we're banning him, so Jack had no option. Why he kept driving him I'll never know, he was a fantastic horse, but he drove him and drove him and he'd just gallop away every time. He wouldn't settle down and he used to belt hell out of him. Anyway he came to me and said the stewards were gonna ban him and asked, "Would you drive him next time and see if you can get him away?"

I thought, "This is right up my alley, I'll get him away - don't worry about that." Nance wanted to put the house on him, she

knew how good he was and I said, "Oh God, you gotta remember he's had 20 odd starts and he's never gone away in one, you know, can I get him away?"

Nance said, "Of course, you'll bloody get him away, don't worry about that." So I talked her out of it, you know she wanted to put a heap of money on him and I talked her around. Got up to Bendigo and she didn't come up, and 100:1 he was, so we backed him with what money we had. I don't know, but we come back with \$4000-\$5000 bucks. With 100:1 you didn't have to have much on. Anyhow, of course he bolted in and so that was another trip a 100:1 winner I produced and then I went to Ararat and won with him again. So help me God, another bloke come to me, he was stuttering and carrying on and his horse had a great heap of starts and never gone away, never done anything right in a race - and this was all in a few months - and he said they're gonna ban him. He said, "Do you think you could drive him and see if you can get him away, oh he's a bastard of a horse." I thought - yeah like hell, any rate, I said we'll go to Bendigo again, it was only a few months later, and I said, "Are you gonna back this horse?"

Well he was nearly in stitches, laughing. He said, "He's had 20 runs and he's finished last every time and you're asking me if I'm gonna back him. What a joke!" I thought - yeah, like hell. Any rate I said, "We'll go to Bendigo again." It was only a few months later.

And of course, we backed him, and he won, and the odds were 100:1 again on top of him being 66:1 so the stewards were saying, "Now who is this bloke? Where's he coming from?" I drove him again and he won again. That horse was called Volo Rock. The bloke came to me again and said, "Oh I've got him entered at such and such a place and I'd like to drive him myself." I said, "That's fine."

He said, "I don't own the horse and people don't like you driving him." I'll never forget that. Neville Welsh, he's still driving today, when I told him, he cracked his sides laughing. He said, "You've had a 100% hit rate with both the horses and then you get the sack." He never won another race and I never drove for him again.

There are four horses I couldn't get going. I could see real danger in a horse. I think that was between me and the stewards too. I saw horses in a different light. Not just a racing machine. If they called a horse a thing, I'd correct the bastards and they didn't like that. "That animal you're talking about is not 'a thing' it's a horse that I think a lot of."

It kept getting me into trouble I think. That's how I was. They weren't 'things'. They were talking about a horse that I thought the world of. It wasn't just a racing machine that they classed him as. Everyone of them. And that was my downfall as far as racing goes. There are horse trainers and there are horse lovers. That's how it goes. Every horse has a future. I had a real good horse once. He broke down on me and I gave him to a chap who'd ridden horses all his life. He was looking for a horse to drive around his sheep because he couldn't ride anymore. So I gave him this great little horse and he went on there for years. Others went on as hacks; they all had a future not just off to the knackery because they weren't fast enough. That wasn't my way at all.

From Oct 2013 Tattler

Errinundra track clearing

Errinundra track clearing (2024), 4 x 4 clubs, nature and tree huggers.

By Don Teese

As a keen field naturalist and retired nurseryman, joining the annual track clearing in Errinundra National Park with a group of 4 x4 enthusiasts was a new experience. After talking to my neighbour and keen 4WD club member, Bill Mead, saying that I was hoping to investigate the Errinundra area for an outing with our tree society (International Dendrology Society, IDS), he suggested joining the yearly track clearing. My Hilux twin cab is a serviceable vehicle but didn't quite reach the high standards Bill was looking for, so new mud tyres were obtained, making me wonder what type of terrain we were going to visit. Bill supplied vast amounts of camping gear and we loaded up the Ute. Apart from the increased road noise with the new tyres our trip to Wilson's Hut near Bendoc went well. Numerous vehicles, tents and trailers were already erected. So, we began pitching my tent under Bill's directions. Soon, it was time to pitch Bill's tent, to which he had added extra "unique improvements". After watching me do the first tent he decided I would be better occupied talking to another participant with a new Grenadier. After introducing myself the owner kindly showed me the workings and told me the history of this new version of a Land Rover. An impressive array of switches, plugs and gadgets started to make me glaze over; just like talking to Bill!

It began to rain so I asked Bill if I could help, he wasn't overly happy as a lot of his gear was already wet and only got worse during the night.

Next morning after instructions from the Parks Victoria Rangers we headed off. The forest was amazing with huge gum trees of various types, Sassafras, Victorian Waratahs in flower and some new trees such as the Black Quandong (*Elaeocarpus*), a touch of rainforest flora from further north just reaching Victoria here. The gate was opened on our track and soon we came across some fallen branches. As we were near to last in our group, by the time we walked up to the front the work was done. This was repeated several times. Smart move, Bill's plan I imagine! Eventually we managed to help out. Just before lunch we passed some Mountain Plum Pine bushes, one of my target trees for our IDS tree study day the next year. This conifer is usually seen in the snow country at a higher elevation, growing as a ground cover or shrub, but here it reaches tree size. The forest continued to impress as we completed the track clearing for the day. We then did a short trip to the top of Mt. Delegate (1308 m), a domelike mountain surrounded by lower terrain. Spectacular views of the surrounding country were seen. Handsome old snow gums on the summit were great subjects for photography with their colourful twisted trunks. On the way back, Red Necked Wallabies were seen in the flats at the mountain base.

The Bendoc pub has great old country character and a warm open fire. Excellent meal and company filled out a great day.

Next day Bill cajoled me into going up the very narrow road to McKillops Bridge. The country became drier as we climbed to the ridge before descending to the Snowy River. Views were spectacular but the odd glance at the scenery and back to the road made me very nervous, the road was good but it had been cut out of a very steep mountain slope, only wide enough for one vehicle or maybe a very close passing of another. Fortunately, none were encountered. The Snowy was larger than I had expected and in a dry valley filled with Cypress pines (*Callitris*), dry country gums and even Kurrajong (*Brachychiton populnea*) trees in

From there the scenery continued to be spectacular through to Buchan and then home.

My wife Sue and I made another trip to the area with the Bairnsdale & District Field Naturalists Club where the talk was plants and animals rather than carburetors. Several rainforest walks were undertaken and a climb to Mt Morris at 1220m produced some wonderful views of the rugged country. This club has some very knowledgeable members who could identify all the plants we saw. Two members have produced an excellent guide to East Gippsland plants published by Bairnsdale Field Naturalists Club – (Wildflowers of East Gippsland- Jennifer Wilkinson & James Turner).

We now had a reasonable handle on the flora and organized a trip in November 2025 with IDS Australia. This is an international society devoted to study, protection, education, travel and promotion of trees. It has chapters in a number of countries including Australia. Sue calls us "tree - huggers", but still comes along as there are partners not so focused on plants who she engages with – maybe some similarities occur in 4 x 4 clubs? Our three-day tour was based in Cooma and then Bombala. The first day was to Charlotte Pass at 1840 m ASL to look at alpine plants. We arrived in a snowstorm so little was achieved. The big old snow gums had branches topped with snow, a beautiful effect. The next days saw us visiting mature gardens dating from the late 1800's in the district, this is high, dry, cold and windswept, often treeless land so gardens are a challenge. A minus 10C frost a few days before turned leaves on walnuts and Robinia's black. Several gardens were visited, roses being a standout success. Near Cooma some local Woolly Grevillea bushes were a surprise in such cold conditions. A visit was also made to a Bush Heritage revegetation area at Scottsdale. Here old farming properties were being revegetated with native grasses and other plants, removing invasive weeds such as African Lovegrass and feral animals. Our trip to Errinundra on the last day was wonderful with numerous, scarlet, Victorian Waratahs (*Telopea truncata*) in full bloom. Mountain ash trees go no further east than here and one Eucalypt the large white trunked Errinundra Shining Gum (*Eucalyptus denticulata*) is endemic. Walks were taken at Old Growth Forest Walk, Goonmirk Rocks, Ti Tree Flat and Rainforest Board Walk. Some large Mountain Plum Pines (*Podocarpus lawrenciana*) were investigated after a difficult scramble through fallen and tangled scrub. The Blueberry Ash of coastal areas disappears here and is replaced by the Black Oliveberry or Mountain Quandong (*Elaeocarpus holoptelus*) a species usually found over the border and further north.

As we left the park a feral cat crossed the road, not an animal that should ever be allowed to survive in this precious National Park. A better sighting was of a young reddish dingo still surviving here and in the neighbouring hills.

This is a very special area of Victoria, high enough to attract good rainfall and protecting a good range of east coast rainforest plants which barely go further west.

The main roads in Errinundra are good, quite manageable in two-wheel drive vehicles when dry. Good clearance is definitely needed. Side tracks are variable and should not be attempted unless you have four-wheel drive. A big thank you to Bill Mead and to Prue and John Hasler for helpful ideas and information.



News from the Departments

Immerse yourself in East Gippsland's creativity

What would happen if we gave the Forge Theatre to the community?

That's the question that sparked IMMERSIVE, a month-long creative takeover of the Forge Theatre, and the launch of East Gippsland's first ever Creative Summit.

Throughout March, the Forge Theatre will be handed over to East Gippsland's creative community to form a collective. Artists, musicians, makers, performers and creatives of all kinds have been invited to use the venue's spaces to explore, experiment, develop and share their work. This includes testing new ideas, running workshops, developing performances, holding rehearsals, exhibitions, gigs and collaborations.

IMMERSIVE is about making space – literally and figuratively – for creativity to happen.

But what if you don't consider yourself a creative? That's exactly why the doors will also be open to the public all month, offering you a chance to step inside, see creativity in action, and discover something new.

IMMERSIVE flips the usual model on its head. Instead of programming for the community, the programming is the community.

In the final week of March, the program expands beyond the Forge with Summit on Tour – a series of mini forums held across East Gippsland. These sessions will connect directly with local communities to explore what the future of creativity looks like in different parts of the region, and how those futures connect across the shire.

All this momentum leads into the East Gippsland Creative Summit on Saturday 28 March, a milestone event that invites the region's creative community and anyone interested to come together in one place, at one time, with a shared focus. The summit is about recognition and celebration of what already exists, learning from each other, and taking a collective step towards the future.

It's a first draft – not a perfect one, but a very important one.

As part of the summit, creatives will be invited to present their work, ideas or collectives through fast-paced three-minute showcase sessions. They can sing it, show it, mime it, or screen it; the aim is simple: connection.

IMMERSIVE and the Creative Summit form part of a broader program designed to connect, share and look to the future of creativity in East Gippsland. The initiative responds directly to the East Gippsland Shire Council's 10-year Culture and Creativity Strategy, shaped through extensive community consultation. But rather than leaving that strategy on the page, this program brings it to life in real spaces, with real people, doing real creative work

Not all heroes wear capes – nominate a local volunteer for the honour roll

Not all heroes wear capes – many are everyday people who quietly give their time to support others and strengthen our communities.

East Gippsland Shire Council is getting ready to celebrate National Volunteer Week 2026 (18–24 May) and is inviting the community to reflect on the incredible contribution volunteers make across the region.

East Gippsland has one of the highest volunteering rates in the country, with 19.2 per cent of residents actively volunteering – well above the regional Victorian average. From sports clubs and emergency services to community groups, schools and environmental organisations, volunteering is a defining feature of life in East Gippsland.

Mayor Cr Jodie Ashworth said volunteering plays a vital role in creating strong, connected communities.

"Volunteers are the heart of East Gippsland," Cr Ashworth said.

"They show up week after week, often behind the scenes, giving their time and energy to support others. Their contribution is extraordinary, and it deserves to be recognised."

National Volunteer Week 2026 will be celebrated under the theme *Your Year to Volunteer*, encouraging people to reflect on the impact of volunteering and consider making 2026 the year they get involved.

Nominations for the East Gippsland Volunteer Honour Roll are open all year, with the 2026 inductees to be celebrated during National Volunteer Week.

For more details and to nominate, visit eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/forms/east-gippsland-volunteer-honour-roll-registration-form.

Forms are also available at Council's customer service centres or call our Customer Service Centre on (03) 5153 9500.

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Humpybong
 Sausage
 Gully
 Boing Boing
 Wattanobi
 Boobs Flat
 Bumbunga
 Foul Bay
 Bogan Place
 Shag Head
 Stink Hole
 Dunnedoo
 Inaloo
 Potato Point
 Humptydoo
 Poowong
 Tubbut

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!

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	8		7			5		
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“Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm.” — Winston Churchill

“Action is the foundational key to all success.” — Pablo Picasso

“You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough.”
— Mae West

“So many books, so little time.”
— Frank Zappa

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

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.



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HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW FIRE?

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