

Mallacoota District Recovery Update

FEBRUARY 2021



Coota Gathers success

Council was pleased to provide funding to support the Mallacoota and District Bushfire Commemoration Film 'One Year On' and the 'Coota Gathers' event in December, in partnership with the Victorian and Commonwealth Government. Compliments to MADRA and all involved for the wonderful reflection on the event and the recovery journey so far. To watch the film, visit www.madrecovery.com. It was pleasing to see so many residents gather and enjoy the free food supported through this funding at the Coota Gathers event. A much-needed opportunity for community to connect after a tough year.

Genoa Sports Club courts funded

Congratulations to the Genoa Sports Club for securing \$184,617 to rebuild the tennis courts at Genoa under the Victorian Government's Local Economic Recovery (LER) program.

Jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Victorian governments, the program supports local projects vital for community recovery and economic stimulus, helps boost industry and provide jobs. This funding (across nine projects in East Gippsland) is a fantastic investment in our communities across the shire and recognises the importance of the projects to local communities and their future. Council was pleased to assist with the Genoa application. Learn more about the program, and read two application details at <https://www.vic.gov.au/local-economic-recovery-program-bushfire-affected-communities>

Separately, a full upgrade of the Mallacoota Skate Park was also recently funded to the tune of \$600,000 through the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Community Grants Program. This is also welcome news for Mallacoota and Council will be working closely with the recreation reserve committee in the delivery of this project.

Mallacoota Hall Wi-Fi

A satellite Wi-Fi connection has been installed in the Mallacoota Hall for use during emergencies. This is one of eight units installed as part of a trial by the Commonwealth Government as part of the Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters.

This will provide a resilient back-up telecommunications link in the event that mobile phone and other telecommunications connections are lost during a disaster.

Mayor and Deputy Mayor visit

Mayor Cr Mendy Urie and Deputy Mayor Cr Mark Reeves visited Mallacoota recently to meet and hear from members of MADRA and recovery workers on the ground. The Councillors expressed their appreciation of the work being done on the ground and partnerships in place to support recovery and look forward to continued collaboration and support from Council.

Recovery Management Team meetings

Council's Mallacoota Place Manager, Eva Grunden, is pleased to facilitate the

regular Mallacoota District Recovery Management Team (RMT) meetings.

These meetings have been taking place since this shift from relief towards recovery and has membership from all the key agencies and partners working in the recovery space, to ensure collaboration and coordination. This is important behind the scenes work.

More support for Mallacoota

Council is pleased to welcome two new staff members to the recovery team. Sabine Amos and Margaret (Maggie) Langdon are sharing the full-time Community Recovery Administration Officer (Mallacoota District) position. Sabine and Maggie will be supporting MADRA with administration. Welcome to the team!

Council Newsletters

Council publishes a monthly community newsletter – My Council My Community – and it's available on our website at <https://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/council/my-council-my-community-newsletter>. You can also subscribe to receive it directly to your inbox.

Content includes Council Meeting decisions, project updates, bushfire recovery information and much more. Also, for updates on general local business support, activity and news, business operators are encouraged to sign up to Council's Business Connect e-newsletter at <http://eepurl.com/gwyzlb>. Alternatively you can always email the team on economic.development@egipps.vic.gov.au

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New website

Our newly launched Council website is desktop, tablet and mobile friendly. We have received fantastic feedback on the website so far. If you haven't viewed the new website yet, we encourage you to visit www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au and take a look around.

We'd also love your feedback, so please take the opportunity to complete the survey on the new website.

Recovery works update

Minimal works have been completed over January to minimise any impact throughout busy holiday period, however works will recommence soon.

Works are due to commence on site constructing the new Genoa Pedestrian Bridge from 22 February.

Council would like to extend a huge thank you to Project Manager Peter Biggs, who was seconded from City of Melbourne contractor City Wide Services through much of 2020. Peter, in conjunction with Mallacoota's local contractors and tradespeople, were able to achieve a great deal

of recovery works prior to the end of 2020. While Peter has now returned to Melbourne, Council's Projects team will be continuing to work with local contractors to complete the rebuild works between February and May 2021, including the following projects:

- Secret Beach Stairs and Access Track
- Pittosporum and Develing Walks
- Shady Gully Footbridge

A local Project Reference Group will soon be established to gather ideas and explore options for permanent beach access at Bastion Point. We will also use this opportunity to consider parking, traffic, pedestrian and general safety enhancements in the area. This planning and development work will be progressed throughout the first half of 2021.

Similarly, a Project Reference Group is being established to assist with the development of ideas and planning for a project to renew and enhance the Mallacoota Streetscape in Maurice

Avenue. This project was subject to an application under the BRV Regional Economic Stimulus program in late 2020. Presently the funding application is still pending.

While not related to bushfire recovery, a project to replace a section of failing seawall adjacent to the caravan park is scheduled to commence in April.

This project will include replacing a 180m long section of seawall with a new precast concrete wall. In conjunction with a new shared path behind the wall, flood protection of 1.5m AHD will be provided for the foreshore, around 600mm higher than present.

The new shared path will replace vehicle access along Panoramic Drive adjacent to the works, between amenity block number 5 near the main wharf and base of the hill leading up to the camp kitchen.

This will make the area safer and improve amenity for both visitors and Mallacoota residents.

- *Council's Manager Assets and Projects, Tom Weatherall*

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