

Winter is aglow with festival fever

Lights, art, fire, art, neon angel wings, food and wine, and a big dose of community spirit – the East Gippsland Winter Festival (19 June to 11 July) has started with a glow.

The inaugural festival program – covering the length and breadth of the shire – is jam-packed with workshops and art installations, food and wine, and entertainment. Opening weekend events in Bairnsdale, Metung and Bruthen, set the stage for the 80 events over the next few weeks.

Supported by Council, the event is about our superbly skilled creative artists collaborating with organisers and planners, willing locals, businesses' marketing personnel and more to showcase the ingenuity and treasures of East Gippsland.

The festival salutes winter's long nights with pop-up events, lavish winter feasts, art installations, lantern parades, tours and workshops.

Mayor Cr Mendy Urie was at the Winter Festival and Laneway 3875 Launch on Friday night, 18 June, and said the event was special in so many ways.

"At the launch event, principal organiser Adam Bloem spoke about the process and planning for the festival and all the people who have come together to give life to this month-long event," Cr Urie said.



All lit up ... we arranged for this tree in Nicholson Street, Bairnsdale, to be adorned in fairy lights for the East Gippsland Winter Festival. The lights are a permanent installation.

"Adam and his team, all our communities involved, and Council's own team for its involvement should be so very proud. I am very proud. "The festival is special in so many ways, not least for the courage so many people, groups and organisations have shown in proceeding.

"As we have now seen it launched amid another set of COVID-19 restrictions, and with all that has transpired over the last two years, we can see that it really has the ability to help to bring joy and to heal in so many ways across our shire."

Read more page 2>>>

Acknowledgement of country

East Gippsland Shire Council acknowledges the Gunaikurnai, Monero and the Bidawel people as the Traditional Custodians of the land that encompasses East Gippsland Shire. We pay our respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in East Gippsland, their Elders past and present.

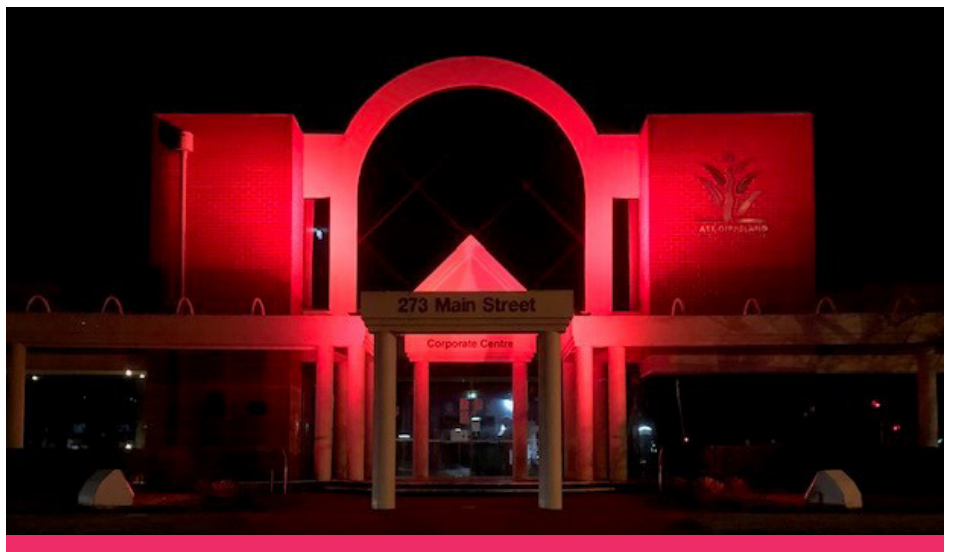
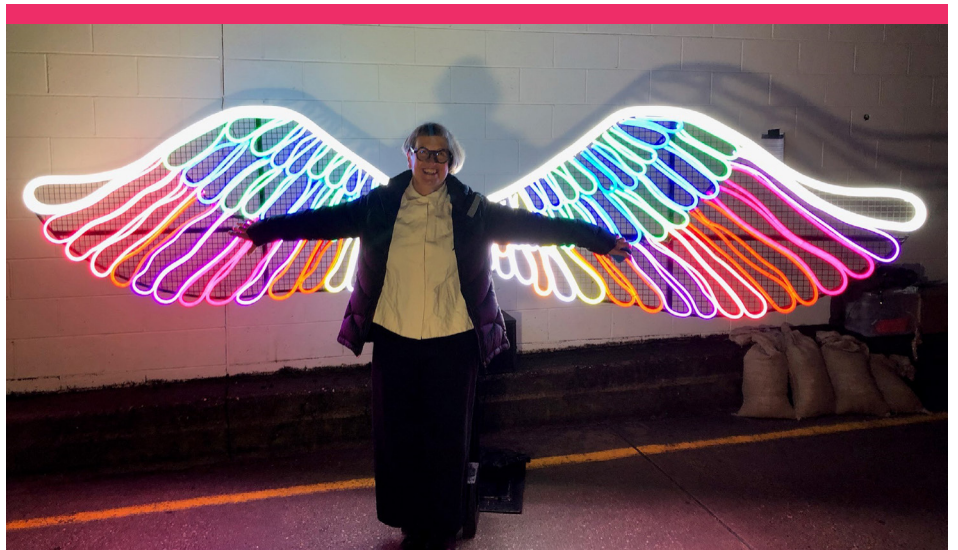
Cr Urie said there are so many amazing aspects to this project, not the least the collaboration and hard work contributed by so many people from so many spheres of the community.

"The 'spirit' of our people in East Gippsland is such a precious thing, especially at this time. I wish all events still to come on the East Gippsland Winter Festival every success and encourage our community and visitors to support them wholeheartedly.

"Whether its food, wine, the arts, lights, magicians or community spirit, I'm sure you'll be blown away, like I was on opening night!"

PICTURED TOP RIGHT: Mayor Cr Mendy Urie with the angel wings, and Breast Care Support Fund of East Gippsland. Have your photo taken with the wings for a gold coin donation. Watch out for the wings at an event near you.

PICTURED BOTTOM RIGHT: Council's Corporate Centre has embraced the East Gippsland Winter Festival and looks spectacular at night.



Big general waste bins phased out

We are phasing out a scheme that saw some residents receive large red-lidded bins to cater for their households' needs.

Since 2007, we have offered general waste bins twice the size of the standard 120L bin to households which met criteria, including larger families or those with children in nappies. These households paid for a 120L general waste service but could dispose of twice that volume at no extra cost.

These 240L bins will now be replaced with a standard 120L bin.

Certain medical conditions can create a large amount of rubbish and these households have also been eligible for the larger 240L bin. The scheme will continue for this category, including future applications.

We evaluated this free service ahead of the upcoming increases to the Victorian Government's landfill levies.

The amount of levy we pay is based on the volume of waste entering our landfills.

We expect to pay \$1.4 million in landfill levies this year which equates to 12,000 tonnes of domestic waste and 11,000 tonnes of commercial waste.

Many residents with the larger bins no longer have children in nappies as the program is 14 years old. The 240L bins will be collected over the next two years starting with the oldest.

Customers who have received a larger bin in the last 12 months will have theirs replaced last.

Any customer, including large families, who wants more waste capacity can apply for a second waste service under our existing arrangements or hire a private contractor.



Join us for This Girl Can Day activities

We have good news for those of you who were looking forward to our This Girl Can Day which, sadly, had to be postponed due to COVID restrictions.

We have rescheduled to Tuesday 29 June, so put the date in your calendar and get along to this free event at the Lakes Entrance Aquadome, Palmers Road.

Whether you exercise a lot, a little or not at all, you're invited to this free introduction to different types of exercises and health information.

Our This Girl Can Day activities are:

9.00 am to 2.30 pm – Free pool entry

9.00 am to 10.00 am – Free adult swimming lesson with tips on technique

10.30 am – Choose between deepwater running or a Body Balance class

11.30 am – Healthy morning tea

12.00 pm – Learn about the top five strength exercises for women

12.00 pm – Spin class

12.45 pm – Stretch class

1.30 pm – Step-up class

2.00 pm – Refuelling your body with healthy snacks

All events are free.

This Girl Can – Victoria supports women to get involved in physical activity that suits them. Surveys have shown a big part of what puts Victorian women off trying new activities or getting involved in sport is a fear of being judged, or not being fit enough to start. Sports, gyms and moving your body are for everybody (literally, every body), so come to the Aquadome and join in the day's activities.

For more information contact the Aquadome on 5155 3333 or visit the centre.



Holiday swimming program

Increase your swimming ability and water safety skills these coming school holidays with our intensive holiday program.

Running for both weeks of the school holidays (28 June - 2 July and 5 - 9 July), improve your swim technique and safety skills.

\$55 per week gets your child five lessons (morning sessions on the same time each weekday) in lessons grouped according to age and ability.

Enrol online at our website or contact Lakes Entrance Aquadome on 5155 3333.



29 June: Unscheduled Council meeting

29 June: This Girl Can Day, Lakes Entrance

5 July: NAIDOC Week flag raising, Bairnsdale

6 July: NAIDOC Week Storytime

6 July: Citizenship Ceremony

11 July: Official Opening – Mallacoota Community Clubrooms

13 July: Council meeting



Bairnsdale Library open Thursday nights



Our Libraries After Dark program is continuing, and is a safe, warm space for our community on Thursday nights in Bairnsdale.

Bairnsdale Library has couches and sitting areas, computers, free WiFi, a hot

drink machine and accessible toilets.

Library staff also run an activity, which recently has been a free movie screening each week.

Bairnsdale Library is one of 13 Victorian libraries taking part in Libraries After Dark, which supports communities with few recreation alternatives to the local pokies venue.

The funding has allowed the library's opening hours to be extended into the evening, positioning the local library as a community lounge – an alternative to the gambling lounge.

It seeks to reduce social isolation, a well-established risk factor for the social and economic harm caused by gambling.

The state-wide program is managed by the Moreland City Council in association with the Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) and is funded by the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation.

For the weekly list of library events, including Libraries After Dark, visit the [Library Events](#) page on our website.

Time to enter our Book Week competition

Our Book Week competition is on again.

The competition is open to all children of primary school age. Younger children in Prep and Grade 1 are asked to represent their story in a picture, while older children in the Grade 2 and 3, and Grade 4 to 6 categories are invited to write a story.

This year's theme is based on the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Book Week theme 'Old Worlds, New Worlds, Other Worlds'.

We're asking entrants to imagine they could visit another world for a day – past, future or imagined – where would you go and what would you see?

It's worth thinking (and writing or drawing) about because prizes in the form of book vouchers will be given to children whose work finishes first, second and third in each age group.

The closing date for entries is Friday 6 August.

The winners will be contacted by phone from Wednesday 18 August.

Prizes will be awarded at a presentation ceremony to be held on Saturday 21 August at Bairnsdale Library.

For more information on the categories, how to enter, or for an entry form, visit your library or see the [Library Events](#) page on our website.



Council meeting in brief

Outcomes of the Council meeting on Tuesday 22 June were:

- Council received a petition requesting a footpath on Fort King Road, Paynesville.
- Following community consultation on the Dogs in Public Places trial, Council resolved to continue with these rules ongoing, allowing dogs to be exercised off leash in some areas throughout the shire.
- Council deferred the development plan for 10 Marlo Road, Marlo to a future meeting, requesting additional work by the proponent.
- A plan for three-lot subdivision in Lindenow was supported.
- Three shire-wide contracts for Council's roads were extended, being: asphaltting, sealed road rehabilitation, and kerb and channel replacement.
- The contract for processing removing green waste from a number of our waste facilities was extended.
- A contract was awarded for the reconstruction of Bailey Street, Bairnsdale.
- Council will financially support the 2021 East Gippsland Business Awards.
- To allow an upgrade of the water supply to South Bairnsdale Industrial Estate, Council will enter into an agreement with East Gippsland Water.
- Following community consultation, a section of Lanes Road, Nicholson will be renamed Bosses Road.

[Read minutes here>>](#)
[or watch on YouTube](#)



New ag appointments, farmer survey

The final two positions on the East Gippsland Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee have recently been filled and East Gippsland Shire Council congratulates Ian Cane and Simon Turner on their appointments.

In February, Council appointed nine industry-based members to the committee and initiated a process to identify suitable candidates to fill the remaining two vacancies, with one member having experience in forest products and one member to come from the High Country. Mr Cane is an apiarist with over 50 years' experience, accessing forests for the location of hives. He has also been in active in forest management planning for state forests and planning for the multiple uses and values of public land. Mr Cane's family have been in apiary for 100 years.

Mr Turner has been operating a family grazing business (wool, mutton, lamb and beef) in Bindi, with secondary properties near Ensay and Bairnsdale. He has had experience in representing the community in the past with membership to several committees at state level. Mr Turner is a fourth generation East Gippsland farmer. The Committee has met twice since forming, and will endeavour to support Council by:

- Providing advice to Council on agriculture sector issues and priorities
- Providing an effective communication channel between Council and members of the agriculture sector
- Making enquiries and canvas public views relating to issues of importance to the agriculture sector

- Advocating for decisions of Council in respect of matters that fall within the Advisory Committee's Charter.

At their first meeting the Committee discussed the issue of camping on river frontages and the concerns for farmers as a result. Council in conjunction with One Gippsland sent a letter expressing the concerns to Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

The committee has also supported the development of Council's farmers' survey.

Council is asking farm owners, managers and share farmers to complete the survey to assist it to better understand the needs of our agriculture sector. This information will be used to inform Council on major issues and to support advocacy initiatives for private and government investment in agriculture, supporting infrastructure and services.

All farmers can complete the survey online at the **Your Say page of Council's website**. Hard copies of the survey will also be mailed to all farms over 40 hectares size after June 30.

Council hopes to hear from all agriculture sectors including cattle, sheep and wool, dairy, horticulture as well as wineries, aquaculture and timber industries.

This survey will be delivered in conjunction with Wellington Shire Council and has been developed by East Gippsland and Wellington shire councils, Victorian Farmers Federation, Agriculture Victoria and Gippsland Agriculture Group.

Agribusiness program ready for July intake

Farmers in the Omeo/Tambo Valley regions are able to join a free agribusiness program starting on Thursday 22 July.

The program is designed to assist agribusinesses to undertake diversification or value adding projects on their properties to increase income security and resilience.

Participants will be involved in group workshops, individual business and adaptation sessions, and monthly mentoring sessions to support the implementation of ideas.

Two other streams of the program are already operating in the Bairnsdale and Orbost to Cann Valley areas.

What's included?

- Support to develop plans for your ideas.
- 12 months of practical support with access to management tools and advice.

We are jointly funding this program with Regional Development Victoria and it will be delivered by ION Group. It is fully funded and there is no charge to participate – the only commitment is your time and enthusiasm to work on your business.

If you're interested in learning more, please contact Leigh Crocker on 0419 359 409, or email lcrocker@iongroup.com.au

For enquiries about general drought assistance, please contact our Drought Assistance Officer Kaylene Wickham on 5153 9500.



We've launched our new Values

We recently launched our organisation's new values which outline our behaviours and will help create a high performing and more uniform workplace culture across our all our locations.

It was decided to review and update our values due to the changed organisation structure in 2019 and the large number of new staff who have joined our organisation since the values were first developed.

Our new values are Respect, Collaboration, Integrity and Accountability.

To decide on the values, we engaged a broad cross-section of staff from all areas to create a set of values with which staff will feel a strong sense of ownership and connection.

Each value also has a descriptive statement and some behaviour comments to ensure a consistent interpretation of each value.

The values will now be embedded into the workplace in a number of ways, including incorporating them into our recruitment processes and staff workplans, displaying the values in our buildings and in online settings.

COURTESY	DIGNITY	GENUINE INTENT	RESPECT
EMPATHY	EQUALITY	KINDNESS	
COLLABORATION			
PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIPS SHARED OUTCOMES ENGAGED			
SHARING INFORMATION CLEAR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES			
HONEST	ETHICAL	TRANSPARENT	INTEGRITY
TRUSTED CONNECTIONS	OPEN		
ACCOUNTABILITY			
RESPONSIBLE TRANSPARENT DELIVERING ON OUR COMMITMENTS			



'Plug In2' learn from music experts

Want to build new skills, learn industry knowledge and progress your music career to a whole new level?

Don't miss out on 'Plug In2', a music-intensive event on Wednesday 30 June from 5.00-6.30pm. The online forum is open to young (12-25 years) emerging musicians from the East Gippsland.

The forum will be a great opportunity to get firsthand advice from industry professionals from different backgrounds including artists, venue operators, radio and production specialists, a special guest from The Push, and local artist Olivia Lay as host.

The forum is facilitated by local artists and industry professionals from various backgrounds, and will include:

Aarti Desmi - a lover of live music who has been working across the fields of community, contemporary music, and creative industries in government and not-for-profit organisations for the last 10 years. Currently, Aarti works for youth music organisation The Push.

Justin Brady - from his home Base in Mallacoota, Justin regularly performs, records and tours with some of Australia's well-known act as a freelance musician.

Jared Micallef - in the industry for over 20 years, Jared has worked professionally as a studio engineer, live audio engineer, and musician.

Amber Irving-Guthrie - radio presenter with ABC Gippsland, and local band musician.

Plug In2's online panel event will take emerging musicians through:

- Festival, tour and gig bookings
- Industry pathways and networks
- Developing a professional bio and photos
- Social media and promotion

Places are limited and bookings are required, so **register now.**

We are joint-funding this program with VicHealth's Reimagine Health Program; the event is also supported by BraveArts East Gippsland and FReeZA.



Lucknow community sporting new facility



Lucknow Football Netball Club life members Garry Ball and Steve Martin, Mayor Cr Mendy Urie, Darren Chester MP, life member Pat Hollingsworth, club president Ray Smith and Tim Bull MP open the new Lucknow clubrooms on Saturday afternoon, 19 June.

The new Lucknow Recreation Reserve clubrooms are officially open!

Mayor Cr Mendy Urie joined Lucknow Football Netball Club and Federal Member for Gippsland Darren Chester in opening in the new facilities on Saturday 19 June.

Club life members, past presidents, players, supporters and sponsors, the recreation reserve committee of management, contractors, and local State MP Tim Bull were all on hand to mark the occasion.

Jointly funded between the Commonwealth Government, Council and Lucknow Football Netball Club, the upgraded clubrooms provide a fit-for-purpose facility with:

- Modern changerooms for football and netball teams and umpires, ensuring players and officials of both genders have suitable, compliant facilities
- A timekeepers' area and first aid facilities
- New canteen, function room and bar area
- Great internal and external vantage points to view both netball and football matches
- New storage shed and solar

Cr Urie said the new facilities will be part of so many lives, from young children starting out in sport, to the senior members of our community who enjoy having the club as a place to connect socially.

"It was great to have club life member Pat Hollingsworth cut the ribbon. Mrs Hollingsworth has her name adorned

on the wall of the new rooms above the kitchen – the Pat Hollingsworth Kitchen – and stories were shared about how Mrs Hollingsworth served sandwiches and cups of tea from a bark hut on the sidelines of the oval many years ago! What a great link between the club's history and the current day," Cr Urie said.

Major redevelopments like this don't just happen. There is significant amount of planning, funding applications and budget bids, project management and ultimately construction over many months and even years.

Cr Urie said Council was proud to be a major contributor to the project, thanked it's funding partner in the Commonwealth Government, and highlighted the work of the volunteers from both the club and committee of management.

"The club volunteers have remained relentless in driving this project for the betterment of their players, supporters, club and community," Cr Urie said.

"Thank-you for your contribution and hats off for the major volunteer effort that has supported this project.

"Also, thank-you to our major contractor Brooker Builders and designer Ian Neville, and all sub-contractors and suppliers. What you have created here will stand the test of time."

Partnering with Victorian Government through Sport and Recreation Victoria a full netball court upgrade is also in place, making for a combined investment of \$2.5 million.

[Watch the official opening here>>>](#)

**\$2.5
MILLION
INVESTMENT**



Understanding Road Maintenance



East Gippsland Shire Council maintains a 2,958-kilometre network of local roads, registered on our Public Road Register. Of these, 1,246km are sealed and 1,712km unsealed. Each road is categorised into a hierarchical class dependent on the types of access it provides. Periodic maintenance is carried out on all classes of roads, most to a programmed schedule and others on a reactive basis.

How Council manages roads is also outlined in the Road Management Plan available from our website or customer service centres. This information sheet provides an explanation of road classification, and materials and methods used in maintaining and improving the road network.

Road Hierarchy Definitions

Urban Link Roads

Provide a linkage between significant residential, industrial and commercial nodes and or the arterial road network. These roads have an identifiable origin and destination (e.g. suburbs, industrial areas or places of significance).

Urban Collector Roads

Primarily provide a route between and through residential, industrial and commercial areas and convey traffic to the urban link or arterial road network system.

Urban Access

A road, street, court or laneway that primarily provides direct access for abutting residential, industrial and commercial properties to their associated nodes with minimal to no through traffic.

Urban Limited Access

An un-constructed road that provides direct access or a laneway that provides secondary access for abutting residential, industrial and commercial properties.

Rural Link Roads

Primarily provide a direct linkage between significant population centres and major traffic generators such as residential, industrial, commercial, agricultural and tourist areas and declared roads. These roads have an identifiable origin and destination (e.g. townships and places of significance).

Rural Collector Roads

Primarily provide a route between, and through, residential, industrial, agricultural, tourist and forest traffic nodes and the rural Link and/or arterial road network.

Rural Access

A road or laneway in this category primarily provides direct access for abutting residential, industrial, commercial, forestry, tourist and agricultural properties and connect into either the link, collector or arterial road network. There is minimal to no through traffic.

Rural Limited Access

Roads that are un-constructed but provide direct access for abutting property or roads that provide direct access for vacant abutting property.

Rural Fire Access

A road, laneway or track that primarily provides access for fire-fighting purposes.

Road Pavement Maintenance Process

Sealed or Unsealed Pavement Reconstruction

Works can be either scheduled or reactive.

Scheduled: Surveys are carried out every four years to measure defects and data is used to schedule works according to urgency.

Reactive: Maintenance may be undertaken if pavement is in danger of immediate failure due to excessive loading, moisture ingress, cracking or issues with underground infrastructure etc.

Materials and methods:

Existing pavement materials are recycled using additives to strengthen the supply (e.g. cement, lime, enzymes). Several methods can be used to reconstruct pavement including complete excavation removal and replacement with materials of higher-strength value. Materials are replaced to specification and compacted to achieve a specified minimum density (95-100%). Proofing is undertaken using a fully loaded truck (gross mass minimum 20 tonnes) and if no defect is identified is deemed suitable for opening to traffic.

See more over page.



Road Pavement Maintenance Process

Unsealed Pavement Grading Maintenance

Council's roads supervisors regularly monitor the condition of their respective roads and order grading works through a schedule of rates contract. As specified in Council's Road Management Plan, the higher an unsealed road is on the Road Hierarchy the more frequently it receives maintenance (two-three scheduled grades per year). A rural access road which is further down the hierarchy will receive less (one grade per year). Occasionally works need to be done reactively if excessive loading or adverse weather conditions have damaged the pavement.

Materials and methods:

Council has improved the quality of the gravel materials used on unsealed roads with the use of processed fine crushed rock to improve the longevity of the surface and lessen the requirement for maintenance grading. Council's roads supervisors source gravel pavement materials from a panel of providers, enabling them to choose from a range of products of varying cost and quality to suit the specific needs of the class of road being maintained.

Resealing

Pavement resealing is determined by a program that has been established through formal investigation of the existing pavement surface condition. This is done by a specialist consultant with advanced technology that measures defects and stress in the existing sealed or asphalt pavement.

Materials and methods:

There are predominantly two types of pavement sealing products used by Council, a spray seal and asphalt. Both are substantially made up of bitumen which can be ordered in various strengths and viscosities to suit traffic volumes and loading requirements. Stone of various sizes are used to provide the body of the pavement and to increase rigidity and durability. In recent years recyclable products have begun entering the market which can be used as a substitute for stone and bitumen, this is reducing our reliance on traditional limited natural resources. Some of these products are glass, fly ash, plastic, crumb rubber and polymers. Council is proactive in working with contractors and suppliers to bring the use of these materials into practice.

Dust Suppression Seal

Council's Dust Suppression Seal Program applies to rural, rural residential and urban gravel roads to provide dust suppression, reduce overall maintenance costs and enhance driver comfort and safety. Allocation of works on unsealed roads is based on their ranking against the following evaluation criteria:

Minimum width: Either have sufficient width or be easily upgraded to enable a minimum seal width of six metres.

Existing pavement: Have an existing solid, well compacted road base (minimum gravel depth 50-75mm) that can be added to by gravel re-sheeting.

Reasonable alignment: Have reasonable gradients, drainage and road alignment that will not cause problems or compromise safety if sealed.

The criteria also considers if the road:

- Provides through access or a direct link to other roads
- Provides access to specific areas of interest (i.e. nature reserves, parks, beaches)
- Has strategic significance e.g. tourist facility/focus, complementing land development, complete a sealed road link, etc.
- Is a school bus or heavy vehicle route.

It also considers traffic volumes per day. Public concerns reported by the public - and the average number of hours per km on the section of road within 20m of the road.

Materials and methods:

Minor maintenance of dust suppression seal principally consisting of patching with hot or cold mix asphalt has occurred on various roads and has been covered under the savings generated through the road maintenance contract.

The Dust Suppression Seal Program has been running successfully for five years with only minimal maintenance having been required on some of the treated roads, predominantly pothole patching, edge breaks and shoulder drop offs which are inherent in any sealed road. Council intends to continue with the reseal program for approximately another three years and then conduct a review to ensure that all roads previously identified by the program have been treated. A second coat will be applied after about seven years to ensure the life of the pavement for a further 15-20 years.

We hope this has helped explain how Council manages roads. If you require more information, please read our Road Management Plan. To understand what roads Council is responsible for, please read the Public Road Register. Both these documents are available on our website at <https://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/building-and-development/roads> or through our customer service centres.

Mayor briefs state panel on recovery

Mayor Cr Mendy Urie presented to the 2021 Local Government Mayoral Advisory Panel on East Gippsland's bushfire recovery in early June, explaining the complexity of recovery and some of the opportunities for learning.

Cr Urie, appointed to the panel in April, said the meeting theme of 'Supporting vulnerable Victorians' was an opportunity to highlight the work done in the bushfire event and in recovery, but also continually advocate for improvements in the way all tiers of government respond to emergencies.

"The enormity of the bushfire event, in scale, duration and natural and infrastructure loss, continues to amaze people not living the recovery journey, even after 18 months," Cr Urie said.

"I was able to explain where we are in recovery, how our communities are at different stages on recovery, and the impact of COVID-19 lockdowns in that process. The difference between physical and social recovery, the significant work of volunteers, and the complexity of large-scale bushfire recovery were explained.

"It was also a timely opportunity to highlight to the Minister the appreciation for support and funding from all levels of government, and the work of government agencies."

Cr Urie advised the panel there was a need to allow for five-year recovery planning for such events, and that program design needs to more explicitly consider community needs. Most importantly, support and funding need to be available when the community is ready for it, not on a predetermined recovery timeline. I also shared the negative impacts of competitive funding approaches where impacted communities are competing – there is a better way where support is determined by impact and need.

"It is also important that support is easy to negotiate and not all online. There is also an opportunity for better coordination between all tiers of government, understanding the future impacts of a changing climate, and how to support the building of resilience."

[Read more>>>](#)

Focus on digital connectivity

We are working to build our knowledge of digital connectivity issues and priorities in East Gippsland to help inform advocacy and other activities.



We will focus on digital connectivity impacts and opportunities for business and tourism, safety and emergency management, rural and regional living and work.

We hope the report that comes from this work will give us a more comprehensive understanding of the true lived experience of digital connectivity in East Gippsland, especially through the lens of both the 2019-20 bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic. This will better inform our future project planning and advocacy for the region.

For more information or to get involved, contact your local Place Manager. You can get to know your Place Manager and find contact details on the [Community Recovery page on our website](#).

Drop off points for fencing wire

We have worked with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to designate official fencing wire deposit and collection sites across East Gippsland. Fire-impacted fencing wire waste should only be dropped off at these sites, where it will be collected:

- Sarsfield District - Sarsfield Camp Reserve, Great Alpine Road. Site is now closed and metal waste can be deposited at the Bairnsdale Landfill.
- Omeo District - Old Night Soil Dump Site, 181 Depot Road Omeo; and Ensay Blowhard Gravel Pit, Little River Road, Ensay North
- Buchan District - Buchan Old Sawmill Site 2286 Bruthen-Buchan Road
- Wairewa District - Wairewa DELWP Waterpoint, opposite Wairewa Transfer Station, Carl Smith Road
- Orbost District - Newmerella Recreation Reserve, 5234 Princes Highway
- Cann River District - Cann River Transfer Station, 20 Coast Road
- Mallacoota District - Mallacoota Transfer Station, Betka Road

What permit do you need?

If you're looking to build on your property, you might have read or heard about getting permits.

But that term is used to cover two types of permits – planning permits and building permits.

There is often confusion as to the difference between planning and building permits, and which is required in your circumstances.

Planning and building permits are two separate processes that residents need to go through before starting construction work.

Planning permits are issued by us

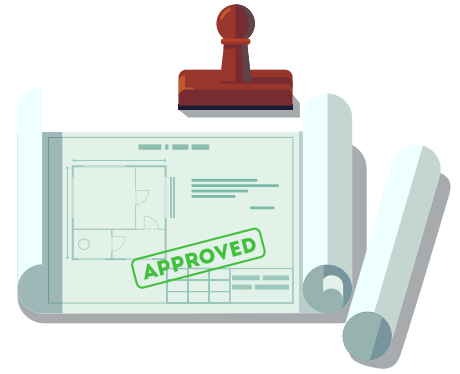
For people looking to build, whether on fire-impacted property or not, it is likely you will need a planning permit for a dwelling, and possibly also for outbuildings (sheds).

Planning permits are a way to ensure that economic, social and environmental matters and impacts are considered, and to ensure that a range of risks are managed.

These risks include bushfire, flood, climate change, erosion, amenity of an area, social impacts, vegetation removal, heritage overlays and infrastructure.

Building permits are issued by private building surveyors

For all but the most minor structures, you will also need a building permit before you build. We do not issue building permits at council; for this process you need to hire a private building surveyor. You may do this directly yourself, or it can be done through your builder.



A list of private building surveyors is available on our website.

The private building surveyor's role is to ensure that the construction will meet all current building regulations, such as:

- Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) rating requirements
- Adequate foundations to suit soil conditions
- 6-star energy efficiency requirements

Alongside Bushfire Recovery Victoria, we have developed the Rebuild Support Service (RSS). We are delivering this free service which is tailored to support people in our region rebuild after the fires. The RSS assists fire-impacted residents with planning advice specific to your property and can prepare your planning permit application.

For more information contact the contact the RSS on **BRSS@egipps.vic.gov.au** or (03) 5153 9500.

Our website also has information on the RSS and the difference between planning and building permits. See the Building and Development section for permit information, or the Bushfire Rebuilding page for details about the RSS.

Medal nominations still open

National Emergency Medal for 2019-20 Bushfires

The National Emergency Medal is still open for nominations to persons who provided either significant or sustained service (or both) during a nationally significant emergency.

The bushfires of 2019-20 were declared a nationally significant emergency for the purpose of the National Emergency Medal on 2 December 2020.

The Medal is managed by the Office of the Governor General and is open to members of the community, volunteers or agency staff that have provided sustained service being:

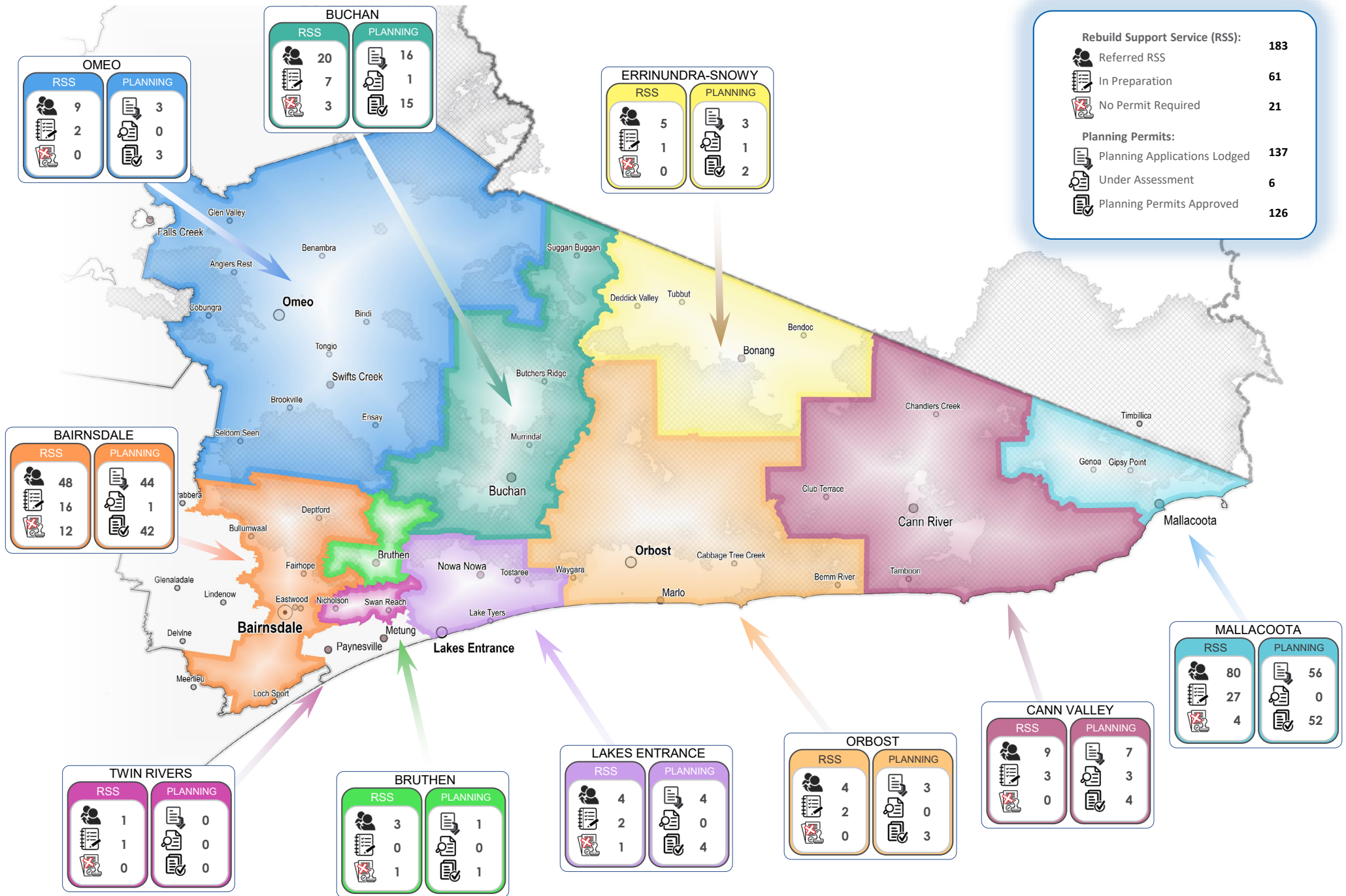
- Service in the protection of lives and property; or in the service of interests, that are not their own; in

direct response to the emergency (including support that enables or facilitates the emergency response)

- In East Gippsland (or other fire impacted municipalities)
- Between 21 November 2019 and 20 February 2020
- The minimum duration of service of 5 days (these are not required to be consecutive)

This is an opportunity to recognise the significant contribution made by so many in East Gippsland throughout the 2019-20 bushfires.

To learn more about the Medal and its history, eligibility criteria, or to apply, please visit the **Governor-General's website**.



Our Councillors



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Note: When emailing a Councillor, type "Att Cr (their last name)" in the subject line.

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