

Mallacoota District Place Update

JULY 2021



Clubrooms officially opened

The new Mallacoota Community Clubrooms were officially opened on Sunday 11 July, providing a purpose-built facility and focal point for the community.

The pavilion project was the result of the community working in partnership with Council and the Commonwealth Government. It was funded by Council and the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development and Building Better Regions Fund.

Opening the facility on Sunday with Federal Member for Gippsland Darren Chester and representatives of the Mallacoota Halls and Recreation Reserve Committee and user groups, Mayor Cr Mendy Urie said facilities like these are more than just changerooms and meeting rooms and kitchens.

"This great building is a space for the community to connect, share common interests, and make our communities better," Cr Urie said.

"The new facilities are fantastic and already being well used. They are a great addition to the reserve and have certainly been welcomed by current user groups and the broader community. The facility will support sport and recreation in the area for years to come and assist in attracting new players and volunteers."

Major projects like this don't just happen. "There was a significant amount of planning, funding applications and budget bids, project management and ultimately construction over many months and even years," Cr Urie said.



Victorious Mallacoota Soccer Club women's players cut the ribbon to officially open the Mallacoota Community Clubrooms with Federal Member for Gippsland Darren Chester, East Gippsland Shire Mayor Cr Mendy Urie, Cr Arthur Allen, and Mallacoota Halls and Recreation Reserve representatives.

"We are proud to be a major contributor in that work, leading the advocacy for funding with our local MP, and delivering the project using our team of builders supported by many local trades and suppliers.

"I thank our staff involved for their commitment from the engagement and planning for the project, and through the project management and build. To our contractors and suppliers, thank-you for your efforts.

"Also, well done to the volunteers from the committee of management and community who have remained relentless in driving this project for the betterment of Mallacoota.

"I look forward to the community using this facility well to play, attract visiting teams, meet, socialise, connect and plan for generations to come.

Energy infrastructure funding

In May the Victorian Government announced at least \$7 million in new technology for Mallacoota, Omeo, and Corryong. The program will provide a mix of solar panels, batteries and other energy infrastructure for essential service buildings, commercial and industrial buildings, and households, to provide reliable power supply in all conditions.

In Mallacoota, the funding will deliver an advanced microgrid using solar panels, batteries and other distributed energy resources as well as increasing the size of the town's diesel generator to provide back-up power for up to five days if it becomes isolated from the grid.

We have commenced discussions with our energy partners to ensure we are able to monitor progress and provide community with further updates on the implementation of this program.

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Pedestrian bridge update

Progress of works on the Genoa Pedestrian Bridge have slowed over recent weeks due to high river levels. We are hopeful that river levels will recede enough soon to enable works to recommence for the remaining pile driving to be completed. Once the piles are driven, river levels will not affect the remaining construction works.

The initial December 2021 completion date is still hopeful, however with time lost due to high river levels, the completion date may shift to January 2022 if there are further disruptions.

Skate park concept

Convic returned to the district on 23 June for a community session to discuss their draft concept design of the Mallacoota Skate Park. Members of the community, P12 school and project control group attended.

The Convic team received great feedback and wish to express thanks to the community for their commitment and participation in the concept design process.

Some of the feedback that was received at this session will see parts of the draft concept changed to better reflect community and stakeholder expectations.

For those who were unable to attend the session, you can still provide feedback on the concept design by visiting the Convic Design Hub at <https://designhub.convic.com/#mallacoota-skatepark> and complete the online survey on the draft concept design.

Betka Beach views

We are keen to explore the views of the Mallacoota community in relation to any other improvements needed at

Betka Beach following replacement of the seawall by DELWP. We are looking forward to progressing community engagement later in 2021.

Stay tuned for updates as to how you can have your say.

Recovery plan endorsed

The community endorsed the MADRA recovery plan at their meeting on 22 June.

We congratulate the MADRA committee for its work on the Recovery Plan, and for gaining community endorsement by successfully navigating challenging COVID-19 restrictions impacting community the plan's consultation process.

For more information on the Recovery Plan, visit MADRA's website: <https://madrecovery.com/>.

Black Summer Grant Guidelines

The National Resilience and Recovery Agency (NRRRA) has released the guidelines for the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery (BSBR) Grants program.

East Gippsland is an eligible local government area for the grant program, and is available for community organisations, businesses and local councils to apply. Grant applications can be between \$20,000 and \$10 million.

Grant applications can be submitted from 22 July and close 2 September, and successful projects will be announced by the end of 2021.

Guidelines, background information and eligibility criteria, are available on the NRRRA website: <https://recovery.gov.au/black-summer-grants>.

Rebuilding – complex sites

While rebuilding a home is not easy and takes time, most landowners have what is considered a typical rebuild,

where it is relatively straightforward to obtain planning and building permits to enable construction of the new dwelling. However, some rebuilds will be complex and this is generally due to having a high Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) rating or being in an area with a very high fire risk.

The Complex Site Taskforce (CSTF) is an independent panel of experts set up by the Victorian Government to provide specific advice and recommendations for rebuilding on properties that are considered complex.

The Rebuild Support Service (RSS) and case support workers will work directly with these property owners to provide information and support, engage the CSTF, or explore other options.

For information on eligibility and referral requirements, general information on the process and timeframes, the following options are available:

- Council's rebuilding web page: <https://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/community/bushfire-rebuilding>
- Bushfire Recovery Victoria rebuilding support web page: <https://www.vic.gov.au/rebuilding-support-bushfire-recovery>
- Contact the RSS on 03 5153 9500 or BRSS@egipps.vic.gov.au

Rebuild Support Service

Council's Rebuild Support Service (RSS) is available to support you with rebuilding after fires.

Check out the latest RSS Update on our website: <https://bit.ly/2TiNHVf>

If you're thinking about rebuilding or have any questions, visit our dedicated rebuilding web page here <https://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/community/bushfire-rebuilding> or contact the RSS on BRSS@egipps.vic.gov.au or (03) 5153 9500.