

Toilets make big difference for inclusion

On Friday 24 March we officially received a Marveloo mobile accessible toilet from Maroondah City Council.

The generous donation was part of a partnership agreement with Maroondah and its commitment to supporting our bushfire recovery.

The Marveloo means residents and visitors with high care needs can participate in more activities knowing they will have safe and comfortable bathroom facilities.

Marveloo is accessed using a MLAK, a restricted master key system allowing people with disabilities 24-hour access to public facilities.

Marveloo includes an overhead ceiling hoist, a height adjustable adult change table, a fully accessible toilet, curtains for extra privacy, an access ramp and automatic door, heating and cooling and an external sun shade.

The Marveloo was formally handed over to East Gippsland Shire Council by the Mayor of Maroondah, Cr Rob Steane at a special ceremony near the Lakes Entrance Footbridge on Friday 24 March.

"I am very pleased that we



Disability advocates Bianca Basset and Steve Fletcher (centre front) and members of Lakes Entrance community groups joined Councillors and senior officers from Maroondah City Council and East Gippsland Shire Council to celebrate the handover of a Marveloo.

have been able to provide this Marveloo to East Gippsland Shire Council, and that it will be located here in Lakes Entrance providing accessible bathroom facilities for the many visitors to this key tourist town in the East Gippsland region," said Cr Steane.

"We're very pleased to accept the donation of Marveloo from Maroondah City Council. The Marveloo will be located here in Lakes

Entrance until a permanent changing places facility is constructed, with the ability to be moved to other key destinations in the region for festivals and other activities," East Gippsland Shire Mayor Cr Mark Reeves said.

East Gippsland Disability Advisory Committee member, Steve Fletcher, is delighted to know that a Marveloo is now available.

"Anything to create

participation of people with disability is a good thing," Steve said.

"It's a great facility to have for people with disability around Lakes Entrance, and because it's portable if an event needs it somewhere else in East Gippsland, that event is supported to be accessible. "It is all about getting people with disability out and about within their community," Steve concluded.

Acknowledgement of Country

East Gippsland Shire Council acknowledges the Gunaikurnai, Monero and 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.



Madeleine and Hagan stopped by our stand for their daughters to enjoy the craft activities at the Orbost Show.

Out and about in the community

We had a great time at the Orbost Show!

Our Sustainability and Waste Minimisation, Agriculture (Economic Development) and Library teams were busy at the Orbost Show on Monday 13 March, fielding various questions about all council-related things.

We also promoted the Grown Caught Made trail program, educating the community about what's on offer from farms and producers in East Gippsland.

The library team was busy entertaining children with arts and crafts.



Library officers Carla Puglisi and Andrea Priestley at our stand.



It was smiles for Tina Bills, Waste Education Officer, Sharon Raguse, Manager of Economic Development with her son Harry and Alena Walmsey, Waste Minimisation Officer.

A celebration of equity



Anthony Basford (Council CEO), Cr Mendy Urie, Josephine Jakobi, Linda Wilkinson, Kylie Findley, Glenys Watts, Rebecca Steenholdt, Marcia Hindle celebrating International Women's Day at Bairnsdale Library.

We marked International Women's Day (IWD) with a community event at the Bairnsdale Library which was live streamed to Lakes Entrance, Omeo, Orbost and Paynesville service centres on Wednesday 8 March, reflecting this year's theme, #EmbraceEquity.

We were joined by guest speakers Kylie Findley (CFA member), Josephine Jakobi (local artist), Glenys Watts (chair of Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land Management Board) and Dr Linda Wilkinson (dog trainer) who shared their inspiring stories and achievements.

International Women's Day was a time to recognise the immense impact that women have made and continue to make in every aspect of society, but it was also a reminder that we still have work to do in achieving equality.



Denise Smith from Bairnsdale and Grace McCarthy from Johnsonville network after the event.



Lindenow South Football Netball Club's Cathy Pendergast and Glenda Hine from Walpa.



Local artist Josephine Jakobi discussing what equity means to her with Eastwood's Marcia Hindle.

Council meeting dates

11 April

2 May



Want to take part in a Council meeting?

The community are encouraged to ask questions or present to Council on an agenda item or other matters at a Council meeting. View our [website](#).



Swim program a quiet success

Twice a week we provide Quiet Time at Bairnsdale Aquatic and Recreation Centre to help more children enjoy the pool.

The aim of the one-hour sessions is to improve accessibility for children who have sensory challenges.

The program, which has been running for five months, is a collaboration between Council and the Children with Additional Needs

Working Group who contacted us with the idea to pilot the program.

During Quiet Time sessions, the water features and spa jets are turned off and behaviour of patrons will be monitored to ensure the environment is sensory friendly.

The area is open to all patrons during Quiet Time periods, but pool users are asked to avoid making loud noises.



Thursday: 10.00 to 11.00 am
Sunday: 2.00 to 3.00 pm

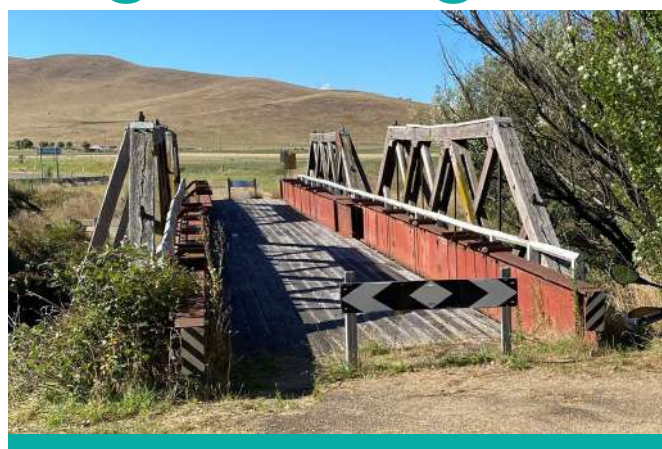
Heritage bridge funding talks

After identifying a financial shortfall in the funding required to maintain Victoria's second oldest timber truss bridge, we are working with Heritage Victoria on a solution.

The Hinnomunjie Bridge in Hinnomunjie is closed to vehicles but open to pedestrians.

Due to its age, some parts of the heritage-listed bridge need repair or replacement to ensure the bridge's historical values are maintained and retained.

Under the Heritage Act 2017, we have a statutory responsibility to maintain



any council asset that is heritage listed. We received a \$200,000 contribution from Living Victoria for this project; however the works needed to ensure the bridge remains intact would cost Council at

least \$1.7 million more than that.

Heritage Victoria is working with us to look at adjusting the project scope to allow the bridge to be preserved while lowering costs.

Council meeting in brief

At the 28 February Council Meeting, Council:

- Appointed external members to Council's new Economic Development Advisory Committee and approved the committee's charter. To support implementation of the holistic Economic Development Strategy, committee members will come from across the shire, from a range of industry backgrounds, and include members from non-business fields.
- Awarded a two-year contract for Supply of Plant and Equipment for Emergency Response and Recovery Works to a panel of suppliers and costs will be based on a schedule of rates.
- Deferred a decision on the awarding of a contract for to stabilise Hinnomunjie Bridge so discussions can continue with Heritage Victoria (see article opposite).
- Noted the organisation's progress against the actions in the Council Plan, as detailed in the Council Plan Progress Report - Quarter 2, 2022-23.
- Adopted changes to the Councillor Representation Register. The register details which Councillors represent Council on internal and external committees.

Watch the meeting





Great news for hockey players

Great news, hockey players! We've successfully laid your synthetic hockey pitch at WORLD Sporting Precinct in Bairnsdale.

Netballers also have something to celebrate - acrylic surfacing of the netball courts will commence soon; it will take two to three weeks to complete.

We are getting closer to the opening of this revamped facility that will provide great opportunities to participate in physical activity and sport and attract events to our region.

When complete, this regional-standard facility will provide:

- a new netball complex
- hockey pitches with lighting, including a grass and synthetic pitch
- new soccer pitches with lighting including one synthetic pitch
- access roads, paths, car parking and landscaping
- two pavilions to service multiple clubs across the sporting codes

The project has attracted significant investment, with the Australian Government and the Victorian Government collectively providing over \$10.5m in grant funding. The Victorian Government has provided a further \$5m through a low-interest loan scheme.



Connecting with Council

We're committed to making it simple for you to contact us and get the news and information you need about Council services, projects and programs.

There are plenty of ways you can keep up to date, connect with us and learn about the projects we're working on.

Call us or visit www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au for more details.

Council meetings

Tune in to the livestream or visit East Gippsy TV on YouTube to view the meetings



eNews

Sign up to receive regular updates straight to your inbox



Social media

Follow on Facebook and LinkedIn for the latest news



Have your say

Share your ideas and provide feedback on plans and projects in our region



Report litter and dumped rubbish

East Gippslanders are being warned about the impact on the environment and penalties for illegal waste disposal after an increase in reports of rubbish dumping.

Dumping of waste on our roadsides, parks and reserves is illegal. It can incur a fine of up to \$1,849 for individuals and \$5,548 for companies.

Over 80 waste dumping reports were received last year, which equates to more than one illegal dumping clean-up job per week, consisting of household waste, abandoned vehicles and construction waste. Everyone is being asked to play a part in making sure litter does not spoil our beautiful region. The cost of dumping rubbish

in our community is shocking and the damage it does to our open spaces, environment and wildlife is also significant and impossible to measure fully.

Residents are urged to report the illegal disposal of waste or dumped rubbish by contacting Council's Customer Service Centres on 5153 9500, completing an online form on our website, or sending a report via the Snap, Send Solve app.

The waste site should not be disturbed as it can hinder evidence collection and may contain hazardous materials.

We thank everyone for doing the right thing by recycling, donating items in good condition to charity and responsibly disposing of items that are no longer needed.





Moogji Aboriginal Council East Gippsland welcomed us to their Bonang Road property on the edge of Orbost last month. Moogji has been working on creating a place for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to gather, revegetation activities and propagating site-specific tubestock. We appreciated the opportunity to yarn about what Moogji and their passionate team are doing on country and for Aboriginal people – a great story about an expanding organisation looking for opportunities and partnerships to make a difference.

Getting to know... Tim Davidson, Emergency Management Officer



Tim Davidson has been a member of the Johnsonville CFA for the past five years and enjoys playing cricket and coaching junior sports in his spare time.

How did you become an Emergency Management Officer?

I originally came from Parks Victoria two years ago after deciding I needed a career change. I had experience in emergency management and enjoy working in this space, so it just made sense.

What do you enjoy most about your role?

There are so many aspects to the role which I enjoy. Disasters can have huge impacts on people's lives, with loss of homes, livelihoods and loved ones. To be able to help people who are impacted

significantly is a worthwhile and rewarding career to have.

What's the most challenging thing you face in your line of work?

Without a doubt, the aftermath of Black Summer bushfires has been challenging. We are dealing with communities who are at their most vulnerable, and everyone responds differently to the effects of disasters like this.

What do you love about living in East Gippsland?

We are spoilt for choice living in East Gippsland. I like living on my six-acre property and having the beach, lakes, rivers and bush all around me.

What are your favourite places in the shire?

I am a big fan of Big Bears Donuts.

What's a must-do in East Gippsland?

I highly recommend visiting Buchan Caves. There is so much to do and see - touring the historic caves, walking the trails and finishing off with having a barbecue.

Lastly, we have the Emergency Management Filming Competition open for young people aged between 12-25. Can you give us some ideas on what types of films you are looking for?

The films can range from an interview with someone who has been involved in a disaster, a timeline of before, during or after the fires, or it can be related to experiences with recovery and resilience.

Our Mayor elected Chair of One Gippsland

Mayor, Cr Mark Reeves has been elected Chair of One Gippsland – a peak regional advocacy body representing Gippsland.

One Gippsland works closely with all levels of government and across the community to ensure the region is a great place to live and work and can fulfill its potential. The organisation is a partnership of leaders from the six Gippsland local government areas, industry and education, which works collaboratively to secure funding and policy results.

At approximately 41,000km², Gippsland is the largest region in Victoria. It is home to over 270,000 people and six local government areas, and produces \$14 billion in gross regional product (GRP) annually.

Cr Reeves will be advocating that Gippsland requires strategic

investment in connectivity, education, health and tourism to fuel our post-COVID recovery and capitalise on our strengths as a regional economic powerhouse.

Our own advocacy priorities align with the broader Gippsland initiatives.

East Gippsland is a crucial part of Gippsland; we represent half the geographic area. By supporting transport and community infrastructure, industry, tourism and looking after our environment in East Gippsland, the wider region benefits.

One Gippsland will welcome opportunities for the state and federal governments and private sector to invest in Gippsland to support economic prosperity, social capital and access to services. We are also represented at the One Gippsland table by Chief Executive Officer Anthony Basford.

Are you a young budding filmmaker?

Calling young people from across East Gippsland!

Charge your iPhones and start collecting props and sketches for your storyboards for the Emergency Management Filming Competition.

Young people aged from 12 to 25 years are encouraged to create and submit their short films to be in the running for some awesome prizes.

Films can be up to three minutes long and will then be consolidated with the work of others to produce a short film series.

Submissions are now open and close on Wednesday 31 May.

For more details about the filming competition, and other youth activities, [visit the Youth page on our website.](#)



Free support for sports clubs

Are you or your children involved with an East Gippsland sporting club or leisure centre?

Free support is available for sporting clubs and leisure centres in East Gippsland Shire.

All clubs and centres can now access free support to boost healthy, delicious food and drink offerings in their kiosks, at half-time, or at their community fundraisers.

Would your club or centre benefit from the following:

- Free, tailored guidance to refresh your food and drink options.
- Kitchen equipment to prepare healthy options for fundraisers, half-time or in the kiosk.

- Advice on cost-effective, local suppliers.
- Food Handling Certificates or recipe training for volunteers.
- Workshops on easy, nutritional and budget-friendly recipes.

If so, then contact East Gippsland's Healthy Kids Advisor, Kristina, who is based at Gippsland Lakes Complete Health.

The Healthy Kids Advisors program is delivered by the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation and supported by the Victorian and Australian governments.

For more information, contact Kristina on 0413 320 635.

Community has a say on housing

Residents and ratepayers are having their say on the future of their region as part of community consultation on our Housing and Settlement and Rural Land Use strategies.

East Gippsland is expected to accommodate another 10,000 people in the next 20 years and the existing population is ageing. There is also a need to preserve rural land for food and fibre production and avoid the well-known risks of fire and flood. This presents many challenges to ensure that people have the right housing in the right places.

The two strategies aim to accommodate predicted population growth in the shire, while retaining productive farmland, landscape and environmental values and making our towns better and safer places to live.

More than 100 people gave feedback on the strategies, highlighting a broad range of issues for the future of settlements, housing and rural areas, including access to services and infrastructure and the character of towns. Many of the submissions emphasised the need to protect rural areas and the natural environment.

We are working through this feedback as we finalise the Rural Land Use Strategy. We expect it to be considered by Council for adoption in May.

You can view the draft strategies on our [Your Say East Gippsland website.](#)



Councillors and executive members toured the recycling and materials recovery centre at Tambo Waste in Bairnsdale on Tuesday morning, followed by a visit next door to Cranes Civil and Surfacing to see some of their recent investments in road plant that supports material reuse in local projects. Tambo Waste is our waste contractor, including kerbside collection, while Cranes is one of our civil contractors working on a range of projects from new roads and sealing, road maintenance, and new infrastructure projects. As two of our largest contractors, Tambo Waste and Cranes are leading the way with circular economy initiatives.

Switching up the Teen Space

Lakes Entrance Library has a fantastic new addition thanks to Friends of the Library Lakes Entrance (FOLLES) donation.

The Friends donated a Nintendo Switch games console, some games and a television to go in the library's new Teen Space.

The aim is to encourage young customers to come in to discover and use all the services that the library provides.

You can book a time to use the Nintendo Switch, which ensures it is available when you come in.



Julie Willersdorf, Library Customer Service Officer, is pictured at the Bairnsdale Library session.

Libraries celebrate cultural diversity

To celebrate Cultural Diversity Week (11 - 21 March 2023) and Harmony Week (20 - 26 March 2023) all our libraries ran a specially themed Storytime session.

Children and their accompanying adults enjoyed listening to some books celebrating diversity and made a 'Diversity Helps Us Bloom' flower craft.

Cultural Diversity Week is held each March. It is a chance for Victorians to celebrate our state's diverse and powerful multicultural communities.

This year's Harmony Week theme was "Everyone belongs". Harmony Week is the celebration that recognises our diversity and brings together Australians from all different backgrounds. It is about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.



Jessica Adkins won a family swim pass after entering this year's Big Summer Read program.

Big Summer Read prize draw

The **BIG Summer Read** aims to arrest the 'summer slide' by engaging children and their families in a fun and dynamic campaign through public libraries, supported with resources such as a user-friendly website, posters, reading logs and milestone incentives.

We had a great response from the community with 97 kids read 1600 books over December and January!

Each completed Reading Log (10 books read) counted as one entry into our major prize draw which were drawn at random.

The winners, their prize and their local library are:

\$30 gift card

- Rohan Kasel (13), Orbost
- Christopher Kasel (11), Orbost
- Lily Reynolds (5), Orbost
- Charles Whelan (7), Bairnsdale

Family swim pass

- Luke Sparrius (9), Bairnsdale
- Eliza Miller (9), Bairnsdale
- Jessica Adkins (10), Paynesville
- Zac Jackman (8), Paynesville
- Cam Jackman (6), Paynesville
- Grace McCubbin (5), Lakes Entrance

Book prize pack

- Jye Ash (8), Bairnsdale

Women Leading Locally

***Get the skills
you need
to run and
succeed***



An enterprise of:
ourcommunity.com.au



From 6 March 2023 until 14 April 2023, the Institute of Community Directors Australia (ICDA) will be accepting applications for the Women Leading Locally fellowship.

There are 65 fully funded places in the fellowship program on offer, thanks to funding from the Victorian Government. The program is designed to inspire, equip and sustain women to become – and remain – successful local representatives for their communities.

Women from 32 local government areas, including East Gippsland, will be prioritised in the selection process.

You can register your interest in the program to receive communication when it opens at **communitydirectors.com.au/training/women-lead**.

Step forward, step up. Take the opportunity.

Council presses federal ministers on shire priorities

We have taken the call for a better deal for our shire directly to Canberra MPs, with Mayor Cr Mark Reeves, Cr Tom Crook and CEO Anthony Basford using online meetings last week with ministers to progress Council's advocacy priorities.

The meetings gave Council a chance to advocate for:

- infrastructure funding;
- the Bairnsdale Aerodrome project;
- upgrades to Great Alpine Road;
- housing needs, including the impact of bushfires on housing stock;
- an update on bushfire recovery
- an arts and culture centre/arts precinct; and
- disaster impact on insurance premiums and related funding options.

Cr Reeves said the discussions with federal MPs offered an opportunity to ensure that the voices of the community are heard in Canberra and noted that we have a relatively new government that is in listening

mode.

He noted that there are 500 local government authorities across the country, so it is incumbent on us to be pushing our case in Canberra on federal matters.

Meetings were held with: Advisers to Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government; Senator Anthony Chisholm, Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Education; Darren Chester MP, Member for Gippsland and adviser to Julie Collins MP, Minister for Housing, Homelessness and Small Business.

A face-to-face meeting with Kristy McBain MP, Minister for Local Government and Regional Development, is scheduled to be held in Gippsland in early April.

A meeting with Murray Watt MP, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, was deferred due to his requirement to attend the House for debate.

Council meeting in brief

At the Tuesday 21 March Council meeting, Council:

- Received and noted the twice-yearly report from the Audit and Risk Committee for the six months to December 2022.
- Awarded a contract for the package 3 works at the WORLD Pavilion, Bairnsdale.
- Noted a report responding to a petition objecting to a proposed toilet block on the Raymond Island Koala Trail. The head petitioner will be advised the toilets are in the concept stage and further design and consultation will occur in the future.
- Awarded a contract to JW Volk for the sum of \$665,476.11 to construct the access road for the Lucknow Recreation Reserve gymnasium.
- Endorsed a submission to the Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport into the implications of severe weather events on regional, rural and remote roads.
- Awarded a contract for the Newmerella Roadside Rest Area.
- Resolved to become a signatory to a joint statement by the Cities Power Partnership calling for the Australian Government to introduce fuel efficiency standards for Australia.
- Approved the submission of five proposed motions for consideration for the upcoming Australia Local Government Association's National General Assembly.

If you're a dog or cat owner and you're struggling financially to pay for desexing and microchipping, we may be able to help.

A limited-time offer is now available which covers 80% of the total cost of basic desexing and microchipping.

Any extras offered by veterinarians are optional and will be at the owner's expense. You should discuss all of your pet's medical matters with the veterinarian before surgery.

For more information on the discount desexing program or to download an application form, visit our website.



Watch the meeting



MAJOR PROJECTS UPDATE

Lights, camera, action...

The Lindenow Recreation Reserve lighting project is well under way and is anticipated that the new lights will be installed by the end of June.



Full steam ahead for Bruthen

Works on Bruthen's streetscape are progressing to schedule.

Our contractors have been working on the drainage, kerb and channel which will be completed next month. A new toilet block and landscaping will be completed by June.



Out with the old, in with the new

Wombargo Creek Bridge in Wulgulmerang has had a makeover, with the timber bridge replaced with a steel and concrete construction to meet loading standards.

Cricket pitch upgrades

We are committed to supporting our local community members to live active lives through greater access to sports and recreation opportunities. We are upgrading some of the cricket pitches to a synthetic surface to provide a consistent and safe playing surface that will be compliant with Cricket Victoria standards. This project has been funded with assistance from a Sport and Recreation Victoria grant.



MAJOR PROJECTS UPDATE



Sneak peek at Mallacoota Skatepark

We are almost ready for launch! The Mallacoota Skatepark redevelopment project is taking shape. The park's design boasts flowing transition and street areas, including half pipes, handrails, quarter pipes, a spine (quarter pipes placed back-to-back) and more, as well as shady gardens and landscaping. The striking design is in the form of an abalone shell broken on the rocky shores of Mallacoota. The project is on track for completion next month.



New cricket nets for Paynesville

The worn-out old nets at AJ Freeman Reserve have been removed and construction is underway for the installation of three practice pitches, with an entirely new concrete slab, new artificial turf, new wire mesh and a roof. These upgrades will allow a safer area for players and onlookers and will encourage more members to join the club. The replacement of the nets is being supported through funding from the Paynesville Cricket Club.



Bullock Island Bridge project completed

The works at Bullock Island bridge have now been completed. The new bridge will be the gateway to our soon-to-be upgraded Bullock Island which is part of the larger Bullock Island Master Plan Implementation.



Finish line nears for gymnastics

Excitement is building as the new gymnasium in Lucknow nears completion. The facility is on track to open to the community by the end of May. It's part of a \$1.89 million investment to create a new gym space for East Gippsland Gymnastics Club and community.

Omeo Mountain Bike Trails

Project update – March 2023



Easter trails milestone

We anticipate that 10 kilometres of the Stage 1 (56km total) trails will be structurally complete by Easter.

We have chosen to have these trails handed over so we can manage and maintain them as locals start to ride them in.

The first 10km do not deliver on the overall promise and experience the trails will bring once fully developed. We anticipate this first 10km 'taster' will be predominantly trialled by local riders and includes a blend of fun beginner and intermediate cross-country and gravity trails with great views over Livingstone Creek and Omeo. All can be accessed from the trail head at Livingstone Park.

We will not be actively marketing the trails as open. This will also give us the chance to iron out any teething issues with managing the trails.

This is exciting and new for us all!



Taking shape

Trail building is pushing towards the completion of about 10km of trails (see trail map attached) to be ride ready by Easter. The construction of trails continues concurrently on other Stage 1 and 2 sections.

Fabrication of a significant piece of trail crossover structure, which will allow riders to pass under and over one another on different trails near the swimming pool at the Livingstone Park trail head, is progressing off site ahead of Easter.

Trail map, rider information and trail marker signage will be in place over the coming weeks.

Construction has started on the Oriental Claims Bridge (pictured below). This work is important for the finalisation of the first 10km of trails and links the Oriental Express and Mine Bender trails, creating a loop ride from Livingstone Park to the Oriental Claims and back.



Community thank-you barbecue

To mark the milestone of the first few complete trails, we will host a community and contractor celebration barbecue on **Thursday 6 April**.

This will be an opportunity for the community and contractors to acknowledge a 'job well done' so far.

The barbecue will be from **2.30pm to 4.30pm** at the **Livingstone Park trail head**.

With school finishing at 2.15pm, we look forward to seeing children and interested community members turn up for a ride.

An official opening of Stage 1 trails with our funding partners, contractors and community will be held at a later date.

Omeo Mountain Bike Trails

Project update – March 2023



Did you know?

As well as the physical works, Council officers have been focused on developing emergency and operational management plans for the trails.

We are coordinating a mock emergency event (desktop exercise) through our Emergency Management team with all relevant emergency services in the coming week.

Trails open from Easter 2023

- Weigh In, 500m
- Weigh Out, 500m
- Geddy Up, 630m
- Prospector, 980m
- Creek (Walking) Track, 1020m
- Flomeo, 450m
- Diggers Run, 620m
- Rodeo, 600m
- Dig Deep, 400m
- Oriental Express, 1570m
- Mine Bender, 925m
- Livingstone Park Track, 1340m

Stage 1 - 56.7km: 17% of Stage 1 trail length open from Easter 2023.

What's in a name?

Here is a quick snapshot of what to expect from our first batch of trails.

Weigh In, 500m: A great way to get started for beginners and a good warm up for those planning to go further. Connects with Weigh Out for a nice introductory loop.

Weigh Out, 500m: Perhaps your first gravity experience on a bike, this is a gentle downhill trail returning to the Pump Track area. Go with the flow, check your speed.

Geddy Up, 630m: The quickest way up to the Nover Underpass from the Tunnel Shaft overpass. Easy but not easy, get up there!

Prospector, 980m: Looking for something more? A meandering climb to the Tunnel Shaft at the top of Livingstone Park. Keep looking for that gold!

Creek (Walking) Track, 1020m: A nice 'n' easy cross-country saunter along Livingstone Creek out to Bazeley Street. Return via the same trail or keep going on the Oriental Express out to the Oriental Claims Historic Area.

Flomeo, 450m: This trail is gold! A step up from the others, fast flowing berms and a few jumps to get you in the air. Take it slowly the first time down and get to know the trail before you start hollerin'.

Diggers Run, 620m: A fun 'easy' rated descending trail for those just getting started and something nice 'n' easy for the more experienced. Finishes at the Tunnel Shaft overpass.

Rodeo, 600m: A fun 'easy-intermediate' trail with lots of flowing berms. Watch your speed going into those turns. Finishes at the Tunnel Shaft overpass.

Dig Deep, 400m: Fair dinkum airtime. This is serious riding for experience riders. Watch others and get familiar with the jumps before trying, or don't even think about it.

Oriental Express, 1570m: 'Easy-intermediate' cross-country trail with ups and downs, finishing at the Oriental Claims Historic Area. Return via Mine Bender and the Livingstone Creek Track.

Mine Bender, 925m: Winds its way through the Oriental Claims area. Lots of fun features in a historical landscape. Look out for shiny stones and snakes.

Livingstone Park Track, 1340m: A shared trail and two-way for walkers, so please give them room. A slight climb back from the Oriental Claims and only accessible from the end of Mine Bender. Stay on the riding track.

Omeo Mountain Bike Trails

Project update – March 2023



Meet our contractor - Common Ground

The name Common Ground will be familiar to most locals, with the trail-building specialists having been a constant presence in town for some months now.

Common Ground is a leading trail, pump track and bike park company with more than 20 years' experience and a large portfolio of successful designs and builds under its belt.

Its mission is to develop the best bike facilities and use trails to conserve and create stewards for the environment.

Currently, the crew on the ground in Omeo numbers about 19 full-time equivalent staff, including seven locals. Some team members are renowned riders themselves!

Common Ground sources many of its consumables and equipment hire locally and is using local businesses as sub-contractors.

The pump track and skills park in Livingstone Park is also some of their handy work!



STAY Omeo

STAY Omeo is the second in a series of events hosted by Council to support the growing accommodation industry.

To be held on **Thursday 30 March** at Omeo Recreation Reserve, it will feature speakers and presentations addressing topics such as self-sustainable building options, marketing your business and how to source the greatest support in your endeavour.

More information and tickets visit <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/> and search 'STAY Omeo'.



This update is from East Gippsland Shire Council as the project lead. The update is provided to the Omeo and district community and stakeholders. It is also published on:

- East Gippsland Shire Council website
- East Gippsland Shire Council Facebook page
- East Gippsland Your Say engagement portal
- Visit Omeo website

You are welcome to distribute this update to your networks.

The Omeo MTB Trails project is supported by East Gippsland Shire Council, the Victorian Government (Regional Development Victoria) and the Australian Government (Building Better Regions Fund).



Traditional Owner Acknowledgment
East Gippsland Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which these trails are located, their connection to Country and their ongoing contribution to improving the environment and the health and wellbeing of all people.

Oriental Claims Trailhead



North



3. Livingstone Park Track

24. Dig Deep

20. Flomeo

A3. Gedly Up

10. Rodeo

1. Weigh Out

1. Weigh In

Pump Track & Skills Park

You are here

Omeo

Livingstone Park Trailhead



2. Diggers Run

2. Prospector

3. Creek (walking) Track

3. Oriental Express

3. Mine Bender

Trail type

Shared Trail Bike Trail only Walking Trail only

Trail classification

Easy Easy-intermediate Intermediate Intermediate-difficult Difficult

The Trails

1. Weigh in

Distance - 500m

A great way to get started for beginners and a good warm up for those planning to go further. Connects with Weigh Out for a nice introductory loop.

2. Diggers Run

Distance - 620m

Diggers Run is a fun Easy rated descending trail for those just getting started and something nice n easy for the more experienced. Finishes at the Tunnel Shaft overpass.

10. Rodeo

Distance - 600m

A fun Easy-intermediate trail with lots of flowing berms. Watch your speed going into those turns. Finishes at the Tunnel Shaft overpass

3. Mine Bender

Distance - 925m

Mine Bender winds its way through the Oriental Claims area, lots of fun features in an historical landscape. Lookout for shiny stones and snakes.

1. Weigh Out

Distance - 500m

Perhaps your first gravity experience on a bike, this is a gentle downhill trail returning to the Pump Track area. Go with the flow, check your speed.

A3. Gedly Up

Distance - 630m

The quickest way up to the Nover Underpass from the Tunnel Shaft overpass. Easy but not easy, geddy up there!

3. Oriental Express

Distance - 1570m

Easy-intermediate cross country trail with ups and downs, finishing at the Oriental Claims Historic Area. Return via Mine Bender and the Livingstone Creek Track.

20. Flomeo

Distance - 450m

This trail is GOLD! A step up from the others, fast flowing berms and a few jumps to get you in the air. Take it slow the first time down and get to know the trail before you start hollerin'.

2. Prospector

Distance - 980m

Looking for something more, a meandering climb to the Tunnel Shaft at the top of Livingstone Park. Keep looking for that gold!

3. Creek (walking) Track

Distance - 1020m

A nice 'n' easy cross country saunter along the Livingstone Creek out to Bazeley Street. Return via the same trail or keep going on The Oriental Express out to the Claims.

3. Livingstone Park Track

Distance - 1340m

This is a shared trail and two way for walkers so please give them room. A slight climb back from Oriental Claims only accessible from the end of Mine Bender. Stay on the riding track.

24. Dig Deep

Distance - 400m

Fair dinkum air time, this is serious riding for experienced riders. Watch others and get familiar with the jumps before trying, or don't even think about it.

What's on calendar

We are proud to support many major arts, sporting, cultural and community events each year. Here are some events hitting our region over the next couple of months.



Bemm River Hobie Kayak Bream Series

The 2023 Hobie Kayak Bream Series 14 offers kayak anglers a competitive fishing tournament. Strike Pro Round 3, the third round of Hobie Kayak Fishing Series 14, will resume at Bemm River, an undisputed favourite on the Hobie calendar for what is set to be a dynamite weekend of fishing.

1-2 April

Bemm River Foreshore

[More information>>>](#)



Far East Music Festival

Be immersed in music, culture and nature on the wilderness coast.

The Festival will feature touring artists along with local and regional acts and an array of activities and workshops to inspire participation and connection — including the return of the legendary percussion street parade, a retro teams boardriders comp, nature-based activities, creative workshops, dedicated wellbeing space, food vans and much more.

7 – 9 April

Mirrabooka Rd Mallacoota

[More information>>>](#)



Studebaker Car Club National Meet

The club was formed in 1967 to preserve and foster the ownership of all models and products of the Studebaker marque. The Studebaker Car Club will have approximately 120 classical cars on display from 9.00am – 4.00pm.

8 April

Lakes Entrance

[More information>>>](#)



Gippsland Lakes Paddle Challenge

Experience and paddle the open water conditions on the Gippsland Lakes. Start at Paynesville for the elite paddler or Metung for the recreational paddler to finish at the iconic Lakes Entrance footbridge.

6 May

Paynesville/Metung/Lakes Entrance

[More information>>>](#)



Anzac Day

Many East Gippsland communities pause on Anzac Day to commemorate the sacrifice of all those who served. Check next month's edition of My Council, My Community for the list of Anzac Day services.

25 April

Do you know about Grant Finder?

Sometimes it can be hard finding out about grant funding that might be available to you.

Our East Gippsland Grant Finder is a great resource for all local businesses, community groups, not-for-profits and individuals.

This site provides a list of grant and funding opportunities available to you from many sources including state and federal governments, corporate and philanthropic.

Our free service means you will never miss a grant opportunity again.

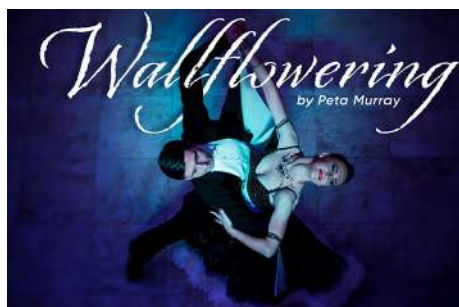
You can register to receive email alerts for new grants, save your favourites and access tips to help you apply for grants.

To find out about grant opportunities, visit eastgippsland.grantguru.com.au



What's On at Forge Theatre and Arts

The Forge Theatre and Arts Hub offers a range of shows to suit everyone. Some of our upcoming shows include:



Wallflowering

Thursday 30 March, 7.30 pm

Wallflowering, by award-winning Australian playwright Peta Murray, is an amusing and poignant play about marriage, the pursuit of happiness and the perfect foxtrot! The play revolves around Pet and Cliff Small, an ordinary, suburban, middle-aged couple who were once prize-winning ballroom dancers. The action is interspersed with ballroom dancing by a younger couple, who represent not only Peg and Cliff in their glory days, but also the older couple's romantic, idealised view of themselves.



Nearly Neil

Saturday 1 April, 7.30 pm

For almost two decades, Canadian singer Bobby Bruce has been astonishing and amazing packed houses throughout America, Asia, Canada, Europe and New Zealand with his passionate, exhilarating and vocally brilliant salute to music legend, Neil Diamond.



Bunkasaurus

Saturday 22 April, 1.00 pm

Two fools in too much trouble... a raucous new all-ages adventure for kids!

A jaunty new adventure from the DIY masters of puppetry and theatrical wizardry, Bunk Puppets, promises to rip open your imagination with a cast of slapdash puppets, bizarre characters and riveting illusions.



Spirit of the Anzacs

Sunday 23 April, 2.00 pm

Spirit of the ANZACs - a salute to the ANZACs and the Vietnam Veterans will again contain many songs, stories, and indeed laughter that came from WWII, and the Vietnam War all in front of a backdrop of incredible images on the big screen.

This production is dedicated to the brave men and women who gave their lives in service of our country.



Cirque Mother Africa

Wednesday 25 April, 7.30 pm

The heartbeat of Africa pulsates throughout this jaw-dropping show as you are transported to the breath-taking continent of Africa.

This entertainment extravaganza combines the very best talent from nine African countries including Ethiopia, South Africa, Kenya and Tanzania to provide the wonder, suspense and joy that is Cirque Mother Africa.



Chameleon Friday

2 June, 7.30 pm

Showcasing his unbelievable vocal range and ability to mimic unique voices and sounds, Chameleon treats you to an evening that spans decades of hit songs and celebrity voices, ranging from Frank-N-Furter to Annie Lennox, Depeche Mode, Simply Red, Macy Gray, Tones and I and many more.

For the most up-to-date information on shows or to book tickets, visit the Forge Theatre page on our website.



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

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