



March 2019

PYRENEES SHIRE

Hall upgrades at Barkly, Redbank, Raglan complete



Upgrades to the halls at Barkly, Raglan and Redbank are nearly complete.

The three halls received \$230,000 funding in February 2018 from the Victorian Government through its Sustainable Community Hubs project. Pyrenees Shire Council contributed \$72,600 and the communities raised \$15,000.

Redbank Hall (pictured above) had a new stainless steel kitchen installed to make catering for events easier, and a new coffee machine. The ironbark floor (top right) has been polished and is ready for dancing, while new airconditioning and ceiling fans will help keep everyone cool. The hall was given a new coat of paint both inside and out. The upgrades also improved access and security.

Barkley Hall has a new roof, upgrades to the ceiling and a new kitchen installed, with minor works to be finalised.

Raglan Hall will benefit from newly resealed and painted walls, and upgrades to the windows, verandah and foundations.

Pyrenees Shire Mayor Robert Vance said the halls were important venues for the communities.

"The halls are the hubs of these communities and are important venues where the community can come together and celebrate or support each other in times of need," Cr Vance said.

"These upgrades have made the halls more accessible, comfortable and usable and are now a source of pride for each community."

Cr Vance said while the projects were a long-time coming, the results were worth it.

"The kitchens now comply with modern food safety standards and the halls meet modern accessibility standards.

"Council thanks the communities of Barkly, Raglan and Redbank for their input into these upgrades and their significant financial contributions towards these projects. We also thank the Victorian Government for their important investment in small rural communities."

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Reconciliation Action Plan adopted



Pyrenees Shire Council has prepared and adopted a Reconciliation Action Plan to strengthen Council's relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

A Reconciliation Action Plan is a formal statement of commitment to reconciliation.

Pyrenees Shire Mayor Robert Vance said Pyrenees Shire had one of the highest local government percentages of people with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander heritage across Victoria at 1.9% (or 135 individuals).

"We believe that due to the influence we have in our local area, we have an important role in the country's reconciliation journey," Cr Vance said.

Cr Vance said the Reconciliation Action Plan would be incorporated into Council policies around recruitment and procurement, deepen existing partnerships as well as help the Council to develop new ones.

"Reconciliation is an important part of the culture and values of our Council and our goal is to work with our staff and communities to improve the economic, health and social opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples."

Preparing for e-waste recycling



To protect our environment and recover more precious resources, the Victorian Government is banning all e-waste from landfill from 1 July 2019. E-waste refers to any item with a plug, battery or cord that is no longer working or wanted. It covers a whole range of items from work, home and even the garden shed.

Pyrenees Shire Council is currently building e-waste collection facilities (like the one

pictured and completed at the Snake Valley Transfer Station above) at our Transfer Stations in Beaufort and Avoca.

Council is also working with Sustainability Victoria to establish solutions for the collection of e-waste materials. Visit www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/Campaigns/eWaste for more information.

New General Local Law adopted

Pyrenees Shire Council adopted a new General Local Law 2019 at February's Ordinary Meeting of Council. The law includes changes for businesses with pavement signage, outdoor displays and furniture, changes to temporary dwellings and will help clean up unsightly and dangerous land use.

Pyrenees Shire Mayor Robert Vance said the existing Local Law was formed ten years ago and the review had brought it up-to-date with current Victorian Government legislations.

"Under the Disability and Discrimination Act, we needed to ensure there was safe and clear access for all pedestrians and for people with wheelchairs or mobility scooters. Local businesses will now require permits for any pavement signage, displays or outdoor dining areas," Cr Vance said.

Under the Environmental Amenity and Property component of the new General Local Law, temporary dwellings may only be occupied for a total of 31 days in any 12 month period, unless the occupation is associated with a planning or building permit.

"Temporary dwellings include caravans, shipping containers, sheds, buses, train carriages and other set-ups that may not have appropriate occupancy conditions such as sewer, waste water, plumbing connections and electricity supplies," Cr Vance said.

"Another aspect of this law is unsightly and dangerous land use. Council will follow up on properties that have not got a permit for more than one unregistered vehicle."

Cr Vance said because the Local Law was likely to affect quite a number of residents, and a good deal of the public may not have read the draft when it was available on exhibition, Council would develop an implementation plan to educate and assist people who may be affected to better understand how the Local Law is to be applied and particularly any changes that are to be introduced.

"The General Local Law 2019 and an impact statement are available on Council's website www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au The Impact statement helps to explain why the local laws are being introduced. The implementation plan will soon be available, and I encourage any resident to get online and have a look at the documents," he said.

Council officers will be contacting relevant business owners and property owners in the coming months to ensure they are made aware of the changes in the law and permit requirements.

The new General Local Law 2019 commenced on 28 February.

Record heat results in record attendance figures at Pyrenees pools

The record heat and the dry this summer has translated into record attendances at our pools in Avoca, Beaufort and Landsborough. December's total figures increased by 241 compared to the previous year, but when the heat really kicked in over January, the total monthly attendee figures rose from

5291 in January 2018 to 6701 in January 2019. That's pretty impressive considering Pyrenees Shire has a resident population of 7301 (according to the 2016 Census). The pool season has now finished and we thank everyone for their patronage.

Pictured below and below right: Beaufort Pool prior to its 1972 re-construction, and top right: Beaufort Pool now



New toilet facility for Waubra Recreation Reserve

A new public toilet facility was opened at the Waubra Recreation Reserve this month.

The wheelchair accessible, unisex, modular unit was built in South Australia and installed near the entrance to the Waubra Recreation Reserve, adjacent to the Sunraysia Highway.

Pyrenees Shire Council CEO Jim Nolan said the \$85,000 project was funded through Council's annual Capital Works program.

"It was clear the existing cement toilet block needed replacing and this new facility complements the Waubra Hub clubroom facilities at the western end of the oval," Mr Nolan said.

Central Highlands Water connected the facility to the sewer this month, and the block was opened for business.

Mr Nolan said he was pleased that the project could be completed before the commencement of the 2019 Central Highlands Football/Netball season.



Pyrenees Shire Council on social media

For all the latest news and beautiful photos of the Pyrenees, visit us on:

- Facebook pages: Pyrenees Shire Council, Eventful Pyrenees, and Pyrenees Libraries
- Follow @VisitPyreneesViconInstagram.CapturingthequirkyandbeautifulinthePyrenees.
- Follow @PyreneesShire on Twitter.

Upcoming Budget

Pyrenees Shire Council is in the midst of preparing the 2019-20 Budget.

The budget is a big piece of work that is compiled from Community Action Plans, Council Plan Strategies, Statutory obligations, Departmental priorities and input from Council.

Each year Council has a budget of around \$20 million to allocate to all services to the community.

Priorities of this budget include gravel and sealed roads, residential property development, town beautification, maternal and child health and economic development.

Council will host two community briefing sessions in April in Avoca and Beaufort. For dates and times, keep watching our Public Notices in your local papers, or check our website, or ring our office.

We're also inviting your feedback directly via an online consultation platform called OurSay. Have a look at our website homepage, www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au and you'll find a link to this platform. Put in your comments and answer questions about the budget from the comfort of your own home.

The draft budget will be considered by Council at the April Council meeting and then go out for public consultation until the 12th June.

Council will then consider the adoption of the 2019-20 Budget at its June Council meeting.

Pyrenees Shire Council celebrates the 2019 Australia Day award winners



From left: Julie, Ian and Tim Chandler, Australia Day ambassador Emily Burke, Mayor Robert Vance, Rohan Gerrard, Keith Hunter and members of the Avoca Uniting Church Committee. Photo by Gillian Matthews

A TECH savvy Radio 88 founder and a dedicated community volunteer were named Pyrenees Shire's Young Citizen of the Year and Citizen of the Year, while a church took out the Community Event of the Year and a local family was recognised with the Pyrenees Shire Leadership Award.

At an Australia Day ceremony held in Moonambel on 26 January, Rohan Gerrard was named Young Citizen of the Year for his work in helping to establish Beaufort Radio Station 'Radio 88' and his ongoing role as technical manager for

this station. He also created a walking app for the Beaufort Historical Society which highlights historic points of interest on an interactive map. He is a member of the Beaufort Fire Brigade and a regular volunteer at the Beaufort Catholic Church.

Moonambel farmer and dedicated volunteer, Keith Hunter, was named Citizen of the Year. Keith has been a member of the Warrenmang Fire Brigade for 40 years, the Moonambel Mechanics Institute for more than 30 years, and is a volunteer for the Moonambel Cemetery

Trust and Moonambel Events Inc. He's a committee member for the Moonambel Recreation Reserve, and a long-time member of the Moonambel/Redbank Football Club and the Moonambel Uniting Church. When he's not volunteering, Keith can be found running his farm with brother John, or playing lawn bowls at Landsborough.

The Avoca Uniting Church won the Community Event of the Year with its 150th anniversary celebrations in September 2018. This celebration brought the community of Avoca together with representatives of many of the early pioneering families present.

Ian and Julie Chandler and Tim and Angela Chandler were recognised with the Pyrenees Shire Leadership Award on Australia Day. As founders and owners of Cave Hill Creek, they were recognised for their hard work in building the business to what it is today and as a proven leader in providing camp programs for more than 100,000 children to build life skills, independence and resilience. The business celebrated its 30th anniversary last year and they won their third Victorian Tourism award, giving them hall of fame status. They also claimed Gold at this year's Australian Tourism Awards for Standard Accommodation.

News in brief



- Victorian Local Government Minister, The Hon Adem Somyurek MLC (pictured above) visited Pyrenees Shire in February.
- Pyrenees Shire Council has successfully secured \$1 million from the Australian Government towards the Lexton Community Hub, under the Building Better Regions Fund - Round 3.
- The Victorian Government has awarded grants of \$28,000 for a new rotunda at the Lexton Cemetery and \$8,250 for tree removal at the Natte Yallock Cemetery.
- Applications for our Community Grants and Community Capital Grants are now open. Applications close 12 April. Pick up applications and guidelines from our offices and community resource centres, visit www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au/community/grants for online applications, or contact Carmel Pethick on 5349 1100 to discuss your project.
- Please remember to register your pets at Pyrenees Shire Council offices, or online at www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au by Wednesday 10 April.

Activate Avoca



Stage 1 of the Activate Avoca project is progressing.

Pyrenees Shire Council CEO Jim Nolan said Council would establish a community reference group in the coming weeks to assist in finalising the scope of works and rolling out more than \$1 million of works over the next two years.

"The Activate Avoca project's first stage will involve beautification of the Railway Station Precinct, revitalisation of the central business district streetscape, and re-purposing the former shire offices to develop multi-functional office spaces for community use and new businesses," Mr Nolan said.

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