



## Street celebration: A burst of colour in Avoca

Spring colour has burst into Avoca, in more ways than one. Cambridge Street is now home to a stunning pavement mural linking High Street to the river frontage and the Chinese Garden.

The beautiful design is the work of Dja Dja Wurrung and Yorta Yorta artist Troy Firebrace. Troy took inspiration for the mural from Avoca Primary School

students, who shared stories and drawings about their connection to the area and the things they love to do by the river in their spare time. The design references things like the natural landscape, sitting on the Avoca River bank with friends, swimming in dams, exploring and meeting friends.

The mural was completed over a weekend in early August, with around 30 community members grabbing a brush or a roller to help transform the pavement.

Because it's painted with road paint, the mural should last until the road needs to be resurfaced.

The mural is part of the Cambridge Street COVID Outdoor Activation Project, funded by the Victorian Government, which has also seen 12 new street trees and native grasses planted.

And there's more to come, with new custom seating and a solar-powered lighting installation due to be installed at the end of September.

All in all, a fabulous new addition to Avoca's streetscape and the perfect place for a street celebration.



*Troy Firebrace (left) and Reece Hendy celebrate the completion of the epic Cambridge Street mural.*

## Contact Your Councillor

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## What's happening with the Beaufort Bypass?

Regional Roads Victoria (RRV) prepared an Environment Effects Statement (EES) for a potential Western Highway bypass of Beaufort. At this stage, no funding has been committed for construction.

The EES was on public exhibition from the end of March until May this year. During this time, community members were invited to put forward submissions about the EES.

We put together and sent a submission to Planning Panels Victoria (PPV) about the EES and draft Planning Scheme Amendment for the bypass.

In-principal, Council supports the proposed Beaufort bypass, as per the resolution in October 2009, and continues to be supportive of the exhibited investigation area as being the route of least impact.

As part of our submission, Council acknowledged that much of the strategic work identified as needing to happen in RRV's EES is something a well-resourced council would be undertaking as part strategic growth and economic development. However, we recognise that we do not have the current resourcing or financial capacity to take on much of this work, and asked for assurance that RRV will work with us, to take on the strategic tasks identified.

You can read our full submission about the EES on our website: [pyrenees.vic.gov.au/bypasssubmission](https://pyrenees.vic.gov.au/bypasssubmission).

PPV held a public hearing in July and August with the appointed Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) to hear members of the public and any other parties who made a request to be heard. We presented our submission to the panel.

Now that PPV has all the submissions and heard from presenters at the hearing, it will put all that information together and present a report to the planning minister later this year.

In all our planning for Beaufort, we are anticipating that the bypass will eventually go ahead. We will keep advocating for our community to be looked after if and when this happens.

Keep up to date with information about the bypass on RRV's website: [regionalroads.vic.gov.au/map/grampians-improvements/beaufort-bypass](https://regionalroads.vic.gov.au/map/grampians-improvements/beaufort-bypass)

## Western Renewables Link planning continues

The Western Victoria Transmission Network Project has now changed its name to the Western Renewables Link. This project, which is of state and national significance, is being delivered by AusNet and is still in the planning stage.

Community consultation is continuing, with information sessions conducted by Ausnet in Waubra and Joel Joel last month. The Environmental Effects Statement (EES) is now due to be exhibited for public comment in early-mid 2023, and the project will require the approval of the Victorian Minister for Planning before it proceeds.

The Pyrenees Shire Council does not have a direct role in planning or building the project but is advocating on behalf of the community at every opportunity, and will continue to share new information as it becomes available. In August, an amended route for the proposed line was released and can be seen on the project website.

One of the main concerns expressed about the project is the plan to build an above ground transmission line. An independent report commissioned by Moorabool Shire Council found that an underground DC option was feasible, while an AusNet report concluded that "overhead construction is considered most appropriate," citing cost as a major factor.

Council has written to the Minister for Planning highlighting this and a range of other community concerns, and continues to engage with community groups and other affected councils. Council is also offering practical support to landholders who would like to make a submission to the EES once it's open for comment, so please get in touch if you need any assistance.

## Spring means business

The Pyrenees Shire is delighted to partner with Business Victoria to deliver workshops and support for small businesses in the Shire throughout spring.

Community workshops on growing and running your business will be held at the Avoca information and community resource centre in October and November, and the Small Business Bus will travel the region providing advice and support for small businesses.

Visit [pyrenees.vic.gov.au](https://pyrenees.vic.gov.au) for bookings and further details.

## Tranquil park pays tribute to Michael O'Connor

In July, we opened the Michael O'Connor Memorial Park in Acacia Ct, Beaufort, with the help of Cr O'Connor's family.

Judy O'Connor, Cr O'Connor's wife, cut the ribbon to officially open the park with their children watching on.

Cr O'Connor, alongside Judy, was a much-loved and active member of the Waterloo and Beaufort communities. You could find Cr O'Connor making strategic decisions for Council one minute and the next he would be cooking a barbecue or serving behind the counter in the school canteen.

It was wonderful to have Cr O'Connor working as a Councillor to serve our community and we hope this is a fitting tribute to someone who gave so much time to his community.



Cr O'Connor served as councillor for 10 years and served three terms as mayor in that time.

## It's time to prepare for fire season

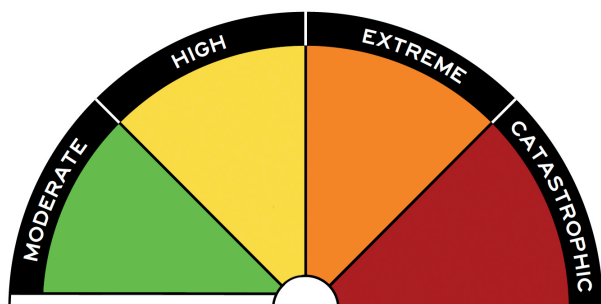
Spring is in the air and summer is on the horizon, so that means it's time to start to prepare your property for bushfire or grassfire, and to review your survival plan.

Here's some important tips for helping make your property fire ready:

- Keep grass 10cm or shorter in length.
- Clean out your gutters regularly.
- Remove flammable items from decks and verandahs.
- Remove dry leaves, twigs and other fire hazards.
- Prune shrubs and trees.
- Move woodpiles away from your house.

Even if you don't live in the bush, your family and your home is still at risk of fire. Property owners in and around urban areas can take advantage of free green waste disposal at all Council transfer stations when cleaning up this spring.

Reducing the vegetation around your home will help keep you, your family, and the community safe. This your responsibility, and Council will issue and enforce fire hazard removal notices to property owners when required, potentially resulting in hefty fines.



Check out [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) for more information and resources to help you get fire ready.

### New Fire Danger Ratings introduced

Fire Danger Ratings have changed. The system launched across all of Australia on September 1, so you will now start seeing the new ratings online and on roadside signs in your local community.

There are now four levels of fire danger (instead of six), which are designed to be easier to understand and provide clearer advice about how to stay safe.

- Moderate - Plan and prepare
- High - Be ready to act
- Extreme - Take action now to protect your life and property
- Catastrophic - For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas

Learn more about the new Fire Danger Ratings here:

[www.cfa.vic.gov.au/afdrs](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/afdrs)

[emergency.vic.gov.au/prepare/#fire/afdrs](http://emergency.vic.gov.au/prepare/#fire/afdrs)

**MODERATE**

Plan and prepare

**HIGH**

Be ready to act

**EXTREME**

Take action now to protect life and property

**CATASTROPHIC**

For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas

## Stay in tune with your community

Curious about what's happening in your neck of the woods? The regular Councillor Cuppa and Chat is a fantastic opportunity to meet your Councillors and have your say about issues that are important to your local community.

A big thanks to all who attended the Councillor Cuppa at Redbank in August. More than a dozen residents met with Councillors and officers to discuss a range of important issues including green waste, fire prevention, internet connectivity and community grants.

Upcoming catch ups will be held at 5pm, instead of at noon, to give more people the chance to attend. The dates for the rest of 2022 are listed below.

Amphitheatre – September 13 at 5pm

Natte Yallock – October 11 at 5pm

Lexton – November 8 at 5pm

Snake Valley – December 6 at 5pm



*Ruth Spargo and Anne Hewson were among the residents who gathered at the Redbank Community Hall in August.*

## Future of home-based care in Pyrenees Shire Council

Pyrenees Shire Council has been delivering aged and disability services to our community for many years. We are immensely proud of our services and staff members. We are gratified to be working within our community, supporting people to stay in their homes longer, delivering community connection, and running programs and events for our clients.

The Commonwealth government has introduced a number of reforms, including to the funding model that helps support us to deliver these services and programs. This will have a detrimental effect on our ability to continue delivering these services.

The changes include the funding amount, needing us to cover a larger subsidy for our community that we cannot afford.

Following the new Commonwealth provisions, Council has decided to seek expressions of interest from relevant agencies who could provide ongoing services in our region to determine if there are providers able to deliver the services our communities need.

Once we have had a look at the EOIs received, we will review our position as a service provider. We will continue to support our staff, who have been outstanding in delivering services, and our community during the expressions of interest and review period.

You can read more on our website: [pyrenees.vic.gov.au/futureofhomecare](https://pyrenees.vic.gov.au/futureofhomecare).

## Get out and about in the Pyrenees

There's a big buzz around the Pyrenees this spring, with a host of exciting events for young and old taking place right across the region. From country racing to rogaining to the 120th running of the biggest steam rally in the southern hemisphere, there's plenty of reasons to get out and about!

- **Rotundone Road Wine and Music Festival** | Sep 17 | Mount Langi Ghiran, Mountainside Wines and Dogrock Wineries
- **Pyrenees Magic Tri Circuit – Maryborough Rotary Club** | Sep 23, 9am-3pm | Summerfield, Moonambel
- **Avoca Big Thank You Community Groups Expo** | Oct 2, 11am – 4pm | Avoca Shire Hall
- **Australasian Rogaining Championships** | Oct 8 & 9 | Warrenmang, Pyrenees Ranges
- **Dels Waterloo Challenge Equestrian Endurance Event** | Oct 9 | Waterloo Recreation Reserve
- **Blue Pyrenees Avoca Cup** | Oct 15, gates open 11am | Avoca Turf Club
- **Light the Night** | Oct 15 | Beaufort Community Bank Complex
- **Trawalla Hall Spring Plant and Garden Fair** | Oct 29 | Trawalla Hall
- **120th Lake Goldsmith Rally** | Oct 29 & 30 | Lake Goldsmith
- **Beaufort Agricultural Show** | Nov 20 | Goldfields Recreation Reserve
- **Eel Skinners and Duck Pluckers Ball** | Dec 10 | Carranballac Recreation Reserve

*You can find more information about events at [www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au](https://www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au)*

*Pyrenees Shire Council acknowledge the people past and present of the Wadawurrung, Dja Dja Wurrung, Djab Wurrung and Wotjobaluk tribes, whose land forms the Pyrenees Shire. We pay our respects to the customs, traditions and stewardship of the land by the Elders and people of these tribes.*