



Pyrenees
Shire Council

Community Newsletter

Winter 2023

Aged care enters a new era in the Pyrenees

This month marks the end of an era for aged care services in the Pyrenees region ... as well as a new beginning.

Council has delivered in-home aged care services throughout Pyrenees Shire for more than 45 years, with dedicated staff delivering tens of thousands of hours of aged care support to residents.

Significant changes in the aged care industry being implemented by the Commonwealth Government have made it unsustainable for Council to continue as a provider of these services.

From 1 July in-home and community-based aged care will be delivered by specialist providers offering a full range of services across the Shire.

Council has been working closely with clients and the new providers to assist in the transition. The majority of the approximately 270 clients currently serviced by Council under the Commonwealth Home Support Program have nominated their preferred provider.

During the COVID-19 lockdowns, the Pyrenees Community Care team continued to provide essential services to our residents. Often Council's support staff

were the only contact residents had during this period.

Council will continue to carry out assessments for aged-care services during 2023-24, as well as implement new active ageing programs and broader well-being initiatives for the community into the future.

As the new era begins, the incredible work of the dedicated and professional staff who deliver these services over

many years must be acknowledged. Their continuing dedication during the transition over the past six months should be recognized and applauded by everyone in the community.

Thank you and well done to the Pyrenees Community Care team!

Council encourages anyone who needs further information about the transition to visit our website at pyrenees.vic.gov.au/CommunityCare



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Councillors go on the road

Pyrenees Shire councillors plan to get on the road over coming months - in more ways than one. The purpose of these road trips is to see first hand the state of roads in all corners of the Shire and hear from local residents about their concerns.

Council manages more than 2000 km of roads throughout the Shire and they are critical to the local economy and wellbeing of our residents.

Mayor Ron Eason says that with a better understanding of the condition of roads and priorities of local residents, Council will be in a better position to advocate to the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments for the funds required to fix the road network.

"Council already invests significantly in our roads, and work is underway on more than \$7M worth of infrastructure repairs following the floods," said Cr Eason. "But that's just the tip of the iceberg in terms of what's needed to bring our road network up to scratch."

We will bring you details of the Council road trips as they are finalized. In the meantime you can catch up with Councillors at the monthly Cuppa and Chat sessions around the Shire. The next session is in Raglan on 11 July at 5pm, followed by Lake Goldsmith on August 8.



Cr Damian Ferrari, Cr Robert Vance, local residents Linda and Joan, Cr Tanya Kehoe, Cr David Clark and Cr Ron Eason brave the chilly weather for a cuppa and chat in Glenpatrick.

NAIDOC Week 2023

National NAIDOC Week (2-9 July) is a time to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The 2023 theme "For Our Elders" celebrates the important role elders play as cultural knowledge holders, trailblazers, advocates and teachers.

Pyrenees Shire Council will mark NAIDOC Week with a series of events at our Community Resource Centres celebrating First Nations music, storytelling, art and culture.

Highlights include art activities with local indigenous Youth artist, Elias Jarvis, and a chance to listen to indigenous author Eileen Harrison. Keep an eye on Council publications for more details.

\$24.8m draft Budget includes major capital works program

In April, Pyrenees Shire Council released the 2023-24 draft Budget. The \$24.8m draft Budget includes \$7.8m dedicated to capital works and is based on predicted inflation of 3.6% over the 2023-24 financial year.

Income from rates, charges and fees covers 55% of the funding Council needs to provide the current level of service. The remaining funding comes from state and federal government grants.

Council proposes to raise rates by 3.5% in line with the rate cap set by the State Government's Fair Go Rates system. Individual rates for residential, commercial, industrial, and farming properties will rise differently however depending on the changes in property valuations.

Council also proposes to adjust the rate differential for farming properties from 70% to 67% of the residential rate given the changes in property valuations.

This year's budget also includes provision for a loan to help support planned capital works throughout the Shire, including at Beaufort Caravan Park.

"While recent inflation has seen the cost of works and services increase significantly, Council's sound financial position along with the assistance of the Commonwealth funding in 2023-24 means we can still deliver a significant capital works program throughout the Shire, including roadworks, footpaths, and improvements and developments at Beaufort Caravan Park," said Pyrenees Shire Council Mayor, Cr Ron Eason.

"We're looking forward to delivering on some great things for the Shire and community in the next financial year with this budget."

Council is looking to adopt the final budget at its next meeting on 20 June. You can find copies of the draft Budget, 10-year Financial Plan, and Revised Revenue and Rating Plan on Council's website: pyrenees.vic.gov.au/draftbudget2324



Waste Calendars

Waste calendars covering July 2023 to June 2024 will be arriving in your mailbox this month.

More information about transfer stations, what goes in your bin, recycling FAQs, digital copies of waste calendars and maps of your collection area are available on Council's website.



Paving the way

Council works crews have been busily building footpaths around the Shire to help connect more people in our townships.

Footpaths have been built along Barnett Street in **Avoca**, giving the community's smallest citizens a safer pathway to school. The paths will link to a future pedestrian rail crossing on Homebush Road and link to the school along Boyce Street and Barnett Street. The rail pedestrian crossing is proposed to be built by VicTrack.

Works have also been completed in Faraday Street, south of the Pyrenees Highway towards the caravan park, to provide a connection for residents to the existing footpath network.

Beaufort Lake is in great shape. Sections of the path around it have been resurfaced and several culverts installed to improve drainage and the quality of the walking surface. A concrete path on the eastern side of the lake and another close to the caravan park have been built. In addition to this work, a new BBQ shelter featuring space for live performances is being built, and the footbridge by the boat ramp is set to have its deck and railings replaced.

A new footpath has been built along Gregory Street in **Beaufort**, between South Street and Stuart Street. The pathway works include a path linking through to Acacia and Casuarina Closes.

Work on a shared pathway between 12 Neill Street and 49 High Street in Beaufort is underway at the time of writing.

Thanks to our construction crews for getting these built and helping to keep the community safe.



The Beaufort Lake pathway has undergone a series of improvements.



Pyrenees faces rising waste management costs

Council has been investigating ways to minimize the impact of rising waste collection costs on Pyrenees Shire residents as part of its 2023-24 Budget discussions.

This waste charge included in your rates notice pays for the collection of kerbside bins, bin supply, operating transfer stations, and the Victorian Government's waste levy.

High inflation and other factors have meant sharp increases in the cost of collecting, transporting, and disposing of kerbside waste. The Victorian Government's waste levy has almost doubled since 2020.

Council expanded its waste collection service to cover all residents of the Shire in 2021. Glass collection has now been rolled-out in

Beaufort and Avoca and transfer station drop off is free for all Pyrenees Shire residents.

The total cost of delivering waste management services is \$2.4 million in 2023-24.

To pay for these additional costs, Council is considering an 11% increase in the annual waste charge for urban Pyrenees Shire residents in its draft Budget for 2023-24. This will bring the charge to \$557, or a lower amount to be determined when Council adopts its 2023-24 Budget on 20 June.

One way that Council is looking to keep the waste charge as low as possible is by considering changing the opening hours for our transfer stations. Under the proposed change the transfer stations in Avoca and Beaufort would no longer be open on Tuesdays, saving around \$24,000 per year.

Transfer stations would remain open on weekends, when they are busiest.

Promoting gender equality

In February 2020, the Victorian Parliament passed the *Gender Equality Act 2020*. The Act sets out new responsibilities for the Victorian public sector, universities, and local councils to plan, implement strategies, and report on gender equality in the workplace.

The Act requests Council to take positive actions towards achieving workplace gender equality and consider and promote gender equality in their policies, programs, and services. It also requires Council to develop Gender Impact Assessments (GIAs) for all new policies, programs and services that directly and significantly impact the public, as well as those up for review. These new necessities do not come with extra funding from the state government.

GIAs are a way of critically thinking about how policies, programs and services will meet the needs of women, men, and individuals from diverse backgrounds. This will see services move to an intersectionality aware service delivery where analysis help give a robust evidence base that helps create better and fairer outcomes

for the community, and ensures all people have equal access to opportunities and resources.

Gender equality, diversity and inclusion is included in the Council Plan and so actions from there are formalised by the Gender Equality Act. This means Council will report on gender equality actions to both the community and the Victorian Government each year.

Council is looking forward to seeing the difference the Act makes in helping bring gender equality to our Shire and to Council.



Council staff marked IDAHOBIT Day 2023 by raising the Rainbow flag.

Road to Red: Get out and about in the Pyrenees this winter

Sometimes we forget how lucky we are to live in the Pyrenees. Spectacular scenery, beautiful towns to explore, and some of Victoria's best wineries and food destinations are right on our doorstep.

This winter Council is encouraging both locals and visitors to the region to explore Road to Red – a scenic circuit through the Pyrenees, taking in well-known cellar doors including Blue Pyrenees, Taltarni Vineyards, Summerfield Winery, Wayward Winery, and Sally's Paddock, just to name a few.

As part of the Road to Red, the Pyrenees Grapegrowers and Winemakers are giving people an extra excuse to explore the Pyrenees Cellar Doors with their 6 in 6 competition. To enter the 6 in 6 competition, download the Visit Pyrenees App and visit six cellar doors in six weeks for a chance to win six cases (36 bottles) of Pyrenees wines.

Learn more at visitypyrenees.com.au



Events

- **Avoca Riverside Market** | Jun 25, 9am – 1pm | Avoca Riverside
- **Author Talk with Nicole Kelly** | Jun 28, 11am | Avoca Community Resource Centre
- **NAIDOC Week** | Jul 2–9 | naidoc.org.au | Check Council website for events
- **Cave Hill Creek Winter Camp** | Jul 3–7 | 110 Glut Road, Beaufort
- **Author Talk with Eileen Harrison** | Jul 5, 1.30pm | Beaufort Community Resource Centre
- **Avoca Riverside Market** | Jul 23, 9am – 1pm | Avoca Riverside
- **The Victorian Concert Orchestra** | Aug 6 | Cave Hill Creek | 110 Glut Road, Beaufort
- **Avoca Riverside Market** | Aug 27, 9am – 1pm | Avoca Riverside

For a full list of events in the Pyrenees region see visitypyrenees.com.au/whats-on

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.