



## Getting on with Projects in the Pyrenees

Pyrenees Shire currently has several major community projects in the works, with Avoca, Lexton and Beaufort all set to see significant improvements in amenity for townspeople.

Two of the projects are happening on High Street, Avoca, with work having started on the Avoca Inclusive Playspace and the Avoca Streetscape Improvement. Both projects are linked, with the new playspace being built on the median strip, while the streetscape improvements include the addition of new pedestrian outstands, line marking and tree plantings. Once these

improvements have been finalised, the environment will be more suitable for a 50kmh speed limit. Council will apply to Regional Roads Victoria to see this put in place. The inclusive playspace will be a great addition for local families, and an extra reason for travellers to stop in town while their kids stretch their legs. All Avoca projects should be finished later in the year.

Another major project is the Lexton Community Hub, which is being built at the Lexton Recreation Reserve. Work has begun on the hub, with the slab already poured. This new facility will be an outstanding resource for the community, as well as for Lexton sporting clubs, such as the golf club, football club and netball club. This project is scheduled to finish later in the year. It should be noted that while the hub is being built there will be

restrictions about what events can be held at the recreation reserve. If you're planning to hold an event, please get in contact with Council.

The Beaufort Lake Foreshore improvements are also beginning to take shape, with earth works completed. This project, funded under the Federal Government's Drought Communities Program, aims to breathe life into the area by creating a playspace, enhanced pathways and additional seating.

You can read more about Pyrenees projects on our new web page [www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au/projects](http://www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au/projects), including funding information and project budgets.

*CAN'T WAIT; Avoca locals, Finn Robinson and Archer Coghlan, are looking forward to the town's new playspace opening.*



## Contact Your Councillor

**Avoca Ward** – Cr Ron Eason  
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**Beaufort Ward** – Cr Damian Ferrari (Mayor)  
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**Mount Emu Ward** – Cr Tanya Kehoe  
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**Ercildoune Ward** – Cr David Clark  
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**De Cameron Ward** – Cr Robert Vance  
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## Roadworks

The capital works program this year has included the replacement of two bridges and the upgrading of several roads.

An ageing bridge on the Chepstowe-Pittong Road is being replaced – the new one will increase the road's load capacity. This \$500,000 project involves the replacement of the 60-year-old structure, and the road is expected to be open again in mid-March.

Council's focus will then turn to the replacement of Bridge 32 on the Carngham-Streatham Road. The bridge replacement here will improve the load limit of the road, fulfilling a key aim of Council to ensure our roads can cope with heavier freight.

Design work is underway for the replacement of Bridge 139 on the Raglan-Elmhurst Road.

Council's works team is widening and strengthening a section of the Waubra-Talbot Road just south of Stud Farm Road, and Vinoca Road is getting a makeover.

A new culvert has been installed on the Burrumbeet-Hillcrest Road.

*CONSTRUCTION TIME: Council Works Crew members Robert Millar, Sam Karslake and Shayne Murphy have been working on the reconstruction of Waubra-Talbot Road.*



## Join Us for a Cuppa

Pyrenees Shire Council holds Councillor cuppa and chat sessions each month in various locations around the municipality. These informal cuppa and chat sessions provide community members with the opportunity to meet the Councillors, have a chat about a project or an idea, and generally gain a better understanding about how Council operates. Councillors will also host these chat sessions with specific groups over the year, such as the Senior Citizens.

**9 March**, 1pm at Lake Goldsmith

**13 April**, 1pm at Glenpatrick

**11 May**, 1pm at Raglan

**10 August**, 1pm at Crowlands

**12 October**, 1pm at Waubra

**7 December**, 1pm at Snake Valley

## Shaping the Pyrenees, Will You Participate?

As part of Council's Shaping the Pyrenees project, we are embarking on a process of deliberative engagement to inform the development of three major strategic plans: our Community Vision, Council Plan and Financial Plan. The outcomes of this engagement will also inform Council's Asset Plan. For those not familiar with the concept of deliberative engagement, it involves recruiting a representative sample of the community – in our case between 25 and 30 people to form a community panel – and giving them the opportunity to consider an issue in detail and work together to develop solutions.

### Community Panel

There will be an Expression of Interest (EOI) process announced shortly, in which we will ask respondents a range of

questions to understand aspects of their background so that we can then randomly select the members of the Community Panel. The panel will consist of people who reflect the nature and make-up of the Pyrenees Shire community, representing the Shire in terms of age, gender, culture, education, industry of occupation, employment and location of residence.

Following the EOI process, if there are some groups in our community who are at risk of not being represented, we may carry out some targeted recruitment to make sure that the right mix of people are on the Community Panel.

### Time

The panel will meet over three Sundays in April and May.

### How will the sessions be run?

Background information will be provided to the community panel, and staff from

Council as well as other stakeholders will be made available to respond to the group's questions throughout the process.

Sessions will be facilitated in a way that people can share and listen to diverse views, deliberate and come to an agreement about solutions that meet the different needs of the community. There will be a broad mix of activities to suit different learning and engagement styles.

### How do I get involved?

If you would like to express interest in being involved, or hear more about the project, please contact Community Engagement Officer, Ember Parkin at [ember.parkin@pyrenees.vic.gov.au](mailto:ember.parkin@pyrenees.vic.gov.au).



## New Grant to Promote Inclusion

Council's Community Grants are open for applications, and there is a new funding stream this year. The Community Capital Grants and Community Grant schemes remain unchanged, but groups can now apply for funding for projects and programs that focus on inclusivity.

This new stream will allocate a maximum of \$1000 towards projects or programs which aim to foster inclusion of Indigenous people, members of the LGBTIQ+ community, or promoting gender equality. Council is looking to the community for their ideas on how we can reduce discrimination, victimisation and promote inclusion in the Pyrenees.

Applications to this round of Community Grant is open on March 15 and close on April 23. Groups interested in applying are encouraged to speak with Marcus Murrell, Community Grants and Wellbeing Co-ordinator to discuss applications. Mr Murrell can guide groups with their application, and also point them in the direction of further funding from other organisations.

Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted, so please get in touch with Council to ensure your grant has the best chance of being awarded.

The Community Grant will be allocated to a maximum of \$750 for events and up to \$1500 for equipment, infrastructure, training and development activities. The Community Capital Grant will provide up to \$5000 for infrastructure projects.

## Celebrating our Community Champions

This Australia Day was held on a windy, damp day at Trawalla Hall in Trawalla. The weather didn't dampen spirits, though, and Council was proud to honour two remarkable people.

Council awarded Avoca resident, Tom Elliott, Citizen of the Year in recognition of his outstanding public service. Mayor Cr Damian Ferrari described Mr Elliott as the beating heart of Avoca.

"Tom Elliott's service to the Avoca community has been outstanding," Cr Ferrari said. "From working as a teacher at the local primary school through the pandemic to his tireless volunteer efforts, he's an inspiration to us all," he said.

The Young Citizen of the Year was awarded to Frazer Carnes, in recognition of his prodigious wood-chopping achievements. Cr Ferrari said of the 14-year-old, "Frazer Carnes is a very talented young man and we look forward to seeing what the future holds for him."

"After a really tough year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it's been a real pleasure celebrating some of the people who make our Shire such a wonderful place to live," Cr Ferrari said.

Council also gave out an award for Event of the Year. After a year in which many events were cancelled due to the global pandemic, the award was given a twist, with the *Landsborough and District News*, a community publication that put out its 150th issue late last year, winning Event of the Year.

"The *Landsborough and District News* has been volunteer run since 2002, and it's an

increasingly important voice that helps support the local community," Cr Ferrari said. Regular volunteers for the paper, Garry Edwards, Robyn Leslie, Helen Yuille and Leonie Bibby were there to accept the award.

The Beaufort Truck & Car Show, which is run by the Beaufort Football & Netball Club, was awarded a Certificate of Commendation.

Australia Day Celebrations in Trawalla included children's activities, performances by the Pyrenees Chorale and the Beaufort Municipal Band as well as a citizenship ceremony and a tasty lunch.

*PROUD MOMENT: Garry Edwards, Robyn Leslie, Helen Yuille and Leonie Bibby from the Event of the Year, Member for Ripon Louise Staley, Citizen of the Year Tom Elliott, Mayor Damian Ferrari, Young Citizen of the Year Frazer Carnes, and Beaufort Football and Netball Club President Geoff Carnes accepting a Certificate of Commendation for the Beaufort Truck and Car Show.*



## More Outdoor Dining Improvements

Following on from the roll out of new outdoor dining barriers for hospitality businesses in the Pyrenees Shire, there has been further improvements with new planter boxes being installed. The planter boxes, which were fabricated locally and stocked with plants from local nurseries, will add more greenery to the Shire's towns, adding an attractive, consistent element to streetscapes.

Nicky Kay, owner of Avoca café, Olive and Lavender, said that the barriers and planter boxes had improved High St.

"I love the uniformity and tidiness the barriers bring, and the planter boxes give a pop of colour," Ms Kay said.

"Olive and Lavender is situated at the end of the street and it was quite empty, the barriers and the planter boxes make it far more inviting, people are even making use of the bench next to the planter box now," she said.

The planter boxes are the latest element in efforts to improve outdoor dining in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the State Government's Outdoor Eating and Entertaining package, Council was able to access \$250,000 to spend on outdoor dining infrastructure and improvements. Hospitality businesses were also able to access up to \$5000 to buy outdoor furniture.

Feedback from hospitality businesses has been very consistent, with many business owners commenting that noticeably more people are dining outside.



## April is Pet Registration Time

People in the Pyrenees Shire love their pets. Australia has some of the highest pet ownership rates in the world, with around 61 per cent of households having pets. But in the Pyrenees that rate is even higher, with on average nearly one pet registered for every household in the region.

Which is why we want to remind you that pet registrations are due on 9 April this year.

If your pet is already registered, you will be sent a reminder notice, otherwise you will need to contact Council to organise for your pet to be registered (or download the form off our website). Pets older than three months need to be registered or the owner risks an on-the-spot fine.

Please note, legislation requires that cats must be desexed (as well as microchipped) and dogs must be microchipped before they can be registered in Pyrenees Shire. Animals are microchipped because it's the best way to identify animals if they get lost. The microchip is small and causes no pain or discomfort for your animal and is inserted by a vet or qualified implanter. Unless you are planning to breed from your animals, it's best to have your pet desexed before it matures. Desexing has several benefits, it stops breeding, while desexed animals are also cleaner and less inclined to wander or show aggression.

You can find more information, including the costs, about pet registration on our website.

## Events

- **Pyrenees Petanque – Doubles Tournament** | March 13 & 14, 9.30am–5pm | High Street, Avoca
- **Avoca Autumn Races** | March 20, 11am–6pm | Avoca Shire Turf Club
- **Beaufort Car and Truck Show** | March 13, 10am | Goldfields Recreation Reserve, Beaufort
- **Beaufort Town Market** | March 27, 9am–1pm | Memorial Park, Havelock Street, Beaufort
- **Pyrenees Unearthed Wine & Food Festival** | April 17, 11am–5pm | Avoca Riverbank, Dundas Street, Avoca

*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.*