



Cr Ron Eason Becomes Mayor

In November, Council elected Cr Ron Eason as Mayor for the next year. It is Cr Eason's second time as Mayor after his first term during 2016-17.

Continuing the Pyrenees' recovery from the global pandemic will be Mayor Eason's focus.

"Hopefully the biggest challenge will be recovering from COVID-19 and getting the lives of residents and Council staff back to as close as normal," Cr Eason said.

"After a tough two years of living with COVID-19, my goals are to increase the prosperity, living standards and sustainability of Pyrenees residents," he said.

Pyrenees CEO, Jim Nolan, welcomed the election of Cr Eason as Mayor. "I look forward to working with Cr Eason as he leads the Council through the next 12 months," Mr Nolan said. "Cr Eason's previous experience as Mayor, and his knowledge and passion for the Pyrenees community mean that he will be well prepared for the coming year and any challenges it may hold."

Representing the Avoca Ward, Cr Eason was elected to Council in 2012. He moved to Avoca in 2009, where he runs the Avoca Newsagency with his wife Jenny.



Pyrenees Shire Councillors (from left): Cr Robert Vance, Cr Ron Eason (Mayor), Cr Damian Ferrari, Cr Tanya Kehoe and Cr David Clark.

Previously he lived and worked in Tatura for the Tatura Milk Company, which he moved to in 1988 from Footscray, where he was born and raised.

Council would like to thank previous Mayor, Cr Damian Ferrari, for his service and support over the last year.

Councillors met at the Lexton Community Centre for the Annual Statutory Meeting to elect the Mayor, to honour the tradition and history of the Shire.

Pyrenees Shire Council is the result of the amalgamation of three smaller shires; Avoca, Ripon and Lexton.

Contact Your Councillor

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Mount Emu Ward – Cr Tanya Kehoe

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Ercildoune Ward – Cr David Clark

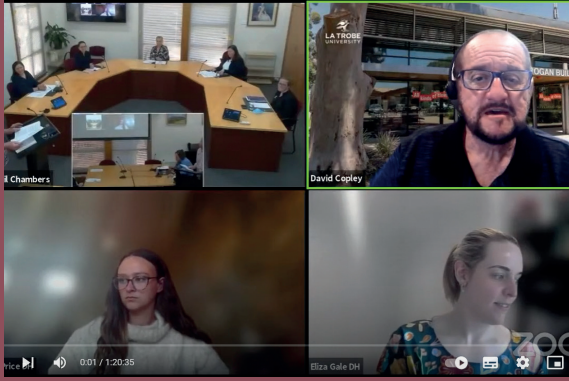
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The Pyrenees Kids Vaccination Forum featured (clockwise from top left) Pyrenees representatives, Uncle David 'Tarnda' Copley, and representatives from the Department of Health and Human Services.

Pyrenees Children's Vaccination Forum

Do you have any questions about vaccinating your kids against COVID-19?

Pyrenees Shire Council partnered with local health services to host an online community forum to help parents and their children make an informed choice about COVID-19 vaccination.

The Kids & the COVID-19 vax forum is available for you to watch via Council's website on www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au/vaxforum.

Participants can hear from guest speaker and Vaccine Clinical Champion Uncle David 'Tarnda' Copley. Uncle David Copley is a medical professional and an Indigenous Academic Advisor and Lecturer at La Trobe Rural Health School.

He was joined by Christine Morvell, Infection Control Coordinator and Accredited Nurse Immuniser, from Beaufort and Skipton Health Service, and Rendelle Wiseman, Pharmacist, Maryborough District Health Service in a panel discussion with local parents, facilitated by Councillor David Clark.

Parents Ange Chandler, Delvene Barber and Cr Tanya Kehoe shared their experiences in vaccinating their eligible children.

The forum runs for a little over an hour. If you would like to watch it and you don't have the internet, please call our Communications team on 1300 797 363 and we'll set it up to watch at one of our resource centres.

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence

Council has partnered with Respect Victoria to produce a short film with local people talking about the impacts of gender-based violence.

The video – aired during the 16 Days of Activism – shared facts about the problem of gender-based violence, along with affirmations from Pyrenees residents as to what they are going to do to prevent violence against women.

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is a global initiative designed to galvanise individuals, communities and organisations to address gender inequalities, gender-based violence and take action to prevent violence before it starts.

The 16 days is the time between Thursday 25 November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women to Friday 10 December, Human Rights Day.

If you would like to view the video, you can do so via Council's YouTube channel. We also plan to display it on the Pyrenees Projector in Beaufort.



Avoca Hotel's Ian Urquhart was one of the eight local people who participated in the video.

Pyrenees Events Are Back On!

After the mass cancellation of many events due to the global pandemic over the last year and more, events are starting to return to the Pyrenees.

Town markets are reopening, with the Avoca Riverside Market (fourth Sunday of every month) and the Beaufort Town Market (fourth Saturday of every month) reopening in late November.

Even more events will return in 2022. Sundays by the Lake, a new free arts and music event, will be held on the 9 January and 6 February at 3-6pm, Beaufort Lake Foreshore. See the Resource Centres for more info. Also returning are the Snake Valley Dash Endurance Ride (January 29-30) and the Beaufort Summer Horse Show (January 30).

You can find more information about Pyrenees events at www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au/community/events-activities.

Pyrenees Community Grants

Council has awarded 20 grants to community organisations in the first round of funding for 2021/22.

Pyrenees Shire Mayor, Cr Ron Eason, said that the grants, totalling \$46,449.60, were incredibly important for small organisations.

“It’s great to see so many groups, many of which are the lifeblood of the Pyrenees community, being motivated to improve their organisation in some way.”

Cr Eason credited the large number of grant applications to Council recognising the challenges created by the global pandemic and increasing the size of grants and changing the eligibility criteria to make it easier to apply. In addition, Council created a special Youth grant to support young people.



The new shade sail at the Snake Valley Skate Parks was funded in part by a Pyrenees Shire Community Grant.

Amongst the many grants given out, Business for Beaufort successfully applied for \$1,937.60 for a new computer to be used for Radio 88 Beaufort, while Avoca Community Arts & Gardens Inc received \$7,000 for the purchase of a new lawn mower.

Moonambel Hall received \$5,262 for the construction of a fence at the facility, while Crowlands Hall & Reserves Committee received \$5,400 for the installation of a

split system in the Crowlands Hall.

Avoca Community Arts & Gardens Inc was also awarded the first Youth grant, receiving \$1,000 for youth workshops.

You can see the full list of grant recipients or find information about the second round of community grants (which open March 1, 2022), at www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au.

How Easy is it to Find Your House?

In an emergency could an ambulance find your place?

Council requires owners and occupiers of all properties to display a street number at the front of their property where it can clearly be seen from the road.

Street numbering is important. It is vital that your property has a clear, visible number that can be seen from the street by everyone.

Police, CFA, SES and Ambulance Victoria all report that hidden or missing house numbers can waste time and, in an emergency, every second counts!

A clearly displayed road number also makes locating your house easier for delivery services, contractors and other visitors.

Council recommends that your displayed property number should be reflective day and night and the numbers should be attached to a letterbox, post, dedicated board or the boundary fence. Please get in touch with Council if you have questions about street naming or property addressing.

New Pyrenees Engagement Platform

In September Council launched its new online engagement portal: engage.pyrenees.vic.gov.au. Engagement Hub is an online tool that Council can use to gather input from the Pyrenees community about new or prospective projects or plans. The website allows Council officers to upload information and curate different ways for the community to engage on a matter, and easily collate the results so that the community’s feedback can be used to inform Council decisions.

Since its launch, the portal has been used to seek feedback on a variety of different projects, including: the draft Council Plan (2021-25) and Community Vision 2031; Council’s long-term Financial Plan; a potential off-leash dog park in Beaufort; two new community spaces in Avoca (the refurbished Town Hall and a new digital hub at the Community Resource Centre); and the Avoca River Frontage Reserve.

At present, Council is running a survey asking for feedback on Council communications (see article overleaf).

While Engagement Hub makes it easy to engage with Council online, we understand that some people can’t access the internet at home or prefer other forms of engagement. In any community engagement, Council is committed to providing multiple ways for the community to engage. For instance, where Engagement Hub has a survey, this will always be made available at the Resource Centres in Avoca and Beaufort. Hard copies of any survey can also be posted out on request for those who cannot get to the Resource Centres, just contact us by email on engage@pyrenees.vic.gov.au or by calling 1300 797 363.

Pyrenees Community Pools



After last summer's pandemic-related disruptions, we're sure everyone is looking forward to swimming in the Pyrenees' pools as the weather warms.

In preparation for summer, Council has been working hard to ensure the pools in

Avoca, Beaufort and Landsborough are in tip top shape. More than \$200,000 has been spent on servicing and upgrading the three facilities. Some of the main improvements include non-slip flooring at Beaufort and Landsborough Pools, replacement of the pool heating system at Landsborough Pool, re-turfing and installation of an in-ground watering system at Beaufort Pool, and improvements to the pool operating systems and chemical storage across all three pools. The pools also have a new operator, Belgravia Leisure, which has a wealth of experience in managing pool facilities.

While the Pyrenees pools are in great shape, there is currently a state-wide shortage of lifeguards, which may restrict the opening of some pools.

If you're looking for work, Belgravia Leisure would love to hear from you. Belgravia is currently seeking both junior and senior lifeguards for the season. Please contact Area Manager, Rod Simms, on 0459 277 255 or rsimms@belgravialeisure.com.au.

Council would like to thank Unified Community Sport and Leisure, which took over operation of the Pyrenees' pools at short notice last year and ran them despite multiple disruptions caused by the global pandemic.

You can find the pool hours and pricing at www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au/community/parks-recreation.

Have Your Say: Let us Know How we Communicate

Are you across Council service changes? New Council projects? What happened at the last Council meeting?

We've just launched a new communication survey to assess whether Council communications are reaching residents – and we'd love to hear from you.

The survey will help inform our new Communications Strategy 2021-24 and ensure that it meets our community's needs. The broad aim of the strategy is to inform the public of Council activities, as well as educate the public about the breadth of Council services.

To help us ensure that we are reaching as many of our residents and ratepayers as possible with the right information in a timely manner, we are asking for your opinion on the communications we currently produce (such as this newsletter). We're also looking to hear your ideas on new communication methods or ways we can improve what we currently do.

The survey is available online at engage.pyrenees.vic.gov.au, while paper versions are available at the Avoca and Beaufort Resource centres and the Council office in Beaufort. You can also call us on 1300 797 363 and we can mail out a hard copy of the survey.

Is Your Property Fire Ready?

As we come into the start of summer, it's important to make sure that you and your property are prepared for the coming Fire Season.

The following are some important tips from the CFA for making your property fire ready:

- Keep grass 10cm or shorter in length.
- Clean out your gutters regularly.
- Remove flammable items from decks and verandahs.
- Cut back overhanging branches.
- Remove dry leaves, twigs and branches.
- Prune back shrubs from trees.
- Move woodpiles away from the side of your house.

You can find more information and resources at www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au/emergencies/fire-prevention-mitigation.

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.