



Pyrenees Shire Australia Day Awards

Some of the Pyrenees Shire's most community-minded citizens and organisations received some much-deserved recognition on Australia Day this year.

Mayor Ron Eason presented the Citizen of the Year award to Lynelle Day, a stalwart of the Beaufort community. Cr Eason said, "Lynelle's the first to put her hand up to support the football club, the community in times of need, and to bake a much-needed meal for someone having a hard time."

The Young Citizen of the Year is Lilliana Abel of Waubra, who was recognised for her commitment to the Waubra Rural Fire Brigade. "Lilliana signed up as a volunteer as soon as she was eligible, committing and fighting fires locally and elsewhere," Cr Eason said.

The Pyrenees Leadership Award went to Hayden Pilgrim for his ongoing commitment to the Homebush and Avoca communities. Unfortunately, Hayden was too sick to attend the celebration and passed away two days later.

Pyrenees CEO, Jim Nolan, expressed his sincere condolences to the Pilgrim

family on behalf of Pyrenees Councillors and staff, saying the award recognised Hayden's lifelong dedication to his community, having spent many years shaping young minds as a teacher. He was instrumental in establishing the community bank in Avoca, provided leadership and involvement in numerous sporting and community groups and was a life member of the Pyrenees Historic Vehicle Club.

Council awarded an Organisation of the Year award to the Beaufort Municipal Band for its ongoing commitment to the region. Avoca and Beaufort Food Pantries were named as COVID Heroes for their response to growing need in the community. Moonambel Arts and History Group was also acknowledged with a COVID Hero award for its commitment to supporting the arts.



Citizen of the Year award winner, Lynelle Day.



From left to right: Lynelle Day, Lilliana Abel, Jo Dunlop (Avoca Food Pantry) and Geoff Anderson (Beaufort Food Pantry).

Contact Your Councillor

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Councillor Cuppa and Chat

Thank you to everyone that attended the Councillor Cuppa at Trawalla in February. Around ten residents met with Councillors and officers to discuss issues such as the Brewster windfarm planning application, drainage, roadside slashing, the community hall and tourism in the Pyrenees.

If you're looking to meet with your Councillors or to discuss any local issues or ideas in your please come along to a cuppa near you.

Cuppas are held at 12pm and are held once a month. The next events will be:

- March 8 at Carranballac
- April 12 at Crowlands
- May 10 at Waubra
- June 7 at Barkly
- July 12 at Landsborough
- August 9 at Redbank
- September 13 at Amphitheatre
- October 11 at Natte Yallock
- November 8 at Lexton
- December 6 at Snake Valley

You can find more information at www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au/cuppaandchat.



Trawalla Hall Committee representative Catherine Tweedle and new resident Donna met with CEO Jim Nolan and Director Douglas Gowans at the Trawalla Community Cuppa.



Pyrenees Waste and Recycling Update

The new universal waste and recycling collection rolled out across the Pyrenees Shire last year has been going well. SUEZ, Council's waste collection contractor, has three dedicated vehicles to cover 3911 properties across the Shire's five zones: Northern, Central, Southern, Avoca and Beaufort.

The universal service has brought some immediate benefits to waste and recycling in the Shire. The addition of glass recycling bins has meant that glass recycling has increased by 20% in the last six months, while commingled recycling has increased by 15% over the same period. The new service has also led to a 20% decrease in landfill material at our transfer stations.

Residents have also been doing an excellent job of recycling e-waste. Council's e-waste recyclers, TechCollect, report that 18,175 kilograms of e-waste was collected from Pyrenees residents in the 2020/21 financial year. This is a huge benefit to the environment, diverting waste from landfill and allowing the reclamation of precious metals. It will be interesting to see if this grows in the current financial year or whether it was a result of people clearing out their houses during lockdown.

During the last financial year, Council also chipped 500m³ of green waste, which was used for mulching old landfill sites.

The Victorian Government recently announced that it will soon be standardising what can and can't go into glass and commingled recycling bins, so once those changes have been announced this may necessitate some small changes to our current bin guidelines.

Finally, if your bins are not collected on your bin day, please contact Council on 1300 797 363 and let us know. We can then inform you if there have been any service issues and organise for your bin to be collected.

HAVE YOUR SAY!

Communications Survey

Have you ever felt like you've missed important information from Council or struggled to find information when you need it? Do you think there is a method of communication that we're not using?

Well, now is the time to let us know.

We're asking for your feedback so that we can improve the way we communicate with the Pyrenees community. We've already had some great feedback. While many people are happy with the way Council currently communicates, there were also many suggestions for

ways in which we could improve our communications with the community, including: more active involvement with events, screens at libraries with Council information, more detailed information in newspapers, mailing out all communications, more social media updates, waste and recycling reminders, short videos to explain laws, and information packs for new residents – to mention just a few.

According to those who have responded to the survey, the most important communication methods ranked in order are: email, mail, social media, newspaper, council website, and flyer and phone call were ranked equally.

All of our respondents so far had a mobile phone and 81% of them used it to access the internet, while 95% of respondents had access to a computer, with 89% of respondents using it to access the internet.

Perhaps most importantly, 95% of respondents received at least one form of Council's communications.

The communication survey is going to remain open for a little longer as we'd still like to hear from more people, particularly younger people. More than 80% of respondents are aged 46 or older, so if you're 45 or younger we'd particularly love to hear from you.

You can find the survey at our online Engagement Hub engage.pyrenees.vic.gov.au. Alternatively, you can call us on 1300 797 363 or drop into one of our service counters to pick up a paper copy.

April is Pet Registration Time

Australia has some of the highest pet ownership rates in the world, with around 61% 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.

Pets older than three months need to be registered or the owner risks an on-the-spot fine. 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). The easiest way to receive your registration and pay is by signing up for e-services at <https://erates.pyrenees.vic.gov.au/>.

Before registration all cats must be desexed and microchipped, while dogs must be microchipped. Animals are microchipped because it's the best way to identify animals if they get lost. The microchip is the size of a grain of rice 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, at www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au/animals.

AusNet WVTN Update

AusNet is in the process of preparing an Environmental Effects Statement (EES) on its Western Victoria Transmission Network Project (WVTNP) and summary reports on existing condition surveys and conducting investigations by the various specialists.

Once the EES is complete and on exhibition later this year, Council will be looking to make a comprehensive submission, and we'd encourage all affected landowners to do the same.

We will continue to engage with AusNet and other affected Local Government Areas (LGAs). We have already heard from many landowners and met with the Victorian Farmers Federation, and we are keen to hear from any members of the community who want to talk to us about how they may be affected.

If you are an affected landholder, we encourage you to get in touch with us or come along to a Councillor Cuppa (see opposite) to have a chat.

You can find more information about the WVTNP project on its website: www.westvictnp.com.au.

Events Make a Welcome Return to the Pyrenees

Our two Sunday events – Sunday by the Lake (in Beaufort) and Sunday by the River (in Avoca) were a great success.

Sunday by the Lake was the first event to kick off on January 9. And the weather turned it on, with Traditional Owner and Wadawurrung man Barry Gilson opening the event with a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony.

It was great to see the recently developed foreshore precinct in full swing. Around 300 very happy attendees of all ages, both from the town and further afield, found shade around the precinct to enjoy the day in a COVIDSafe way.

Local duo Cal N Pickles opened the day, followed by solo Ballarat artist Marc Oswin, and finally, the much-anticipated Skyscraper Stan duo closed out our concert. Visitors to Beaufort commented on the beauty of the site and said that they would be back, which was fantastic to hear.

More recently on February 20, Sunday by the River took place in Avoca. Well over 300 people turned up in great weather to see an entertaining line up of local and visiting artists, including the McNaMarr Project, Ararat's Orange Whip, Geoffrey Williams and the Winter Berries. Kids had a great time enjoying the physical challenge of Walk the Walls Parkour – a pop up where participants could practice their spins, jumps, turn and tumbles with trained parkour instructors.

Both events were funded by the Victorian State Government's COVIDSafe Outdoor Activation fund.

Using the same funding, Council has been developing a diverse program of future activities, from hosting arts and music events, to bringing in circus and craft activities to the Beaufort and Avoca markets, arts activations at our wineries, and supporting outdoor activities across the Shire through marketing and promotion. Visit playinthepyrenees.com.au to find out more information.

The next event Council is hosting under this funding is *Beaufort by Twilight* – a late-night-trading street fair on Friday, March 18, from 5-9pm. *Beaufort by Twilight* will see a range of entertainers and activities spread around the town, a great evening for townsfolk and visitors alike to support our local businesses in a fun and festive environment.



Events

- **Pyrenees Petanque Tournament** | March 19 & 20, 9.30am–5pm | High St, Avoca
- **Brass on the Grass** | March 20, 3.30pm–9.30pm | 9th Fairway, Beaufort Golf Course
- **Avoca Autumn Races** | March 26, 11am–6.30pm | Avoca Racecourse
- **Beaufort Town Market** | March 26, 9am–1pm | Beaufort
- **Blue Pyrenees Magic Bike** | March 27, 9am–3pm | Blue Pyrenees Estate
- **Avoca Riverside Market** | March 27, 9am–1pm | Avoca
- **Beaufort Walkfest** | April 2 & 3, times vary | Beaufort and surrounds
- **Pyrenees Unearthed** | April 9, 11am–5pm | Avoca
- **Avoca Art Show** | April 22 to 24, opens 6.30pm on April 22 and finishes at 4pm on April 24 | Avoca
- **Lake Goldsmith Steam Rally** | April 30 to May 1, 10am–5pm | Lake Goldsmith

You can find more information about events at 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.