



## Drought projects

Council is well underway with delivering projects under the Drought Communities Program. The Federal Government provided Pyrenees with \$2 million to stimulate the local economy and boost employment. The projects varied from upgrading and drilling new bores, to minor renovation works at halls, to installing a new synthetic bowling green.

There are 45 components to the project, and we've completed six of them, 12 are near completion and 18 are well underway. Scoping has started on the remainder of the projects and all will have to be finished by March 31 next year. The projects have employed at least six local businesses across the shire.

Here's the breakdown of the \$250,000 in projects at 15 of our local halls:

**Amphitheatre Mechanics Institute;** upgrade of the toilet area. We've started scoping the work and consulting the user group.

**Barkly Public Hall;** stair replacement and re-stumping works have started and are partially completed.

**Brewster Public Hall;** new portico installation underway.

**Carranballac Recreation Reserve;** a new servery and kitchen works are underway.

**Crowlands Public Hall;** new heating/cooling installation. We have completed scoping the works.

**Evansford Community Centre;** replacement of main hall flooring is underway.

**Lake Goldsmith Public Hall;** tree removal and fencing/gate upgrade. We've started scoping the work and consulting the user group.

**Landsborough Public Hall;** the floor has been replaced in the Library Room. This was a joint project with the Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning.

**Lexton Public Hall;** recladding of external walls, further consultation and scoping required.

**Moonambel Public Hall;** improved access works to front of hall are complete.

**Natte Yallock Recreation Reserve;** solar installation is set to commence September/October.

**Raglan Public Hall;** recladding of external walls; grant funds offered.

**Redbank Public Hall;** new boundary colorbond fence has been installed, this was a joint project with the committee who provided in-kind labour.

**Snake Valley Public Hall;** new barbecue shelter has been constructed.

**Trawalla Public Hall;** replacing windows, work expected to commence shortly.

Council allocated \$375,000 to new and upgraded bores across the municipality. New bores have been drilled at Evansford, Glenbrae, Crossroads, Moonambel, Waterloo and Glenpatrick.

A Draft Concept Plan for the Beaufort Lake Foreshore project has been completed and is available on our website. Key features of the Draft Concept Plan include native tree plantings, nature play equipment and dedicated vehicle parking and pedestrian access.

Trees will be planted in Beaufort, Raglan and Moonambel, and new footpaths in various towns across the shire are also part of the program. \$100,000 has been allocated to town improvements which were identified in the Pyrenees Futures program.



*Better access to the Moonambel Hall.*



*The new synthetic turf at the Avoca Country Golf Bowling Club, a project completed under the Drought Communities Program.*

## Contact Your Councillor

**Avoca Ward – Cr Ron Eason**  
P 0417 508 471  
E [avoca@pyrenees.vic.gov.au](mailto:avoca@pyrenees.vic.gov.au)

**Beaufort Ward – Cr Damian Ferrari**  
P 0437 662 295  
E [beaufort@pyrenees.vic.gov.au](mailto:beaufort@pyrenees.vic.gov.au)

**Mount Emu Ward – Cr Tanya Kehoe (Mayor)**  
P 0439 571 480  
E [mountemu@pyrenees.vic.gov.au](mailto:mountemu@pyrenees.vic.gov.au)

**Ercildoune Ward – Cr David Clark**  
P 0417 374 704  
E [ercildoune@pyrenees.vic.gov.au](mailto:ercildoune@pyrenees.vic.gov.au)

**De Cameron Ward – Cr Robert Vance**  
P 0447 384 500  
E [decameron@pyrenees.vic.gov.au](mailto:decameron@pyrenees.vic.gov.au)

## Live stream

The coronavirus pandemic has brought about a number of changes to the way Council does business. Probably the biggest change we've had to deal with is how we conduct meetings.

We initially started live streaming our physical meetings with two cameras from our Beaufort office. Once we were in our second version of Stage 3 restrictions, with lower gathering limits, we moved to live streaming the virtual meeting, where Councillors remained in their homes.

The uptake of the streaming has been fantastic, on average across the five meetings, more than 100 viewers have tuned in or watched the video the next day.

"It's been great to see such a level of engagement in Council matters, in this format. We just don't normally see that many people at Council meetings," CEO Jim Nolan said.

"We will continue to live stream meetings into the future, and we've been lucky enough to secure a grant to enhance our capabilities," Mr Nolan said.

Council has received just under \$100,000 from the Rural Councils ICT Infrastructure Support Program. The funding will be used to install two fixed room-based video conferencing systems, including the Council Chamber and a room in Avoca, a portable system to enable live streaming from anywhere and two portable room-based video conferencing systems.

These new systems will greatly enhance our capability to connect to our community.

## Avoca BBQ shelter

The replacement of the Avoca barbecue shelter is steaming along. The shelter is in Avoca's High Street and replaces a previous shelter damaged in a severe wind storm.

This new shelter will enhance the usability of the High Street by many; including tourists stopping by for a picnic, and for locals to enjoy while watching their children play at the nearby playground. Council looks forward to opening the facility when coronavirus restrictions have eased, and we're hopeful it'll be used this summer!

In the meantime we're edging closer to awarding the contract for the new playground. Tenders are being evaluated and we'll let you know when construction will begin. This new all inclusive play space will enhance play opportunities for children in the town. It will be entirely fenced so children will be able to play to their heart's content. The location will also hopefully encourage visitors to stop in the town and spend more time (when they are allowed to of course!).



*Construction of the Avoca BBQ Shelter in High Street is going well.*

## Project updates

A skate park, community facility upgrades and a new set of changerooms are just some of the projects Council and its contractors have been working on.

The Snake Valley Skate Park construction is underway in the new Linear Park on the Linton-Carngham Road. This \$321,000 facility will provide hours of entertainment for the young and young at heart of the area.

Baseplate designed the skate park and CONVIC is constructing it. A 3D model of the park is available online: <https://player.kubity.com/p/OLXePO>

Baseplate skate park designer Darren White said it has a fully enclosed bowl, several rails and a quarter pipe.

"It'll cater for everyone and all the different skill levels in between," Mr White said. "This one is going to bring the whole region up to speed with contemporary skate park design."

Female Friendly changerooms for Carngham will be built next to the netball court. This will include changerooms for both players and umpires, storage facilities and a viewing platform.

Q Constructions were awarded the tender to complete this project and building will be getting underway shortly.

Council is assessing tenders for building the Lexton Hub. This brand new facility will replace aged buildings at Lexton and become a central meeting point for the town as well as cater for many sporting activities.

Warm weather allows for road upgrade and reconstruction projects to get underway, and among the roads in the budget this year are:

- Vinoca Road;
- Carngham-Linton Road;
- Waubra-Talbot Road; and
- Lexton-Ararat Road Bridge

Council will be spending \$953,000 on gravel road re-sheets and \$846,000 on re-sealing roads across the Shire.

## Farmers eligible for drought assistance

Farming families in the Pyrenees are encouraged to look into a new round of support from the Federal Government. St Vincent De Paul is administering the Drought Community Support Initiative Round 2 in the Pyrenees.

The program is available for farmers, farm workers or supplier/contractors that live and work in eligible Local Government Areas. The program states it is "intended to support you and your local community".

"Whatever your situation, we know it takes time for farming communities to bounce back even after first rain, and it's not always easy battling the lingering effects of the drought."

Eligible households can apply for assistance online [vinnies.org.au/drouthelp](http://vinnies.org.au/drouthelp) or 1300 846 643.

Payments may cover numerous expenses such as groceries, vehicle maintenance, energy and utility bills, health and medical expenses. The benefit is limited to one per household up to a maximum cash payment of \$3000.



Beaufort resident Shaun Elliott sorts waste and recycling, getting ready for a fourth bin for glass next year.

## Waste and recycling survey

Getting it right on bin night has never been a bigger challenge in recent times. Changes to the recycling economy and reducing waste to landfill means we all need to look at what we are consuming.

Council has removed glass from the general recycling stream as well as changing the types of plastic we can accept in recycling to meet market demands. Going forward Council is working in partnership with the State Government and DELWP to provide a sustainable recycle recovery plan that will transition us to a Circular Economy.

This transition plan will identify issues and inconsistencies in the current waste and recycling system. The Victorian Government has committed \$129 million to the implementation of the Transition Plan.

Council will be releasing a survey shortly to gauge the public's opinion on the current waste and recycling systems. We are keen to know how you use these services, what the inconsistencies are and what can be done to reduce waste to landfill.

We are also seeking to provide an additional kerbside glass bin from 1 July 2021 in addition to the existing waste, recycling and green waste bins. This new four bin model together with the Container Deposit Scheme aims to deliver reform to household recycling.

Keep an eye on our website, [www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au/recycling](http://www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au/recycling) for links to the survey.

## Great business minds getting together

Council has brought together some great business minds to start working on rebuilding the economy after coronavirus. The Economic Recovery Taskforce has been meeting – virtually of course – to discuss ideas to help businesses get back on their feet.

Joining Manager Economic Development and Tourism Ray Davies, Tourism Officer Alana Burge and Emergency Management Co-ordinator Laura Buchanan is Eurambeen Homestead's Sarah Beaumont, Cave Hill Creek's Tim Chandler, Taltarni's Robert Heywood, The Avoca's Ian Urquhart, Peerick Vineyard's Michael O'Hara, Hewitt and Whitty's Robin Cocking, Gollop's Garage Anthony Gollop, Skinny Sisters' Sammi Beaton and Pyrenees Pantry's Sammy Thayer.

The group is exploring challenges and opportunities that the pandemic has brought about, and ways to promote the region going forward.

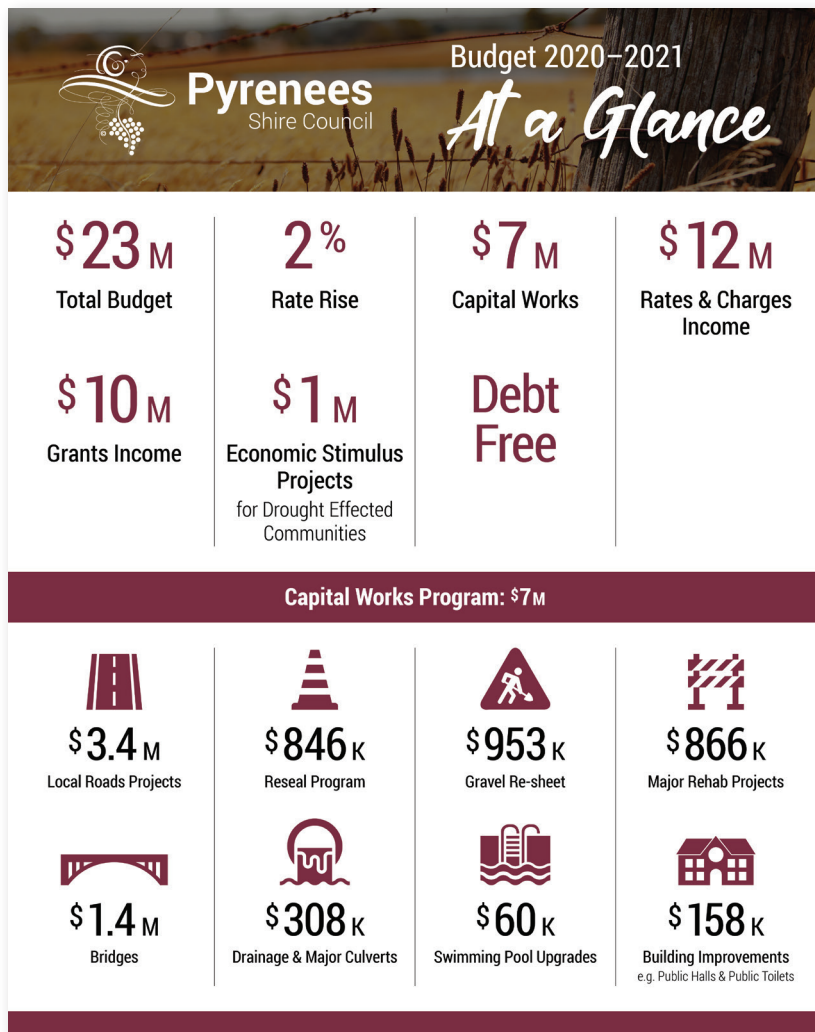
"We're already seeing some great ideas for regional tourism promotion as well as how we can help businesses get back on their feet post restrictions," Mr Davies said.

"There's been silver linings for some businesses, in that they've been able to complete long-awaited jobs and renovations while they've been quiet."

Businesses are encouraged to get in touch with Council if they would like to contribute to the group. Ray Davies is available via email: [ray.davies@pyrenees.vic.gov.au](mailto:ray.davies@pyrenees.vic.gov.au) or on 1300 797 363.



Pictured clockwise from top left: Ray Davies, Alana Burge, Laura Buchanan, Robert Heywood, Michael O'Hara, Ian Urquhart, Sarah Beaumont and Tim Chandler (centre).



## Council election

A general election will be held by post this October for Pyrenees Shire Council.

The Victorian Electoral Commission is preparing to deliver a safe election during the extraordinary circumstances of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The Pyrenees Shire Council election will be conducted by post – a safe and completely secret method of voting.

More information is available by calling 131 832 or at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au), where State-enrolled voters can also sign up to the free VoterAlert service to receive important election reminders by SMS and email.

## Watch this space...

A section for us to provide you with the heads up on upcoming projects and activities. If there's any ideas here you'd like to get involved with, please send us an email: [pyrenees@pyrenees.vic.gov.au](mailto:pyrenees@pyrenees.vic.gov.au)

What do you want to see in the Pyrenees? What should Council focus on going forward? We're about to get started on putting together a Community Vision for the Pyrenees. This new roadmap is a requirement of the new Local Government Act and it will be used to inform the Council Plan going forward. We need

your help to do it though! We want your ideas and enthusiasm to form the first community task force! Council is in the early stages of this project, and we'll be sharing more information about this very soon.

The Trawalla Community has been given the nod to host the Australia Day Celebrations in 2021. We are looking forward to joining with you to celebrate the great things that are happening in the community. Remember Council hands out three awards for community greatness; including Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Event of the Year. We

would love to read your nominations, we'll be asking for them in the coming month or so. Council would also like to hear from communities in the Pyrenees who would like to host the Australia Day Celebrations from 2022 and beyond.

The Planning team at Pyrenees is nearly finished preparing a Planning Scheme Amendment to incorporate findings from the Framework Plans for Lexton, Snake Valley and Waubra. We'll also be putting forward Amendments following flood studies. Council will put information out to the public for feedback - please keep an eye on our website in the coming months.

*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.*