



## Community Vision

Council is pleased to present the Draft Council Plan to the community for public feedback.

In a first for Pyrenees Shire, a Community Vision has been developed with significant input from the community. A Community Panel consisting of 25 residents and landowners from across the Shire came together for three sessions. The Community Panel's task was to develop a community vision, to describe what the Pyrenees region will be like as a place to live, play, work and visit in the future. The key question for the Community Panel was:

***What is your vision for Pyrenees Shire for 2031 and how can we support the different needs of our communities?***

External facilitators, Liminal by Design were engaged to help the group deliberate on the community vision over three five-hour sessions. A wide range of economic, social, demographic, environmental, information was presented to the Community Panel to inform their thinking. The group had a blank page and worked together to write the Community Vision report from scratch, reaching at least 80% consensus for each section.

The Community Vision was enthusiastically received by Councillors and Council Officers who have developed a Council Plan in response. The Council Plan outlines how council will work toward implementing the 10-year Community Vision over the next four years.

In response to the Community Vision, the Council Plan has four main priority areas: People, Place, Environment and Economy,

these are underpinned by enabling principles around how Council operates. Council would like to wholeheartedly thank all those who expressed interest and participated in the Community Panel and helped to shape this Council Plan. It is still in draft, and there is still a chance to have your say.

The Council Plan and Community Vision documents will be on public exhibition online at [engage.pyrenees.vic.gov.au](https://engage.pyrenees.vic.gov.au), and at customer service counters across the Shire (when not in lockdown). Feedback can be given online or in writing to Kathy Bramwell, Director Corporate and Community Services [kathy.bramwell@pyrenees.vic.gov.au](mailto:kathy.bramwell@pyrenees.vic.gov.au) 5 Lawrence St, Beaufort, Vic 3373. Please call us on 1300 797 363 if you would like a copy posted to you.



*Councillors and Community Panel Members present the 2021-25 Council Plan to the public for their feedback. From left Councillor Ron Eason, Kevin and Roda Goebel, Councillor Tanya Kehoe and Councillor Damian Ferrari.*

## Contact Your Councillor

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*The multi-million-dollar Lexton Hub is nearing completion with much of the recent work involving interior finishes and external concreting. Council caught up with project staff for an inspection; from left Damien Day Council Project Co-ordinator, Mark Peterken from Collins Design Engineering, Darcie Murphy and Tom Brand from Construction company SJ Weir.*

## Road & Construction Update

It's been a very wet winter and with a wet spring predicted Council has been receiving a lot of Customer Action Requests (CARs) about issues with roads. While our roads are so wet it's often not possible for us to carry out repairs as heavy machinery can create more damage than it fixes. But we are making note of issues and will get out and make repairs when conditions are more conducive.

At present, we are still deciding what roads will be resealed and re-sheeted. The resealing will occur in October and the re-sheeting between October and December, when weather conditions are most likely to be best

We also have a busy road reconstruction program, with work planned on the following roads: Orme St, Avoca, between Pyrenees Hwy to Pearson St; Stockyard Hill Rd, from Froghollow Rd to 1.2km south; Carngham-Streatham Rd, two sections between Beaufort Skipton Rd and Mt William Rd; Vinoca Rd (section yet to be decided).

We are continuing our program of replacing old bridges throughout the Shire. This spring we plan to replace: Bridge 110 on the Moonambel-Warrenmang Rd; Bridge 32 on the Carngham-Streatham Rd; and Bridge 139 on the Raglan-Elmhurst Rd.

As we have more details about when road or construction work begins, we will put out more information via our website, social media and our regular e-newsletter.

## Vaccinate for the Community

Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 isn't just a personal choice, according to one Pyrenees Shire resident. Hillcrest's Andy Reid said he had always intended on getting vaccinated when he became eligible.

"I'm pretty much addicted to travel, plus I work in a customer facing environment, so it made sense to protect myself and others," Mr Reid said.

"I think the main thing to encourage others is that it wasn't a choice just about me, it was to make sure that I couldn't get COVID-19 and then pass it onto anyone else - I didn't want to be that guy," he said.

Andy is the Branch Manager of the Community Bank Avoca, Maryborough and St Arnaud, and also participated in Shaping the Pyrenees Community Engagement Panel.

Council is partnering with the State Government in the Vaccination Ambassador Program to help promote vaccination to the community.

This story is just one way Council hopes to encourage the community to consider the importance of getting vaccinated. Council's Executive Staff and Mayor Damian Ferrari have all been fully vaccinated, as well as our early years team.

More information and links about COVID-19 vaccination, including where to get vaccinated is available on Council's website.



Andy Reid

## Be Flood Prepared

Our catchments are already quite wet in some parts of the Pyrenees Shire and with a wet Spring predicted, it's worth reviewing how you might respond to a flood in your area.

Get to know your local area, ask yourself the questions: 'Where are my risks likely to be?' 'What will I do if I am flooded?' 'Where do I go for assistance?'

Flash floods are unpredictable, producing lots of water over a short period of time, which has tremendous power and can cause things like cars to be carried away – never underestimate them.

Know your local roads, so if you need to travel you can avoid roads subject to flooding. Don't get caught on flooded roads and avoid driving into water.

Be connected to the emergency services. You can download the Vic Emergency App and set up a watch area and for all hazards. This will mean you will receive local messaging and weather warnings right through all the seasons.

### Handy Tips

- Overflowing water, especially during times of heavy rain, can cause areas around your house to be affected by pooling water, it can also cause damage to existing pipes and connections. Make sure your gutters are free of leaves so that water can flow freely.
- Check the filters and sieves located on your water tanks to make sure they're not blocked.
- Put in place a household emergency plan, not just for use during the fire season. The Red Cross has a planning template that you can find on its website [www.redcross.org.au](http://www.redcross.org.au).
- Be alert to potential major rainfall events, take heed of warnings provided by authorities, and be prepared to put your emergency plans in.
- Understand where to find more information. The SES [www.ses.vic.gov.au](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au) and Vic Emergency [www.emergency.vic.gov.au](http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au) both have good resources and information.

## Spring into Marketing – Get Your Business Noticed

A new free marketing service has proven to be very popular with small businesses. Spring into Marketing provides face-to-face sessions (or COVIDSafe online meetings, if necessary) with Dr Paul Miller, Entrepreneur Facilitator from Sarina Russo Entrepreneurs, and Council's Sheree Chevalier, Economic and Community Recovery Officer.

Paul works with new and existing businesses to set a strategic vision and direction, including marketing ideas, and can help business owners plan and manage their business needs. Paul and Sheree will stay in touch with each business to offer/suggest further support.

Angela, from the Angela Gerrard Art Studio, has just opened her new Tea Rooms and has used the service. 'I appreciated that Paul had knowledge already of my business and had prepared ideas prior which were new and fresh,' she said.

Paul's position is funded by the Federal Government and Sheree's position is funded by the State Government.

Originally planned for July only, due to popular demand the service will now run throughout Spring, with future dates to be added. If you are thinking of starting a new business, and need some assistance, this campaign can help you too. Please phone Sheree on 0429 917 891 to book an appointment.



*Councillor Ron Eason making use of one of the new crossing points in Avoca's High Street that are under construction.*

## Avoca Crossing Points

The construction of crossing points in Avoca are progressing, with concrete surrounds and pathways cemented in many sections.

The addition of the four crossing points throughout Avoca will increase pedestrian safety and reduce the distance walking on the road.

The concrete surrounds will have trees planted and bollards around them. The additional shade provided by the trees will reduce the heat on the footpath in summer and hopefully make Avoca more pedestrian friendly.

These measures will provide a slower environment by providing visual reminders to drivers to slow down.

Council will apply to Regional Roads Victoria to reduce the speed limit to 50kmh once the crossing points are finished.

## Pyrenees Community Grants

In the third and final round of the Pyrenees' Community Grants Program for 2020-21, Council awarded grants to 18 community organisations.

The final round of funding attracted the largest number of applications so far, and in total Council awarded distributed \$42,145 in grants.

Under the Community Grants Program (Events), Pyrenees Petanque Club received \$750 for its Pyrenees Open Triples & Doubles Tournament, while the Waubra Community Hub received \$750 for Waubra Community Dinners.

Council gave out its first grant under the new Community Grants Program (Inclusion & Diversity), providing \$1,000 to Pyrenees Chorale so it can fund printed materials to encourage new members.

Mayor Damian Ferrari said it was great to see so many local community groups working to improve their organisations.

"Under the Community Grants Program (Programs, Projects & Equipment) Carngham Linton Football Netball Club will receive \$1,500 for buying new equipment for the club's new female-friendly change rooms, while the Avoca Community Food Pantry will get \$1,339 so it can purchase a purpose-built packing and storage table," Cr Ferrari said.

"Through the Community Capital Grants Program, the Lexton Cemetery Trust

received \$5,000 to extend its Niche Wall, while the Avoca Football Netball Club has been given \$3,227 to upgrade security cameras for its sporting complex," Cr Ferrari said.

"It's exciting to see so many organisations taking advantage of the grants program, and it's a real pleasure for us to see so many worthy projects being funded," he said.

Community Grants are available of up to \$1,500 for programs and equipment, up to \$1,000 for inclusion and diversity, and up to \$750 for community events. Community Capital Grants of up to \$5,000 are available for capital works or infrastructure improvements.

To see the full list of grants please visit our website [www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au](http://www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au).

## Waste and Recycling

Introducing a new glass bin and extending a universal kerbside collection to the whole of Pyrenees Shire has been a big undertaking. Waste and recycling has undergone many changes including the removal of glass from co-mingled recycling bins and the introduction of the State Government's Recycling Victoria system.

Due to these changes, Council has introduced a Shire-wide kerbside collection to increase access, and a household glass recycling bin. Beaufort and Avoca households will have four bins (landfill, recycling, glass and green bin) under the new system, whereas rural areas will have three (landfill, recycling and glass bin).

Council Mayor Damian Ferrari said having a kerbside collection service will make separating waste and recycling easier. "Introducing a glass bin will also mean people no longer have to take their glass to a community collection point or a Transfer Station," Cr Ferrari said.

"We are hoping that once people start to use the kerbside collection, they'll realise how much easier it will be," he said. "We have been proactive and applied a rebate to the 2021/22 waste charge because of the unexpected delays, which you will see on your Rates and Charges notice."

Council has sent out waste and recycling calendars for the next financial year.

## Carngham Female Friendly Change Rooms

The Carngham-Linton netballers have moved to their Carngham grounds for the second half of the season, making use of their new changerooms.

This project was commissioned to make up for the lack of female-friendly changerooms at the Carngham Recreation Reserve in Snake Valley. These new female-friendly changerooms, which have been built adjacent to the netball court, mean that women now have their own facilities and won't have to use the nearby football club rooms.

The new building incorporates separate changerooms with bathrooms for both the home and away teams, first aid room, rooms for umpires, equipment storage room, administration office, accessible toilet/family change room and veranda and external concreting.

This project was funded from multiple sources, with money coming from the State Government via Sport and Recreation Victoria (\$200,000) and Pyrenees Shire Council (\$222,450). Some extra funds were needed for a sewer extension that was required for the project and other buildings at the site, this money came from the Federal Government's Drought Communities Programme (\$90,000).

*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.*