



Waste – Big Changes are Coming

Council is rolling out a universal Shire-wide street collection for waste and recycling, including a household glass bin.

We're very happy to announce the following changes:

- Households in towns that already have street collection services will receive an additional 120-litre purple-topped glass-recycling bin.
- Households that currently use Transfer Stations for their waste will receive three bins: a 240-litre red-topped bin for landfill, a 240-litre yellow-topped recycling bin and a 120-litre purple-topped glass bin.

While the final schedule is yet to be set, the landfill and recycling bins will be collected on alternating fortnights (so each bin will be collected twice a month), while the glass bin will be collected once every four weeks. Landfill bins in Avoca and Beaufort will continue to be collected once a week.

The provision of waste and recycling services is a full cost recovery service. To ensure Council achieves the best value for the community, Council sought tenders for the range of services required, and will be looking to formally adopt the service charge of \$498 per household when it adopts the 2021/22 Budget. The new arrangements will apply from 1 July 2021.

The roll-out of the multi-bin system is a result of major changes in the recycling industry that have impacted the way waste and recyclables are collected and processed in Australia. In response, the Victorian State Government has mandated that councils move to a multi-bin system for waste. The goal of the Government is that by 2030 most households will have a multi-bin, colour-coded waste and recycling system.

Kittely's Cakes business owner and Beaufort local, Sara Kittely, is looking forward to getting her household glass bin.

"I'm pleased to be playing my part in recycling to reduce our family's waste going to landfill," Ms Kittely said.

"Recycling is a community effort and these new bins dedicated to recycling glass are a fantastic first step to make our region renowned for leading environmental responsibility," she said.

Residents will receive more information about bin collection schedules shortly. You can find more information on our website: www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au/binnight.

GLASS: Beaufort resident Sara Kittely is excited to play her part in reducing waste to landfill.



Contact Your Councillor

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PROGRESS: Councillors recently visited the \$3M Lexton Hub, where a lot of the internal work including plastering is being carried out. Councillors from left, Mayor Damian Ferrari, Ron Eason, Tanya Kehoe, David Clark and Robert Vance.

Construction Work

Road reconstruction works over the summer period included:

- Vinoca Road, Avoca – 2.2km reconstruction
- Waubra-Talbot Road – 1km reconstruction and widening; a continuation of the upgrade program on that route
- Carngham-Streatham Road – a small section of reconstruction
- Reseal work on Preston-Hill Haddon Road and Burrumbeet-Hillcrest Road intersection

Council's capital works program on roads is usually carried out in the warmer months when conditions are ideal, while maintenance grading is done in the wetter months when the moisture levels are right.



TEAMWORK: Beaufort Works Crew team members Shayne Murphy, left, and Blake Lofts, right, were involved in the reconstruction of Waubra-Talbot Road this year.

Shaping the Pyrenees Update

The Shaping the Pyrenees Community Panel has met for the first of three sessions to deliberate on a new Community Vision for the Pyrenees Shire. The panel consists of 30 representatives from right across the Shire, ranging in age from in their 20s to their 80s.

The first session in early May, held on Dja Dja Wurrung Country, began with a Welcome to Country by Traditional Owner Rhianna Kerr. Council Mayor Damian Ferrari and CEO Jim Nolan then welcomed the group and stated Council's commitment to the process.

Deliberative Engagement is new for Pyrenees Shire, and involves considering information, sharing diverse views and deliberating until reaching agreement in a group. The Mayor reflected that whilst deliberative engagement is now required through the Local Government Act 2020, this is a terrific opportunity for Council to extend and broaden its engagement with community.

The process is being facilitated by Chad Foulkes and Chelsea Cooper from Liminal by Design. The group will present their Community Vision to Council at the final session on June 6 2021. You can read more at www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au/about-pyrenees-shire-council/news-media/shaping-the-pyrenees.



DISCUSSION: Shaping the Pyrenees Community Panel members review and vote for the Community Vision.

Get the Planning Greenlight

Pyrenees Shire Council has recently transitioned to a new planning approval system called Greenlight. Greenlight is a web-based portal that enables applicants to liaise with Council's Planning Department more effectively, it also makes monitoring the progress of applications easier. The portal will provide faster approval times and an improved customer experience by allowing you to apply for planning permits, upload supporting documents and pay application fees online whilst having direct communication access to Council staff. More information can be found at www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au/plan-build/planning/planning-online-portal. If you have any questions or concerns regarding Greenlight or are experiencing issues in accessing your user account, please do not hesitate to get in contact with the Planning Department on 1300 PYRENEES (1300 797 363).

Pyrenees Shire Council signs on to VECO

Pyrenees Shire Council is proud to be one of 46 Victorian Councils to sign on to VECO, the Victorian Energy Collaboration, the largest ever emissions reduction project by local government in Australia. VECO will provide 45 per cent of all Victorian Councils' electricity requirements with 100 per cent renewables, reducing greenhouse emissions by 260,000 tonnes of CO₂-e every year. Provided by Red Energy, the 240GWh of clean power is equivalent to powering 48,000 homes with renewables or removing the emissions from 90,000 cars every year.

By joining the project, Pyrenees Shire Council will power all its total energy use with 100 per cent renewables from 1 July this year, including streetlights, offices, community spaces, football and netball club rooms and lighting, pre-schools, libraries and town halls. Pyrenees Shire Council Chief Executive Officer, Jim Nolan, said Council was delighted to be part of this massive cooperative effort by Local Government organisations. "Pyrenees Shire Council is very proud to be part of the VECO initiative, which will not only reduce Council's power bills by around 10 per cent but will also make a significant impact on our CO₂ emissions. The savings from reduced energy bills means Council can invest ratepayers' money into other important areas, like improving roads and services," Mr Nolan said.

The renewable energy will be provided by two wind farms in Victoria – Dundonnell wind farm near Mortlake, which started exporting power to the grid in March 2020, and Murra Warra II wind farm near Horsham, which commenced construction September 2020 and will be fully operational by June 2022.



VFR Campaign

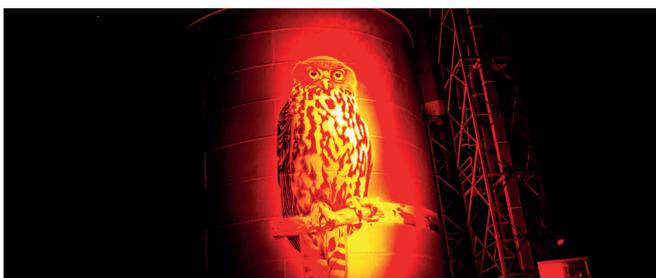
Pyrenees Shire Council launched a 'Visiting Friends & Relatives' campaign at Easter running through until the end of April. This timing was designed to encourage locals to invite friends and family to visit over Easter and school holidays.

The #seeyouintheypyrenees put community members and business owners at the centre of the campaign, and encouraged locals to host their guests in the region.

We invited local residents to become regional ambassadors and post a photo on Facebook or Instagram of their favourite place in the Pyrenees where they would like to spend time with family and friends using #seeyouintheypyrenees.

Now that the campaign has come to an end, the photos that were posted using the #seeyouintheypyrenees were shortlisted and the top ten photos were open to a public vote on the Visit Pyrenees Facebook Page.

The winner will receive a two-night stay at either Faraday on Avoca B&B or Mount Cole Cottages for up to six people valued at \$800, which have offered the winner the opportunity to invite a group of friends or family to visit.



GRAPHIC: The artwork by Jimmi Buscombe on the silo in Avoca was one of the entries in the Visiting Friends and Relatives Tourism Campaign earlier this year.

Disabled Parking Permits

The administration of Disabled Parking Permits moved to a statewide online system from 1 May 2021. The new Accessible Parking Permit (APP) Scheme is available via www.accessibleparking.vic.gov.au. Current Pyrenees Shire Council permits issued prior to this date will remain valid until their original expiration date. The new APP Scheme and online service will provide significant improvements in the administration and enforcement of disability parking. Council Customer Service Staff can provide assistance in this transition period, please call 1300 797 363.

Signage Audit

Pyrenees Shire Council is carrying out a signage audit and will be replacing some street and facility signs in the coming months.

Staff have carried out inspections to ascertain where signs are aged, broken, missing or have suffered damage and are no longer readable.

"Council is also looking at the signage across the Shire to inform people about the area and the facilities, such as at the new Lexton Hub, Beaufort community centre, public swimming pools, and resource centres. Another example of this is the signage at the precinct containing the Beaufort Lake, Goldfields Complex and Caravan Park on Park Road," CEO Jim Nolan said.

"We are hoping that by replacing tired and fading signs, and providing a consistent and clear brand across the Shire, visitors and residents alike will feel welcome and will know what they'll find when they arrive," Mr Nolan said.

The initial street signage audit has focused on township areas in Pyrenees. To report a missing sign in your area, please lodge a Customer Action Request or call 1300 797 363.

COVID-19 Vaccinations

Who will get the COVID-19 vaccination first? Some people will be given preference, this includes people who are more at risk of:

- catching the virus
- getting very sick if they catch the virus.

We call these priority groups.

There is a team of medical experts called the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI). ATAGI decides who is in a priority group.

The first priority group is called 1a.

Group 1a includes people with disability who live with at least one other person with disability.

Group 1a also includes: people who work in disability accommodation, people who live and work in aged care, doctors and health workers who are more at risk of catching the virus and quarantine workers.

The second priority group is called 1b. Group 1b includes: people with disability over 16 years old with serious health problems, people with disability over 16 years old who use supports and services with other people with disability, people aged 70 years or older, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples aged 50 years or older.

Group 1b also includes: people with serious health problems, other people who work with people with disability, other people who work with people over 70 years old, other doctors and health workers, other people who work in certain jobs, such as police and firefighters.

The third priority group is called 2a which includes; adults aged 50 years and older, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults aged 18 to 49 years old, and other people who work in certain jobs.

To find out if you are in a priority group, you can use the COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Checker on the Healthdirect Australia website at [covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au](https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/covid-vaccine).

The Pyrenees' Economic & Community Recovery Officer in the Community

Late last year Council employed Sheree Chevalier as its Economic and Community Recovery Officer, a six-month position that was funded by the Victorian State Government through its Working for Victoria program.

In her role Sheree has worked with more than 75 small businesses within the Pyrenees, helping to support and encourage their activities. One of her main projects was assisting more than 30 Pyrenees businesses improve their marketing by facilitating a free Visit Victoria listing. Sheree organised professional photography and helped write the listings, which are disseminated to multiple tourism websites. Now when visitors Google the Pyrenees region, they will find vastly more information about local businesses.

There were numerous other ways that Sheree assisted local businesses, from referring them to the Rural Financial Counselling Service to developing a monthly newsletter for Pyrenees businesses, writing COVIDSafe Plans and assisting with recent Outdoor Dining improvements.

As part of the Australian Tourism Awards, Sheree nominated both Avoca and Beaufort (and the surrounding areas) for the Top Small Tourism Town Award. To support the nomination, she created an array of material from an article to a four-day self-drive itinerary showcasing local attractions and businesses, along with a promotional video that will be played at our Information Centres. Sheree says, 'I was blown away with how much there is to see and do in the Pyrenees Shire. You should be so proud of your regional home. It truly is beautiful'.

Live Streaming and Video Conferencing Installation

Since the global pandemic up ended all our lives by forcing us to social distance, Council has been live streaming its monthly meetings. While COVID-19 hopefully won't be around forever, live streaming is here to stay, as it has numerous democratic benefits including greater transparency and accessibility for residents and the media.

With the move to permanent live streaming, we are now upgrading our live streaming technology to ensure that our live stream is more professional both in terms of the quality of the vision and sound. To help fund the purchase and installation of the equipment, Council was awarded a grant of \$98,500 from the Victorian State Government's Rural Councils ICT Infrastructure Support Program, which, combined with \$30,419 from Council, has been used to upgrade our live streaming and video conferencing facilities.

In early May, the Beaufort Council Chambers was fitted out with live streaming and room-based video conferencing equipment, along with the supply of portable equipment for live streaming and video conferencing for use when Council meetings and other events are held in Avoca or other localities. The new equipment will result in an improved quality of the live stream and video conferencing capabilities.

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.