



Taking steps forward into the future for Avoca

Avoca residents caught a glimpse of the future when new framework plans were made public recently.

The Avoca Framework and Main Street Plan is designed to guide future growth and development in the town.

The plan is based on detailed community engagement and research, which reflected the need for significant investment in the town's main street as the premier area of public space.

Elements include road safety, pedestrian movement, shade, shelter, surfaces and seating along High Street.

Council started working on the Framework Plan through the shire-wide Pyrenees Futures consultation process.

The community has responded to the plans with at least 150 people viewing them in person across two drop-in sessions and online through Council's website.

Mayor Robert Vance said the plan sets out a vision for Avoca over the next 10 years.

"This plan is the stepping off block for ensuring the future prosperity of Avoca and its residents," Cr Vance said.

"The document will also help in our advocacy with State and Federal governments when planning for the future of Avoca and seeking funding commitments," he said.

The future Avoca could include a bold central square for community gathering, single lanes of the Sunraysia Highway to slow traffic and more shelter and seating.

"We want to build on Avoca's history and make it a positive place to live, work and invest, and we encourage the community to come along for the ride," Avoca Ward Councillor Ron Eason said.

More information and copies of the draft plan are available at www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au/futures.

Council has received State funding to implement some elements



Senior Planner Matthew Novacevski, Avoca resident Pam Rivett and Avoca Ward Councillor Ron Eason inspect the framework plan for Avoca.

of the streetscape plans in the immediate future, once feedback has been considered by Council and any necessary changes made to the plans.

Another project in the pipeline; Activate Avoca, is moving ahead with Council reviewing draft sketches for the former Shire Office.

The revamped building will include office and meeting space for the community and businesses in the town.

Work is underway on the development of the Avoca Inclusive Playspace and the new barbecue shelter for High Street.

Some key upgrades at the Avoca Railway Precinct including improving parking and connectivity to the town are also on the way.

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Potential new residents visit Pyrenees



Nearly 80 migrants visited the Pyrenees region recently as part of a regional tour.
Photo credit: The Pyrenees Advocate

Pyrenees Shire Council hosted nearly 80 potential new residents as part of the OPAN project.

OPAN stands for Opportunities Pyrenees, Ararat and Northern Grampians.

Pyrenees and our neighbouring councils are working with migrant settlement agency AMES Australia on the project.

OPAN is aimed at relocating migrants and their families to our region to help fill new job opportunities in construction, horticulture, meat production and at correctional facilities.

The migrants from the Melbourne area spent their day in the region, looking at towns and visiting potential employers.

Pyrenees provided an morning tea, and Council employees from diverse backgrounds met with the migrants to share their insights.

Building a workforce is only one part of the equation, it will also be vital to facilitate housing and ensure access to services such as education and medical services where these new opportunities arise.

News snippets from around Council

- The State Government has provided funding of \$100,000 for the detailed design work for a recycled water initiative in Beaufort. The project aims to recycle waste water for the irrigation of public open spaces and sporting grounds. This design work builds on the feasibility study already undertaken.

- A study is underway to establish what local and public transport services currently exist within the Pyrenees Shire. Part of this study is to also gather feedback regarding significant local transport issues. Information is being sought from Pyrenees Shire residents, businesses, transport providers, schools, health services, sporting and social clubs, religious institutions and anyone else who is providing or using a transport service, for public or group use. Please contact Sheena Brown, the Project Coordinator, on 5349 1100 or email sheena.brown@pyrenees.vic.gov.au

- Pyrenees Shire Council is planning on sending a monthly newsletter out via email. If you would like to receive this update from us, please send an email to communications@pyrenees.vic.gov.au. Council sends this hard copy newsletter to each mailbox in the Pyrenees via Australia Post. Council also has a Facebook page (Pyrenees Shire Council) an Instagram account ([visitpyreneesvic](https://www.instagram.com/visitpyreneesvic)) and our website is www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au

- Pyrenees Shire Council has adopted a new Customer Service Charter to outline our responsibilities to you, our customers! It will set out response times for customer queries. Keep an eye out on the website and in offices for copies of the new charter.

\$60,000 in Community Grants

Pyrenees Shire Council is proud to provide funding to 27 community groups for local events, to buy new equipment and for significant capital programs. Council allocated \$63,834.48 in funding at its Ordinary Meeting in May.

The Lexton Football Netball Club received \$4,078.88 for the installation of an electronic signboard, the Natte Yallock Recreation Reserve \$2,600 for barbecues and the Beaufort Garden Club will use \$5,000 for new sculptures in the Beaufort Memorial Garden.

Community grants recipients included the Carranballac Progress Association which will use \$1,500 to buy new hall furniture, the Avoca Scout and Guide Group will spend \$1,500 on storage shelving, and the Beaufort Community Playgroup will use \$1,000 for new toys and to upgrade play facilities.

Pyrenees Shire Council Mayor Robert Vance said he looked forward to seeing the projects the grants would be used for. "I'm heartened by the amount of groups and the projects they're working on; it really shows Pyrenees is a fantastic community to be a part of," Cr Vance said.

"These grants will also help the Landsborough CWA host a 1st birthday celebration, improve safety at the Lake Goldsmith Steam Rally and improve firefighting capabilities at local halls," he said.

The Wimmera Axeman's Hall of Fame has been allocated \$1,500 in principle for a permanent wood chopping area at the Goldfields Recreation Reserve pending approval.

Community Grants Round 3 2018/19

Glenpatrick Recreation Reserve	\$1,500
Beaufort Golf Club	\$750
Casablanca Movie Club	\$750
Business 4 Beaufort	\$1,500
Beaufort Progress Association	\$1,000
Beaufort Senior Citizens	\$1,500
Avoca Scout & Guide Group	\$1,500
Carranballac Progress Association	\$1,500
Snake Valley & District Land Protection Group	\$1,000
Beaufort Agricultural Show Society	\$458
Lake Goldsmith Hall Committee	\$588
Avoca Country Golf Bowling Club	\$750
CWA Landsborough Branch	\$750
Beaufort Community Playgroup	\$1,000

Community Capital Grants Round 3 2018/19

Redbank Reserves Committee	\$2,805
The Snake Valley & District Historical Society	\$5,000
Beaufort and District Adult Riding Club	\$1,500
Casablanca Movie Club Inc	\$2,000
Beaufort Bowls Club	\$4,100
Avoca and District Historical Society Inc	\$5,000

Community Capital Grants Round 1 2019/20

Lake Goldsmith Steam Preservation Assoc	\$5,000
Trawalla Hall and Recreation Reserve	\$5,000
Lexton Football and Netball Club	\$4,078.88
Raglan Hall and Recreation Reserve	\$2,805
Natte Yallock Recreation Reserve Inc	\$2,600
Moonambel Recreation Reserve	\$2,899.60
Beaufort Garden Club	\$5,000

Beaufort locals delight in seeing wind turbine blade up close and personal

Top left: Marg Carter, Sheina Owen and Deb Bourke sign the blade. Bottom: Beaufort Primary School Grade 3 pupils Izzy Cahill and Ethan McAuliffe.



Hundreds of people of all ages got up close and personal to the blade of a wind turbine destined for the Stockyard Hill Wind Farm.

The 68.6 metre blade stopped in Beaufort for a morning, taking up most of Lawrence Street.

Children and adults alike had great fun signing their name on the blade – which will form part of one of the 149 wind turbines in the Stockyard Hill Windfarm.

The blades have been making their way to the wind farm from the Port of Geelong, via the

Western Highway and through Beaufort.

Moving the 19,800 kilogram turbine blade is a big operation, the blades are driven here at night to minimise traffic interruption.

Ten turbines have been erected on the wind farm, and workers are installing transmission power lines.

The power generated by the wind farm will power 391,000 average Victorian homes.

Newest citizens make pledge with Pyrenees Shire



From left; new citizen Oxana Syrovatskaya; councillors David Clark, Mayor Robert Vance, Ron Eason, new citizen Joy Gonzales Baroy, CEO Jim Nolan and councillors Tanya Kehoe and Damian Ferrari.

Two Pyrenees Shire residents were officially recognised as Australian citizens at a ceremony in Beaufort in March.

Wennil Joy Gonzales Baroy (Joy) now lives in Snake Valley but was originally from the Phillipines. Oxana Syrovatskaya came from Russia to Beaufort, where she lived when she took the citizenship test, and now calls Ballarat home.

Pyrenees Shire Council Mayor Robert Vance said it was always a pleasure to host a citizenship ceremony and welcome people from diverse backgrounds to the shire.

"We think they've chosen the best place

in Australia to live and it's a privilege to welcome people from different cultures to make a new home and new life in the Pyrenees Shire. It's especially significant that we welcomed Joy and Oxana at the same time we celebrated Harmony Day, which is all about the celebration of diverse cultures, inclusiveness and respect," Cr Vance said.

Joy and Oxana took the Australian Citizenship Pledge in front of Pyrenees Shire Councillors, friends and family at Council's Beeripmo Centre and were presented with signed certificates of citizenship and Australian native trees.

2019/20 annual budget

Upgrading roads, replacing bridges and building a playground are a few highlights of Pyrenees Shire Council's draft budget.

The 2019/20 draft budget proposes to allocate \$8.6 million in capital works.

Roads set for reconstruction include sections of Vinoca Road, Raglan-Elmhurst Road, Langi Kal Kal Road, and the Eurambeen-Streatham Road at a cost of \$2.2 million.

Bridges will be replaced on the Beaufort-Carngham and Eurambeen-Streatham Roads at a cost of \$1.358 million.

There is \$875,000 allocated for road reseals and \$1.04 million set aside for gravel road re-sheets.

Council is continuing to develop residential land to increase the housing stock in Beaufort with \$993,000 allocated to deliver stages 4 and 5 of Correa Park.

There is \$93,000 for community and capital grants to fast track Community Action Plan priorities and \$368,000 for recreational, leisure and community facilities – including \$238,000 for the Avoca Inclusive Playspace.

Council's proposed rate increase is 2.5% inline with the State Government's cap under the Fair Go Rates system.

Council decided against applying for an exemption to the rates cap in recognition of the growing costs of living faced by our community.

Council convened a Special Meeting on Tuesday June 25 to adopt the 2019/20 budget.

Throwing out your toaster? From July 1 electronic waste cannot go into landfill

If it's got a plug, battery or cord and is unwanted, it's e-waste. It could be any of a whole range of items from work, home or even the garden shed. From old phones, computers and household appliances to power tools and toys.

E-waste is full of valuable resources we can reuse, as well as some nasty materials that are bad for the environment. Rather than putting it in the bin and sending it to landfill, we should take it to a better place where we can remove the bad and save the good.

E-waste collection points will be available in the Pyrenees Shire at Beaufort, Avoca and Snake Valley Transfer Stations and small cabinets will be at our resource centres in Beaufort and Avoca.

Electronic waste is growing up to three times faster than general municipal waste. The good news is that e-waste is more than 95 per cent recyclable. For example, old mobile phones can be recycled to make stainless steel goods, new batteries and even plastic fence posts.

Transfer stations will accept all types of e-waste, while our resource centres will accept small items such as AA batteries and mobiles.

Small appliances such as toasters and kettles will cost \$5 to drop off; televisions, DVD players, printers and computers will cost \$10 and white goods like fridges and washing machines will cost \$20 to deposit.

Mobile phones, batteries and laptops can be dropped off at our resource centres for no charge.

Council has e-waste bags available at our resource centres in Avoca

and Beaufort and at our Lawrence Street office for you to put your smaller items in. When you have collected a few items, bring the bag to one of our resource centres or a transfer station to dispose of them.



Zero tolerance for any form of aggression

Pyrenees Shire Council is taking a stand against violent and aggressive behaviour towards its staff.

Council employees have the right to feel safe at work every day.

Staff who work in frontline customer service roles and in regulatory roles are increasingly dealing with aggressive people.

Mayor Robert Vance said it was unfortunate to see a trend where our staff are faced with violence and aggression while trying to do their job.

"The health and wellbeing of our staff is paramount," Cr Vance said.

"Just as we respect our community members and try to help them as best we can, we expect the same respect in return," he said.

Councillor Damian Ferrari said Council had a responsibility to provide a safe, fair and equitable workplace.

"It is really important we stand united and send a very, very strong message that any form of violence or aggression will not be tolerated and will be immediately acted upon," Cr Ferrari said.

"This sends a very strong message and we must be committed in that," he said.

Council has a zero tolerance to workplace violence and aggression, as stated in its Health, Safety & Wellbeing Policy.

Council is working on developing materials and installing signage in its offices to encourage better behavior from the public.

Book bonanza for Pyrenees kids



Maternal Child Health Nurses Sally Roberts and Mareeta 'Muffy' Dyer.

Giving the gift of reading continues to be a high priority for Pyrenees Shire Council. Council gives beautiful, quality, age-appropriate books to families to promote the development of language from birth.

Reading to children from birth should never be underestimated and the books that we give out at birth, 1 year, 2 years and the 3 ½ year visit to the Maternal and Child Health Nurse provide delight to the children, promoting social and communication skills between parents and children.

In the 2018 Australian Early Development Census it was found that Pyrenees had fewer developmentally vulnerable children in the domain of language compared to state and national averages (Pyrenees 8, Victoria 6.4, Australia 6.6). Data also reflects improvements in language and cognitive skills since 2012 in our community.