



Pyrenees
Shire Council

Community Newsletter

2026



Did you know about our Family and Child Health Service?

Pyrenees Shire Council provides a free Family and Child Health service for families with children from birth to school age.

As part of a statewide program delivered by most Victorian councils, this service supports local families with early health and parenting advice—helping give every child the best start in life.

Getting started is easy. Once your hospital notifies us of your baby's birth, one of our qualified Child and Family Health nurses will contact you to arrange your first home visit. After that, you can attend appointments at Beaufort Early Childhood Centre, Snake Valley Hall, Avoca Pre-School or the Lexton Rural Transaction Centre — or continue home visits if you live in a more isolated area.

The service includes 10 key age-and-stage checks to monitor your child's growth and development, including motor skills, hearing, vision and speech. You can also get support with feeding, sleep, behaviour, and family wellbeing.

We also offer free immunisations at key milestones, as well as free flu vaccinations for children aged 6 months to 5 years. In 2025–26, we delivered 850 immunisations, with more than 95% of children in Pyrenees Shire fully vaccinated.

Over the past year, 223 children accessed the service, with counselling support provided to 140 families. We also support Supported Playgroups and First-Time Parent Groups.

For more information, visit pyrenees.vic.gov.au/Community/Community-services/Family-and-Child-Health.



Maternal and Child Health Nurse Sophia Pham, left, and Team Leader Early Years Services Sally Roberts provide a free Family and Child Health service to the municipality.

Fast Facts about Pyrenees Shire

- Population 7958
- Median age 50
- Area 3434 square kilometres
- Road network 2000 kilometres
- Five councillors
- Three outdoor pools
- Two libraries/resource centres
- Nine government primary schools
- One government secondary school
- Largest employment sector agriculture



CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS

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Key advocacy priorities

Pyrenees Shire Council has unveiled its key advocacy priorities ahead of the 2026 Victorian State Election, calling on all political parties to support critical investment in rural communities.

The priorities include:

- Southern Wimmera and Northeast Pyrenees Water Supply Project – \$5 million for field investigation, planning and detailed design
- Beaufort Caravan Park Master Plan – \$3 million
- Old Beaufort Primary School Community Hub – \$3.735 million
- Mt Cole and Mt Buangor parks bushfire recovery works – completion of government works
- Additional untied funding for roads and bridges renewal – upgrade of under-strength bridges estimated to exceed \$10 million
- Increased emergency water supply points – more than \$500,000 required for priority locations
- Power upgrades in small towns, such as Avoca – \$4 million
- Waubra Recreation Reserve upgrade - implementation of master plan including netball facility upgrades
- Increased Victorian Government contribution to library services
- Increase to the Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program from \$60,000 to \$250,000 per year
- Additional direct, untied emergency management funding
- Scrapping the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund

For further details on these projects, go to pyrenees.vic.gov.au/About-Pyrenees-Shire-Council/2026-Victorian-Election-Advocacy-Priorities.

Pet registration matters

Registering your pet is one of the simplest ways to keep them safe. If they ever go missing, registration makes it much easier for Council to reunite you quickly.

All dogs and cats aged three months and over must be registered with Council, and registrations need to be renewed each year by 10 April. Cats and dogs need to be microchipped before they can be registered. Microchipping is the best way of having animals identified; it is permanent and - provided you keep your contact details current with the Microchip Database - it enables us to easily return your lost pets.

What your registration fee supports:

- A registration tag for each pet, helping identify them and get them home sooner
- Staff to respond to nuisance concerns like barking, trespassing or wandering animals
- Investigation of dog attacks
- Collection of stray or wandering animals
- Safe transport of animals to the pound or shelter when needed
- Stray and feral cat management programs

By registering your pet, you're not just protecting them—you're also supporting important services that help keep the whole community safe.

Find out more: pyrenees.vic.gov.au/Residents/Animals.



WELCOME TO YOUR *Community Newsletter*

Hello and welcome to Pyrenees Shire Council's Community Newsletter, published May 2026.

This newsletter is produced by the Council's Communications Department and is distributed to all Pyrenees Shire households through Australia Post.

Feedback on this newsletter is welcome. You can contact us on phone 1300 PYRENEES (797 363) or email pyrenees@pyrenees.vic.gov.au

Old Beaufort Primary School Master Plan update

Stage one of the Old Beaufort Primary School Master Plan is nearly complete, with the final report now being prepared.

Public Realm Lab has worked closely with Pyrenees Shire Council and the community to develop the plan, which will be presented to the Victorian Government next month.

Planning for stage two has also begun. A draft early works plan is in place to protect the site's heritage buildings from further damage including storms, water damage and vandalism while removing non-heritage structures, walkways, and fixtures. A heritage expert will develop detailed designs to preserve the site's historic components.

Future work to establish a multi-use community hub will depend on site ownership and available funding. Council is advocating for a further \$3.753 million for the next stage of works.

For more information, go to pyrenees.vic.gov.au/Community/Old-Beaufort-Primary-School.



Have you tried our new waste app?

Pyrenees Shire Council is making it easier than ever to access all your waste and recycling information in one place with its new Waste and Recycling app.

Residents can download the LoopedIn Councils app via the App Store or Google Play and select Pyrenees Shire Council to get started.

The app offers a range of helpful features, including:

- Bin day reminders and service alerts
- Online waste collection calendars
- Issue reporting and feedback
- Waste and resource recovery facility information
- Recycling tips and resources

Printed calendars will remain available from the Beaufort Council Office, the Beaufort Community Resource Centre and the Avoca Information Centre.

And don't forget you can now put your soft plastic waste into approved orange recycling bags and put in your yellow recycling bin for collection.

You can get the free bags by phoning 1300 797 363 and registering for the Soft Plastic Program or in person at our Beaufort Office.

Instructions on how to download the app can be found at pyrenees.vic.gov.au/Residents/Waste-and-Recycling.



Fire recovery update - supporting our southern communities

On 9 January this year, the devastating Streatham–Yalla-Y-Poora fire tore through the southern part of the Shire, impacting homes, wildlife, and community assets including the Carranballac Recreation Reserve.

Since then, significant recovery efforts have been underway to support affected communities and begin rebuilding. Key actions include:

- Support provided through the Recovery Hub for affected landowners and residents to access information and funding for recovery
- Council has appointed Community Recovery Officer Karen Sherlock for a six-month term to support local recovery efforts
- A Project Working Group has been established to guide the redevelopment of the Carranballac Recreation Reserve
- Demolition and clean-up of the reserve's damaged clubrooms and community facilities have now been completed
- The Skipton to Streatham Fire Recovery Network has been formed to develop a Community Recovery Action Plan
- Hazardous trees have been removed along Carngham-Streatham Road to improve safety and further tree works are underway
- Council has made a submission to the Victorian Government's Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2026 Summer Bushfires

Recovery is a long-term process, and Council remains committed to working alongside the community every step of the way. For more information, go to pyrenees.vic.gov.au/Emergencies/After/Bushfire-Support-and-Advice.



WHAT'S ON IN THE PYRENEES

Pace the Pyrenees Ultra Trail

June 6, 8am, June 7, 2pm
Pace the Pyrenees in an Ultra Trail Running Event showcasing the beautiful Beaufort and Trawalla State Forest Area. Many different race length options.
pacethepyrenees.com

2026 Pyrenees Art Exhibition and Book Sale

June 5, 7.30pm – June 8, 2pm
Beaufort Shire Hall
visitpyrenees.com.au/calender-event/2026-pyrenees-art-exhibition-and-book-sale

For the latest event details visit visitpyrenees.com.au/whats-on

\$2 million upgrades to make local roads and streets safer

Road safety upgrades are rolling out across Pyrenees Shire thanks to a \$2 million investment through the Victorian Government and TAC's *Safe Local Roads and Streets Program*.

Several improvements have already been completed to help make our roads safer for everyone—whether you're driving, walking or cycling.

So, what's changed?

- **Safer speed limits** – Updated across parts of Raglan, Waubra, Evansford, Beaufort, Trawalla and Amphitheatre to better match road conditions.
- **Improved intersections** – We've converted four confusing Y-intersections on Waubra-Talbot Road near Evansford to safer T-intersections, with the road also fully reconstructed.
- **Snake Valley safety works** – Speed humps near Snake Valley Primary School are helping slow traffic, along with upgrades to the township entrance.
- **Stoneleigh intersection upgrade** – A redesigned layout at Mt William Road and Carngham–Streatham Road is improving visibility and reducing driver confusion.

And there's more to come! Further works in Avoca and Beaufort will include a safe pedestrian crossing point, kerb outstands and community gateway treatments.

These upgrades are all about making travel safer for our community. To find out more about our projects, go to pyrenees.vic.gov.au/Residents/Pyrenees-Shire-Projects.



Design & Projects Engineer Memphis Forte checks progress on the Waubra-Talbot Rd works.

Council Meetings

Our Council Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month (except December) at 6pm at the Beaufort Council Chamber.

Meetings are open to members of the public and people wishing to attend can register online.

Members of the public are encouraged to ask questions as part of public participation. If you can't attend the meeting in person you may still submit questions online which will be read by the Chairperson during public participation.

All Council Meetings will be streamed live, recorded and published online. For information on meeting dates, go to pyrenees.vic.gov.au/About-Pyrenees-Shire-Council/Council-Meetings.

We acknowledge the people past and present of the Wadawurrung, Dja Dja Wurrung, Eastern Maar, Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk Nations, whose land and waters the Pyrenees Shire operates on.

We pay our respects to their Ancestors and Elders, recognise and respect their customs, stewardship and continuing connection to Country.