

WHAT'S ON IN THE PYRENEES

Avoca Art Show & Sale

October 23, 6:30 pm - October 25, 5pm Avoca Town Hall, 92 Rutherford Street, Avoca
Calling Artists. It's time to start painting for the Avoca Art Show to be held in October 2026.
Email artsavoca@gmail.com

128th Lake Goldsmith Steam Rally

October 31, 9am - November 1, 5pm
1234 Carngham-Lake Goldsmith Road, Lake Goldsmith
Over 65 display sheds featuring steam and oil powered engines, sawmills, earthmoving equipment, motorcycles, trucks, tractors and more. Information at lakegoldsmithsteamrally.org.au

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

Three new citizens welcomed

We proudly welcomed three new Australian citizens at a citizenship ceremony held in July.

Surrounded by family and friends, the recipients made their pledge of commitment to Australia and were officially presented with their Australian citizenship certificates, marking an important milestone in their lives.

The new citizens, originally from the United Kingdom and Vietnam, have all called Australia home for many years. Each decided the time was right to formalise their connection to the country by becoming Australian citizens.

For Graham Bowers, who was born in the United Kingdom, the decision was long overdue.

"I should have done it a while ago. Now felt like a good time," Graham said.

Anthony Reynolds, originally from Brighton in the United Kingdom, said becoming an Australian citizen had been a goal for several years.

"I have been here for over 40 years, so becoming a citizen was the final step," Anthony said.



For Abigail (Nhung) Tran, originally from Vietnam, citizenship was about strengthening her connection to the community she now calls home.

"I have been in Australia for over 10 years. I live and work in the community and have a business here. It meant being part of the community," Abigail said.

We congratulate Graham, Anthony and Abigail on this significant achievement and warmly welcomes them as Australian citizens.

Old Beaufort Primary School Master Plan approved

The Victorian Government has approved the Old Beaufort Primary School Master Plan.

Developed by consultants Public Realm Lab in partnership with Council and the community, the plan sets out a long-term vision for the site, including possibilities for a future community hub and other development opportunities.

Mayor Cr Damian Ferrari said the approval of the master plan was an important milestone in unlocking the site's future potential.

Council is also moving ahead with planning for the next stage of the project. A draft early works plan has been prepared to help protect the site's historic buildings

while removing non-heritage buildings, walkways and other structures that are no longer needed.

The next step will see a heritage specialist engaged to develop detailed plans for preserving and managing the site's significant heritage features.

Cr Ferrari said that while a future multi-purpose community hub will depend on ownership arrangements and available funding, the work completed so far puts Council in a strong position to take advantage of future opportunities.

The Old Beaufort Primary School Master Plan is available to view at pyrenees.vic.gov.au/OBPSMasterPlan



Community Newsletter 2026



What do our Parks and Gardens crew do?

Have you ever wondered what our Parks and Gardens Team get up to each day?

The crew play an important role in maintaining Pyrenees Shire's parks, gardens and public spaces, helping keep them safe, attractive and enjoyable for residents and visitors alike.

Their day-to-day tasks include mowing lawns, pruning trees and shrubs, planting garden beds, and spreading mulch. But their work extends far beyond garden maintenance. The crew also clean gutters and drains to help keep drainage systems functioning effectively, inspect playgrounds to ensure they remain safe for families, and respond to unexpected jobs such as fallen trees and storm damage.

We recently spoke with Parks and Gardens operators Justin, Matt, Bianca and Brett about what they enjoy most about their work.

Having joined the team just over a month ago, Justin brings a strong horticultural background to the role. He said his favourite part of the job is receiving positive feedback from the community.

"When you get compliments from locals saying that what we are doing makes things look good, it's really rewarding," he said.

Matt works across the smaller towns of Waubra, Moonambel and Landsborough. He enjoys seeing the visible results of the crew's efforts.

"Taking an area and transforming it into something that is respectable and that residents can be proud of is what I enjoy most," he said.

A long-standing member of the team, Brett has worked with Council for 18 years. Over that time, he has become an all-rounder, helping wherever needed. This can include responding to fallen trees blocking roads, assisting



with maintenance projects, and tackling a wide range of operational tasks.

Bianca said: "I find it especially rewarding and really feel my work is appreciated when I get stopped in the street to be given such positive feedback from residents (and staff)."

"I am driven by my desire to assess council assets and consider what more I can do to make these areas look even better. I take great pride in my work and love how a freshly maintained open space looks once finished. Especially the Goldfields Rec Reserve during cricket season! It looks magic!"

"If I have a Customer Action Request to see to, rain or shine, I'll get it done if I can."

To report an issue for our Parks and Gardens Team to follow up, call 1300 797 363, email pyrenees@pyrenees.vic.gov.au or send a Snap Send Solve via the app.

What is Snap Send Solve?

Want to let us know about an issue without ringing, emailing or dropping in to Council? Just Snap Send Solve it!



Snap Send Solve is a free phone app that lets you report issues and provide feedback to Council in under 30 seconds.

You can download Snap Send Solve from the App Store or Google Play.

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS

Beaufort Ward
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E beaufort@pyrenees.vic.gov.au

Avoca Ward – Cr Rebecca Wardlaw
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E avoca@pyrenees.vic.gov.au

De Cameron Ward – Cr Megan Phelan
P 0461 523 580
E decameron@pyrenees.vic.gov.au

Ercildoune Ward – Cr Simon Tol
P 0473 628 938
E ercildoune@pyrenees.vic.gov.au

Mount Emu Ward – Cr Tanya Kehoe
P 0439 571 480
E mountemu@pyrenees.vic.gov.au

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.

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E pyrenees@pyrenees.vic.gov.au pyrenees.vic.gov.au

Special celebrity guest at our Resilient Homes Expo

Mark your calendar! Pyrenees Shire Council is hosting a free, family-friendly Resilient Homes Expo this October, and we're thrilled to welcome a very special celebrity guest. Stay tuned, we'll be revealing who it is soon!

Whether you're looking for practical ways to protect your home, prepare your family for emergencies, or learn more about sustainable living, this expo will have something for everyone.



Bringing together local organisations, emergency services, industry experts, community groups and businesses, the event will showcase practical tips, advice and solutions to help households prepare for bushfires, extreme weather and other emergencies.

Visitors can explore a wide range of topics, including:

- Bushfire-resilient homes and building design

- Upgrading existing homes to improve bushfire resilience
- Bushfire-ready gardens and property preparation
- Climate adaptation and sustainable living
- Emergency preparedness and planning
- Renewable energy and household sustainability
- Communications and connectivity during emergencies
- Interactive displays, demonstrations and hands-on activities

The expo is all about turning awareness into action, helping residents discover simple, practical steps they can take before, during and after an emergency.

It will be held on Sunday 11 October, 10am to 4pm at the Lexton Community Hub and Lexton Recreation Reserve

The Resilient Homes Expo is being delivered by Pyrenees Shire Council through Safer Together Strengthening Local Government Partnership Grants awarded to local government authorities to support them to partner with communities to reduce bushfire risk.

For more information, visit pyrenees.vic.gov.au/expo or contact claireh@pyrenees.vic.gov.au.

Welcome Sally Jones as Interim CEO

Pyrenees Shire Council is pleased to welcome Sally Jones as Interim Chief Executive Officer.

With more than 24 years of experience in local government, Sally has worked across metropolitan, regional and peri-urban councils in a range of leadership roles, including CEO, General Manager and Director. Her experience spans governance, finance, strategy, community services, infrastructure, customer experience and organisational change.

Sally has also served as Interim CEO at Central Goldfields Shire Council and, most recently, Baw Baw Shire Council.

She says she's excited to be back in the region and looking forward to getting to know the community.

"I'm looking forward to bringing positive energy to the organisation, supporting our staff during the transition to a new CEO, and taking the time to listen to the community and understand its priorities. My focus is on making a meaningful contribution during my time with Council."



Mayor Cr Damian Ferrari welcomed Sally to the role and said her extensive local government experience would be a valuable asset to Council during the transition period.

Recruitment for a permanent CEO is currently underway.

Please join us in welcoming Sally to the Pyrenees Shire community.

WELCOME TO YOUR *Community Newsletter*

Hello and welcome to Pyrenees Shire Council's Community Newsletter, published September 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

Community Funding Program now open!

Have you got an idea that could make a difference in your community? Whether it's a local event, a new piece of equipment, a community project or an initiative that brings people together, Pyrenees Shire Council's 2026/27 Community Funding Program could help bring it to life.

The program supports projects, events and activities that strengthen our communities and create positive social, cultural, environmental and economic outcomes across the Shire. It's all about helping build inclusive, healthy and connected communities, vibrant townships, environmental sustainability and strong local partnerships.

Before you apply, we encourage you to have a chat with a Council Officer and read the funding guidelines at pyrenees.vic.gov.au/funding. Discussing your project early can help give your application the best possible chance of success.

Need a hand with your application? Council's Community Development team is available to provide support through

online sessions by appointment at 1300 797 363 or commdev@pyrenees.vic.gov.au

We'll also be holding drop-in support sessions across the Shire throughout September. Visit pyrenees.vic.gov.au/funding for dates, locations and a range of helpful grant-writing resources.

Funding Available

- Programs, Projects and Activities – up to \$2,000
- Equipment Grants – up to \$2,000
- Community Event Support – up to \$2,000
- Minor Capital Works – up to \$7,000
- Tourism Event Sponsorship – up to \$5,000
- Responsive Grants – up to \$1,000

If you've been thinking about a project that could benefit your community, now's the time to get started!

2026/27 Budget focused on road and bridge improvements

Council adopted its 2026/27 Budget, with significant investment in road and bridge improvements set to be a major focus over the coming year.

Key budget highlights include:

- A 2.75% rate increase, in line with the Victorian Government's rate cap
- Operating expenditure of \$28 million
- Capital expenditure of \$7 million

Council has also committed \$243,500 in strategic community projects, including:

- Tanwood Avenue of Honour replacement
- Lexton flood mitigation works
- Avoca Recreation Reserve flood mitigation works (part funding)
- Waubra water bore project
- Community Asset Committee support and delegated works
- Landsborough Bowling Club green replacement (Council contribution, subject to external funding)
- Playground renewals
- Beaufort Linear Project (Council contribution, subject to external funding)
- Provision for new or relocated bus shelters
- Defibrillator maintenance and renewal

New Events Officer

Pyrenees Shire Council is pleased to welcome Jane Baker back to the team as its new Events Officer.

Jane previously held the role seven years ago and is excited to once again support the vibrant calendar of events held across the Shire.

"There are so many people delivering exciting events throughout our region, and my role is to support organisers and help ensure events meet all the necessary requirements and procedures," Jane said.

"I'm really looking forward to being involved with community celebrations such as Beaufort by Twilight and Australia Day. I loved working with Pyrenees Shire Council in the past, and it's wonderful to be back."

Jane brings extensive experience in event management and tourism, having worked with the Pyrenees Grape Growers & Winemakers, the Pyrenees Unearthed Wine & Food Festival, and in visitor experiences at Mrs. Baker's Still House cellar door.

Please join us in welcoming Jane back to Pyrenees Shire Council.

