



## KEEPING THE SHIRE IN SHAPE

A raft of community asset renewal and road infrastructure projects have been completed around the Pyrenees Shire over the winter months.

In Avoca, the expanded car park in the centre of High Street is complete and the new electric vehicle charging station is up and running. This two-car charger joins recently installed facilities in Amphitheatre and Beaufort, with 83 cars "filling up" at the Beaufort station in its first five weeks of operation. This also benefits the local economy as travellers grab a bite or browse local shops while their cars are charging.

Additions to the footpath network in Barnett Street and along Boyce and Faraday Streets are also getting a workout, and kerb renewal works have been completed in Rutherford and Duke Street.

In Beaufort, pedestrians are enjoying the improved pathway around the lake and a new footpath between Acacia and Casuarina Court. A new footpath is being constructed along Neill Street near the motel and a new floating jetty and BBQ shelter on the lake foreshore are nearing completion.

The new cricket nets at Goldfields Reserve are up and a major project to upgrade the oval's lighting and electrical service at the reserve is underway.

Travellers and locals will welcome the reopening of the Havelock Street toilets, which have been completely refurbished and are looking fantastic.

This follows the installation of new toilet facilities in Amphitheatre, Waubra and Beggs Street in Beaufort in recent years. On top of the initial outlay for these facilities, Council invests well over \$100K per year maintaining and cleaning these community assets around the Shire.

Out on the roads, major infrastructure projects such as the new bridge on the Beaufort-Carngham Road at Mena Park have been completed. The new bridge, which includes improved safety railing and can be used by large vehicles such as B-doubles, caps off a major renewal program across the Pyrenees Shire that has seen six bridges replaced over the last three years in a \$3.8 million investment designed to boost our transport and agriculture sectors.

Major road upgrades on the Crowlands-Eversley, Raglan-Elmhurst, Moonambel-Natte Yallock, Snake Valley-Smythesdale,



and Eurambeen-Streatham Roads also represent a significant investment of Council resources. These projects are prioritized based on need, and this year climatic factors and renewal demand has seen more capital works happening in the central and southern areas of the Shire.

Council's two Flocon trucks are out every day repairing potholes and our grading and road maintenance crews have covered most of the Shire in 2023, with some areas around Evansford, Barkly and Navarre to be completed in the next few weeks.

The massive job of repairing the more than \$8 million in road damage following last year's floods also continues. The old footbridge over the creek at Lexton has been removed in response to community concerns that it contributed to last year's floods, and community assets such as the Avoca Men's Shed are now back in business.

Visit our website at [pyrenees.vic.gov.au](http://pyrenees.vic.gov.au) to learn more about Council projects and how your rates are benefiting the community.



## CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLOR

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## CUPPA AND CHAT SESSIONS

Do you have a project or idea that could benefit your local community? Why not come along to one of our Cuppa and Chat sessions to meet the councillors, talk about your ideas and generally gain a better understanding about how Council operates.

Councillors will be in Amphitheatre on 10 October, Evansford on 14 November and Snake Valley on 5 December. All sessions start at 5pm. We'd love to see you there!



*Councillors catch up with community members at Moonambel.*

## COUNCIL TAKES TO THE ROAD

Pyrenees Shire councillors are heading out and about to inspect the state of roads around the Shire and hear from local residents about their concerns.

The road trip will help set road management priorities and inform Council's ongoing advocacy to the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments for the funds required to fix the road network.

Keep an eye on Council notices for more details of the Council road trip.

## REPORTING POTHoles

The Victorian Government (VicRoads) manages freeways and arterial roads such as Neill Street and Lawrence Street in Beaufort, High Street in Avoca, the Sunraysia and Western Highways, and Beaufort-Lexton Road. For a full list of roads, visit [pyrenees.vic.gov.au/community/roads](https://pyrenees.vic.gov.au/community/roads).

Our teams are advocating and talking to the government regularly about the condition of these roads. You can help by reporting any issues to VicRoads on 13 11 70 or [www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/traffic-and-road-use/report-a-road-issue](https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/traffic-and-road-use/report-a-road-issue).

Council looks after other roads within the Shire. To report potholes and other issues with a Council-managed road please contact us through our website or call our Customer Service team on 1300 797 363.

## PYRENEES COMMUNITY FUNDING PROGRAM OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Council's Community Funding Program is now open for applications.

Grants and subsidies are available for community groups which can help with events, projects, equipment, minor capital works, business shop facades and one-off programs/activities.

"In the 2022/23 program, Council funded some important community projects, such as kitchen upgrades for the Beaufort RSL, a new gas hot water system for the Moonambel Recreation Reserve Committee, and a new community connection and engagement program for the Waterloo community," said Pyrenees Shire Mayor Ron Eason. "Many of these programs and projects wouldn't be able to happen without this support from Council's funding program. We're very pleased we can continue to provide this kind of support to our community."

Applications for grants can be made through Council's online portal. Applications close on 23 October.

Information drop-in sessions are being held across the Shire to help community groups with their grant application questions.

The Community Funding Program also has monthly responsive grants of up to \$500 to quickly assist with unexpected community need. To find out more visit [pyrenees.vic.gov.au/funding](https://pyrenees.vic.gov.au/funding).



## ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER VOICE

On 14 October 2023 Australians will take part in a referendum about changing the Constitution to establish an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

Pyrenees Shire Council respects the democratic process and the right of individuals to make their own choice.

We are encouraging members of our community to access accurate and comprehensive information so that they can make an informed decision.

You can learn more at the Australian Government's Recognition through the Voice website [voice.gov.au](https://voice.gov.au).

## IT'S TIME TO PREPARE FOR FIRE SEASON

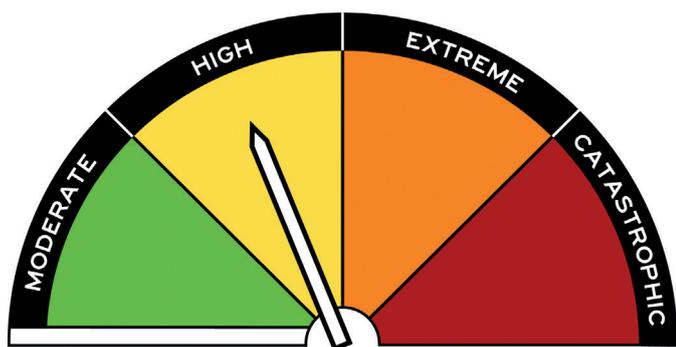
Spring is here and that means now is the time to start preparing your property for bushfire or grassfire, and to review your bushfire survival plan.

Here's some tips for helping make your property fire ready:

- Keep grass 10cm or shorter in length.
- Clean out your gutters regularly.
- Remove flammable items from decks and verandahs.
- Remove dry leaves, twigs and other fire hazards.
- Prune shrubs and trees.
- Move woodpiles away from your house.

Even if you don't live in the bush, your family and your home is still at risk of fire, so it's important to make sure you're ready.

The Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) has released its seasonal outlook for this spring. The prediction is for drier and warmer than average weather



## REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Council will always encourage our community members to look at ways to reduce the amount of waste they're sending to landfill where possible.

All landfills around the country have a limit to how much waste they can accept for their lifetime, which means it's important for us to look at ways to reduce, reuse and recycle.

To help Victorians recycle more, the state government is introducing a container deposit scheme later this year.

### What can go in my kerbside recycling bin?

Plastics including drink bottles, shampoo bottles, laundry detergent bottles, milk bottles, food containers (eg. margarine, yoghurt or ice cream containers); paper (newspapers, stationary, magazines, etc) and unwaxed cardboard products; aluminium and metal cans, and aluminium foil. Please remember that recycled



conditions, with a high chance of an earlier start to the fire season in the central, western and northern parts of the state.

Property owners in and around urban areas can take advantage of free green waste disposal at all Council transfer stations when cleaning up this spring.

Reducing the vegetation around your home will help keep you, your family, and the community safe. This your responsibility, and failure to remove a fire hazard on your property may result in Council issuing a fire hazard removal notice and fine.

Check out [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) for more information and resources to help you get fire ready.

## STAY AWARE OF THE FIRE DANGER RATING AND KNOW WHAT TO DO

Fire Danger Ratings tell you how dangerous a fire could be if one started. The higher the rating, the more dangerous the conditions. Fire Danger Ratings feature in weather forecasts during the fire season.

**Catastrophic:** For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas.

**Extreme:** Take action now to protect your life and property.

**High:** Be ready to act.

**Moderate:** Plan and prepare.

items need to be packed loose and not in plastic bags, plastic bags can cause process machines to jam and malfunction.

### What can go in my kerbside glass recycling bin?

Glass bottles and jars (rinse and remove lids; lids go in the yellow-topped Recycling Bin).

## CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME COMING

Victoria's container deposit scheme will begin in November this year.

The scheme will reward Victorians with a 10-cent refund for every eligible can, carton and bottle they return.

Installation of the container deposit collection stations are beginning to happen, however, they won't be able to accept recycling until November.

You can find out more at [www.vic.gov.au/container-deposit-scheme](http://www.vic.gov.au/container-deposit-scheme).

## COUNCILS JOIN FORCES

Pyrenees Shire Council has joined forces with six rural and regional councils to tackle common issues such as enhancing public and private transport, enabling growth, and improving digital connectivity.

The Greater Ballarat Alliance of Councils (GBAC) was launched earlier this month by Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Catherine King.

GBAC's objectives include expanded and improved bus and train services, upgraded roads, attracting new social and affordable housing, planning law reform, and ensuring that mobile broadband coverage is on par with metropolitan areas and resilient enough to sustain communications during bushfires and floods.

"Pyrenees Shire Council is excited to be part of the Greater Ballarat Alliance of Councils," said Pyrenees Shire Council Mayor Cr Ron Eason. "Working together on important regional issues will ensure strong representation and deliver better results for our community."



Catherine King MP is joined by Central Goldfields Shire Council CEO Lucy Roffey, Hepburn Shire Council Mayor Cr Brian Hood, City of Ballarat Mayor Cr Des Hudson (Chair), Golden Plains Shire Council Cr Brett Cunningham, Pyrenees Shire Council Mayor Cr Ron Eason and Moorabool Shire Council Mayor Cr Rod Ward.

## PLANS HATCHED FOR NEW PARK

A call for ideas to help shape the future of a new park along the Garibaldi Creek in Beaufort has seen a huge response from the community.

The Beaufort Linear Park project aims to create a recreational corridor along the course of the creek from Beaufort Lake at the southernmost point to Yam Holes Creek north of the railway line.

The park is designed to enhance water quality and biodiversity, improve community wellbeing, and give visitors to Beaufort a new way to enjoy our town.

A number of engagement activities throughout September, including a walking tour of the area, a tree planting session and an online survey, attracted a wide range of responses from community members keen to help co-design the park.

These ideas, together with feedback from Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, community groups and other key stakeholders, will be put together in a draft plan due to be presented in October.



## EVENTS

- **Avoca Riverside Market** | Sep 24, 9am – 1pm | Avoca Riverside
- **Free Seniors Digital Literacy Program** | Sep 26, 11am | Avoca Community Resource Centre
- **Pyrenees Magic Tri Distance Bike Ride** | Sep 29 | Summerfield Winery
- **Pyrenees Unearthed at Daylesford** | Sep 30 | Daylesford Town Hall
- **Resilient Redbank Community Safety Day** | Oct 1, 10:30am – 1:30pm | Redbank Community Hall
- **Beaufort Walkfest** | Oct 7–8 | Goldfields Recreation Reserve
- **Blue Pyrenees Estate Avoca Cup** | Oct 21 | Avoca Turf Club
- **Avoca Riverside Market** | Oct 22, 9am – 1pm | Avoca Riverside
- **Pyrenees Connection** | Oct 28 | Lexton Community Hub
- **Lake Goldsmith Steam Rally** | Nov 4 | Lake Goldsmith
- **Beaufort Agricultural Show** | Nov 19, 9:30am – 4:30pm | Goldfields Recreation Reserve

For a full list of events in the Pyrenees region see [visitpyrenees.com.au/whats-on](https://www.visitpyrenees.com.au/whats-on).

*Pyrenees Shire Council acknowledges 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.*