



Vision for Beaufort's new recreational corridor revealed

New pedestrian and cycling paths, an upgraded playground, off-lead dog park, picturesque board-walk, intriguing artworks, and plenty of open green space to picnic and play. These are just some of the features planned for a new recreational corridor proposed for Beaufort.

The draft Master Plan for the Beaufort Linear Park was revealed last month at a presentation to the community at the Beeripmo Centre in Beaufort.

The Master Plan is based on information gathered through a series of community engagement activities. Schools, service clubs, community groups, traditional custodians, retailers, and many Beaufort residents contributed ideas to the draft plan through surveys, workshops, pop-up events, site walks and face-to-face meetings.

The park stretches from the Beaufort Lake to the intersection with Yam Holes Creek north of the railway line. As well as creating new opportunities to relax, exercise and gather together, the project is designed to boost the visitor economy and our local ecology, improving water quality and biodiversity by reinvigorating

Garibaldi Creek and revegetating the wetland areas around it, all using an environmentally sustainable "light touch" approach.

"The Beaufort Linear Park project is a terrific opportunity to turn an underused parcel of land into a real treasure for locals and visitors alike," said Pyrenees Shire Council Mayor Cr Robert Vance. "We have worked hard to make sure the needs and wishes of our community are included in the plan and a big thanks to all those who have provided their ideas and feedback."

The hope is to develop the park in stages over the next 10 years, with the estimated \$3 million needed to be sourced from grants and partnerships as they become available. Now that the draft Master Plan has been finalized, Council will continue to work with traditional owner groups and other key stakeholders to make this vision a reality.

For a closer look at the plan visit Council's website at pyrenees.vic.gov.au/BeaufortLinearMasterplan.



CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLOR

De Cameron Ward – Cr Robert Vance (Mayor)

P 0447 384 500

E decameron@pyrenees.vic.gov.au

Avoca Ward – Cr Ron Eason

P 0417 508 471

E avoca@pyrenees.vic.gov.au

Beaufort Ward – Cr Damian Ferrari

P 0437 662 295

E beaufort@pyrenees.vic.gov.au

Mount Emu Ward – Cr Tanya Kehoe

P 0439 571 480

E mountemu@pyrenees.vic.gov.au

Ercildoune Ward – Cr David Clark

P 0417 374 704

E ercildoune@pyrenees.vic.gov.au

Cr Robert Vance elected Mayor for 2024

At the statutory meeting in October, De Cameron Ward Councillor Robert Vance was elected Mayor for the next 12 months.

This is Cr Vance's fourth term as Mayor after his terms in 2008-09, 2013-14, and 2018-19. The new mayor said he was looking forward to continuing to strengthen Pyrenees communities over the next 12 months.

"Many of our communities are still recovering from the floods we had last year, and it's important we support that recovery and build resilient communities for the future," Cr Vance said. "I'm looking forward to continuing to give back to my community both as a councillor and as Mayor for the next 12 months."



Newly elected Pyrenees Shire Mayor Cr Robert Vance with wife Jan and children Tracey and Darren.

Councillors recognized for years of service

At this year's Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Councillor Service Awards, three of Pyrenees Shire's councillors have been recognized for their ongoing service to the community.

The Councillor Services Awards celebrate the achievements, commitment, and dedication of long-serving councillors across the state.

Cr Ron Eason was recognized with the Mayor Emeritus award for serving three or more terms as Mayor.

Crs Tanya Kehoe and Ron Eason were recognized for serving 10 years as a councillor.

Cr David Clark was recognized for serving 25 years as a councillor.

Christmas office hours

Council offices will close at 5pm Friday 22 December 2023 and re-open at 9am Tuesday, 2 January 2024.

Load up: Heavy vehicle access improved on Pyrenees roads

One of the key talking points at Council's recent Your Roads Community Forums was freight and heavy vehicle access to our road network.

Pyrenees Shire Council manages over 2000 km of roads. There are around 150 bridges dotted throughout our road network, with around 100 of these being more than 50 years old. The cost of monitoring, maintaining and renewing this network is around \$7.5 million a year.

Making sure heavy vehicles have access to as many of these roads as possible is important for industries and businesses within the Pyrenees Shire. From moving stock and grains to transporting goods, this network is the lifeblood of our local economy.

Six bridges have been replaced over the last three years to boost access to our roads for large vehicles such as B-doubles, but these big-ticket projects are just part of the story.

Council has recently taken additional steps to improve heavy vehicle access and protect the condition of our road network.

At its September meeting, Council decided to pre-approve heavy vehicle access on 166 kms of Council-managed roads. This decision, which is based on detailed investigations into the conditions of bridges and roads over the past three years, opens up more of the road network and removes the need for operators to apply for heavy vehicle permits.

Council has also moved to protect older bridges by installing around 30 new bridge load limit signs throughout the Shire. Installing these signs will make drivers aware of which routes are suitable and help increase the lifespan of the bridges.

Avoca's heritage recognized

Avoca's rich cultural heritage has been celebrated in a visit from the Victorian Heritage Council.

Heritage Council members had the opportunity to view the Avoca Chinese Garden and railway precinct firsthand and discuss their value with members of the community, local organizations and representatives from Pyrenees Shire Council.



Victorian Heritage Council Chair Professor Philip Goad with members of the Avoca Chinese Garden Committee, Elizabeth Teal and John Quinn.

Flood recovery builds community resilience

Council's Flood Recovery team continues to work with communities on recovery, building resilience and planning. Significant progress has been made on repair to infrastructure such as roads, floodways, bridges and culverts, with \$2million of the \$8 million worth of work identified now complete.

The Avoca Men's Shed is back up and running and repairs to the Avoca Recreation Reserve complex are complete, while work on the Beaufort Scout/Guide Hall is almost finished.

Beyond repairing bricks and mortar, Council-sponsored events designed to connect and bring a bit of fun to our communities have also attracted big crowds. An R U OK? workshop was held recently in Beaufort and last month's comedy night in Natte Yallock was a hit, as was the appearance of country rock band Boots n All at Waubra.

These events will continue into 2024. Stay tuned to Council publications or sign up for our flood recovery newsletter at pyrenees.vic.gov.au/flood-update for details.



Community members chat with emergency services personnel at the recent fire season preparedness event in Lexton.

Fire restrictions in force

The Fire Danger Period for Pyrenees Shire started on 20 November this year and will run until autumn next year.

This means that there are restrictions on what you can and can't do over summer. These restrictions mean you cannot light a fire in the open air unless you have a permit or follow certain conditions.

Find out what you can and can't do during the Fire Danger Period on the CFA's website: www.cfa.vic.gov.au/can.

Swimming pools open



Our public swimming pools at Avoca, Beaufort and Landsborough are now open for the summer months.

You can take advantage of the fantastic facilities at Avoca, Beaufort or Landsborough by taking a dip.

Communities come together to prepare for fire season

Our community has been hard at work during spring to prepare for the upcoming fire season.

Events designed to help our community get prepared were held in Redbank, Lexton, and Snake Valley during October and November.

Locals had the opportunity to connect with emergency services agencies, build confidence and resilience for the future, and increase knowledge and skills in preparing for and recovering from an emergency.

Council officers, along with staff from the CFA, Australian Red Cross, Disaster Legal Help Victoria answered many questions around topics such as evacuation orders, BAL ratings, fire and flood insurance, and other resident concerns coming into fire season.

Council also launched the Emergencies Happen toolkit at the Resilient Redbank event. The household toolkit has a range of resources tailored to the town's needs, including a Redbank Fire Ready guide for the fridge.

For more information about getting and staying fire ready, visit pyrenees.vic.gov.au/fireprevention.

Young leaders graduate

Eleven young people from around the Pyrenees Shire have graduated from the 2023 Leaders of the Pack program.

The program, funded by Council in an ongoing collaboration with the Western Bulldogs Football Club and Community Foundation, brings leadership training to young people in Year 9 through to Year 12.

This year's group of young people learned about leadership skills, project planning, and community engagement.

At a graduation event attended by Cr Tanya Kehoe at the Beaufort Bowls Club last month, the young people were able to share with their families what they learned during the program, their personal development, and what being a leader means to them.

"Congratulations to this year's graduates. We hope you had fun, built confidence, learned lots, and were challenged through the program," said Pyrenees Shire Council Mayor Cr Robert Vance. "We look forward to seeing you again in the future, as emerging leaders in our community."



Twilight delights in Avoca and Beaufort

Beaufort and Avoca are set to shine in the twilight this December.

Beaufort will transform into a sprawling wonderland as the sun sets on Friday December 15, welcoming musicians, performers, entertainers, kids' activities, and more.

Local retail and hospitality venues will stay open so visitors can enjoy what our town has to offer. The fun starts at 5pm.

In Avoca, the regular Riverside Market will become a special twilight event this month, complete with Singalong with the Community Christmas Carols for the whole family.

The Avoca Christmas Market is on at the Avoca river bank in Dundas Street on of Sunday 17 December, from 3pm until 9pm.



WHAT'S ON

- **Beaufort by Twilight | Dec 15**
5pm – 8pm | Beaufort
- **Carols in the Valley | Dec 16**
4pm – 8pm | Carngham Uniting Church
- **Avoca Riverside Christmas Twilight Market | Dec 17 3pm – 9pm |**
Avoca Riverside
- **Australia Day 2024 Event | Jan 26**
10am | Avoca Recreation Reserve

For a full list of events in the Pyrenees region see 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.