



## Cr Tanya Kehoe elected as mayor for 2019/2020

Mount Emu Ward Councillor Tanya Kehoe is Pyrenees Shire Council's new Mayor for the next 12 months.

Cr Kehoe was elected at the annual statutory meeting at the Lexton Community Centre in October, and she takes over from Cr Robert Vance.

Cr Kehoe joined Council in October 2012, served her first term as mayor in 2014/2015 before being re-elected in 2016.

The new mayor said she was looking forward to continuing to strengthen Pyrenees communities and completing key community projects over the next 12 months.

"Building the Lexton Hub, Snake Valley Linear Park and female friendly change rooms are among some of Council's important community projects in the next 12 months," Cr Kehoe said.

"Council will also be working through the Rural Transformation Project and discovering how we can grow our region with the OPAN project (Opportunities Pyrenees Ararat and Northern Grampians)," she said.

Mayor Kehoe's professional experience spans teaching, pastoral care and farming.

Along with husband Bernard, Mayor Kehoe runs a sheep property at Mount Emu and has six young children.

Mayor Kehoe thanked outgoing mayor Councillor Vance and his wife Jan for their commitment to Council over the past 12 months.

"I would like to thank the Councillors for putting their faith in me to lead them for the next year," Cr Kehoe said.

Statewide Council elections are scheduled for October 2020.



*Cr Tanya Kehoe (second from right) is the Pyrenees Shire's mayor for the next 12 months. Mayor Kehoe is pictured with her children (from left) Tom, husband Bernard with Sam, Jack, Annie, Max and Bridget.*

## Contact Your Councillor

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## Cr Clark recognised

Congratulations to Ercildoune Ward Councillor David Clark who has been recognised for 20 years of serving as a councillor for Pyrenees Shire.

First elected to Council in 1992, Cr Clark was re-elected in 2008, 2012 and 2016.

His inspiration to join Council was the chance to make a difference and to use his strategic skills to best effect.

Cr Clark has also served on the board of the Municipal Association of Victoria, including as deputy chair.

## Permits to burn

Council has decided to withdraw from the issuing of CFA Permits to Burn and leave it to the CFA to manage these into the future. Permits to burn are one of those classic "activity spikes" we experience which stretch a small organisation such as ourselves severely in the heat of permit time, namely April each year.

It is logical that the Authority geared up and with the expertise available to deal with these permits does so into the future. Council will continue to work with the Country Fire Authority District 16 to ensure a smooth transition to this service. District 16 is contactable via 5352 9600 and is located in Ararat.

## Reconciliation Action Plan to bring community closer together

The Reconciliation Action Plan is the latest example how Pyrenees Shire Council is supporting Traditional Owners locally.

The Plan formalizes Council's commitment to recognise Traditional Owners and their right to be involved in Council planning and decision making.

The land of the Wadawurrung, Dja Dja Wurrung, Djab Wurrung and Wodjobaluk forms the Pyrenees Shire.

The Plan outlines ways how Pyrenees Shire Council can build, strengthen and maintain relationships with Traditional Owner stakeholders.

Council's current partnerships include Langi Kal Kal Prison's Community Advisory Group, which has allowed Council to collaborate on multiple projects which promote reconciliation.

This included the Koori Arts Trail and the launch in July 2018 of a six-week NAIDOC Week Aboriginal Art Exhibition showcasing pieces of work by incarcerated Indigenous men.

It is hoped this will become an annual event.

The Torch Project is another key partnership of Council.

One of the key aims from The Torch is to reduce the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners by encouraging participants to explore identity and culture through art.

Council is also collaborating closely with the Central Highland Integrated Water Management Forum, which is facilitating Council's support and involvement in local Cultural Heritage projects, including a high priority project the region's Traditional Owners groups to map cultural waterway corridors, establishing a knowledge base which can be managed by the aforementioned groups.

Council aims that the implementation of the Reconciliation Plan will deepen existing partnerships and assist in developing new relationships.



Launching the Reconciliation Action Plan at Beaufort Lake from left are: Jim Brooks, Cr Ron Eason, Dja Dja Wurrung Chief Executive Officer Rodney Carter, Council CEO Jim Nolan, Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Tammy Gilson, Council Director Corporate and Community Services Kathy Bramwell, Cr Robert Vance, Manager Governance, Risk and Compliance April Ure and Topsy Milera.



## Walk to school

Pyrenees Shire Council has supported local primary schools in delivering the VicHealth initiative "Walk to School" during the month of October. This initiative focused on daily physical activity, healthy eating, road safety/awareness and developing social inclusion.

This year all 9 primary schools participated in the initiative, with over 440 students, 70 staff and families becoming involved. Students were engaged in a range of activities including; school and community walks, riding bikes/scooters, bike education, decorating shoes, healthy eating, road safety discussions and a range of general fitness activities. Students also participated in a 10,000 daily step challenge, with every student being supplied with a wrist pedometer to maximize participation.

Pyrenees Shire Council, Rebel Sport and Central Highlands Water provided a range of prizes and incentives including a new scooter, bike helmets and water bottles. Schools also received a range of classroom resources, fruit hampers, stickers and certificates.

Recent feedback from schools, students and families has been extremely positive. Benefits of the program have included; the general focus on getting students active, increased numbers riding and walking to school, enjoyment by students in using pedometers, using data for a range of mathematical learning, healthy eating education, tasting a range of fresh fruit and community involvement. Schools also expressed the importance of having a Walk to School Project Officer to coordinate the program and regularly visit schools.



*Landsborough Primary School pupil Siani and her wonderfully colourful shoes.*

## Grants awarded to community groups

The Casablanca Movie Club, Landsborough CWA and the Redbank Reserves Committee are among community groups to have received grants recently.

A new retractable screen has helped secure the future of Avoca's Casablanca Movie Club at the Avoca Town Hall.

Having to use a screen on loan for the last five years, the movie club successfully applied for grants from Council, Bendigo Bank, the Federal Government and a donation from the Avoca Men's Shed.

The new retractable screen will provide increased security to the club and ensure its longevity into the future.

The movie club has regularly screened movies in the Avoca Town Hall since 2013.

The Landsborough CWA has successfully applied for a \$3,000 grant for a new community defibrillator through the Ararat Windfarm Pty Ltd's contribution to the Sustainable Community Grants Program.

Meanwhile, the Redbank Reserves Committee received a grant to make improvements to facilities at the township's Anzac Park which include installing lighting in the public toilets and in the barbecue/gazebo area.

These changes will make the park more user friendly for the Redbank community.

## Important recycling changes

Pyrenees Shire Council is encouraging residents to continue their great recycling practices, particularly separating glass from other recyclables. Glass can easily shatter inside the bin and can get stuck in paper, cardboard and plastic causing contamination. If contamination occurs, materials cannot be recycled.

To make recycling more convenient for you, Council has placed stickers on your bin which shows what can and can't be recycled. By removing glass from your recyclables, you have increased the value of recycling and ensured your paper, cardboard and plastic can be processed in Australia.

Once glass is separated from your recycling, you are encouraged to drop your glass off for free at the glass recycling bins at our Transfer Stations and community drop off points located in Avoca, Beaufort, Landsborough and Snake Valley. Transfer Station Vouchers are not required to utilise this service.

For Transfer Station opening days and times, please visit [www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au/residents/waste/transfer-stations](http://www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au/residents/waste/transfer-stations)

Council is exploring additional sites where glass can be delivered.

There are many ways for our residents to be involved in reducing our waste to landfill. You can save your glass jars – they are great for pantry storage or preserves – opt for cans, aluminum is very recyclable, and you can also help out your neighbours by taking it in turns bringing your glass to Transfer Stations.

Inquiries can be made to Council's Customer Service Centre at 5 Lawrence Street, Beaufort by calling 1300 PYRENEES.

## Western Bulldogs student graduation

Four local secondary students Justyn Woolley, Tegan Wardlaw, Naomi Gerrard and Montana Brereton have graduated from this year's Western Bulldogs Community Foundation's Leadership Project.

The intensive six-month program offered unique opportunities for young people aged between 14 and 16 to build confidence, make new friends and develop skills that will enable them to become leaders in the community.

As part of the leadership program, the students had the opportunity to make meaningful contributions to the community by undertaking a Community Leadership Project.

This involved the students choosing a community issue they are passionate about and undertake planning and delivering basic initiatives designed to improve the problem.



From left Cr Robert Vance, Justyn Woolley, Tegan Wardlaw, Naomi Gerrard, Montana Brereton, CEO Jim Nolan, Youth Development Coordinator Salom Mohamed.

Other opportunities included practical team building challenges, careers expositions, mentoring from industry leaders, coaching courses, AFL and AFLW match visits, Western Bulldogs volunteer opportunities and Council workshops.

This year, the program spanned across 13 local government areas and involved more than 90 students.

## Council funding important community capital projects

Pyrenees Shire Council has awarded close to \$30,000 in community and capital grants to eleven groups.

The first round of the Community Grants and Capital Grants for the 2019-20 year attracted a wide variety of projects.

The Landsborough Bowls Club will use \$750 to continue Men's Night events in the community; the Amphitheatre Mechanics Institute will buy equipment to improve garden care and building maintenance and the Carranballac Cricket Club will put in a bore and water tank to water the oval.

Mayor Tanya Kehoe said it was great to see groups investing their time and energy in to upgrading community assets.

"The Carngham Recreation Reserve is seeking funding to renovate the oval surface and the Beaufort Cricket Club has received a helpful start towards the installation of new cricket nets and a shed," Cr Kehoe said.

"Council was pleased to award these grants and we encourage groups to apply for the next round which will open early next year," she said.

Community Grants are available of up to \$1,500 for programs and equipment and up to \$750 for community events. Community Capital Grants are available of up to \$5,000 for capital works or infrastructure improvements.

Community groups unsure of the application process are invited to get in touch with the Community Grants and Wellbeing Co-ordinator Carmel Pethick via 5349 1100.

## Events

- World Migrant Day Afternoon Tea  
Wednesday 18 December, 3.30–4.30pm,  
Beaufort Community Resource Centre
- Eel Skinners and Duck Pluckers BNS Ball,  
Saturday 14 December at Carranballac
- Avoca Market, Sunday 22 December
- Beaufort Market, Saturday 28 December
- Rainbow Serpent Festival, Friday 24  
January to Sunday 27 January at Lexton
- Beaufort Market, Saturday 25 January
- Australia Day Celebrations, Sunday 26  
January at Avoca
- Avoca Market, Sunday 26 January

We acknowledge the people past and present of the Wadawurrung, Dja Dja Wurrung, and Djab Wurrung tribes, whose land forms the Pyrenees Shire.