

Tubbut Neighbourhood House E-mail: tubbutnh@iinet.net.au

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Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

http://www.tubbutnh.com Like us on Facebook

Next deadline: 23 Jan 2024



<a href="https://www.freepik.com/free-photo/christmas-background-with-snowflakes-stars-

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CLASSIFIEDS

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Wallabia Wildlife Shelter

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Call Joe or Rena 03 51540196 24 hours

Tattler Contributions: We welcome your articles, news, reports on local groups, photos from local events, milestones, interesting stories, poems, biographies, births, deaths, historical items, and more. We also welcome any letters to the editors,

The Tubbut Tattler is produced by the Coordinators of the Tubbut Neighbourhood House which is funded by the Victorian Government. Material herein is the responsibility of the authors and does not represent the views of the DVICG or Tubbut Neighbourhood House unless stated. We welcome material from, and of interest to, people in the border areas of East Gippsland and NSW.

FOR HIRE

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Tubbut Neighbourhood House

EAST GIPPSLAND

Learn Locals

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Intermediate Computers ONLINE



Day	Date	Time	Topic
Tuesday	13 Feb	10am-12noon	Desktop environment, programs and settings
Tuesday	20 Feb	10am-12noon	Keeping safe and shopping online
Tuesday	27 Feb	10am-12noon	Searching the internet, downloading and research
Tuesday	5 Mar	10am-12noon	Managing files
Tuesday	12-Mar	10am-12noon	Connecting your phone and photos to the computer

You can join us online from your nearest East Gippsland Neighbourhood House as a support instructor will be onsite to help login via zoom to join the class or we can send you the link and you can join us from the comfort of your home.

Our experienced tutor Lachlan Knowles will guide you at your pace through each module. Please register you interest by using the QR code, or <u>register here</u> or call Buchan Neighbourhood House. **Phone:** 51 559 216



Cost for the full course is \$100 full fee or \$50 for concession card holders.

Leam Local programs are "other government program" for mutual obligation (PBAS) – speak to your Employment Service Provider about an activity code.



www.gippslandlearnlocal.community

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Snowy District Emergency Preparedness

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~40 + 'Summer crew' (Project Firefighters) employed between the four Snowy District Work Centre's: Bendoc, Cann River, Orbost and Mallacoota

Vehicles, Plant and Machinery – 25 G-Wagens (Ultra-Light Fire Tankers), 3 Unimog's (Fire Trucks),

4 X Dozers (D4 and D6), Graders, Tractors, Quick Fill appliances and more

Activation of Staff including Contractors with (bulldozers and harvesters) on standby rosters

6 Fire Towers across the District staffed with Fire Lookout Observers to detect fires

Airbase arrangements in place (Marlo and Mallacoota)
Air support readiness to detect and suppress fires (helicopters, fixed wing bombers

Slashing and mulching works of strategic breaks and track verges

Track network clearing and maintenance

Bridges and infrastructure checks

Vegetation reduction around communities and assets (Planned Burns and Non-Burn Fuel Treatments)

> Servicing of all plant and equipment completed Communication systems in place (radio towers, etc) Community Emergency Preparedness Events

Delegate Multi-Purpose Service, Craigie St, Delegate (02) 64598000

The Delegate MPS Assessment, Treatment and Care Centre (ATCC)

The Delegate MPS Assessment, Treatment and Care Centre (ATCC) has replaced the Emergency Department. The ATCC is now open. For Bookings please call Delegate MPS (02) 64598000 or 'walk-in'. Our nurse-led ATCC is a walk-in clinic open 24/7, offering:

Wound Care
Nursing assessments
Blood pressure readings
Blood sugar readings
Suture or clip removal
Injections with Doctors written order
Other procedures that do not require a Doctor

Pathology

Wednesday 09:30am-10:30am. No appointment necessary. Every week except public holidays

Woman's Health Clinic

4th Thursday of the month at Delegate MPS Phone 1800 999 880 (Health Direct) for an appointment

Other Community Health Services

- Dietician
- Diabetes Educator
- Immunisations
- Podiatry
- Child and Family Health Nurse
- Generalist Community Health Nurse Women's Health Nurse

To refer to any of the above please ring Community Health Central Intake Team on ph. 1800 999 880

Victorian Visits

Community Nurse Visits Victorian Clients every fortnight. For referral of info ring ORBOST Regional Health (03) 51546666 or Delegate Community Health Nurse on (02) 64598000

McKillops Road

Letter from community member sent to Director, Gippsland – Regional Transport Dept. Transport and Planning. Vic. re-Mckillops Road December 5/12/2023

To Beth Liley,
Director, Gippsland – Regional Transport
Dept. Transport and Planning. Vic.
Dear Ms. Liley,

I'd like to urgently add my voice to the ongoing very serious concerns already raised with you by the Tubbut Neighbourhood House Community -regarding the deteriorated state of the entire length of McKillops Road from the Bonang turn off to McKillops Bridge: 52 kms. In all. [Bonang- Dellicknora turn off 17kms – Tubbut,10kms -& on to McKillops Bridge, 25kms.] I am Philip Neven and have lived at Tubbut all my life, have raised my own family here who now own & operate a major Butchery in Bairnsdale. My father Alan J.Neven lives here to this day, next door, and at 90years of age still manages every aspect of his personal Tubbut Honey Business, moving his hives up & down the road and delivering to all the main towns in the wider region where the quality of his produce is renowned. 60 odd years on I am still farming – 3,000 acres, running sheep & beef cattle. I transport my own stock to market & on my return trip bring back goods & supplies, fuel & equipment for the family farm. Therefore I am frequently using the road, whose condition I am all too wel I aware of. My second property is 20 kms, further up McKillops rd. in the direction of West Bonang; so I know every run of severe corrugations, groups of potholes to attempt to avoid, and also badly crumbling & eaten away, eroded road edges above the Deddick River which intrude into the body of the road itself. They are becoming more & more numerous!

I drive a range of vehicles - from a 4wd ute between farms to a 24ft.Tray Truck (rigid) with Stock Crates for sheep/cattle transport all the way to the nearest Victorian markets in Bairnsdale (a good 4-5 hrs.one way) often involving night driving. My memory is over a long span: Since the old CRB depot at Bonang was closed down approx.30 yrs.ago & Vic Roads contracted out the road works, actual maintenance works lessened considerably, and the periods between them increased greatly. The long-term ,inevitable result of this is the overall deterioration & degeneration of the Road surface. In recent Years very limited Re-sheeting has taken place – so the surface is worn down to bedrock and clay. This was further exacerbated by the solid 18 month plus period (2019 -2021) when the road was relentlessly pounded by enormous pinecarting log trucks, both day & night.

Because it's now down to bedrock, there is no surface material left for the graders to actually grade or, with which to cut-out the tops of corrugations, for example, to fill in potholes properly. When Fulton Hogan took on the last contract with Vic Roads - we were promised 2 Road Gradings per year, but the time between these has been extended, at first to 9months (instead of 6) and at present; with the exception of a couple of partial, short stretches well over 12 months ago closer to Bonang - No Comprehensive Grading has been undertaken for a good 2 years. When any greater period between gradings is allowed to lapse beyond 6 months, a quality job cannot be done because both corrugations & potholes have become so exaggerated, that the job fails to hold and is rendered useless, reverting back to a degraded state within 1-2 months! Therefore, Frequent Grading is simply far more economical, and is the only real way to keep the road in a trafficable condition. I also believe that the standard of Quality-of-Expectation of Road Surface Quality in our local region – in regard to inspections conducted – is just too poor; and not compatible with basic Road Safety Requirements, nor ongoing Viability of Access. Furthermore, Not every one by a long shot on these roads is in a 4wheel drive; most are in 2wheel drives, and the depth of potholes along with extreme corrugations and critical state of many eroded verges, puts all road users at risk. I understand VicRoads and the Dept. of Transport & Planning Vic. do have a bottom line Duty of Care.

I also need to note that I myself requested that potholing & grading be undertaken with urgency – on Sept 4th '23 (RRV-Case N 0.502925468). More recently I rang again, as I know others have also done, to try to determine what is happening on this front. A very few potholes in 2 very limited patches have recently been filled, whilst ignoring others just as serious & sizeable if not more so, immediately alongside; nor any of those in plenty just further along. This makes no practical or logical sense – and is nowhere near sufficient to prepare for Grading. If – Sections of decent length

could be Re-Sheeted each time a Grading takes place, then, over time –the Road Surface Standard would improve. Your assurance was for the end of October, and it's now the end of November.

When in the truck, transporting stock, I have to point out that being both a wider & longer vehicle and taking up more of what is an already narrow road (where certain bends only allow for one vehicle at one time to pass safely) whole sections which should be readily passable - are not because of the dangerous state of the road surface and acute, unmanageable risks posed by sudden braking. I therefore Request that you take into consideration the fact that McKillops Road is very much a part of my daily Workplace –as it is likewise for other local residents – and not currently in a safe or acceptable state to be travelling.

One last point I'd like to draw to your attention relates to the negative and damaging consequences of the spraying of herbicides on the roadside edges, particularly along sealed stretches. It results in a loss of vegetation (often native grasses) holding road verge material firm & preventing erosion; whilst encouraging more shrubby growth over time tending to obscure visibility. It would be vastly preferable to employ roadside hydraulic-arm mowing, which has not occurred on McKillops Road, unexplainably, at all in recent years.

I'd like to extend an invitation to you personally, from both my family & the Neighbourhood House - to visit our unique area (with a co-driver) and to view for yourself - its Natural Beauties, directly alongside its Presently Acute Difficulties. Yours sincerely,

in the hope of very real improvements,

Philip Neven.

The Local Rag

LITTLE GIRL LOST!

From Nov 1981

from Clarice Ingram.

One very frosty might in Delegate in 1931 there was a knock on the door <u>after dark</u>. On opening the door, two or three boys were there, to say the little Bryant girl was lost, and would my father go to the Police Station by seven O'clock, as a search was being organised to try and find her.

This was during the depression years, not many people in Delegate had private cars, there were three garages in Delegate then, not Delcotts, Mr Mick Sanday had a garage where Mr Ted Crawfords fruit shop is, in the back of this garage Mr Bob Talbot had a blacksmiths shop. This building was destroyed by fire about 1936, it wasn't used as a business garage then, it was used by the late Messrs J. Ryan & Sons, as a private garage, and their motor vehicles were burnt.

Mr & Mrs Ernie Bryant, parents of the lost child lived at Church Creek, in the late Mr G.A. Reeds house, this house is still standing, but hasn't been lived in for years, and is on the opposite side of the road to the cemetary. Other members of the Bryant family were Billy, George, Geoff, May, Annie, Stan, Tom, and Joyce, who was about four years—the one who was lost and the youngest, another baby was born dead about two months after Joyce disappeared.

The search continued in the Camerons Creek area for about three weeks, but was called off when the child wasn't found.

A swagman had passed through Delegate towards Bombala that day, so Constable Green was taken by Mr R. McKay of "Riverview" (no police cars in country areas those days, only horses), Constable Green interviewed this man at Bibbenluke, but he hadn't seen the child, so couldn't help with information.

A black tracker, Mr Billy Rutherford (who was born in the Delegate area), rode from Dalgety crossing the <u>Quidong</u> River below where Mr Herb Bruce used to live, coming up through Mr Bruce's property. (Mr Adam Oliver was getting wood in the Cameron's Creek area that morning and was talking to Mr Rutherford as he came along,) a half castereferred to as Brindle was also brought to assist with the search. A piece of clothing was found on the tie wire of the fence near the rubbish tip.

Over twelve months later, the late Mr Tom Oliver (Adam & Joe's father) found part of the child's clothing on his property at Cameron Hill. More clothing and bones were found that had been washed down the creek. It is thought the child walked along the old road a distance of about three miles.

Mr Bryant worked at Balgownie all his life, for Messrs Walcott Brothers, and was killed when he fell out of a tree while cutting willow for stock feed during the drought in 1942. My mother always said what a very good rider Mr Bryant was.

The Local Rag—continued

- INTERVIEW WITH MRS NORA MCCOLL (NEE CAMPELL)
- Q. When were you born?
- 7th November 1885 in Delegate. The hospital wasn't built then. I think I was born in Mrs Watling's house. (the midwife)
- Q. How many children were in your family?
 A. 6. 3 boys and 3 girls. I am the only one still alive. I was the second child after Mary.
- Q. What do you remember about your early life?
- A. My mother died when I was very young. I don't remember her much. We lived in the house next to the Presbyterian Church. My father looked after us then. He was Patrick Campell and grew up in the house where Kelly's are. He was a terrific man. He worked at Wright's, and after work he'd bake the bread and do the washing until we were old enough to do it. He was very particular. I remember we had to sorub the pine boards until they were white. He also sewed us dresses and bonnets. The Wright's were marvellous to us. We used to be allowed to poddy any of the sick lambs, but we used to poddy some of the healthy ones as well.
- Q. Did your father work at Wright's all the time?
- A. No. He was a cabinet maker by trade, but he used to do whatever he could get. If he took jobs away from home, we'd go with him in the jinker with a tent and camp with him. I remember one time he came back to the camp with a stump on his shoulder just as it was getting dark, and we thought it was a devil with horns coming for us and ran screaming into t he bush. Dad had to drop the stump and chase us.
- Q. Where did you go to school?
- A. We used to work into Delegate. It was 5 miles, so we couldn't go if the weather was bad. After that Dad sent us in to the convent in Bombala, but we missed him and cried so he brought us back.
- Q. Do you remember any of your school friends?
- A. Katie Mustard's the only one I can remember.
- Q. Was the teacher hard on you? A. Pretty hard, he used to cane a lot. He used to take it out a lot on the Wright boy who used to play around a bit. One day when he put him over his knee to cane him, the Wright boy bit his bottom. The teacher had a sweetheart in the town and used to leave the school at lunchtime and we'd have pillow fights and run around. One day he caught us and was going to punish us, but we said we'd tell on him for leaving the school if he did. We called him 'Sweetheart' after that. I used to be always falling over things, and didn't know until after I left school that I needed glasses.
- Q. What did you do after you left school?
 A. I started work when I was ll at Mudie's pub in Delegate. It was hard work. I had to do the washing and the bedrooms or whatever else needed doing. They used to have a lot of commercial travellers, and once one of them left his wallet with £100 in it under the pillow and I found it. He rang from Sydney and asked Mrs Mudie to send it up, and she told him to come back and get it. She told me he might give me a reward for handing it in, but he didn't.
 - Then I worked for Mrs Cyril O'Hare doing housework. She had children around my age. She used to spend most of her time in the lounge room and I did the housework. When she went to town the other children and I would get on the tricycles and ride them around the house having a great time. Once we got caught, and I shoved all the dirty dishes into a cupboard and after she'd gone upstairs I had to sneak them out and wash them
- Q. What other work did you do? My sister and I worked as shearers cooks when I was 15 at Delegate Station. There were 18 of them. They were all alright except for one who was really nasty, so we said we were soins to leave because of him. The people we were working for said he wasn't much of a shearer so we could do what we liked about him

Tubbut Tattler Dec 2023

The Local Rag -continued

if we'd stay. So I put a can of water over the door and it fell on him. He got angry and left and it was alright after that.

that.
Q. What did you do then?
A. I went to Orbost and worked in the Club Hotel for a while when I was sixteen, then I went home for a while, and then back to Orbost. I met my husband in the hotel. He was working the was a very placid man. I married him when I was there too. He was a very placid man. I married him when I was 19. He died in 1941. A photographer in Orbost took my photo on the verandah at the back of the hotel the year before I was married. He said he liked my hair. I told him he'd break his camera, but he didn't.

Q. How many children did you have? A. Four - 3 girls and 1 boy. The boy died with a teething infection during world war 1. The girls are Melva (Mrs Lynn), Edna (Mrs T. Robinson) - both of Orbost, and Eila (Mrs Cathull), Melb.

Q. What else can you remember about Delegate in those early days?

A. It was a real one horse town. There were 2 hotels, a bank,
2 stores, and the blacksmith's where Charlie Roberts worked.
Once when I was a child, while I was riding a bike with a friend, she lost control of her bike and skidded right into the blacksmith's and crashed against the back wall while a horse Sometimes when we were waiting for Dad to get home from work, was being shod. the roadworkers camped on the side of the road would sit us up on the bed in their tents and give us biscuits. You couldn't

do that now. There used to be aborigines at Tombong at Wright's, and there used to be indians around too. Once they were camped near us and our ball went into their camp while they were cooking damper at their fire. Although they seemed kind, we were frightened until Dad came home. There were a lot of gypsies around then too.



9.

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Q. What interests do you have now?
A. I took up golf in 1970. Didn't think I'd be able to play, but I ended up winning! I played for four years until I broke my arm. Now I play cards once a week with friends, do the garden, play patience and watch television if there's something good on. I still dance. I used to dance a lot and liked acting the goat a bit. When I was about 8 or 9 I went to a fancy dress ball as an old woman, and crept in and huddled in a corner. I won and they didn't know who it was. The prize was a bag of lollies, so I got up quick and lively then to get them.

Q. When were you last in Delegate?

A. At the 'Back to Delegate' in 1971. The accomodation was organised through the Church of England minister. There weren't any beds available in Delegate, so we stayed at Bendoc. I hardly knew anyone there.

Many thanks Coll, for the oneery welcome and the afternoon tea. Thanks also to Ruth Legge for arranging the Marg. interview.

The Local Rag -continued

BONANG CHRISTMAS PART

I must say that the Christmas Children's party held at Bonang last Wednesday, December 16th, was a great success both for the children and parents and friends as well. Most people had gathered and were socializing with great fervour by the time Santa had arrived "classically" on his red Santa motorbike. His sudden arrival aroused great cheers from the orowd. As soon as Santa dismounted he was immediately smothered by the kids The evening had officially begun....

Everyone assembled in the hall whereupon Santa distributed the "pressies" amongst the kids helped along by Helen Neven and Christine Haley, By the time the last child received the last present, the rest were already covering the floor and grounds outside showing great enthusiasm for their new and exciting gifts. Unfortunately Santa's stay was short-lived but everyone was thankful to him, understanding that at this time he is so busy making everyone else happy - Great work Santa!

The remainder of the evening hosted tremendously by Glen Lemin. offered a most entertaining display of songs, sketches and dancing from the Goongerah and Tubbut schools. Additional effervescence was added to the evening by an enjoyable musical performance by the Tubbut Bush Band. A short sketch by Debbie McIlroy and George McClinton also added a little humour to an already complete evening. To end it all it must be said that the acundance and variety of good food made available on the evening topped everything off beautifully. Many thanks to the silent names who all prepared and cleaned up for the evening. Again a great thank-you to the Goongerah and Tubbut schools. In short, a real good night.

George McClinton.

Thanks to Fran MeIlroy for the parachute games which she put on for the children before the concert began.

GREAT MULLEIN OR VELVET DOCK (Cont)

Mullein flowers, although they are similar in constitution to the leaves, are used in altogether different ways. The most common use of mullein flowers has been in an oistment made by filling a flat glass flask (you can get one at a chemist or use an emptied liquor container) with fresh mullein flowers, then covering them with olive oil, and exposing the flask to full sunlight for 21 days. The oil was then strained and stored in a smaller bottle that could be tightly stopped. I tried this process and found that the mullein flowers imparted a deep-yellow color to the olive oil. This mullein oil has found many uses in peasant households in Europe being used as a local application for frostbite, bruises, and external hemorrhoids, but it was chiefly famous for its reputed ability to cure earache, a few drops being poured into the affected ear two or three times a day. A modern source says, Mullein oil is a valuable destroyer of disease germs. The fresh flowers, steeped for 21 days in clive cil, are said to make an admirable bactericide." Apparently the ancient herbalists also suspected this power of mullein even though they did not know of the germ origin of infections. They used mullein oil, or applied poultices of mullein leaves to surface infections, and one old herbalist mentions that "Figs do not putrify at all that are wrapped in the leaves of mullein." Since mullein is neither poisonous nor caustic, one suspects that it has no general bactericidal or antiseptic action, and that these accounts indicate the presence of an unsuspected, selective, antibiotic action that might prove extremely useful to medical science if it could be isolated and extracted.

When boiling water is poured over fresh mullein flowers it extracts a bright-yellow color that has been used to dye cloth. If dilute sulfuric acid is added to this yellow dye, it will color the cloth a permanent green. By further adding some alkali to the green dye, one obtains a brown color. Thus one can dye cloth three colors using these same flowers.

From Jan 1982



the programme isn't

lazy

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as

good as we change it.

watch we'd

Pamela Bowlin

like it television. ť 9

Parks Victoria - Track Clearing Event

By Prue Hasler (RRCV, Pajero 4WD Club, LROCV)

After the past few years when Covid and stormy weather made planning for the long running Parks Victoria track clearing difficult, this year all plans were successful. With participants from 3 4WD clubs and members of Friends of Errinundra joining in this year, many large trees to clear and the local community inviting us for a Saturday night dinner, ecology talk and film night plus a Sunday morning presentation by the Bendoc Team Leader Ranger on his 6 week deployment to Canada to fight fires – the weekend was a great success. A number of people enjoyed a Friday night dinner at the Bendoc Hotel, camping at Wilsons Hut was enjoyed by all and the weather was fine. This event has certainly come along since the first request to assist was made by Parks Victoria to John and I around 18 years ago.

By Andrew Mortlock (Pajero 4WD Club)

We converged on Far East Gippsland for the annual Track Clearing weekend. And what a weekend it was, up there with the best I have experienced in 12 years of being involved with this activity.

A weekend of teamwork, innovation, camaraderie and hard work and coming together with like-minded folks from multiple 4Wd clubs to achieve a common objective.

A small group of us went to East Gippsland a couple of days early to answer the call and help the Parks Rangers with a couple of specific tasks. We split into 2 smaller groups and my group had the job of escorting 2 engineers and 2 Parks Rangers to a culvert half way across the iconic Deddick Trail so they could assess it for future works. Easy, right? Yeah, nup. The Deddick Trail had been seasonally closed for 5 months and the elements had taken their toll, including multiple fallen trees of various sizes along the length of the trail. The chainsaws roared and the sweat poured. The engineers would not have gotten anywhere near the culvert without our help and it was extremely satisfying to have achieved the objective and to have also cleared the track in readiness for the season opening.

The second group went with another 2 Parks Rangers to perform assessment work on the Bowen Trail and its suitability to be opened after recent works on the track.

We all camped together that night and shared our stories.

The second day was ours to enjoy together and it was decided to drive and clear the Mt Tingaringy trail in the Alpine National Park. Another great day, highlighted by the views from the summit of Mt Tingaringy across to Mt Kosciusko and the Main Range, still covered in snow.

The weekend saw the arrival of the rest of the team, consisting of members from the Pajero, Land Rover Owners and Range Rover clubs plus 3 members of Friends of Errinundra

We met at the Parks office in Bendoc for a morning briefing from the Rangers and divided into 3 groups, tasked with clearing 3 specific sections of Errinundra National Park. Wow, there is some big big timber in Errinundra! My group was led by Parks Victoria Team Leader Ranger Gary Bellesini and we worked as a team to remove some extremely large fallen trees from the tracks in the northern part of the park, using a combination of chain sawing and innovative winching (has anyone heard of the Spanish Burton winching technique?). A great day and the Rangers were very appreciative of our help.

We all converged on Bendoc that night for the traditional BBQ put on by the local community as a way of thanking us for our efforts. We also enjoyed a very interesting and informative presentation by Rena, a local Ecologist and Errinundra authority. Fun fact...areas of the Errinundra have not been burnt by wildfire for 8,000 years due to its natural retention of water.

All in all it was a weekend that will remain in my memory and further enhances the special relationship we have built with the Rangers and local community of Far East Gippsland.

By Ellen-Jane Browne (LROCV & RRCV)

Friday a few weeks ago saw me head east towards Bendoc and an overnight camp at Wilson Hut. The road east, though long, is one of those glorious trips that takes you through the heart of Gippsland with the magic of the Great Divide always sitting to your left. It also allows you to experience Gippsland to the fullest, with the plains of Central Gippsland shifting constantly from open farm land to magnificent and ancient forests, and as you move further east the country changes to mountains and old and new forests. As a Gippslander, the drive is one of renewal and a constant reminder of the fragility of our ancient land.

But the real adventure begins in Orbost, the last bit of civilisation before you head into the remote lands of the Errinundra Plateau and the Great Divide. It is 82km from Orbost to Bendoc, a fantastic drive... on a bike or in a sports car... but in a Defender it could be considered a challenge, despite being sealed most of the way. However driving slowly has its advantages and one does get to see first hand the largest temperate rainforest on mainland Australia. If you have never driven this road I would strongly recommend the drive, and with a few magical campsites along the way it is something to enjoy. This time round the impact of the bush fires of 2020 was clearly evident, with many, many dead trees providing a constant reminder of how harsh the fires had been.

I reached Bendoc and a few kilometres later Wilson Hut. An old worker's hut, restored sometime ago, but on a beautiful wooded plain where the silence was deafening. A great campsite, about as far from our capital city as one can go in East Gippsland. But a great place to catch up with RRCV, LROCV and Pajero friends and members. A cosy fire and incredible stars made for a lovely night.

Saturday morning saw us gather at the Parks Victoria Office in Bendoc for a full briefing and assignment of our teams. Three teams... our brief to assist in the clearing of trees from tracks due to be opened over Cup Weekend. Having done this in the past, I had imagined a few medium sized logs and lots of debris. I was right on the later, but medium the logs they were not. We faced three significant sets of trees over the course of the day, the scale of which was... surely we need a bulldozer! But no, the incredible skill of Parks Victoria and the Pajero lads saw me watch in awe as these ancient monoliths were sawn and removed through hard work and the magic of pulleys! A sight to behold and one of which we could all be proud. There was plenty of work for those of us on the side... thus is you have ever considered could I help, the answer is, without a doubt?

Along the way we were surrounded by the beauty of the Errinundra. It is about a far east as one can go in Victoria, hence it is rarely visited. But it is worthy of a visit, because no matter how many times I visit I still enjoy everything it has to offer. The giant trees, ferns and deep gullies, with occasional vistas going for miles make for a wonderful journey. This time round the East Gippsland Waratah we're in flower... with a sea of red flowers adding to the joy. Again, if you have not been to this part of the world I would encourage you to do

It was a great day, followed a fantastic evening barbecue, a really interesting discussion on the biodiversity of the land upon which had travelled, and a film, put on by the Bendoc community.

Parks Victoria Track Clearing Event

Again an experience to be remembered. Though, the day had worn me out... so I probably only saw the beginning and end of the film. And... I think I may have woken up for the free ice cream at interval.

Another wonderful night at Wilson Hut and Sunday morning saw us gather to hear a little about fire fighting as an Australian volunteer in Canada. A great discussion and somewhat different to our own experience. But worthy of the listen. We then all departed for home. For me I decided to head over the border into NSW and take a short cut across the Monaro Plains to the Monaro Highway... about twenty minutes long... but an easier drive and just magic. Along the way I dropped into Cape Conran and Salmon rocks, but they are a story for another day. Brilliant sunshine prevailed for the weekend, not so in South Gippsland, where upon arrival the clouds continued to keep my bottom paddocks under water.

By David Jenkinson (LROCV)

The middle of October is time to think about track clearing after the winter rain and wind. It was the first time, for many years that I had been on one of Prue and John's regular trips to Far East Gippsland. They are joint affairs between LROCV, the Range Rover Club and the Pajero clubs. This one was based on the DEECA base at Bendoc, almost on the NSW border, and the tracks were mostly in the Errinundra National Park. It is a fair drive from Melbourne through Orbost and up the valley through Goongerah to Bendoc. The weather was fine all weekend and there was a lot of wildlife on the way above Goongerah, especially wallabies and a couple of goannas. Camp was at Wilson's Hut, which is a great little spot with great facilities.

We all gathered at Bendoc Parks Victoria offices for a 9:00 o'clock start, met by 4 rangers, three of whom seemed to be leaving, one for a job in NT and two not having their contracts renewed. After signing in and going through the safety briefing we divided into three groups dependent on whether we wanted to do a strenuous walk up Mount Ellery, a long trip up towards Ada Divide Track and Goolengook or a technical trip dealing with three very large trees in the National Park. I chose the large trees, along with the winching experts from the Pajero club. We headed off toward Errinundra, clearing a few small trees till we reached the first of the three trees, which had managed to lay its 30 m length along the track with almost enough room for a vehicle alongside. The few branches were quickly cleared and it was time for the Pajero winching team to get to work, with the plan of moving the trunk sideways to the edge of the track. The winching vehicle was moved alongside the trunk so that the cable could be passed diagonally over the tree, through a pulley anchored with a trunk protector to a convenient tree at one end. This managed to roll the root ball over through half a revolution, which got it almost to the tracks edge. The other end was of the trunk was much closer to the edge, so the whole trunk was moved sideways by nearly two metres with a single winch pull. Time taken 30 minutes.

Next it was onto the really big one, at least 1.5 metres high, and straight across the track. So the plan was to cut a large chink out of the middle then turn it through 90 degrees and drag it off the track. The first part of the plan was quickly executed with a couple of substantial and sharp chain saws. The next part required a lot of teamwork and two vehicles using a Spanish Burton rig. Yes it is a thing and there are even YouTube videos on it. One vehicle acted as the anchor and the other winched through two pulleys. The guys from the Pajero club claimed a 4:1 mechanical advantage. I'm not so sure, my physics told me 3:1, but whatever is right, the trunk weighing several tons was dragged through 90 degrees off the track. It took two moves of the anchor vehicle to enable a reasonably straight pull off the tree as it changed position, but all done after one hour.

Next it was time for lunch at the Frosty Hollow camp and picnic spot, and onto the last tree. This was a tangle of large branches across the track, which just needed a lot of cuts with chainsaws and many hands to move the logs. It still took around 50 minutes. While the Parks Victoria Ranger managed the day, he stood back and let the Pajero Club manage the winching operations. I was extremely impressed by their level expertise, equipment, teamwork, planning and safety approach. It all made for a great day out in the bush.

So with all the main objectives it was back to Bendoc for dinner. Bendoc is a tiny little place of maybe 50 people, but has a great little community centre, even offering showers to travellers, in return for donation. The community has monthly film nights and other social functions. We were treated to a dinner, a talk from a local from Goongerah about the flora and fauna of the Errinundra and a film. The Errinundra is a fascinating place to visit. It is one of last places in Victoria where you can see old growth forest from pre-settlement times. Most of it is on a plateau so the tracks were relatively easy.



News from the Shire

Free Financial Counselling for East Gippsland Residents

Financial counsellors provide free, independent and non-judgemental support to people in financial difficulty.

A financial counsellor can help you understand...

Bills, loans, Fines, Debts, Government assistance, Consumer & financial rights, Housing payments

To find a financial counsellor local to you visit: fcvic.org.au/get-help or call the National Debt Helpline: 1800 007 007

Financial counsellors provide assistance, advocacy and information to people experiencing financial difficulty.

Council rolls out BINS4Blokes at six locations

East Gippsland Shire Council has installed seven disposal bins for incontinence products in six of our most-used male toilet blocks across the shire.

Council has taken this action as part of the BINS4Blokes national men's health campaign. BINS4Blokes aims to raise awareness of male incontinence, which affects 1.34 million boys and men across Australia.

Bins are now located in male and all-gendered toilets at:

Bairnsdale Main Street Gardens

Cann River Hall

Howitt Park Reserve North Side, East Bairnsdale

Lakes Entrance Esplanade Footbridge

Lakes Entrance Post Office Jetty

Newmerella Recreation Reserve

"With proper disposal facilities in operation, our objective is to empower individuals dealing with incontinence to sustain their lifestyle and pursue their interests in East Gippsland," Mayor Cr Tom Crook said.

"Council is committed to building strong and resilient communities by collaborating with various stakeholders, such as BINS4Blokes, to ensure positive health and wellbeing outcomes for East Gippslanders," Cr Crook added.

Users can locate the disposal bins via the National Public Toilet Map (www.toiletmap.gov.au), a web-based map and phone app showing the location of more than 21,000 public and private toilet facilities across Australia.

BINS4Blokes encourages boys and men experiencing incontinence or their carers, to engage with the National Continence Helpline by calling 1800 330 066.

For more information about BINS4Blokes visit their website, https://bins4blokes.org.au.

Timber commitments should be honoured

East Gippsland Shire Council is calling on the Victorian Government to honour its commitment to establish a native seedling nursery in East Gippsland.

The government's promise of a native seedling nursery was announced in 2020 as part of its plan to move to more plantation timber and away from native forest harvesting. The commitment to a state-owned nursery was made to support the industry and one of the directly impacted communities – Nowa Nowa – and provide 30 jobs for transitioning forestry workers.

Mayor Cr Tom Crook said that, disappointingly, the Nowa Nowa site was deemed unsuitable in 2022 by the state government, however, local communities and families held out some hope that the employment opportunities and need for the seedling nursery would be met through the announcement that it would be set up in Bairnsdale.

"Now, we're learning that this has also been axed," Cr Crook said.

"We remind the government that the creation of a native seedling nursery was a commitment it made to East Gippsland in response to its decision to bring native timber harvesting to a conclusion, and to then expedite that end date.

"It's disappointing the government is not delivering on the commitment it made to East Gippsland.

"We call on the government to recommit to the seedling nursery or, at the very least, explain why it is no longer proceeding and what support will be offered in its place. It's an important opportunity for our region and one we were counting on."

Cr Crook said Council was also asking for other government-led projects and support to be prioritised for East Gippsland.

"With over \$800 million sitting in the state government's native timber transition program, it's disheartening that existing commitments to our region are being broken. This behaviour leaves us unsure about future investments. Council is ready to guide investments across key projects to ensure a more certain and prosperous future for our shire. We look forward to working with the state government to make this happen," Cr Crook said.

"There have been commitments made to support impacted communities, such as an accommodation redevelopment at Cape Conran Coastal Park and the rebuilding of Thurra River Bridge in Croajingolong National Park, but they are taking too long. The lack of activity and certainty is having a significant impact on local businesses, families and communities, both now and in planning for the future."

News from the Shire

Volunteers recognised for bushfire-recovery work

The hard-working volunteers of East Gippsland's Community Recovery Committees (CRCs) were recognised at a get-together in Orbost on Friday, November 10, celebrating the vital role they and their predecessors have played and continue to play in the region's recovery following the bushfires of 2019-20.

East Gippsland Shire Council Mayor Cr Tom Crook spoke at the ceremony at Orbost Golf Club before joining Council CEO Anthony Basford to present awards to representatives from CRCs comprising Bruthen, Buchan and Districts, Cann Valley District, Clifton Creek, Errinundra to Snowy, Mallacoota and District, Orbost District, Omeo Region, Sarsfield and Wairewa community.

In the summer of 2019-20, East Gippsland fire destroyed over 1.1 million hectares, caused loss or damage to an estimated 410 residential properties and 27 commercial properties, and burnt 5,300 sq km of state forest and 483 sq km of nature reserve. There was a quick recognition that collective action would be needed to rebuild and East Gippsland officially began its recovery phase on April 2, 2020.

"The Community Recovery Committees played a vital role in the process of recovery after the devasting bushfires four years ago, ensuring that local voices, know-how and expertise have been central to recovery planning and delivery," Cr Crook said.

"It was an honour to recognise the efforts and achievements of these committee members; volunteers who have contributed thousands of hours over a nearly four-year period since 2020. They have worked tirelessly to support their communities through their recovery journey.

"For those impacted and within different communities, the experiences differ. Some communities have largely fulfilled their identified priorities, while others, despite considerable achievements, still face ongoing tasks. Regardless, it's vital to appreciate the dedication of volunteers and community leaders who have stepped up during challenging times," Cr Crook said.

Artist Melanie Murphy turned committee members' ideas into art, creating a digital graphic recording that captured the key thoughts of the day as illustrations and showed connections and relationships between the ideas each team had brought to the gathering.

Council slams state government planning rule change

East Gippsland Shire Council is critical of recent decisions of the Victorian Government to change the planning rules for major developments, including large housing proposals.

As part of its Housing Statement, released 23 September, the government has amended council planning schemes across Victoria to shift decision-making powers to the Minister for Planning for some major developments.

Major housing developments over \$15 million in value and including a component of affordable housing would be decided by the Minister under the changes and there would be no right of appeal by the public.

The changes also apply to other major developments over a specified dollar value, including recreation, agriculture, industry and mining.

East Gippsland Shire Council Mayor Cr Tom Crook said, "These changes take decisions away from local councils and communities, and place more power in the Minister's office.

"Councils were not consulted by the government and the changes were implemented without warning," Cr Crook said.

While developments of over \$15 million in value are rare in East Gippsland, Council has called for better consultation by the state government over changes that may take away local planning responsibilities.

"Council agrees with the Municipal Association of Victoria that local communities should not be locked out of the planning process with no third-party appeal rights in respect of these applications," Cr Crook said.

"We do not object to streamlining approvals processes, but there is no evidence to suggest that local government planning is contributing to the housing crisis, with 120,000 houses approved and awaiting construction in Victoria," Cr Crook said.

"Taking away council planning powers will not solve the housing crisis, but it will disenfranchise local communities," he said.

Other changes foreshadowed by the state government include a new planning code for second dwellings on residential lots. As yet, details of the changes have not been provided, but a statement by former Premier Daniel Andrews, which said that houses that occupy less than 60 square metres would not need a permit, has not been enacted through policy changes.

To avoid confusion, anyone wishing to build a second house on their property should seek advice from Council's Planning department.

News from the Shire

TEXTILE RECYCLING TRIAL

Did you know that over 7% of general waste disposed from households comprises of textiles? This equates to an average of 1.2 kg of clothing or other textile materials per week per household ending up in Landfill.

With over 21,000 kerbside collection bins across East Gippsland Shire, approximately 1,300 tons of textile waste go into landfill each year, with charities that sell used clothing disposing of further 300 tons.

To reduce the volume of textiles going to landfill, we are trialing a textile collection program at the Bairnsdale Landfill.

Depending on the take up of this service, we will explore the possible expansion of the program.

Residents can dispose of clean textile waste (that cannot be given to charity shops) at the Bairnsdale Landfill from 1 July 2023 for \$8.00 per bag (up to 80 litre) or \$12 per bin (quarter of a cubic metre).

The minimum charge is \$2, which covers a single item.

Textiles will then be baled by the Bairnsdale Recycling Enterprise Inc. and sent to Textile Recyclers Australia, where they sort and recycle the textiles through various streams.

CLOTH NAPPY REBATES

East Gippsland Shire Council is committed to supporting best waste practices in our communities and is happy to be introducing a rebate on reusable cloth nappies, reusable sanitary products and composting products.

Every year, more than 8600 tonnes of general waste is collected from households across East Gippsland Shire and disposed of in landfill.

Disposable nappies and sanitary products take up valuable space in landfill and are estimated to take up to 500 years to break down.

The good news is that there is an abundance of reusable alternatives on the market including modern cloth nappies, cloth sanitary pads and leakproof underwear. These reusable options can help individuals divert waste from landfill, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save money.

We are pleased to offer eligible East Gippsland Shire residents the chance to apply for a rebate of 50 per cent of the purchase price of eligible reusable sanitary products, cloth nappy products or composting products up to a maximum of \$40.

Please read the Terms and Conditions on the application form.

You can apply at eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/forms/product-rebate-application-form.

Christmas Sustainability Tips





Wrap presents with recycled paper or



Gift experiences, handmade goodies, or recycled treasures.



Recycle cardboard and paper gift wrapping.



Avoid food waste by planning meals and storing appropriately.



Don't throw out unwanted gifts; regift or donate.



Use LED lights to save energy.



Support your local businesses.



Opt for a live Christmas tree. East Gippsland Shire Council encourages everyone to aim for a wastefree festive season. Christmas often revolves around food and gifts, and with a little foresight, you can not only save money but also minimise the waste you produce. During this time of year, there is a substantial surge in household waste, with an uptick of almost 30 per cent in Victoria

Here are some tips to make this season more sustainable:

- Cut food waste: Shop with a list of planned out meals and compost any food waste.
- Give sustainable gifts: Experiences, handmade items or recycled gifts make for great presents.
- Get creative with your wrapping: Use recycled gift wrap, newspapers or make your own.
- Recycle the waste: Keep cardboard and paper gift wrapping out of the landfill.
- Shop locally and sustainably: Support small businesses and reduce carbon emissions as well as excess packaging from online orders.
- Use LED lights: Reduce energy usage with this great alternative.
- Buy a real tree: More eco-friendly option if disposed of properly or is a potted plant.
- Regift or donate: Don't put unwanted presents in the bin, pass them on to a friend or donate to your local op shop.

News from the Departments

On Wednesday 1st, you may have seen Telstra's Disaster Response campaign in-market which will include a range of new initiatives to support Australians ahead of what is predicted to be a challenging season. □

Initiatives include:

- Extra data automatically granted for postpaid mobile customers in a disaster affected area.
- The upgrade of 1000 payphones in disaster-prone areas, with free Wi-Fi, USB charging and backup power.
- Reaffirming our commitment to emergency roaming, and our intent to conduct a simulation within our own network as a first step to demonstrate it's possible.
- Launch of the Telstra Response Team a new way to identify our teams on the ground or at the end of our dedicated disaster assistance line.
- Trialling portable satellite technology that can help local communities connect when mobile and fixed connections are down in a disaster area.
- This is in addition to the temporary infrastructure, generators and disaster recovery experts we deploy to help keep our customers and the community connected to Australia's largest mobile network.

More information about these initiatives and how communities can prepare themselves for disasters can be found on Telstra Exchange

Minister for Prevention of Family Violence Vicki Ward is proud to support the Gippsland community in its determination to prevent gender-based Violence

"I'm proud to support the community in its determination to prevent gender-based violence in Gippsland." said **Minister for Prevention of Family Violence Vicki Ward**

"Local organisations have a critical role to play in breaking down the barriers women and gender diverse people face, which is what our Investing in Women's Grassroots Grants Program is all about." Minister Ward said.

"Let's Chat Gippsland" is a community focused campaign that aims to prevent men's violence against women and gendered violence across Gippsland. The campaign theme of Let's Chat seeks to support and remind people that **men's violence against women and gendered violence is preventable.**

Family (domestic) violence crime reporting in Gippsland continues to be some of the highest in Victoria, Latrobe Valley, East Gippsland and Wellington Shire are all in the top four Local Government areas in Victoria in 2022/2023, according to the Crime Statistics Agency.

Other forms of men's violence against women and gendered violence in many areas of Gippsland are also higher than Victorian State average including rape, indecent assault and sexual harassment.

The Let's Chat Gippsland campaign is part of the annual international United Nations (UN) 16 Days of Activism campaign to prevent gendered violence initiative that runs from 25 November to 10 December. This is the third year Gippsland Women's Health has partnered with local communities, government and organisations.

Gippslanders are encouraged to attend the events happening across Gippsland where they will learn that social and attitude change can start with a simple conversation, whether it be with their family, friends, colleagues, classmates or neighbours.

This year, we want our community to tell us what respect in our community should look like. **Local Gippsland Artist PollyannaR** will be inviting Gippslanders to share what they think "Respect Is". Anyone who wants to be a part of the pop-up will have their photo taken with their response. To read more about PollyannaR visit www.pollyannar.com/big-respect-gippsland.

By working together we can shift attitudes and practices to make Gippsland a safer community for everyone.

With over 70 community partners, the campaign will see events and social media campaigns throughout the 16 days. Visit the Let's Chat website www.16daysgippsland.com.au for more details on how you can get involved in an event near you. Also, look out for our social media campaign **#LetsChatGippsland**.

We extend our appreciation to all partners and financial contributors on this campaign including the Victorian Office for Women for their contribution through the Investing in Women Grassroots Grant Program and Minister Ward for her support

Wordsearch

Z	Е	M	Е	G	X	Ο	L	Е	В	A	L	I	W	F	BABES	LAMBS
M	F	N	D	O	J	W	A	V	Z	В	C	L	G	U	CABIN	MACAW
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C	A	D	V	T	L	R	Z	В	С	В	О	F	В	D	EARED	PACER
J	G	T	I	В	A	Н	S	G	E	E	A	D	L	E	FABLE	SABLE
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Puzzle provided by www.sudokuoftheday.com, visit them and get a new sudoku everyday

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Minds are like parachutes. They only function when they are open.

James Dewar 1842-1923

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The animal needing something knows how much it needs, the man does not.

Democritus 460 -2370 BC

Quotes supplied by Carey Joiner

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3	G	Þ	8	9	7	6	l	7
6	7	L	7	3	L	8	G	9
9	L	8	6	l	G	7	3	Þ

Recipes

Caramilk shortbread

Ingredients

150g butter, softened

2/3 cups caster sugar

1 egg

Pinch of salt

2 tsp vanilla extract

1 1/4 cups plain flour

3/4 tsp baking powder

1/2 cup Caramilk chocolate chips

250g Caramilk chocolate, chopped

1/3 cup thickened cream

Step 1

Preheat oven to 180c/160c fan-forced. Grease a 20cm x 30cm lamington pan. Line base and sides with baking paper, extending paper 3cm above edges of pan on all sides.

Step 2

Using an electric mixer, beat butter and sugar until pale and creamy. Add egg. Beat until well combined. Add salt and vanilla. Beat until combined.

Step 3

Sift over flour and baking powder. Stir to combine. Stir in Caramilk chips. Press mixture over base of prepared pan. Bake for 18 minute or until light golden (do not overbake)

Step 4

Place the chocolate and cream in saucepan over low heat. Cook, stirring, until the chocolate has melted and the mixture is smooth. Set aside to cool slightly. Pour over the shortbread layer. Place in the fridge for 3 hours or until set.

Step 5

Use baking paper to carefully lift the slice from the pan. Use sharp knife to cut into pieces and serve.

Apple, cherry and rosemary crumble

Ingredients

8 medium red apples (1.2kg)

1/4 cup (60ml) water

3 cup (375g) cherries, pitted

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

2 teaspoon vanilla extract

1/3 cup (80ml) pure maple syrup

1 1/2 cup (240g) almonds

1 cup (160g) wholemeal self-raising flour

3 teaspoon fresh rosemary leaves, chopped finely

1/2 cup (120g) coconut oil, melted

2 tablespoon pure maple syrup, extra

1 1/2 cup (420g) unsweetened vanilla-bean yoghurt, to serve

Method

1. Preheat oven to 180°C/350°F.

2.Peel and core apples; cut into 2cm (¾-inch) pieces. Place apple and the water in a large saucepan; bring to the boil. Reduce heat to low; cook, covered, for 10 minutes or until apples are just tender.

3. Place apple and cooking liquid in a large bowl; stir in cherries, cinnamon, extract and maple syrup until combined. Spoon into a 2 litre (8-cup) shallow ovenproof dish.

4. Process nuts, flour and rosemary until nuts are chopped coarsely. With motor operating, add coconut oil and extra maple syrup until well combined. Spoon crumble mixture over fruit (piling crumble high on top of fruit as it will sink down curing cooking).

5.Bake for 40 minutes or until crumble topping is golden and fruit is soft. Serve with yoghurt