

## Buchan and District Community Plan 2017 to 2021 Outcomes

Also refer to the document *Buchan and District Community Plan.... one year on written* in 2018. Further development of this plan also ended in 2019 due to the fire season that affected the community in February and December of that year

### Sewerage, Septics and Zoning

At our meeting with the Mayor and Shire staff in May 2017 we were concerned that the current septic systems that were permitted to be used in our township would affect the potential growth of the town as many of the house blocks were possibly not big enough to install the required systems. We requested that the Shire complete a report on behalf of the community on the potential for new builds or renovations under the current planning regulations for Buchan as per our community plan.

Correspondence from Tim Bull 12th September 2017 outlining who is responsible for waste water. Shire is responsible for the Domestic Wastewater Management Plan and East Gippsland Water. Buchan was identified as not being a high priority for sewerage in the Shire plan however the following action plans are in place for Buchan.

- Determine and set minimum lot size required for sustainable onsite management and determine approach to undeveloped lots that are smaller than the minimum.
- Undertake community education
- Develop a targeted monitoring system and compliance program
- Investigate stormwater management

The installation of a centralised systems was estimated to cost each property owner between \$30,000 to \$50,000. This project would only ever eventuate if it was supported by a significant number of owners.

The possibility of grants or subsidies during this time was considered low as there are no current government programs.

Buchan had also requested the identification of the Bemm River scheme for a local sewage system as an option for Buchan and although suitable areas to take into account include availability of land, soil types, land slopes and vicinity to water courses.

As far as using other types of onsite treatments systems such as those in South Australia and Western Australia whereby grey water could be used to irrigate, the shire considered that containing this volume to one site may not be possible.

The planning group would have to go through a process of changing legislation via the State government and does not have the capacity or resources to do so.

### Cycling

Development of cycling infrastructure in the township and along the river walking track. Rubber mats could be used as they do at Cape Conran along the foreshore for flood mitigation at Buchan. Connect Buchan Caves Reserve with the township to attract visitors via bike to other areas of interest by providing off road safe family cycling.

### Communications

We will continue to lobby our Federal government to gain improved and appropriate communications for our region and further information will be sent to our Federal Representative regarding improving internet and mobile reception access.

### Fire communications. Sept 2017

The outcome of the review of the poor fire communications were that due to the fires being so early in the season that the towers were not yet manned and that full operational teams were not in place at this time. DELWP introduced the start of the fire season to begin one month earlier due to changes in our environment.

### Community buildings

#### Recreation Pavilion and Hall

Steps and landing pad repaired going out from the kitchen door

Upgrade to the Power supply to the building including 3 phase and new meter box

Solar installed to the building via DELWP funding

5 new tables purchased through EGSC grants. Some were damaged after the use of the facility after the fires. Heavy donation boxes were placed on the tables

Defib replaced and installed externally for community use.

A formal request was made to EGSC as a sign had been erected at John Flynn Reserve with a directional sign to public toilets at the recreation reserve. These toilets were built via State Government funding and although the Shire initially supported the maintenance of these facilities, this had not been the case since they were built and were only cleaned by the user groups and casual hirers. The toilet block mains locked unless the facility is being used or hired.

Either the sign needed to be removed as it was sending visitors on a long walk to locked toilets and we were also receiving complaints. A compromise was proposed for the disabled toilet to be kept open and cleaned by the Shire. Another block in the Main Street is currently cleaned and the facility could be utilised. The Shire rejected the request, the sign was removed and the toilet were once again locked to the public.

Refer to the Recreation Reserve and Buchan Hall Facility Improvements and Maintenance Schedule documents for a full list of Identified projects available from the committee Secretary.

The use of these sites before, during and after the fires and the identified need to provide adequate and safe places in communities for emergencies has seen an increase in Shire and State government financial support in their development for this purpose.

### [Buchan Uniting Church](#)

See Buchan [Uniting Church report](#)

### [Buchan Cemetery](#)

Pioneer Families banner is being completed and will be erected in the gazebo. The cemetery Map has to be researched further as there is a lot more work needed to be done for it to be completed. The original 50 years of the cemetery information was lost in a house fire. They will try to use a drone photo to identify differences in vegetation.

### [Dump Point](#)

The BBTA began investigating the project in December 2016 and in February 2017 and discussed the project with Business and Tourism East Gippsland and in March 2017. Shire was contacted and a report prepared and proposal sent in May 2017. In June 2017, Mayor Joe Rettino sent the group a letter advising that the project is being investigated. Met with Shire again in March 2018.

Two sites were identified with current septic systems. The Main Street toilets or the Toilets at the Recreation Reserve.

As the turning circle in the Main Street cannot accommodate the larger RV vehicles the CMCA would not fund the project but Shire had informed us that the dump point would be installed in 2018.

The Recreation Reserve was ruled out as a site due to access difficulties during Football/Netball home games.

With the use of the Recreation Reserve for Blaze aid and volunteers to assist the rebuilding after the 2019 fires, it became even more important for us to have a dump point in the township. Funding for this project was included in the 2020/21 EGSC budget.

### [RV Camping option for the township](#)

No further investigations into this as we are waiting on whether we will get the dump point installed. Once it is installed we will be able to continue to look at the possibility of RV Camping in the township along the Buchan River. We did however set up a temporary site after the 2019 fires at the Bluff Reserve as the Recreation Reserve was being utilised for bushfire recovery. Signs were erected on the roadsides and CMCA was contacted to assist in promoting the site. This was to bring visitors to the township after the fires to assist in our economic recovery but Covid 19 closed the site as quickly as it was opened.

### [Footpath and Shared Pathway Infrastructure](#)

The request for a shared pathway to be built in the John Flynn Reserve as our community and visitors use this path, and in winter it's very wet. A plan for this park was developed by Shire in 2018/19 and the project is waiting for funding to continue. Due to shared use of the track by cars and pedestrians, VicRoads regulations have meant that the site, if developed would include closing access to the river crossing with bollards. Keys given to local police and farmers to access their properties and a car park for 3 to 4 cars. All we wanted was a gravel pathway.

Increased interest in the community for the development of a playground for the community and visitors at this site.

## Flood Mitigation

A request was made for Shire assistance in managing a Flood Mitigation Plan together with all stakeholders including recruitment of an engineer to scope out the project and advise on the best actions to moving forward.

Stakeholders identified included

- Buchan NH
- Buchan Recreation and Hall Committee
- Buchan Pony Club
- Buchan Heritage Group
- Local Residents
- EGSC
- East Gippsland Catchment Management and later Southern Rural Water

The Buchan Recreation and Hall Committee in partnership with the Buchan Football/Netball Club received \$5000 to start to develop a report regarding the flooding at the Recreation Reserve and possible solutions. Main outcome of the report was the possibility of changing of the orientation of the oval and moving the goal posts. This was approved in principle by East Gippsland Water and Catchment Management as the move created no issues for the environs.

Further Work Required at this site and future development as a community assembly and relief centre after the 2019 fires.

## Community Safety

EGSC information monitor at the general store all working with no interruptions to internet for some time.

## Firewood collection W Tree

Project has not advanced.

## Youth project rafting trip/camp

Buchan NH has been looking for funding to enable our young people to access and see the snowy river that most of them who live here have never had the opportunity to do

## Walking track from caves to township

The idea was raised to build a track the goes from the Buchan Pub, up to the motel and then into the caves reserve as another walking track opportunity for our community and visitors.

## Create a Friends of the Buchan River group

To assist in the management and development of the river in the township.

## Lighting

Improved lighting around the town in the main street and solar lights installed at the swing bridge. Funding is still being sought as the need for lights on the swing bridge became necessary for use by Blaze aid and the community after the 2019 fires.

## Mowing contract in Buchan

Item raised with East Gippsland Shire in December 2016 by Buchan Neighbourhood House to voice our concerns regarding garden maintenance and mowing in Buchan. 2015/16 was a long season for mowing and were there enough resources provided to our town?

A visit by Mark Taylor in 2016 to discuss with the Buchan Neighbourhood House committee of management was held with the following reported.

- More resources would be provided on days that the mowing team comes to Buchan
- Previous difficulties had hampered the contract including old machinery that needed replacing and new mowing equipment had been purchased to offset this issue

- Difficulties in maintaining full staffing teams. Overtime hours were not to be used and travel was included in the total contract time
- Mowing teams were coming fortnightly but not all mowing tasks were being completed fortnightly and some were on a monthly rotation

In January 2017 correspondence was received from Chris Waites, Director of operations.

- mowing operations are completed weekly during peak season, with areas mown weekly or fortnightly when possible.
- Additional resources had been allocated and regular inspections by Parks and Gardens supervisor
- Staff had been permitted to work longer hours and the approval and calculation to penalty rates had changed in 2014.

Mowing issues were also raised at the May 2017 EGSC meeting as we were still unhappy with the maintenance of the township. This time our concerns were related to our township being a tourist town and needed to be at its best during peak visitation. In 2017 the township was mowed AFTER Easter.

In 2018 the Shire started mowing the bluff reserve for community fire safety even though the contract was being completed by the Buchan Business and Tourism Association. Due to mowing being completed under two different shire budgets we realised that there may be some misunderstanding regarding who is mowing what in our township. After a map was sent on the mowing areas being completed by Shire to the Buchan NH, the coordinator made a request for a meeting as discrepancies were discovered. This meeting was to occur at the end of 2019 and due to the 2019 Fires has not been revisited.

Request sent to EGSC to replace some of the plants that had died since 2012 when the Main Street was redesigned. Although the request took 12 months the 2 small garden beds were prepared and planted.

For further information on the following agencies and their plans for the future

### Buchan Neighbourhood House

Buchan NH strategic planning documents

The Neighbourhood House would also like to further enhance the New Residents Pack, and include a

- Free community phone book. Financially supported by the Buchan NH
- Freebie vouchers to local businesses. i.e. Free drink at pub, roadhouse, caves tour
- Free pass to a local football game

### Buchan Bush Nursing Association and Gelantipy Bush Nursing Association

Refer to BBNA and GBNA strategic planning documents

Placement of the information board about the Buchan Bush Nursing Service that as to be placed on the median in the main street will now be erected at the Bush Nursing site. It is also more difficult now to place anything in the median area of the main street due to the possibility of damaging the roots to the existing trees. (2018).

Increased services include Visiting Doctor, Royal Flying Doctors Remote Annual Dental service and counselling.

### Buchan Caves Reserve

Refer to strategic planning documents [file:///C:/Users/bucha/Downloads/buchan-caves-reserve-management-plan%20\(2\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/bucha/Downloads/buchan-caves-reserve-management-plan%20(2).pdf)

### Buchan Business and Tourism Association

The BBTA has been writing to VicRoads requesting toilets be installed at the new truck parks at the red knob on the Nowa Nowa side.

Identified the need for an information board at the car rest stop (Bairnsdale side) about the district at red knob to promote our region.

Identified the installation of a Picture sign to promote the region at the Red Knob. Possibly of the caves or snowy river. After the fires. Have received a grant from EGSC for \$20,000 for marketing promotion due to the fires and Covid 19

### Buchan South Avenue of Honour

Received \$28,000 to erect an honour roll memorial at the Buchan South Site

To find some assistance to complete tree pruning and cleaning leaves from the Aleppo pine.

## Golf Club

Received funding for the repair of building that were damaged due to the fires

## FURTHER IDEAS IDENTIFIED during the plan

Investigate the possibility of creating a Future Farming Steering Group for the region that would include

- Businesses
- DPI
- EGSC
- Landcare
- Dog baiting program
- VFF