

Buchan Phoenix



Rising from the ashes...

Communication for the community by the community

December 2025 Issue 106

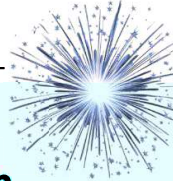
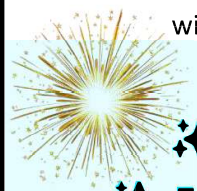
Produced by Buchan District Outreach Inc.
trading as Buchan Neighbourhood House A148825



Buchan Lights Up for New Year's Eve!

Buchan is gearing up for another magical New Year's Eve celebration, proudly presented by the **Buchan Business & Tourist Association (BBTA)** and **Buchan Presents**, and hosted at the **Buchan Caves Hotel**.

This year promises to be one for the memory books, with **two fireworks displays** lighting up the foothills—



✦ **Festival commences at 6pm**

✦ **Xtra Cover playing live from 8pm**

✦ **Family-friendly fireworks at 9pm**

✦ **Traditional countdown fireworks at midnight**

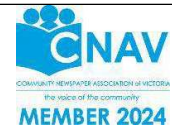
And to make the night even more special for our youngest locals, we're running a **Children's Colouring Competition**.

One lucky Buchan child (or maybe two) will have the honour of "letting off" a firework on the night alongside the pyrotechnics team!

*Entry forms are available at the:
Buchan Caves Hotel, Buchan Primary School and Buchan Kindergarten.*



Next Buchan Phoenix contributions in by: Tuesday 27th January 2026



The *Buchan Phoenix* acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the Traditional Custodians of the land and acknowledges and pays respect to their Elders, past and present.




The *Buchan Phoenix* is distributed to the localities of Black Mountain, Buchan, Buchan South, Buchan East, Butchers Ridge, Canni Creek, Gelantipy, Gillingall, Glenmore, Murrindal, Suggan Buggan, Timbarra, W Tree and Wulgulmerang.

A huge
THANK YOU
 to our
SPONSORS
 &
SUPPORTERS
 whose generosity helps
 make these events possible:

**YOUR SUPPORT
 TRULY LIGHTS
 UP BUCHAN**

Australian Tarmac Rally


Ausramp


Bruthen Bakery


Kingsleigh


- Farm Forest Drones
- Gillicks Buslines
- Tambo Waste
- Gippsland Grain Store
- Buchan Motel
- AV Scanning
- Buchan Bush Nursing Centre
- Buchan General Store
- Buchan Valley Roadhouse
- JB Coastal Seafood
- Riviera Pumps and Generators
- Tim Bull MP

If you'd like to join our growing list of
 sponsors or supporters,
 please contact
 Kirstie on 0434 350 988 or email
buchanbta@gmail.com

*Every contribution helps keep this
 cherished community event alive.*

 **Buchan Lights Up**
 for
 New Year's Eve! cont...
 Keeping the energy high, crowd
 favourite **Xtra Cover** will be
 playing live all night long, setting
 the tone for a fun, family-friendly
 community celebration.



PUBLIC EVENT
BLACKFORREST
 Fireworks Displays
 at
 Buchan Caves Hotel
 49 Main Road, Buchan

**FIREWORKS DISPLAY
 NOTIFICATION**

NEW YEARS EVE
 Wed, 31st Dec 2025

9.00pm for the main display

12.00am MIDNIGHT for a welcome to 2026!
 (notification of fireworks is for between 8.30pm and 12.15am)

PUBLIC EVENT

Friendly reminder – Keep your pets in a secure, safe area.

Live Music at the Pub –

Don't Miss Mike Elrington!

The Buchan Caves Hotel is thrilled to welcome back the incredible

Mike Elrington on Friday 24 January at 8pm



If you've seen Mike perform before, you know this is a night not to miss—raw talent, electric energy, and the perfect summer atmosphere.

Summer Series Returns to the Buchan Motel

The Buchan Motel Summer Series is back!



Join us on the hill for two relaxed, sun-soaked evenings on **10 January** and **17 January**. Bring your friends, pack a picnic rug, and settle in for great music, great company, and the best views in Buchan.



These events were a highlight last summer, and they're set to be even better this year. **Mark your calendars now—they're not to be missed!**

Neighbourhood Houses
The Heart of Our Community

from the Committee of Management, Staff and Volunteers

Buchan Neighbourhood House
will be **CLOSED**
for the Christmas Break
FROM Monday 22nd December –
REOPENS Tuesday 27th January 2026

buchan.vic.au
Your Community Website

Annual Events, Visitor Information, Local Services

ARTICLE FROM
1951 NANCY LOUSADA'S
SCRAPBOOK
BUCHAN MARBLE

Although Buchan is not such a very large district nor one with a very big population local people take pride in the fact that they may journey to many district parts of the world and find a 'little bit of home'.

The Buchan District has supplied marble to build or adorn famous buildings in many of the world's greatest cities. Perhaps the one in which local residents feel the warmest glow of pride is the great Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne for the district's youth flocked to enlist in 1914-1918 and by the use of Buchan marble the Shrine commemorates this fact with added interest.

Australia House, in London, is also truly Australian for over 9000 tons of marble were sent overseas to be used in its construction. 300 tons were sunk by torpedo while on its way in 1915.

Some of the finest buildings in Hancow, China, employed Buchan Marble as a building stone and, nearer home, the Princess Theatre and the Commonwealth Bank in Melbourne contain fine examples of this beautiful material.

The dignified staircase leading to the Reading Room in Melbourne's Public Library is especially a fine piece of work and examination reveals the delicate tracery of fossil shells, sponges, leaves and similar living things caught and held forever in its fine grey structure.

At the great Panama Exhibition in 1926 Buchan marble was awarded the gold medal representing the world's prize for coloured marble.

The huge marble deposits at Buchan were early recognised as both extensive and unique. Detailed surveys however were not undertaken until about the close of the 19th century, and even today (1951) the full extent of the marble and limestone beds are not fully known. It is estimated there are many square miles.

The Murrindal River runs for miles through a bed of water worn marble. In many places the river bed is over 100 ft below the adjacent ridges and solid marble extends from ridge top to riverbed. In one place the river runs for some distance underground through a channel of water worn marble.

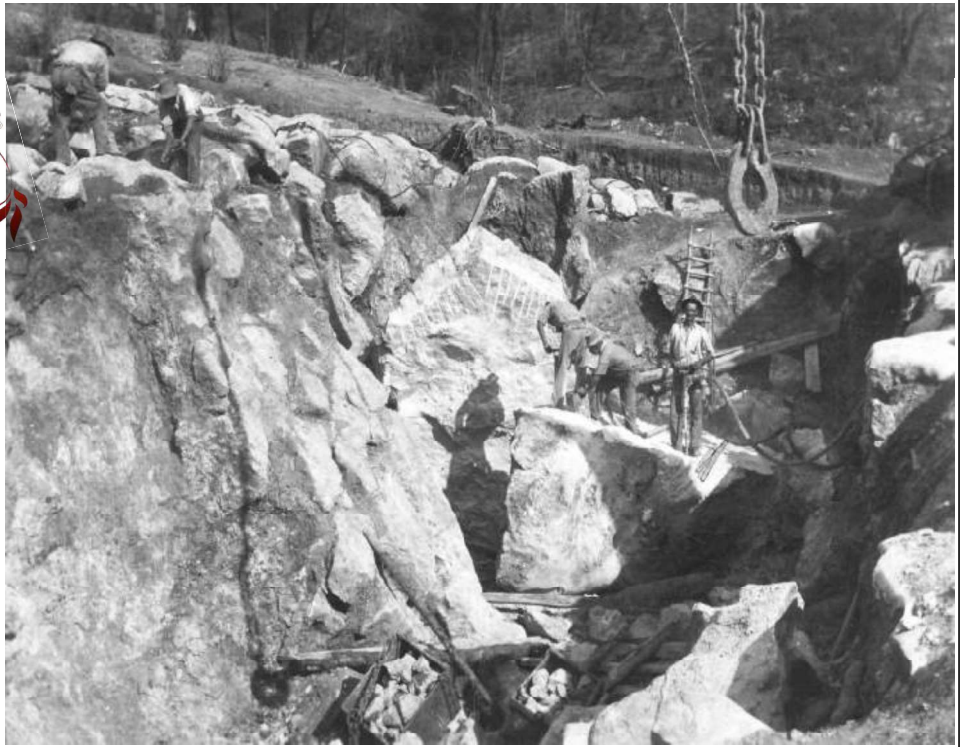
The opening up of the marble quarries and their development is due to the Hon. James Cameron M.L.A. who, moving from Bairnsdale (think this should be Orbost) to Buchan undertook the opening up and mining of extensive marble deposits at Buchan South. The marble, generally speaking, is a bluish grey colour and very dense and fine in texture, though white and other coloured marbles also occur in some parts of the district.

The art of mining the marble so that it cuts with a true straight surface is a highly specialised one. Buchan marble is noted for the fine glassy polish which can be imparted to the finished surface and also for the fact that it stands highest of its class in regard to the amount of strain it will withstand. In a test made at Melbourne University to find its "crushing strain" it was found necessary to reduce the size of the piece being tested as the machinery used was not strong enough to crush a 3 inch cube, the size usually tested in determining this strain.

The art of working marble is not an easy one and there are a few craftsmen today with the necessary skill and knowledge so that, apart from small pieces of marble used in sculpture there is no demand for large scale building stones at present. The mines, however, are still being extensively worked. Because of the high lime content the marble is conveyed to the Maryvale paper mill where it is ground to powder and employed in the process of paper making.



*Notes – The quarry at Buchan South has been closed for many years. The land on which it stands is still owned by the Cameron family. The quarry north of Buchan, off the Gelantipy Road is still working with limestone being used mainly for fertilising. The other quarry off Mackieson’s Road below The Tara Range was used mainly for headstones and have long since closed down. Many more buildings both in Australia and overseas have now been found to contain **Buchan Marble**.*



Buchan Walk and Talk Group Black Marble Quarry Visit

Over a year ago, the **Buchan Walk and Talk Group** had the opportunity to visit the historic Black Marble Quarry, enjoying both the landscape and the stories connected to this unique local site. The group gathered for a relaxed and informative walk around the area, made all the more special by the generous hospitality of Toni and Barry Cameron.

Following the walk, participants were warmly welcomed into the beautifully renovated old laundry section of the Camerons’ historic home, where a cuppa and delicious treats were shared. It was a memorable day of connection, conversation and appreciation of Buchan’s rich history.



**Local Support Over
Christmas
Buchan & District**

Local & Regional help:

Mental Health & Wellbeing Local East Gippsland (Wellways):
1300 000 352

Healthy Communities Foundation
Aust: 1300 147 761 | thcfa.org.au
mentalhealth@thcfa.org.au

TIACS (for tradies, farmers & truckies):
0488 846 988 | tiacs.org

Someone.Health: Free online psychologists via Medicare – someone.health

Gippsland Mental Health Triage:
1300 363 322 (24 hrs)

24-hour Helplines:

- Lifeline – 13 11 14
- Beyond Blue – 1300 22 4636
- Suicide Call Back – 1300 659 467
- Kids Helpline – 1800 55 1800
- 13 Yarn – 13 92 76 (for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander support)



**EAST GIPPSLAND
CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY**

Buchan Swimming Hole

Works to enhance the health of the Buchan River and improve the visitor experience at Bluff Reserve are now complete, delivering benefits for both the environment and the community.

These improvements at the popular reserve, a favourite spot for swimming, fishing, and relaxing by the water has been welcomed by the local community.



Buchan Reserve swimming hole before work



Completion of mechanical work at Buchan Bluff Reserve swimming hole

The East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (EGCMA) engaged contractors to undertake mechanical works, followed by EGCMA staff planting native vegetation that, once established, will help stabilise the banks. This work enhances the area while maintaining accessibility for visitors.

Multiple native species have been planted that will support the banks including shade trees such as kanukas and currajongs, species that have been identified as preferred species.

“Rivers are dynamic systems, and their shape and direction is often determined by nature. This project aims to enhance the environment in an area that is both highly valued and widely enjoyed by the local community,” said Bec Hemming, East Gippsland CMA’s CEO.

“We are grateful to the local community for their patience and understanding while the work was underway and giving the planted area the space it needs to have a chance to grow,” added Bec.

The project is supported by the Victorian Government through the Out Catchments, Our Communities program.



EGCMA’s Rachael Adam planting at the Bluff reserve



EGCMA’s Ryan, Rachael and Taylah following a day of planting

GIPPSLAND PRIMARY HEALTH AWARDS 2025

It was a fantastic evening recognising the innovation, dedication and collaboration of primary health professionals and organisations across our region.

Congratulations again to this year's winners:

🏆 **Courageous Innovation** – **Buchan Bush Nursing Association**,
won "Most Creative Use of Walking and Gardening to Treat Bushfire PTSD,"

It was truly a night to remember, and we are so grateful to all nominees, attendees, and partners for making it possible. We look forward to celebrating with you again next year!



CELEBRATING GIPPSLAND'S FARMING COMMUNITY

Federal Member for Gippsland Darren Chester has paid tribute to the region's farmers, producers and agricultural workers as part of National Agriculture Day, recognising their vital role in sustaining local communities and contributing to Australia's food security.

Mr Chester said agriculture remained fundamental to Gippsland's identity, economy and way of life, with the region renowned for producing high-quality food and fibre for domestic and international markets.

"Agriculture is at the heart of Gippsland and remains one of our largest and most important industries," Mr Chester said. "From dairy and beef to horticulture, vegetable growing, cropping and fibre production, our farmers play a critical role in ensuring Australians have access to safe, high-quality produce every day."

Mr Chester said National Agriculture Day provided an opportunity to reflect on the resilience and dedication of farming families and workers across the region.

"Through droughts, floods, rising costs, market pressures and long days in the paddock, Gippsland farmers consistently demonstrate strength, innovation and commitment," he said.

"Their contribution to local jobs, our regional economy and the strength of our communities cannot be overstated."

Mr Chester also acknowledged the many people working across the broader agricultural supply chain, from transport and logistics to processing, production and retail. "Thank you to the farmers, producers and agricultural workers who keep our region and our nation moving," Mr Chester said. "Your efforts are valued locally and appreciated nationally."



Buchan Gelantipy & Districts Renewal Association – December Update



- ❖ **Dump Point** – Buchan Gelantipy and Districts Renewal Association (BGaDRA) continue to work with Council and East Gippsland Catchment Management on identifying a suitable site for the Dump Point. Any potential location identified is subject to Council and East Gippsland Catchment Management Approval, given the flood overlays in Buchan it is not an easy task. There is limited Council owned and managed land in Buchan which is also proving to be a major stumbling block.
BGaDRA are not the decision makers in this process and once a potential location has been identified that is supported by Council, the Catchment Management Authority and the BGaDRA, the Community will be consulted.
- ❖ **Play space** – Pump Track Council has advised that they have no objection to the John Flynn Reserve as the proposed location as long as it has community support. The task now is to find funding for the project.
- ❖ **Buchan Discovery Trail** - The Working Group has finalised the animal signage for the Cocky John Corridor, other signage is still being worked on. The Working Group has met with the Heritage Group to discuss landscaping options and a concept design is now being developed by the Landscape Designer.
- ❖ **Community Bus** - Unfortunately we are still waiting on Accreditation from Bus Safety Victoria, until then we cannot use it.
- ❖ **Suggan Buggan** - The Gippsland Community Foundation has kindly contributed \$10,000 toward the establishment of the shed at Suggan Buggan for them to house the fire preparedness equipment and PPE.



Mark your calendars on **3-4 March 2026** to join industry leaders, innovators and policymakers for 2 days of insights, networking and future-focused discussion at Hotel Realm Canberra or online.

The conference will explore the current state of agriculture, fisheries and forestry, with a focus on opportunities for growth and development.

Registrations open 30 October

As an ABARES Events updates subscriber, you'll be the first to know when registrations open.

Visit the official conference website-
<https://abares.cmail20.com> for sponsorship opportunities and program updates.

For Sale

FOR SALE

\$19,900 ONO

**2019 SUBURU IMPREZA 5 DOOR
HATCHBACK AWD White**

With roadworthy.

Long rego Sept 2026.

2 new back tyres.

1 owner - female driver.

Excellent condition. Detailed.

110,350 kms.

Recently serviced

Contact Steph 0427 777 378

Things to do in Buchan. Tourism Tips from the locals!

Of course, there are the Buchan Caves but there are many other things to see and do in the region and right in town!

Around town

Over the main bridge and take the next left to The Bluff Reserve, an impressive rock structure, our local swimming hole and picnic ground on the Buchan River. Look out for the Eastern Water Dragons or as the locals call them Cocky Johns. A medium sized lizard that loves to bask on the rocks.

Also, at the Bluff is the Buchan Fish Ladder, the first constructed in East Gippsland to enable native fish to migrate freely up the Buchan River. The rock ramp fishway is located between Lousadas Road bridge and provides native fish populations with access to an additional 127km of the largely undisturbed forested reaches of the Buchan River upstream of the Buchan township. Construction of the fishway involved placing a range of different sized rocks within the Buchan River in accordance with a specialised design, that allows fish to swim up and over the weir required for the townships water supply. Species identified included Long-finned eel, Australian bass, Congoli or Tupong, Common galaxias, Flat-headed gudgeon, Australian smelt and Southern pygmy perch. Finding Southern pygmy perch in the Buchan River is particularly significant because they are listed as a threatened species.

Take the opportunity to enjoy the Dark Sky due to low or no artificial lights at places like The Bluff and experience an increased number of stars visible. Take a blanket and gaze at the spectacular milky way.

Take the new river walk from the John Flynn Reserve to the Caves Reserve and swimming pool filled from underground water from the caves system. Pets permitted to the end of the path only.

Try our local eateries including the Buchan Caves Hotel for a great pub meal or the Roadhouse for the best Buchan Burger.

Bird watching - Some of the birds to look out for in Buchan are the Superb Lyrebird, Cockatoos, King Parrots, Rosellas, Honeyeaters, Pardalotes, Thornbills, Australian Raven, White-winged Chough, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Yellow-tufted Honeyeater, Golden and Rufous Whistler, Eastern Yellow Robin, Restless Flycatcher and many more.

The Regent Honeyeater was once plentiful along Australia's east coast from Brisbane to Adelaide. Now critically endangered, it's disappeared from SA, is rarely spotted in Queensland and is clinging to survival in small areas of remnant woodland in NSW and Victoria and has been sighted in the Buchan District. The main reason for its decline is the clearing of its habitat. Eggs and chicks also suffer predation by other native birds and mammals, and the birds' breeding is disturbed by harassment from noisy miners. <https://birdlife.org.au/bird-profiles/regent-honeyeater/>

Platypus populations in the Buchan River are also doing very well and sightings are usually brief, in the half-dark of the early morning or evening. See if you can see any from the Swing Bridge or the Lousadis Road bridge at The Bluff.

There are some some good fishing spots along the Buchan River, including at the Swing Bridge and The Bluff. The river is good for fishing for trout, blackfish and eel. Trout can be caught at the Timbarra River, an early season river (spring and early summer). Drive 23 clicks of the odometer north of Buchan via Timbarra Road. Balley Hooley is also a popular spot to cast a line, the meeting place of Buchan and Snowy Rivers. Other streams worth dropping a line are Livingston Creek, Butchers Creek, Little River and Delegate River.

Visit the local Golf Course situated within the Canni Creek Reserve surrounded by the Racecourse and bushland, this course is truly easy walking. In November & December a fantastic display of wildflowers can be viewed in the Reserve.

Caves Reserve

When you visit the caves enjoy the beautiful Linakar Park at the Buchan Caves Reserve. There are some great walks and also the spring creek falls which are seasonal.

Further Afield

Take a day trip to McKillops Bridge. Although its only around 80km it will take a minimum of one hour and 40 minutes to get to the bridge. The road is windy and there are spectacular views including the walk to the little river gorge, the deepest in Victoria. Keep going to Tubbut and return via Orbost. This part of the drive will take approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes. From Orbost to Buchan the time will be another 50 minutes. In November the wildflowers are spectacular.

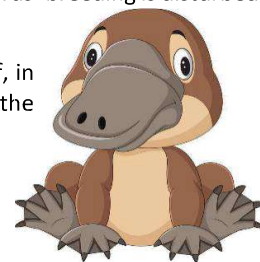
Take a drive and visit some of the local sites including:

Buchan South Avenue of Honour | W Tree Falls |

Basin Creek Falls | Snowy River Junction | Snowy River National Park

You can also find further information at buchan.vic.au or visitgippsland.com.au

Come and enjoy Buchan.....





Once again, the Buchan Golf Club hosted a wonderful Community Christmas Party, brought together at short notice but delivered with great success.



Thanks to the generosity and hard work of many volunteers, the evening well and truly exceeded expectations.

Guests enjoyed a delicious, shared meal with a choice of roast meats, baked potatoes and a colourful array of salads.



Dessert was a highlight, especially for the younger attendees, with ice creams and jelly cups, alongside an impressive spread of sweets including the ever-popular pavlovas and sponge cakes —





— There was even a delicious jug of chocolate sauce to add to your dessert.

A special appearance by Mother Claus and her reindeer keeper added plenty of excitement, arriving in style via golf buggy and doing a couple laps on the course to the delight of children and parents alike. Lolly bags were handed out to very happy youngsters, adding to the festive cheer.

The raffle was another success, raising an impressive \$1,000. Prizes included wine, beer, Yeti drink cups, dog food, shopping bags, a beautifully decorated Christmas sponge cake, and many other generous donations. The event was a true community effort, made possible by the contributions of so many people.



A sincere thank you goes to everyone who helped, and especially to the Buchan Golf Club for hosting and making the evening possible.



Buchan Community Christmas Party 2025

The **2025 Wulgulmerang Team Penning and Sports Day**

was held over the Melbourne Cup weekend at the Wulgulmerang Rec Reserve.

It was wonderful to see so many people enjoying the reserve again for an event. We had over 80 riders from all over Gippsland and some competitors travelling down from the Monaro. It was fantastic to see so many locals competing at the event and a big congratulations to all the local Buchan kids for having a go at team penning, many for the first time.

Competition was strong on Saturday in the team penning competition with Gordon Moon's heifers challenging riders all day:

- 🏆 Our Alex Rogers Memorial Open Team Penning Champions were **Tommy Mitchell, Corey Welch** and **Hayden Hinchliffe**.
- 🏆 Junior Champions were **Lacey Bryan, Jessica Mitchell** and **Layla Beveridge**.
- 🏆 The Fastest Time of the day was won by **Rick Buys, Maree Buys** and **Shannon Metzger**.
- 🏆 Best Performed local team was **Peter, Michael** and **Laura Sandy** who won a fabulous prize donated by Buchan General Store.

On Sunday the fun continued with novelties for all ages and the Buff Rogers Memorial Stockmans Challenge:

- 🏆 The winner of the Buff Rogers Memorial was **Sharon Ingram** and **Adam Dalley** runner up.
- 🏆 The Junior Stockmans challenge was won by **Lacey Bryan and Charlie Christian** runners up.

The committee would like to thank our generous sponsors, judges Bernie Beadel and Jenny Knowles, all the volunteers and competitors for a successful event.

Buff Rogers Memorial Stockmans



Alex Rogers Memorial Open Team Penning Champions Challenge



WULGULMERANG TEAM PENNING & SPORTS DAY



Junior Champions



Junior Stockmans Challenge

BUCHAN CAVES RESERVE update –

We wish all visitors and community members a safe & happy holidays season this December & January.

We are looking forward to a bumper summer 2025/26 visitor season. With the new Yarning Circle and the rebuilt Spring Creek track and lookout all now open — we are ready for our busiest time at the Buchan Caves Reserve.

This summer, we expect a busy campground and our guided cave tours to be fully booked for visitors to view the stalactites, stalagmites and beautiful calcite.

Every summer, we open the reserve's freshwater swimming pool. We work to keep it open as much as possible by checking water quality and safety.

As upgrade works continue, our summer visitors will enjoy a relaxing holiday and nature activities at the Buchan Caves Reserve.

Getting ready for summer

The Buchan Caves team have been busy getting the lawns and gardens in top shape, clearing and cleaning tracks, and working on lighting for the caves tours. We are also welcoming back past seasonal guides and inducting new local guides to be ready for the summer season.

With many of the fire and flood works completed, we look forward to welcoming more visitors for a relaxing break over the holiday season.

The ticket sales and retail office is open in our temporary location as the works on the main visitor centre and retail areas are ongoing.

Ongoing recovery works

Renewal and recovery works continue, but visitors can still enjoy access to the:

- Fairy and Royal Caves tickets and tours
- most bush walks
- reserve nature trails
- day picnic spots
- overnight stays.

Campsites open for summer season

All sites are now open at Buchan Caves Reserve for summer bookings and into Autumn 2026. In 2025, to keep visitors safe during recovery works we temporarily closed a number of campsites. To maximise visitor access to overnight stays in the reserve, we have been reopening campsites as soon as it is safe.

Pictured: Completed works on the Buchan Caves Reserve flood mitigation



Half-price camping –

bookings open for stays up to winter 2026

The Victorian Government's half-price camping was reintroduced for stays from 1 July 2025 up to mid-2027. Our camping bookings are now open for stays up to 31 August 2026, including:

- Labour Day long weekend
- Easter holidays
- ANZAC Day
- Kings Birthday long weekend.

We release booking dates in stages so more people can get out in the great outdoors and experience overnight stays in nature. Go online to book your next camping holiday at more than 130 bookable campgrounds across Victoria.

To book visit the Parks Victoria website: www.bookings.parks.vic.gov.au

Be bushfire aware

Summer is our busiest time for visitors, and we need you to be bushfire aware when enjoying our parks.

Before you leave home download the VicEmergency app and check the Parks Victoria website:

- VicEmergency website at www.emergency.vic.gov.au
- Parks Victoria website at www.parks.vic.gov.au

Get information and warnings about incidents like fires, storms or floods from:

- the VicEmergency app
- tuning into ABC local radio

before your summer holiday on the Parks Victoria website

Days of Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating

On **Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating** days, all parks and reserves will be closed for public safety. Warnings signs may be erected, but do not expect a personal warning.

Do not enter the Buchan Caves Reserve on days of Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating.

If you are already at the Buchan Caves Reserve, leave the night before or as early as possible in the morning.

Check the latest conditions at www.parks.vic.gov.au or by calling 13 19 63.

Project updates

Get more information on projects and planning your summer holidays by visiting our website: www.parks.vic.gov.au You can also subscribe to Buchan Caves Reserve and other project updates to receive emails about ongoing and planned projects.

Subscribe to project updates

To find out more and subscribe to project updates go to our East Gippsland projects page on the Parks Victoria website:

www.parks.vic.gov.au/projects/eastern-victoria

Buchan - Recreation Reserve Upgrade

The building is now past lock up stage with all internal doors hung and some of the wall tiles have been installed.

The prefinished ceiling lining of the social rooms has been installed and looks great.

The kitchen exhaust rangehood has now been installed.

The internal and external roller doors to the pavilion have been installed.

The carpenters are tirelessly working installing the decking around the outside of the building, concentrating on the external plant area

The Civil contractors have installed a new fire main as well as installing new stormwater infrastructure.

Work on the wastewater treatment area is due to start.

The new netball and tennis storage shed wall and roof cladding has been installed.

The project is on track for completion in 2026.



POWER REBATES ARE NOW AVAILABLE. YOU CAN APPLY ONLINE OR COME INTO THE BUCHAN NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE FOR ASSISTANCE



\$100 POWER SAVING BONUS
FOR ELIGIBLE CONCESSION CARD HOLDERS

FIND OUT MORE:
NHVIC.ORG.AU/PSB



The fifth round of the **\$100** Power Saving Bonus opened for new applications on 25 August 2025.

Victorian concession card households can apply for the new \$100 Bonus by **apply in-person through a participating community organisation -**

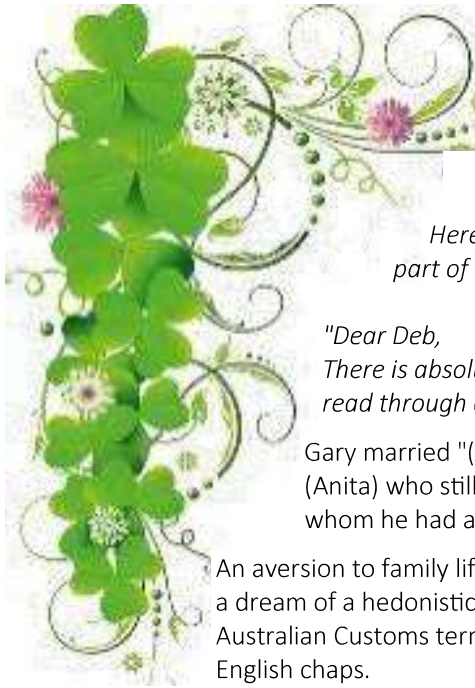
Buchan Neighbourhood House, visiting the Victorian Energy Compare website compare.energy.vic.gov.au or call the VEC helpline-1800 000 832 to apply over the phone.

- Information collected is shared with the Australian Government to confirm identity and is not retained by DEECA.
- The \$100 Power Saving Bonus for Victorian Households (PSB5) is limited to one payment per eligible household.

To be eligible for the fifth round of the Power Saving Bonus program, Victorian households will need to:

- ✓ Have a recent residential electricity bill and be the account holder for that bill
- ✓ Hold one of the following concession cards:
 - Health Care Card
 - Pensioner Concession Card
 - Veterans Affairs Pensioner Concession Card; or
 - Veterans' Affairs Gold Card

As a part of the application process applicants will also be required to provide a secondary form of identification to for authentication purposes, this can include a driver's license, Medicare card, ImmiCard or Australian Visa.



Memories of Gary Robert Hume's larger-than-life 85 years walking amongst us. PART 2

Here Helen is the source, and she prefaced her summary of the second part of Gary's life thus...

"Dear Deb,

There is absolutely NO WAY you will be able to precis Gary's life of adventurers, so read through and break it down if you can. It ain't going to be easy!!!"

Gary married "(too early)" whilst still in the army and had 2 children - a boy and a girl (Anita) who still lives in Ireland with several children. Then there was Kath with whom he had another daughter, Louise.

An aversion to family life and a very restless curiosity saw him heading to British Samoa with a dream of a hedonistic life on the beach attended by a dusky maiden. An altercation at the Australian Customs terminal kept him on our shores, so instead he went off to WA with some English chaps.

Back in Melbourne Gary sold cars for a while, "but the restlessness set in again." So off to work on a crane at Eden, and when that didn't work out he hitch hiked back towards Melbourne and got a ride with a bloke called Jack Lay who quickly realised he's picked up a very naive Irishman who knew nothing about the Australian bush and our animals. So, Gary was treated to tall tales about hoop snakes and monster lizards as they travelled towards Jack's home town of Orbost.

Many 4 day working weeks followed, with much down time spent at the Bottom Pub. Where, through Jack's sister Gwenda, Helen and her sister Daisy were invited to meet "these odd English and Irish blokes", who tried to impress them by lighting their farts. Which may have worked as a relationship flourished between Gary and Helen (10 years his junior), and eventually, despite "some intense opposition from her Father and Uncle's", they married.

Gary's work and private life was rich and varied, much of it in partnership with Helen.

From mill work when they married, then as the first National Park ranger covering the extensive coastline from Lakes to Mallacoota whilst they built a mudbrick house at Brodribb overlooking Lake Curlip and far beyond towards Orbost.

Helen's Father died so they moved to Bete Bolong and "did a dump of an old house up."
Was elected to Council in "a total landslide."

Had a share in a Supermarket, owned Snowy Seeds and Feeds, then a fruit and veg outlet (Kingfruit) and Conor was born (Gary's proudest production) although he nearly lost Helen.

Moved to Newmerella and started running outdoor trips through The Snowy River/Errinunda area, where he met up with Rob Coates.

The family moved to Buchan and Helen and Gary ran the roadhouse for 3 and a bit years. Bought another old dump (Hall's) and turned it into a cosy little home. Mountains of research was the backdrop to building a model village on their large block - complete with a running stream and a gold stamper. Guests were sold Billy Tea and Damper on the front veranda.

Gary spent a few years travelling to SA for the Winter grape pruning, and both of them had a "great few years" filling in at Point Hicks lighthouse "the best place along the coast to watch the humpback migration". And there were all sorts of other adventures big and small, deserving of the cliché "a life well lived" by a man who retained his Irish brogue and capacity to tell a good story until his end.

RIP

~Deborah Woodburn

YOU CAN'T CONTROL FIRE. BUT YOU CAN CONTROL WHEN YOU LEAVE.

When the Fire Danger Rating is Extreme or Catastrophic, leaving early is your safest option.



Download the VicEmergency app
or go to emergency.vic.gov.au

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW FIRE?

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



Ross River Virus has been detected in mosquitoes trapped in Wellington and East Gippsland.

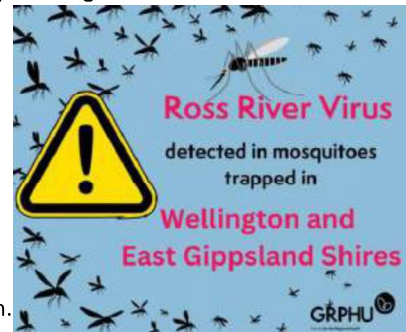
What is Ross River virus? It's spread by mosquito bites.

Symptoms may include: fever, joint inflammation and pain, rash, fatigue and muscle aches. It occurs in regional Victoria, particularly around inland waterways and coastal regions. Local councils are actively working to reduce mozzie populations, but your best protection is avoiding bites.



Protect yourself and your family:

- Wear loose-fitting, light coloured long sleeves and pants.
- Apply insect repellent containing DEET or picaridin
- Avoid being outdoors at dawn and dusk
- Remove standing water around your home
- Check that window and door screens are secure

The Department of Health and high-risk local government areas run the Victorian Arboviral Disease Control Program to track mosquito activity in the state. Weekly surveillance is underway, and traps are showing high mosquito numbers this season.



BUCHAN CRICKET CLUB – B Grade Seniors

One Day Round #10		VS		1:00 PM, Saturday, 20 Dec 2025 Nagle College – Oval #1
One Day Round #11		VS		1:00 PM, Saturday, 10 Jan 2026 Buchan Recreation Reserve
One Day Round #12		VS		1:00 PM, Saturday, 17 Jan 2026 Buchan Recreation Reserve
One Day Round #13		VS		1:00 PM, Saturday, 31 Jan 2026 Orbost Recreation Reserve
One Day Round #14		VS		1:00 PM, Saturday, 7 Feb 2026 Buchan Recreation Reserve

Mobile Library Dates 2026

TUESDAY: Jan 13, Jan 27, Feb 10, Feb 24

- 9:00-10:00 - Buchan Main Street
- 10:30-11:30 - Buchan Neighbourhood House
- 1:30-2:30 - W Tree—SIBA

TUESDAY: Jan 6, Jan 20, Feb 3, Feb 17

- 9:00-9:45 - Gelantipy Bush Nurse
- 10:30-11:30 - Buchan Neighbourhood House
- 12:45-1:30 - Buchan Primary School



What can you do at this mobile service centre?

- Borrow books, CD's, DVD's audio books and more
- Pick up a Council newsletter and subscribe
- Lodge a report or request
- Pay an account / make electronic payments
- Make enquiries, collect and lodge application forms
- Register your dog and cats
- Access and complete surveys
- Learn about and provide feedback on projects
- Use a computer with free internet access
- Have a chat and much more

**What a year it's been at
Buchan Precision
Rifle Club!**



From early-morning range setups to the last steel ring of the afternoon, 2025 has been packed with great shooting, good laughs, and even better people. Whether you came to compete, to learn, to volunteer, or simply to enjoy a day on the hill, every one of you helped make this year something special.

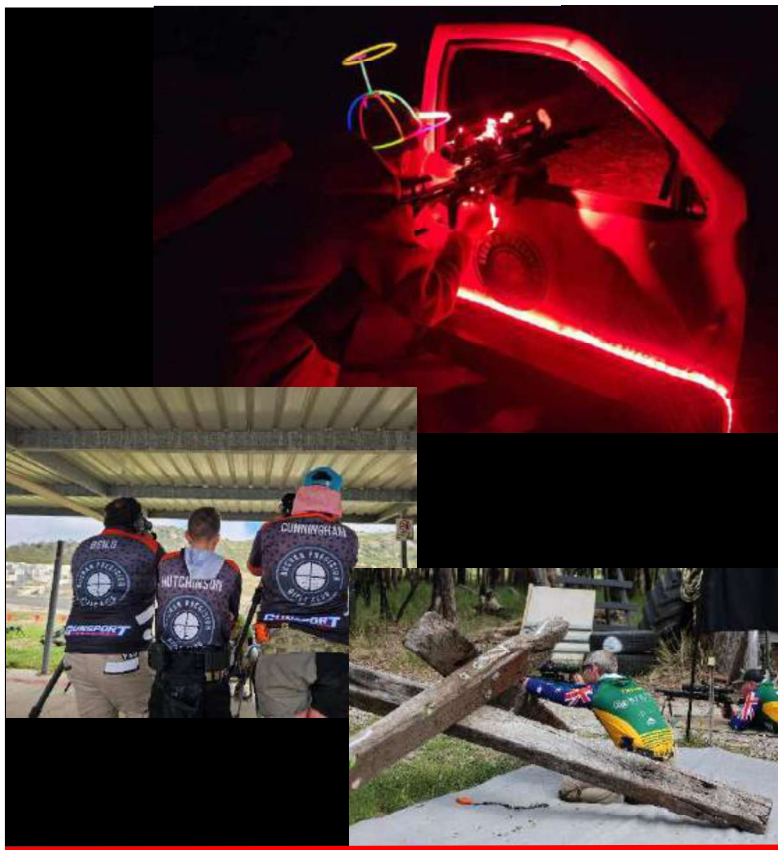
Behind every successful match and smooth range day are the members, volunteers, helpers, and suppliers who keep everything running—often quietly, always reliably. Your time, effort, and passion don't just support our club; they strengthen the entire shooting community.

So, to everyone who turned up, pitched in, shared gear, offered advice, helped a newcomer, or just brought a positive attitude—**thank you**. You've all played a part in keeping Buchan Precision Rifle Club growing, safe, and full of good energy.

Here's to another year of great shooting, great company, and plenty more steel to ring.



See you on the range!



Our area also lost 2 much respected women this month.

Ros McCole who died suddenly, which must have been very hard for Jim and her extended family. I remember Ros for the many acts of generous kindness she showed Norm and Wyn Rayson during their last few years in Buchan. I can quote verbatim Wyn telling me it was Ros and myself who "allowed us to live independently." I've always been glad I shared that with Ros in The Store one day - our paths didn't cross often.

And Barbara Hodge on 23rd November (Tim her son's Birthday), after falling and breaking her femur. Just like Nigel.

Before the ravages of dementia Barb was a true partner to Nigel in all his endeavour's, both literally and financially and a wonderful Mother to Quentin. I credit her, not his Father, for his impeccable manners.

When Nigel was dying Quentin learnt from one of Barb's English relatives that she discovered (at 15), after the deaths of both the woman she thought was her Mother, and her older sister in one year, that they were actually her Grandmother and her Mother. Pretty brutal.

She, like my English Mother, was constantly knitting and mending. Nigel had drawers of hand knitted socks, and I was able to direct his attention to a shirt where she's replaced the collar. A remarkable feat. Once retired she got to do all sorts of craft work and in particular some stunning patchwork.

And that's it from me for 2025 and I may stop doing obituaries. In 2026 I want to diversify. Recording the stories of our living locals for starters.

Deborah Woodburn



Darren Chester
Putting Locals First

#lovegippsland



NATIONALS for Gippsland

www.darrenchester.com.au

Tim BULL
State Member for Gippsland East



Buchan Caves Reserve image courtesy of Visit Victoria Content Hub

143 Main Street, Bairnsdale VIC 3875
03 5152 3491
tim.bull@parliament.vic.gov.au

NATIONALS

BUCHAN STAYS
EST. 2012

Bespoke accommodation within the heart of Buchan

BUCHAN MOTEL P: 03 5155 9419
W: buchanstays.com
E: hello@buchanstays.com

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MASSAGE & NATUROPATHY

MASSAGE and NATURAL HEALTH CARE at the Buchan Neighbourhood House including: Naturopathy, Herbal and Homeopathic remedies, Relaxation, Aromatherapy, Sports Therapies, Remedial Massage Therapy, Pre and Post Natal and baby massage.

Available for adults and children of all ages.

\$70 one-hour session
* Gift vouchers available *

For further information and bookings please contact the Buchan Neighbourhood House or Sharon Dent

Alexandra Jenkins
Cattle Ultrasound Technician

Ph: 0455 068 599
Email: avscanning.info@gmail.com



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Buchan Valley Golf Club

Come and play 18 holes from 11:00am or 9 holes from 1:00pm every Sunday.

All welcome

Enquiries: Figsy 0428 559 305



PUBLIC NOTICE – NEW YEAR’S EVE FIREWORKS & ROAD CLOSURE

Local businesses and residents are advised that a New Year’s Eve community celebration will be held at the Buchan Caves Hotel on Tuesday 31 December.

To ensure public safety, a temporary road closure will be in place on the service road directly outside the hotel from 4:00pm until 1:00am.

The event will include live music and fireworks displays at 9:00pm (family show) and midnight.

Traffic management and safety measures will be in place during this time. We thank residents and businesses for their patience and support in helping deliver a safe and enjoyable community event.

For further information, please contact Buchan Business & Tourist Association via buchanbta@gmail.com or 0434 350 988.

EGTC	Author: Matt Munro CCF ID:70714 Contract: Phone Number: 0447 661 553 NEW YEAR'S EVE	Comments: Location details: Buchan Caves Hotel on New Years Eve Term: Short	Contact Numbers Emergency Services 000 Police 02 25 25 22 Fire 02 25 25 23 Police Transport Victoria 1800 800 044 Metrolink 02 25 25 22
TCS ID Number: _____ Contract: _____ Road Name: _____ Job No: _____ Day: _____ Date: _____ Time Signs Installed: _____ am / pm Time Signs Removed: _____ am / pm Signed Manager: _____ Signed Traffic Controller: _____			

This newsletter is delivered to every household in the district (on or around the 15th day of the month) and is also available online at buchan.vic.au or via Facebook at Buchan Neighbourhood House. All editions are available electronically at the State Library online site (Trove). If you are not receiving the newsletter please contact us and we will ensure that a copy is mailed to your address.

Newsletters can be posted for an annual fee of \$18.00 incl. GST to anyone outside the district, or contact us with your email address and we can send an electronic version for free. Dates for submissions will be advertised in each edition and we welcome your contributions. Submissions closing date for the next edition is **Tuesday 27th January 2026**. We welcome articles and contributions from everyone and encourage our local clubs, groups, agencies, organisations and businesses to send us their information. Submissions can be sent to info.buchan@gmail.com or drop them into the Neighbourhood House. The Buchan Neighbourhood House takes no responsibility for opinions expressed by contributors to the *Buchan Phoenix*. The Editors reserve the right to reject articles and advertisements and to edit submissions if necessary.

All submissions should include the author's full name, address and phone number, but may be anonymous if preferred. Buchan Neighbourhood House is open Monday to Thursday from 10.00am—4.30pm. Advertisements are \$55 for 12 editions or \$5.50 per edition including GST.

Buchan Neighbourhood House contact details:

Buchan Neighbourhood House is dedicated to supporting carers in Victoria and offers a warm, secure, and welcoming environment.

Monday – Thursday 10:00am-4:30pm

6 Centre Road, Buchan
0493 070 332
03 5155 9216

Our organisation is Carer Friendly and helps connect carers to necessary services. We have strong ties with Carers Victoria and participate in their events, workshops, and informational opportunities for both carers and staff.



East Gippsland Shire Outreach Services

The mobile bus service provides an opportunity to use the library service and engage with their staff on Council matters. All community members are welcome. Please see the schedule below for when the bus is visiting your community.

What you can do at the mobile service:

- Borrow books
- Pick up a Council newsletter
- Lodge a report or request
- Pay an account / make electronic payments
- Make enquiries, collect and lodge application forms
- Register your dogs and cats
- Access and complete surveys
- Learn about and provide feedback on projects
- Use a computer
- Have a chat and much more

The next services will be:

Buchan Neighbourhood House

Every Tuesday from 10:30am—11:30am

Buchan Primary School

Tuesday 6 th January	12:45pm—1:30pm
Tuesday 20 th January	12:45pm—1:30pm
Tuesday 3 rd February	12:45pm—1:30pm
Tuesday 17 th February	12:45pm—1:30pm

Buchan Main Street

Tuesday 13 th January	9:00am—10:00am
Tuesday 27 th January	9:00am—10:00am
Tuesday 10 th February	9:00am—10:00am
Tuesday 24 th February	9:00am—10:00am

Gelantipy (Bush Nurse Centre)

Tuesday 6 th January	9:00am—9:45am
Tuesday 20 th January	9:00am—9:45am
Tuesday 3 rd February	9:00am—9:45am
Tuesday 17 th February	9:00am—9:45am

W Tree (SIBA)

Tuesday 13 th January	1:30pm—2:30pm
Tuesday 27 th January	1:30pm—2:30pm
Tuesday 10 th February	1:30pm—2:30pm
Tuesday 24 th February	1:30pm—2:30pm



Catholic Church

St Dymphna's, Woodgates Road, Buchan.
Meets 3rd Saturday of the month at 9am until further notice.
For service details contact **Mary Wheeler 5155 9330**

Anglican Church

St Mary's, Main Street, Buchan.
Café Church
Meets 5th Sunday of month at 11:00am.
For details contact **Rhonda Coates 5155 9373**