

Buchan Phoenix



Rising from the ashes...

Communication for the community by the community

February 2026 Issue 107

Produced by Buchan District Outreach Inc. trading as Buchan Neighbourhood House A14882S

Celebrate
139 YEARS ANNIVERSARY
Racing at Canni Creek
BUCHAN & GELANTIPY RACING CLUB

Gates open 11:00am
Last race approx. 4:30pm



Get ready for an event filled with excitement as the

Buchan & Gelantipy Racing Club

celebrates 139 years of picnic racing at Canni Creek. On Saturday, February 14th, 2026, attendees will be treated to an exhilarating day of horse racing featuring six trophy races with a staggering \$40,000 in prize money. This historic racing event promises more than just thrilling races. Enjoy diverse attractions, including the much-anticipated "Footballers' Gift" race. Attendees can also look forward to "Fashions on the Field," showcasing stylish outfits and dazzling fashion statements from participants. Beyond the races and fashion, the event is packed with fun for all ages. A variety of prizes and novelty gifts will be up for grabs, adding to the festive atmosphere. While also being Valentine's Day.

Hosted south of Buchan, the event offers the perfect escape for families and friends seeking memorable holiday entertainment.

With vibrant community spirit, delicious food, and a scenic backdrop, it's an unmissable day out.

Join us at **Canni Creek** for a day of tradition, camaraderie and excitement!

For more information, visit: Buchanracesatcannicreek.com.au
Contact the club's dedicated team
President Peter Sandy 0439 455 336
Treasurer Ian Dunkley 0408 516 899



Next **Buchan Phoenix** contributions in by: **Monday, 26 February 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.





Darren Chester

Putting Locals First

#lovegippsland



NATIONALS for Gippsland

www.darrenchester.com.au

Authorised by Darren Chester, The National Party of Australia, Level 1, 89 Raymond Street, Sale, VIC, 3850.

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



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For further information and bookings please contact the Buchan Neighbourhood House or Sharon Dent
silvaaust@gmail.com or call **0468 387 524**



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e: hello@buchanstays.com



Alexandra Jenkins

Cattle Ultrasound Technician

Ph: 0455 068 599

Email: avscanning.info@gmail.com



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HERE**

BUCHAN BTA UPDATE

Happy New Year

New Year's Eve Fireworks Success

What a fabulous night New Year's Eve turned out to be in Buchan!

The 2025 NYE Fireworks event was a huge success, with a wonderful crowd, with a great community atmosphere, and plenty of smiling faces.

A huge highlight was seeing seven very excited local kids help let off the fireworks, each representing one of our major sponsors:



Ollie Sandy
Sophie Dalley
Emily McCole
Hollie Rabbidge
Oliver Benton
Eli Baullo
Cillian Large

Kingsleigh-Buchan
Bruthen Bakery
Ausramp Auswide
Australian Tarmac Rally
Tambo Waste
Gillick Buslines
Farm Forest Drones



They all did an amazing job and absolutely made the night extra special.
A huge **thank you** to everyone who came out to celebrate with us, and to all our sponsors, supporters and volunteers who helped make the night such a success.

Planning has already started for an even bigger and better
2026 New Year's Eve event,
so, if you'd like to be involved or support it in any way,
please jump on board — we'd love to have you.

The next major focus for the Buchan Business & Tourism Association is progressing the Buchan Discovery Trail, in collaboration with the Buchan, Gelantipy and Districts Recovery Committee. This is an exciting project for the future of our region and we look forward to sharing more updates as it develops.



\$100 POWER SAVING BONUS

FOR ELIGIBLE CONCESSION CARD HOLDERS



POWER REBATES ARE NOW AVAILABLE.

YOU CAN APPLY ONLINE OR COME INTO THE



BUCHAN NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE
FOR ASSISTANCE

NHVIC.ORG.AU/PSB



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

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.

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.



NRL22 Match – Buchan Precision Rifle Club

**SSAA East Gippsland
Buchan Rifle Range**

Saturday, 14 February 2026

Buchan Precision Rifle Club will be hosting its next NRL22 match on

Saturday, 14 February at the SSAA East Gippsland – Buchan Rifle Range.

The February Course of Fire will be Option 1, making it a beginner-friendly match while still offering a great challenge for experienced competitors.

Sign-in and match registration opens at 8:30am, followed by a safety briefing at 8:50am sharp.

Sighting-in will commence immediately after 9:00am and run for 30 minutes, with pre-set 50-yard and 100-yard target boards.

The match will start at 9:30am, with completion expected around 12:30–1:00pm.



Match Fees

- \$40 – General / Non-Members
- \$20 – B.P.R.C Members
- FREE – First-time shooters & Young Guns (12 to 18)

Cash or EFTPOS on the day. Range fee is covered by the club.

Course of Fire - NRL22 2025 to 2026 Season COFs

<https://nrl22.com/product/february-2026-course-of-fire/>



Need a Rifle? We have two club .22LR rifles available. Message us to book one.



Important - Bring your firearms licence and keep rifles in your vehicle until directed. Juniors must be supervised at all times and wear eye and ear protection.



Camping - Camping available at the range Friday night. Roll in early, set up, and enjoy a cruisy evening before the action.



Some happy snaps from the **January Community Dinner** at the **Gelantipy Hall**, hosted by the Hall Committee.



Held on the 3rd Monday of each month, these are always great nights. We start at 6pm, we don't usually make it past 8.30pm and those who can bring food to share.



A bit of a combination of an American Pot Luck Supper and a Dinner Party where you don't know who's going to turn up until they walk through the door and there's no seating plan. Everyone is welcome. Small donations to our operating expenses (power and gas mostly) are welcomed.

~ **Deborah Woodburn**
(Have I mentioned that I'm the President of the Hall Committee?)

SHALL WE BE SOCIAL..

Gelantipy Hall Dinner

Monday February 16th



Buchan Valley Golf Club

CHICKEN RUN - \$5.00 entry

9 holes from 3:00pm every Sunday.

All welcome 😊

Enquiries:

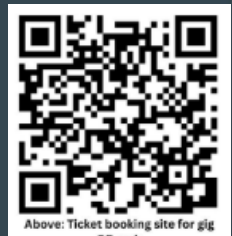
Figsy 0428 559 305



SUNDAY LEMONADE & JACK RAYMOND

Adults: \$25 | Children: \$10 | Concession: \$20

SCAN QR Code for tickets



This event is planned to be at Nowa Nowa Hall – however if ticket sales and weather permits, it may be relocated to the Rec Reserve and run as a Solar Show.

Above: Ticket booking site for gig QR code





Buchan Heritage Group Inc.

Presidents Report for 2025

Work continued on the Butter Factory with the funds from the ERV grant. We prioritised work on the leaking roof with work done last year on the flashings and windows. Most of the leaks were fixed but water was still ingressing down the walls. After testing with a hose, water was

found to be coming from cracks in the parapet wall. Jayden Herbert sealed some of these and it did help. However, there is still some water ingressing and further work needs to be done to identify other areas. There is no water leaking into the main body of the building, only down the walls. Unfortunately, this issue is a moving feast and is a symptom of dealing with a very old building.

The EVR grant money has been fully expended with the last project being the fence between the Frees and the Butter Factory.

Susan Freeman from the Buchan Gelantipy Renewal Association applied for a grant from FRRR (Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal) on our behalf to remove the tree stumps and landscape works. This was successful and we received \$8,250. To date the stumps have been removed and final clean-up is planned shortly.

Our event as part of the East Gippsland Winter festival was held this year on Friday evening 4th of July and was originally due to be held at the Butter Factory but unfortunately the Buchan River was in flood causing the venue being changed to the Recreation Pavilion.

Catering continues to be a source of fundraising for our group. We only catered for one funeral (Bev King) and the Just A Farmer movie night. We also received a generous donation from the Bairnsdale Team Penning who hold events at Wulgulmerang.

The AKMA (Australian Karst Management Association) conference was held in Buchan this year. This brought over 100 cavers from all over Australia to Buchan for a week. On one night we held a BBQ as an evening meal and combined this with makers market stalls and photographic exhibition. This was a very successful fundraiser.

The success of the Makers Market last year has led to another being organised in November on the Melbourne Cup weekend this year. Many thanks to Henriette for her organisation of this upcoming event.

A group has been formed to build a Discovery Trail between the swing bridge and the Bluff. This trail will include interpretive signage on local history and Megafauna focusing on the Palorchestes. This group involves a partnership between the Buchan Tourist Association, Jane Davidson Trust (Owners of the former Uniting Church) and Buchan Heritage. It is planned that this trail will pass adjacent to the Butter Factory which will mean that this area will become a focal point. The Jane Davidson Trust was successful in getting a grant to build a toilet which can be used by Buchan Heritage. This will make a huge difference as toilets have always been an issue when holding events.

A landscaping plan for this area has been drawn up which will include linkage between the Butter Factory and the Jane Davidson site for toilet access, etc. At this point this plan has not been made available to Buchan Heritage to comment on.

Once again, I would like to thank all those from within COM and those from outside who have assisted over the year. As is usual it's the busy people that step up when required.

Special thanks to Rhonda who keeps the wheels turning.

Danny Mitton ~ President

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More from

NANCY LOUSADA'S

SCRAPBOOK

Written in 1951



One of the first crops grown in any quantity on the rich alluvial flats along the Buchan River was that of hops. Hops was planted on a large acreage, about 90 acres in all, on the Buchan Station for some years from about 1881. The planting and early stages of cultivation were done mainly by Chinese, of whom some fifty or sixty odd had their own settlement on the river bank about



Hop Growing and Harvesting on Ridley's Flat at Buchan. Ca 1890s. In the background is the original Mitton Homestead above Mitton's Bend. Photographer William J. Ferguson. Courtesy of the National Library of Australia.

where the saleyards stand today (Note-1951 when this was written), but the final stages, particularly drying and curing were done by white settlers under the orders of Mr. Bowie, manager of the Station which, at this time, was owned by Mr. Ricketson.

A large double brick kiln was used for drying the hops, the pit from which the clay for the bricks was taken, is still to be seen as a dam on Mr. J. Seehusen's property, that part of the old Station where the first and original homestead was situated. After some years of successful cropping the price of hops declined so much that they became unprofitable and so were no longer grown in such quantity.

About this time sheep were introduced to the district and the idle kiln was adapted as a shearing shed. For very many years one particular area on the flats, which had been used as a (sheep) foot-bath remained bare, nothing would grow there, and this was attributed to the fact that the ground had become impregnated with arsenic from the treatment for the sheep.

It is said, that at first, sheep did not thrive in Gippsland but, with the introduction of rye and other English grasses and careful selection of type, this difficulty was overcome and today sheep form a familiar part of the Buchan scene.

Maize and potatoes were grown from the days of first settlement and are still popular crops. Lucerne and meadow hay were other popular stand-bys, and most settlers grew some wheat.

During the big floods of 1893, the shearer's huts, which had been built on the flat below the hop-kiln-come shearing shed went sailing down the river.

"For many years after this flood", states Mr. S. E. Mackieson, who eventually owned (and still owns), this part of the river flats, "the plough would turn up rusty shears and similar gear, a mute reminder of the old huts and the flood that carried them away."



NOTES:

By Rhonda Coates

Sheep were introduced to the area earlier than when Henry Ricketson owned the Buchan Station. It was reported in 1862 that the station when owned by Rivett, H Bland, E Kligenger and Grant (who bought the Depasturing licence off McLeods) there were 4,000 sheep on the run. The station at that time was 22,000 acres and said to be capable of running 11,000 sheep. The saleyards referred to no longer exist but were situated about where the River Retreat Café (was the Backpackers) and Heather Gissing's house are today. Samuel Mackieson owned the land and the flats referred to in the article where the hop kiln was and hops grown below it. The log Cabins are on the land today. Think Roger Mackieson still owns one of the flats where hops was grown. There was also a hop kiln on Ridley's Flat.



Chair Yoga

With International Yoga Teacher Rhonda James

Are you interested in learning a new way to relax and maintain fitness?

Chair yoga is gentle and supports the body to move into postures while sitting in a chair. There are various yoga techniques that can be integrated with chair yoga that supports older adults to develop and maintain muscle strength.

Researchers have found that chair-based exercise improves upper and lower body.

Want to feel good, have a laugh and have a good stretch? Come and try chair yoga with International Yoga Teacher Rhonda James.



Bairnsdale Library

Wednesday 25 February
1.30pm - 2.30pm

Book Now

At your library
5152 4225

www.trybooking.com/eventlist/eastgippslandshirelibraries
Scan the QR code



FEBRUARY MONTHLY MOVIE SCREENING



Bairnsdale Library

Thursday 12 February
2:00pm-4:00pm

Lakes Entrance Service Centre

Thursday 19 February
10:00am-12:00pm
2:15pm-4:15pm

Paynesville Service Centre

Friday 20 February
10:00am-12:00pm
2:00pm-4:00pm

To book and for film information

Ask at your library
Phone 5152 4225

FREE - BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

Join us for a free screening of a wide selection of films!

Experience a free movie screening
in a comfortable and welcoming
environment.

Enjoy light refreshments and the
opportunity to connect over shared
cinematic experiences.



DIGGING DEEPER

TO BETTER UNDERSTAND YOUR SOILS

If you are interested in participating, please complete the online expression of interest form.

Please note that submitting an expression of interest does not guarantee participation, confirmation of participation will be made through direct correspondence.

CLICK LINK
<https://bit.ly/4jK6PmS>

SCAN QR CODE



Gippsland Agricultural Group and Southern Farming Systems, with support from the South East Drought Node through the Future Drought Fund, are offering 60 Gippsland farmers the opportunity to explore drought trigger planning and have their soil tested using a purpose-built soil sampling rig. You'll also learn how to use this information for future farm planning.

Drought Adoption Officer Rick Blackshaw will lead each 2.5-hour farm visit, offering practical guidance on managing pasture, livestock, and water during dry periods, showing how to take soil samples, and explaining how information can be used to guide future farm decisions.

Soil sampling and the on-farm discussion are free, but participants will need to cover the cost of laboratory analysis.

The project will run from February to May 2026.

Questions? Please Call Natalie on 0436 462 559



Libraries
Change Lives



Feeling Worried or Overwhelmed?

THE FLYING DOCTOR WELLBEING CAN HELP WHEN TIMES ARE TOUGH

Mental Health and Wellbeing services are available in East Gippsland. Flying Doctor Wellbeing provides confidential mental health appointments at no cost. You don't need a GP referral or a Mental Health Plan to use this service and you are welcome to self-refer via the phone number listed below. However, **Flying Doctor Wellbeing** always aims to work in collaboration with local services complementing your care and we welcome referrals from your GP. Appointments can be in person or via telehealth.

This free, confidential service offers mental health support for individuals experiencing **mild to moderate mental health challenges** such as anxiety, depression, stress, grief or adjustment difficulties.

Wendy Reed is an experienced and compassionate Mental Health Clinician delivering services to your area. She brings a practical and person-centred approach, drawing on a strong background in rural mental health and is available to provide therapeutic support to adults aged 18 through the lifespan. As a **Clinical Family Therapist**, she can also provide Couples' and Family counselling.

Wendy can provide flexible service delivery including **in-person sessions, phone or video calls**, depending on client preference and location, however all in-person sessions are only available through Buchan and Gelantipy Bush Nursing and Community Centres. Please contact the Royal Flying Doctor Wellbeing Team on the number below. You will then be offered an Intake session so we can assess how to best support you.

For more information or to make a referral:

Phone: 03 8412 0480

Email: wellbeing@rfdsvic.com.au



Royal Flying Doctor Service

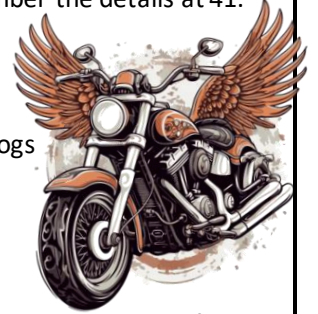
Remembering James William Norling

More generally known as Indian Jim, or just plain Indian. No one's too sure whether Indian picked up his nom de plume because of his long white hair (which he had when I first met him almost 30 years ago), or his affinity with horses. Denise Free remembers him breaking in "an absolutely unrideable horse." Wayne Brewer that he always had horses.



I remember him turning up here to take 8 year old Tim ferreting in the Little River Paddock. My brother David had set this activity up, and Jim had his ferrets in their cages in the back of his battered Station Wagon. I wasn't 100% comfortable sending my son off with a stranger, but Tim so enjoyed his adventure and the other (maybe 2) ferreting expeditions, that he can still remember the details at 41. Jason Brewer was another young ferreter.

Everyone I spoke to remembered Jim as "a gentleman". To Wayne he was a good friend who "wouldn't hurt a fly", a lover of Staffy dogs and Harley motorcycles. And beer, which he home brewed.



To Jack Free, when Jim's cancer took over, "He looked at dying straight on."

Very much missed by his partner Judy (who managed to care for him until almost the end) and his last Staffy who visits his grave with her "and wonders why I'm talking to the ground."

Support the Suggan Buggan Fire Slip-On Project

Community Fire Response

A remote community needs essential fire-response equipment to protect homes, land, and local wildlife. Funds raised will go toward a community fire slip-on unit to improve early response capability.

How You Can Make a Difference

Your donation directly supports the purchase of essential fire-fighting equipment for a remote community.

Find out more information at :
<https://gofund.me/bd08b4385>



Scan the code



The slip on available for purchase from the Gelantipy CFA

Who are we?

Suggan Buggan is a tiny, remote community surrounded by forests, farms, & precious wildlife. When fire threatens, early response is everything — but our distance from emergency services leaves us vulnerable. A dedicated fire slip-on unit will give locals the ability to respond quickly, protect homes, safeguard the environment, & support each other when it matters most.

Suggan Buggan
Fire Project

Join Us in Keeping Suggan Buggan Safe
Your kindness helps protect lives, land, & the spirit of a small community that looks after one another.



Community Activities in Buchan



Walk & Talk

Meet every Tuesday at 9:30am at Buchan Neighbourhood House.

Join Jess for a gentle walk followed by a cuppa and a chat.



Tips & Tricks Sessions

Held on the third Thursday of every month at 11am

Get together to learn and swap tips and tricks about a new food each month.



Buchan Community Garden

Volunteer group meets every Thursday at 10am
at the Community Garden in the Main Street.

Come along to explore the space, lend a hand, or maybe start your own
garden bed or pod!

Everyone is welcome!

For more information, please contact
Jess – Wellbeing Support Officer
0448 064 760



BBNA

BUCHAN BUSH NURSING ASSOCIATION

NewsRelease



Council budget feedback open, have your say year-round

East Gippsland residents are invited to have their say on the 2026-27 Council budget – an opportunity to give feedback and ideas about the Council projects and services that matter most, to help Council shape its budget and plan for future capital works and initiatives.

Your feedback helps Council understand:

- What services are most important to the community
- What services the community thinks need to improve
- What services the community thinks Council is doing best

In a new approach to seeking budget input, residents and ratepayers will be able to provide feedback and make suggestions all year round via a survey. Feedback submitted before 12.00 pm, Monday 9 March 2026, will be considered by councillors when developing this year's budget. Feedback received after 9 March will be considered for the following budget.

Mayor Cr Jodie Ashworth said the budget is also guided by the Council Plan 2025-29, long-term strategies, and ongoing conversations with the community.

"It sets out the projects, services, and investments planned for the coming year," Cr Ashworth said.

"In addition to these plans, strategies and ongoing conversations in communities, the opportunity to provide your feedback further helps councillors shape the budget. This could include road maintenance, footpaths, drainage and stormwater upgrades, coastal infrastructure, community facilities, arts and culture, recreational spaces, aged and youth services, climate action, or economic development.

"Council's budget is tight, but we want to hear from you where we could make a difference.

"We must balance community priorities with legislative obligations, financial sustainability, asset renewal needs, and rising service costs. This means difficult choices are sometimes required, and not all requests can be funded in a single budget year."

Cr Ashworth said making budget feedback available year-round via Council's Your Say page will allow Council to use the feedback earlier as it prepares its budget.

Residents can complete the online survey at Your Say East Gippsland or in-person at any Council library or service centre. The survey asks questions about services that are most important to you, services that need improvement, services where Council is doing well, and suggestions for specific items councillors should consider.

Councillors and officers are having direct conversations with a range of stakeholders and groups across the shire, such as chambers of commerce, ratepayer groups, advisory committees and representative groups in smaller towns. There will also be community information sessions from 2.00-4.00 pm at:

- Bairnsdale Library, Wednesday 11 February
- Lakes Entrance Library, Monday 16 February
- Paynesville Library, Thursday 19 February

Feedback can also be provided at any Council service centre or library, or via feedback@egipps.vic.gov.au or by calling 5153 9500. For more information about the budget process, visit eastgippsland.vic.gov.au.



eastgippsland.vic.gov.au



feedback@egipps.vic.gov.au



[@egsc](https://www.facebook.com/egsc)



This is a friendly reminder that your rates are due this Sunday 15th February

If you're going through financial hardship, please reach out. We're here to talk through your options and offer support through our Hardship Policy.

Penalty interest will apply to unpaid rates after the due date.

For more details, visit East Gippsland Shire Council website or email us at feedback@egipps.vic.gov.au

East Gippsland Volunteer Honour Roll Registration

Are you a volunteer?

Or do you know someone who contributes to our community in a volunteering capacity?

Not all heroes wear capes – many are everyday people who quietly give their time to support others and strengthen our communities.

East Gippsland Shire Council is getting ready to celebrate National Volunteer Week 2026 (18–24 May) and is inviting the community to reflect on the incredible contribution volunteers make across the region.

East Gippsland has one of the highest volunteering rates in the country, with 19.2 per cent of residents actively volunteering – well above the regional Victorian average. From sports clubs and emergency services to community groups, schools and environmental organisations, volunteering is a defining feature of life in East Gippsland.

Register your details now to be formally recognised on the East Gippsland Honour Roll, to be updated annually during National Volunteer Week in May.

<https://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/forms/east-gippsland-volunteer-honour-roll-registration-form>



Forms are also available at Council's customer service centres or call our Customer Service Centre on (03) 5153 9500.

THE FORGE

03 5152 1482

eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/theforge

THE BIG CHILL OUT

SATURDAY 14 FEB
7:30PM

CELEBRATING THE SOUNDTRACK THAT SAVED MOTOWN

KITTY FLANAGAN

WEDNESDAY 18 FEB 7:30PM
THURSDAY 19 FEB 7:30PM
FRIDAY 20 FEB 7:30PM

LUKE KIDGELL

SATURDAY 21 FEB
7:30PM

AKMAL

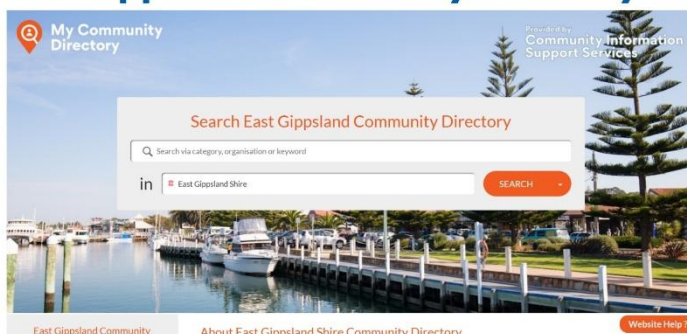
SATURDAY 28 FEB
8:00PM

Where Community and Culture Unite

Discover upcoming performances at the Forge Theatre, and book your show tickets online.

<https://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/leisure/whats-on-and-buy-tickets>

**Discover the New Free
East Gippsland Community Directory**



Learn how to connect with local clubs, groups, services and volunteering opportunities in East Gippsland!

In this session you'll learn how to:

- Search for local clubs, groups, services, and volunteering opportunities
- Create your own listing
- Promote your events and activities
- Advertise and recruit volunteers
- Access technical support

Perfect for:

Community groups • Not-for-profits • Volunteers • Local services • Anyone wanting to get involved

To view the online community directory visit

www.mycommunitydirectory.com.au/Victoria/East_Gippsland

Bairnsdale Library
Wednesday 25 February
3.00pm - 4.30pm

Book Now
At your library
5152 4225
www.trybooking.com/eventlist/eastgippslandshirelibraries
Scan the QR code

Farm Business Support

Rural Financial Counselling Service

The Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) offers free, confidential and independent financial support to farmers and small, related rural businesses who are in, or at risk of, financial hardship.

To connect with your closest service call **1300 771 741** or visit rfcsnetwork.com.au.

Regional Investment Corporation

Farmers may be able to access low-interest loans through the Commonwealth Government's **Regional Investment Corporation (RIC)**.



More information about the low interest loans process is available from the Regional Investment Corporation. Call **1800 875 675**, email info@ric.gov.au or visit ric.gov.au or scan the QR code.

Farmer Assistance Hotline

Contact the Farmer Assistance Hotline on **132 316** to find out about Australian Government support services available to farmers and rural communities.

Farm Household Allowance

Farmers in financial hardship may be eligible for the Commonwealth Government's Farm Household Allowance (FHA), a fortnightly payment available for up to four years in a specific 10-year period.

For more information on the Farm Household Allowance, visit servicesaustralia.gov.au.

Search for 'Farm Household Assistance'.

A rural financial counsellor can help farmers to understand eligibility and apply for the FHA.

Personal Wellbeing Contacts

VicEmergency	Monitor the VicEmergency app, website and hotline for warnings and emergency info.	emergency.vic.gov.au 1800 226 226
National Centre for Farmer Health	Support resources and services for emotional and social wellbeing, farm business support, information for rural and health professionals, rural support organisations.	farmerhealth.org.au/support-hub-victoria
Australian Red Cross	For people affected by severe weather and flood.	1800 733 276 redcross.org.au/
Lifeline	24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention.	131 114 lifeline.org.au
Beyondblue	24/7 telephone mental health information and support.	1300 224 636 beyondblue.org.au
MensLine Australia	24/7 service for men with relationship and family concerns.	1300 78 99 78 mensline.org.au
Family Relationships	Provides families with access to information about family relationship issues.	1800 050 321 familyrelationships.gov.au
Mental Health Care Plan	Medicare rebates for up to 10 individual or group appointments per year with a psychologist, occupational therapist or social worker.	Contact your GP for a referral healthdirect.gov.au/mental-health-care-plan
Kids Helpline	Confidential telephone counselling service for young people aged 5 to 25.	1800 551 800 kidshelpline.com.au/
NURSE-ON-CALL	Expert health information and advice (24 hours, 7 days a week).	1300 60 60 24
Rural Aid	Offers free, confidential counselling to Rural Aid registered farmers and families, and critical support to farmers affected by natural disaster with financial, water, fodder and volunteer assistance.	1300 327 624 contact@ruralaid.org.au www.ruralaid.org.au/
Better Health Channel	Health and medical information that is reliable, up to date, easy to understand, regularly reviewed and locally relevant.	betterhealth.vic.gov.au

Agriculture Victoria

Agriculture Recovery Services	Work with farmers and industry to prepare for and respond to natural disasters.	1800 226 226 recovery@agriculture.vic.gov.au
Information	The Agriculture Victoria website provides information on animal welfare, livestock and animals, as well as biosecurity.	agriculture.vic.gov.au/

Pink stumps day held at **Buchan Cricket Club** 7th February 2026 to raise funds for the McGrath Foundation and we had a great match played in good spirits for a good cause!

#PinkStumpsDay

Pink Stumps Day.



DONATE - <https://www.mcgrathfoundation.com.au>

Pink Stumps Day.
Now for all cancers.



Cricket

Shop pink with purpose to help ensure no one goes through cancer without the care of a McGrath Cancer Care Nurse.



Pink Stump Day Kit



Pink Stumps



Pink Stumps Day Cap



Pink Stumps Day Umpire Hat

Buchan Cricket Club - B Grade Seniors



Round 15

Saturday, 14th February 2026 | 1:00pm

Meerlieu

Vs

Buchan

Meerlieu Reserve



Round 16

Saturday, 21st February 2026 | 1:00pm

Lakes Entrance

Vs

Buchan

Lakes Entrance Recreation Reserve



Round 17

Saturday, 28th February 2026 | 1:00pm

Lakes Entrance

Vs

Buchan

Lakes Entrance Recreation Reserve



Round 18

Saturday, 7th March 2026 | 1:00pm

Bruthen

Vs

Buchan

Bruthen Recreation Reserve



Buchan Recreation Reserve Redevelopment Update

Works continue to progress at the Buchan Recreation Reserve, with several important milestones recently achieved and others underway.

The **tennis courts have now been resurfaced**, marking a significant improvement to the facility. There are, however, a few areas that still require minor repairs, which will be completed as part of the final works. We'd like to remind everyone that the courts are a **specialist sports surface**. To protect the new surface, no equipment or heavy items are to be left on the courts, as this can dent and damage the surface.

Oval lighting is currently being reconfigured, with lighting being disconnected from the old building and connected to the new pavilion. Once complete, the external lighting switch will be located outside the building to allow safe and easy access to the lights.

The **NBN connection** also needs to be transferred to the new pavilion. This has been logged and is scheduled to occur in early April.

A **new key system** has been ordered and a formal key register will be developed to improve security and accountability across the facility.

Work is also underway on **door and building signage**, including all-abilities signage. This will ensure the new pavilion is clearly signed, accessible, and welcoming for all users.

Unfortunately, the Committee of Management has recently had to deal with **acts of vandalism**, including graffiti inside one of the toilets and damage to sporting surface. This has been particularly disappointing given the enormous amount of voluntary time and effort being put in by community members to deliver and maintain these new facilities. The matter has been reported to Police and is currently under investigation.

We ask the community to please help look after this shared space. If you see inappropriate behaviour or damage occurring, reporting it early helps protect the facility for everyone.

The Buchan Recreation Reserve belongs to the whole community, and with a little care and respect, it will continue to be a place we can all be proud of.



DIGITAL ESSENTIALS: Be Work Ready!

COURSE INFORMATION SESSION

TUESDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2026

10.30 AM - 1.30 PM

(INCLUDES LUNCH)

COURSE OVERVIEW AND ENROLMENT

COURSE STARTS

TUESDAY 3RD APRIL 10.30 AM - 1.30 PM FOR 7
WEEKS ENDING ON TUESDAY 14TH APRIL

THE HUB 27 DALMAYHOY ST BAIRNSDALE

DEVELOPING YOUR DIGITAL LITERACY SKILLS TO INCREASE CHANCES OF
EMPLOYMENT WITH A PARTICULAR FOCUS ON SKILLS AND TOOLS FOR
SEARCHING AND APPLYING FOR JOBS ONLINE

CREATE/REGISTER AN ACCOUNT WITH JOBS VICTORIA AND USING YOUR
WORKPLACE AUSTRALIA APP

UNDERSTANDING THE JOB APPLICATION PROCESS

SKILLS TO GIVE YOU THE EDGE

ENQUIRE NOW FOR MORE INFORMATION BY CALLING US ON 0493 070 332
OR EMAIL NEIGHBOURHOODHOUSE@BUCHAN.VIC.AU

LEARN LOCAL PROGRAMS ARE RECOGNISED WORKFORCE AUSTRALIA APPROVED
ACTIVITIES

Come and meet Ryan,
the Culture and
Creativity Place Officer
for the EG Shire
Council.

Join the discussion, share
ideas, celebrate and problem
solve issues.

These catch-ups are for the
community to come
together and discuss arts,
events, music and culture,
and network.

The Culture and Creativity
team at EGSC are committed
to working with the
community to help the arts
and creativity flourish.

Hear what the team have
planned for the coming year
and discuss how they can aid
or support individuals and
groups from small problems
to big ideas."

CREATIVE CATCH UPS

THURSDAY 26TH FEB 2026

BUCHAN

NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE
10AM

ORBOST

WILDERNESS ARTIST COLLECTIVE
1PM

Nowa Nowa

COMMUNITY HALL
3:30PM



Visitor Information

Sightseeing in the District



Situated in East Gippsland, Buchan is primarily an agricultural town renowned for offering some of the best caving in Victoria. Buchan is a "destination" township as the road from the highway leads up to Wulgulmerang and the Snowy National Park to the NW and is not a main thoroughfare. The other roads leading out of the township take you to Orbos via the back road, a picturesque alternative to the Princess Highway and finally the road to Bairnsdale which is 70km away. One of the oldest towns in Victoria, Buchan is rich in pioneering heritage and was first settled by Europeans around 1840 after East Gippsland explorer J.R. Wilkinson began the Buchan Station and Edward Boyliss started the Gelantipy Station. 2014 is the district's 175th anniversary year.

The Caves Reserve is the main visitor attraction but the district has many other activities and features at:

Visitors' information is available at the General Store on Main Road.

Buchan Self-Guided Historical Walking Tour

Take a tour around the township and discover the history of the buildings, the river and the people.

This tour was developed by Buchan Gallery and the Buchan Heritage Group. Guides are available at the Neighbourhood House, Caves Reserve and General Store.

[Download Guide](#)



The Buchan River



The Buchan River meanders through the township. You can walk along the river's edge from the swing bridge to the Bluff Reserve, our local swimming hole. The river is good for fishing for trout, blackfish and eel. There are picnic tables in some very picturesque spots with the table closest to the swing bridge having a wild plum tree providing tasty plums in February and March. You can also do a lilx run from the Bluff, getting out at the swing bridge. In times of drought in peak summer the river sometimes becomes unswimmable but the cave's reserve pool which is fed from an underground stream provides a cool alternative. (The swimming pool was closed in 2019 and is expected to open in November 2022 but will no longer be fed by spring creek but will be a conventional swimming pool.)

The Timbarra River



VISIT OUR WEBSITE



BUCHAN

Get to know Buchan

Information about Buchan Caves, Buchan Visitor Information, Buchan Accommodation and much more...

Buchan District

Buchan and District is a rural area, consisting largely of farming land and native vegetation. It includes the localities of Black Mountain, Buchan, Buchan South, Butchers Ridge, Conni Creek, Gelantipy, Gillingall, Glenmore, Murrindal, Suggan, Buggan, Timbarra, W-Tree, and Wulgulmerang.

Buchan Pleasures

The surrounding valleys and hills provide many opportunities for fishing, bushwalking, bird watching, dark sky stargazing, trail riding, kayaking, white water rafting, four-wheel driving, and horse riding.

[Accommodation options are plentiful and varied.](#)

Buchan Township

Buchan township is located on the Buchan River near where the Snowy and Buchan Rivers meet, approximately 75 kilometres from Bairnsdale and 350 kilometres from Melbourne.

Major features of Buchan are the Buchan Caves, Buchan Caves Reserve, limestone-rich valleys, picturesque hills, numerous waterfalls, gorges, and historic bridges.

Buchan History

Whilst Buchan is best known for its famous spectacular underground caves its history as one of the oldest townships in Victoria goes back much further than the discovery of the caves.

The township celebrated its 175th anniversary in March 2014.



We acknowledge the Gunaakurnal People, the Traditional Owners of the land on which we gather, and pay our respects to their Elders both past and present.



Newsletters

Local Community News

[BROWSE](#)

Things to see

Sightseeing in the District

[BROWSE](#)

Local Information

Services, Clubs, Groups and useful information

[BROWSE](#)

Clean Up Australia—REGISTER NOW

It's time to register your community group, school or business for the 2026 Clean Up Australia Day.

TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY – Business Clean Up Australia Day – Engage your team on a fun, practical, and impactful volunteering day!

FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY – Schools Clean Up Day – Open to preschool, primary and secondary students to learn about litter prevention, sustainability, community and teamwork. Free Lesson Plans: cleanup.org.au/schools

SUNDAY 1 MARCH – Community Clean Up Australia Day – Join individuals, friends, family, community groups and Council in making a difference to the local environment.

Register to Clean Up Now – cleanup.org.au/register-a-clean-up



Register your spot
for Clean Up Australia Day



Seatbelts save lives.

Driving unbuckled? If you or your passengers drive without a fastened seatbelt, you could each receive a \$407 fine. The driver will also face 3 demerit points.

If you take risks while driving, chances are you will be caught.

Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone.



Mobile Library Dates 2026

TUESDAY: Feb 24, Mar 10, Mar 24

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

TUESDAY: Feb 17, Mar 3, Mar 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

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 25th February 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 17th February 12:45pm—1:30pm

Tuesday 3rd March 12:45pm—1:30pm

Tuesday 17th March 12:45pm—1:30pm

Buchan Main Street

Tuesday 24th February 9:00am—10:00am

Tuesday 10th March 9:00am—10:00am

Tuesday 24th March 9:00am—10:00am

Gelantipy (Bush Nurse Centre)

Tuesday 17th February 9:00am—9:45am

Tuesday 3rd March 9:00am—9:45am

Tuesday 17th March 9:00am—9:45am

W Tree (SIBA)

Tuesday 24th February 1:30pm—2:30pm

Tuesday 10th March 1:30pm—2:30pm

Tuesday 24th March 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.

Next Meeting
Sunday 29th March

For details contact
Rhonda Coates 5155 9373