

Buchan Phoenix

Rising from the ashes...

Communication for the community by the community

April 2026 Issue 109

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



Next **Buchan Phoenix** contributions in by:
Monday,
4 May 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.





SCAN TO DONATE
Unique ID: 0019920976

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

Every dollar raised helps support those impacted by cancer.

HOST: BUCHAN NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

DATE: **Tuesday, 19th May 2026**

WHERE: 6 Centre Road, BUCHAN

TIME: 10:00am – 12 Noon

DETAILS: Entry by donation

Bring some change to enter the raffle.
If you would like to bring along your favourite cup or mug feel free to do so.

Please bring a plate to share.

Come and enjoy a cuppa with us!

biggestmorningtea.com.au





Bytes & Biscuits 2026

Presented by

Buchan Neighbourhood House & Esports Collective
Learn to use your Phone or Tablet with Confidence



Neighbourhood Houses
The Heart of Our Community

Join us for a friendly monthly session where young Digital Mentors help you build practical digital skills

Enjoy a relaxed session with tea, coffee and biscuits while you learn

Location: 58 Macleod St, Bairnsdale
When: Monthly Wednesdays starting 29 April

Bus leaves Buchan Neighbourhood House at 10:00am

The session is run over one hour from 11.00 am to 12 noon



To make use of our time in Bairnsdale we will be having lunch at East Bairnsdale Neighbourhood House where Lisa Lightowler (Co-ordinator) will also provide a short talk about the centre and its programs.

It is expected that we will be back in Buchan around 3pm

Travel will be on the new Buchan Football/Netball Club Bus

Bookings essential – places are limited

To book or for more information:

Buchan Neighbourhood House

0473 070 332

Why join?

Support local young people (aged 14–25) whom are being trained as Digital Mentors to support older Australians to build confidence using technology

BRHS You can access emergency care from home with the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department

For non-life-threatening emergencies, the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department connects you with emergency doctors and nurses via video from anywhere in Victoria.

For emergencies or life-threatening situations, come straight to the Emergency Department or call 000.



Register via the VVED website:

www.vved.org.au/patients

VIRTUAL EMERGENCY CARE

Access Emergency Care from home for non-life-threatening emergencies



Farm First Aid Training

Redcross.org.au/team



LOCATION
Elders Bairnsdale (Boardroom)
726 Princes Hwy, Bairnsdale

DATE/TIME
Thursday 30 April
9.30am to 4.30pm

DETAILS - Free First Aid course for East Gippsland farmers. Morning tea and lunch provided. Limited places

Please RSVP to Leanne - Bairnsdale Neighbourhood House 0428 330 756/5352577

supporting drought and bushfire affected communities

For more information contact:

Allison Norfolk 0438 548 008 or email anorfolk@redcross.org.au

On- farm accidents are a major concern

Incidents involve workers and bystanders (including children) and occur in a range of circumstances on a variety of farm and agricultural enterprises.

Learn first aid skills to provide support in an emergency

Develop skills and improve farm and rural workplace safety by enrolling in the Red Cross Farm First Aid course delivered by an accredited First Aid trainer. Participants are provided with the knowledge and skills to assist themselves, and others, to cope with accidents and injury both from a physical and mental wellbeing perspective.

As part of the course, there is a wellbeing section that is designed to help start the conversation around mental wellbeing and increase awareness of relevant service available for individuals, family and friends. On completion of the course, participants receive a Statement of Attainment in Provide Basic Emergency Life Support (HLTAID010) – often required for insurance and employment opportunities.

Farm First Aid training topics

- Basic Life Support (DRSABCD)
- Perform CPR
- Breathing emergencies
- Allergic reaction / Anaphylaxis
- Cardiac emergencies
- Severe bleeding and wound care
- Fractures and dislocations
- Shock management
- Envenomation
- Wellbeing and mental health support and assistance
- Environmental impacts
- Reporting
- Recovery and Resilience
- Legal requirements

#Buchan Recreation Reserve update

There has been lots of progress on site at Buchan Recreation Reserve, with the new pavilion and facilities really starting to take shape.

What's been happening:

- 🍳 Kitchen and bar areas coming together
- 🌈 Floor coverings complete, painting underway
- 🌿 Veranda decking and footpaths finished
- 🪑 Seating, stairs and sheds progressing
- 🏏 Netball, cricket and oval upgrades underway
- ☀️ Solar panels and battery storage being installed

What's next:

- Final electrical and plumbing works
- Handrails and balustrades
- Continued external works

Great to see it all coming together. Thanks to the Buchan community for your patience – more updates soon as we get closer to completion.



Major progress across

Buchan reserve pavilion and grounds

Goodbye Gorgeous Jackie

W Tree lost one of its own when Jackie Pedley/Lester died in a single vehicle accident on March 7th.

David Pedley lost the last of his 3 siblings, her nieces and nephews an Auntie they admired and loved, Beth Allen her best girlfriend.

Everyone who loved Jack is still coming to terms with her sudden death.

We've lost a woman who was, amazingly, still stunningly beautiful at almost 85. Who did Tai Chi at The Bluff, adored her dog Rupert, painted rocks - she came for Christmas and said "I've brought you a rock", I said "I'll put it with my other rocks" - and quality hippy trippy pictures (I've got one of those also).

A vegetarian who was an amazing cook who fed me an absolutely delicious roast chook when I needed a break from the overbearing males at home.

One of the original Sunrise Farm settlers with her partner, and later husband, Bob Rutter, who spoke very much from his heart at her funeral. When I learnt for the first time how badly Jackie had wanted children until an ectopic pregnancy ended that dream.

Her funeral was lovely, she was buried in Buchan as Beth knew she wanted, and a lot of people are going to miss her very, very much.



Suggan Buggan Old School House Reserve Committee Inc

We held our Triannual meeting in Suggan on 21st March after a very convivial BBQ in warm sunshine (up top was all misty rain).

Kevin Cordrey has resigned as Secretary/Treasurer. I am continuing as Secretary, Gordon Moon as President and we welcomed Danny Mitton to the position of Treasurer and Jess Moon and Marg Rogers as Committee members.

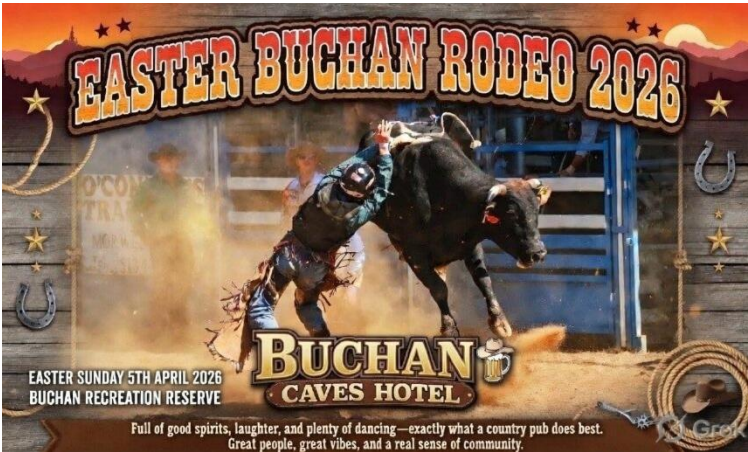
As well as continuing to repair the School House we resolved to work towards replacing an O'Rourke gravestone that has been stolen from Black Mountain and fencing damaged during the theft and repairing Buff's Hut at Rocky Plains.

Anyone with basic Bush Carpentry skills who is willing to help is very, very welcome. Contact me or Gordon.



Written by Deborah Woodburn

Buchan Caves Hotel Update - Easter, Events & What's Ahead



Easter at the Buchan Caves Hotel was nothing short of a bumper weekend, with the pub buzzing the whole weekend. It was fantastic to see such a strong mix of locals, returning visitors, and new faces all coming together to enjoy everything Buchan has to offer over the long weekend.

The standout highlight was Sunday night following the rodeo. The energy carried straight from the arena into the pub, creating a brilliant atmosphere. The crowd was exceptional—full of good spirits,

laughter, and plenty of dancing—exactly what a country pub does best. It was one of those nights where everything just clicked: great people, great vibes, and a real sense of community. A huge thank you to everyone who came out and made the weekend so memorable.

Looking ahead, we've got plenty happening at the pub.

On **Saturday 18 April**, we're bringing the laughs to Buchan with stand-up star and content sensation **Billy Stiles** hitting the stage. Known for his sharp, relatable, no-filter humour, Billy delivers the kind of comedy that will have your cheeks hurting by the end of the night. Grab your mates, come in early for dinner, and settle in for a cracking night. Grab your tickets from Billy on Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/billy-stiles-live-at-buchan-tickets-1984169487349>



Dinner available beforehand



On **Friday May 8**, we're hosting Mates Day at the Pub. Join us for a Mental Health Happy Hour from 5.00-6pm, with \$1 off your favourite drink. It's a great excuse to slow down, have a drink, and check in with your mates. Sometimes a simple "you alright?" can mean everything.

We're also gearing up for the East Gippsland Winter Festival, with a few exciting events in the works. A Long Lunch is on the horizon—bringing people

together over great local food and drinks and yes there are whispers that we are planning a disco in the bistro for the kids! More details to come, but it's shaping up to be a fun-filled winter in Buchan.

As always, thank you for your continued support. We love being part of this incredible community and look forward to seeing you at the pub soon.





BUCHAN NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE
 Trading as Buchan District Outreach Inc.
 ABN: 82647614871
 6 Centre Road Buchan 3885
 Ph. 51 559 216
buchanbnh@bigpond.com
<https://buchan.vic.au/>

Neighbourhood House
The heart of our community

A new edition of the **LOCAL TELEPHONE DIRECTORY** is now being prepared, and it promises to be our most accessible version yet, featuring all resident phone numbers, plus details on local clubs, groups, and community services—all printed in clear, easy-to-read **16-point type**.

To keep this valuable community resource affordable for everyone, we are once again inviting

local businesses to support the directory through advertising.

This is the size advert
13cm wide x 5cm high
Cost only \$20.00



BBNA
Buchan Bush Nursing Association

Neighbourhood Houses
Buchan Neighbourhood Houses
Victoria

YOUTH GROUP BLAST!

Starting Tuesday 21st April
Buchan Neighbourhood House
5PM • Ages 12-16

No boredom allowed!
Games • Music • Friends • EpicFun!
Level up your Tuesday!

To book contact **0493 070 332**
or **0448 064 760**

Grok

Your contribution not only promotes your business to every household in the district—it also helps ensure this directory remains a practical, low-cost tool for the entire community.



Black Rainbow Printing does have some previous advertisement on file, making it simple to participate again.

If you'd like to update your design, you can create your own layout using the size 13cm wide x 5cm height and email us an electronic copy.

Your ad not only promotes your business to every household—it also helps keep this community directory affordable.

If Businesses, residents or groups would like to update their details:

Please contact the

BUCHAN NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

before **28 April 2026** by

DROPPING in,
CALLING: 0493 070 332, 5155 9216
EMAILING info.buchan@gmail.com



FREE | BOOKINGS NOT ESSENTIAL

Games Night

Libraries After Dark



Bairnsdale Library

3rd Thursday Monthly
6.00pm - 8.30pm

Book Now

At your library
51 52 4225

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



Join us at Libraries After Dark for some tabletop games!

We're hosting a games night every 3rd Thursday as part of our Libraries After Dark program.

Feel like getting out of the house Thursday night but have nothing to do? We've got you covered!

There will be speed puzzling, board games and chess available so bring a friend - bookings appreciated!



Libraries
Change Lives

DISCOVER SOMETHING NEW

LIBRARIES
AFTER DARK



MONTHLY MOVIE SCREENING

Bairnsdale Library

6:30pm-8:30pm

THURSDAY'S

2nd April

9th April

16th April

23rd April

30th April

2:00pm – 4:00pm

14th May

To book and for film information

Ask at your library

Phone 5152

FREE - BOOKINGS
ESSENTIAL
Gold Coin Donation
for Supper



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.

For specific film information, ask in library

STARTING WEDNESDAY
15TH APRIL

KICK UP YOUR HEELS
LINE DANCING

WITH



East Gippy
Heart
LINE DANCE & EVENTS

6.00 - 8.00 PM

Cost \$15 per session
Book with the
Neighbourhood House on
0493 070 332

Venue Buckan Hall



Neighbourhood Houses
The Heart of Our Community



Libraries
Change Lives



BUCHAN VALLEY GOLF CLUB

We had a great morning hosting **Jack Young**, one of the pros from Bairnsdale Golf Club, who ran a fantastic **junior golf lesson on Sunday 29th March 2026**. We were thrilled to have **14 juniors** take part in the first session with local talent Jack.



A sincere thank-you to everyone who helped raise the funds that made these lessons possible for our kids.

A big thanks also to **Jack**, who stuck around to play in the comp afterwards, and to **Jack's family** for patiently spending the day at the club while he coached.



For further details or to register interest, please message **Hamish Hancock** or **Kate Hodge**.

VISIT EAST GIPPSLAND – BUCHAN

Looking for inspiration for your next escape?

Take a guided tour through the breathtaking Buchan Caves, with shimmering chambers and ancient rock formations that feel straight out of a fantasy world.

Then unwind with a riverside picnic, wander peaceful walking tracks or let the kids splash and explore to their hearts' content.

With bush trails, wildlife and that easy country charm, Buchan is the kind of place where family memories come naturally.



AI Information Session



Discover how AI tools like ChatGPT can help you in everyday life!

- **Date:** Tuesday, May 26th
- **Time:** 11am to 1pm
- **Location:** Buchan Neighbourhood House
- **Cost:** FREE!

Join us for an informal information session where we'll introduce modern AI tools in a friendly, non-intimidating way. Perfect for beginners, older residents, farmers, and anyone curious about AI.

Learn how to:

- Turn your questions into effective AI prompts
- Use AI safely and effectively for everyday tasks
- Access AI from your own computer or device.

Facilitated by Peter Curry, local volunteer, AI responses are for general information only - not professional advice.

For more information and bookings contact us at 0493 070 332 or 51 559 216



We're calling on Buchan Locals!

Join the **Buchan Arts Council Committee**

Help Create the Events That Bring Our Community Together

WE'RE CALLING ON TASK-ORIENTED, RELIABLE, ENERGETIC, COMMUNITY-MINDED LOCALS TO HELP DELIVER BUCHAN'S EVENTS

Creativity

Celebration

Community Spirit

INTERESTED IN JOINING?
Next Meeting: Friday 17th April at 10am at the Neighbourhood House

Your involvement helps keep Buchan vibrant

East Gippsland Winter Festival 2027 – Buchan Program
Buchan Flower Art Craft Show
Buchan Photography Competition
Buchan New Year Market and Shine n Show
and much more...

GroK



Celebrating Our Season & Players

We proudly recognise the outstanding achievements, dedication, and sportsmanship of all players, members, and supporters throughout the 2025–2026 season.

Presenter: Hamish Hancock, Lynton Hill, Jim Davidson

Award Highlights

Lynton Hill
CLUB PERSON OF THE YEAR
James Greenwood

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER |
CHAMPION PLAYER | MOST RUNS
Noah Mathews, Jim Davidson

GORDON HOLLOWAY MEMORIAL
Jim Davidson
MOST WICKETS



Honourable Guests –
Gwen and Wendy Holloway



James Greenwood received x3 awards



Noah Mathews, Jim Davidson tied for GORDON HOLLOWAY MEMORIAL – presented by Gwen and Wendy Holloway

Junior & Blasters Recognition

A huge congratulations to all our Junior Players and Buchan Blasters / U13's for their enthusiasm, teamwork, and development through the season.



Buchan Junior Team



Buchan Blasters U13 Team

Thank You

Special thanks to our sponsors, volunteers, families and supporters who make Buchan Cricket possible.

Jim Davidson

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL AWARD RECIPIENTS!

We look forward to another fantastic season ahead.

Sale of Items

Buchan Recreation Reserve Pavilion

The Buchan Recreation Reserve Pavilion is scheduled for demolition from Monday 11 May 2026.

Prior to demolition, several items from the building are being offered for sale to the highest bidder.

Bids must be submitted by email to: buchanhallandrec@gmail.com

via an Item Bid form which can be found using this link <https://buchan.vic.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Sale-of-Items-Recreation-Pavilion.pdf>

Closing date for bids:
Mon, 20 April 2026

Successful bidders notified:
Wed, 23 April 2026

All purchased items must be removed by:
Fri, 1 May 2026

Victoria Police

East Gippsland Neighbourhood Policing Forum

The Victoria Police Neighbourhood Policing Forum welcomes local services and community members to talk with police about what issues are important in your community.

The forum will explore topics including:

- Current crime trends and crime prevention
- Young people
- Family violence
- Road policing
- Drugs and drug related crime.

The Neighbourhood Policing Forum will be run by a Victoria Police panel and questions will be taken from the audience throughout the event.

Registration is a must.

To attend, please register by sending your details to: NHP-EAST-GIPPSLAND-MGR@police.vic.gov.au

or scan the QR code.

To submit a question prior to the forum: [EAST GIPPSLAND NHP questions](#)

Got a question for police?

Scan the QR code to submit prior to the forum

Scan here to register your attendance

A SAFE VICTORIA

Items Available

The following items are available for purchase:

- Windows from the building (may be purchased individually)
- doors and jambs
- Veranda boards (Merbau) – available in sections
- Internal fittings including kitchen cupboards
- Internal plumbing and associated fittings including the urinal
- Balustrade and ramp
- tables and chairs
- Internal wall panelling
- Stove/Oven
- Netting from the Cricket Practice nets

“Preference may be given to complete removal of sections where practical.”

Please note:

- No structural components of the building will be offered for sale.
- Only items that do not affect the structural integrity of the building are available.
- All items are sold “as is, where is.”
- Buyers are responsible for removal, transport, and any labour required.
- Removal is at the purchaser’s own risk.
- Payment must be made prior to removal.
- The Committee reserves the right to accept or decline any bid.

Inspection of items can be arranged by contacting the Committee on buchanhallandrec@gmail.com

MALL TOILET TEMPORARILY CLOSED

The public toilet in the Nicholson Street Mall, Bairnsdale, has been temporarily closed due to ongoing vandalism, anti-social and unlawful behaviour. Over the past six months, the facilities have been damaged almost weekly, including broken fixtures, damaged automatic door sensors requiring specialist repairs, repeated graffiti and broken glass. Despite regular cleaning, repairs and repainting (sometimes multiple times a day) the level of damage has made the toilets unsafe and impractical to keep open.

This temporary closure supports the work we are doing with traders and Victoria Police to address immediate safety concerns while continuing to work towards long-term revitalisation of the area.

Last Tuesday night, Council received a petition, which had a combined 3,263 signatures (physical and online), which read:

"We the undersigned, hereby petition East Gippsland Shire Council to open Nicholson Street Mall for the safety of pedestrians, shoppers, workers and business owners; to stop congestion in Nicholson/Bailey Streets and Nicholson/Service Streets; and to improve traffic flow in the area." A report on this matter will be considered at a future Council meeting.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor, and senior officers, have met with the trader representatives from this part of the Bairnsdale CBD on several occasions and discussions have also been held with both the Member for Gippsland and Member for Gippsland East. We've also made a commitment to establish a small working group/taskforce with key stakeholders to progress both short-term and longer-term initiatives to support this area of the CBD. We remind people that if anyone experiences activity in the mall area or anywhere else that involves unlawful or

dangerous behaviour - such as threats to personal safety, property damage, drug-related activity, or violence - please refer the matter immediately to Victoria Police on 000 (for emergencies) or 131 444 for non-urgent assistance.

For further details: <https://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/community/youth>



14th March 2026

In the main NRL22 scoring, our reigning champion:

🏆 1st - Matt Cunningham

🏆 2nd - Mark Hedderman

🏆 3rd - Ben Gebert

NRL22
MARCH COF
at SSAA East
Gippsland



BUCHANAN

FOOTBALL & NETBALL CLUB

All welcome to join our club

U/12 Netball

Coach name - Cassie Mathers

- Female and male
- Players can be maximum age turning 12 on or before 31 December 2026. Min age players turning 8 on or before 31 December 2026
- Membership \$75 inclusive of registration with VNA cost \$73
- Training - Thursday nights 4.30-5.30pm commencing 12/3/2026

AUSKICK

Coach name - Lynton Hill

- Female and male
- Age range 5 - 12 years
- \$90 registration fee includes starter pack
- Training commences Thursday 30 April 5.30pm
- Till Thursday 25 June

U/17 Netball

Coach names - Paige Carter and Darcey Carter

- Female and Male
- Female players turning 17 on or before 31 Dec 2026.
- Male players <15 years of age on or before 31 Dec 2026. Min age players turning 12 on or before 31 December 2026
- Membership \$75 inclusive of registration with VNA cost \$73
- Training nights Thursday 5pm commencing 12/3/2026

U/16 Football

Coach name - Tim Davidson

- Females and males
- Under 16 years as of 1 January 2026, Must be 8 years of age as of 1 January 2026
- Membership \$75
- Training commences Thursday 19 March 5.30pm (and at Family Fun Day 15/3/26 1pm)

Enquiries to buchanfnc@hotmail.com



- Hamish Hancock - President 0423 816 146
- Suzie Healy - Netball Coordinator 0408 320 504
- Chris Mathers - Football Coordinator 0408 825 094
- Susie Edwards - Secretary 0419 486 559



**Buchan South Avenue of Honour
Dawn Service 2026**

ANZAC DAY

25 APRIL

5.45 am

**Gather at the
Avenue**

6.00 am

**Welcome and
Speakers**

6.30 am

**All invited to the
Gunfire**

Breakfast BBQ

**\$5 per person,
children free**

Since the first Anzac Day commemorations on 25 April 1916, Australians have paused to recognise and honour the service and sacrifices of veterans and families.

**THERE WILL BE NO 10.00 AM SERVICE
THIS YEAR**

Recipe for



Anzac biscuits

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp butter or margarine
- 2 tbsp golden syrup
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda dissolved in 2 tbsp boiling water
- 1 cup rolled oats
- 1 cup desiccated coconut
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 3/4 cup plain flour

Method

1. Heat oven to 160°C.
2. Melt butter (or margarine) and syrup.
3. Add dissolved bicarbonate of soda and water.
4. Mix dry ingredients in a bowl, add the liquid mixture and stir.
5. Place small balls of the mixture (about 1 teaspoon) onto a greased tray.
6. Bake for 20 minutes or until light brown.
7. Lift biscuits onto a cake cooling rack and wait for them to cool.

History of the Anzac biscuit

During the First World War, people at home in Australia often sent parcels to the Anzacs to show their support. Parcels of food supplemented the soldiers' plain diet of tinned 'bully' beef and hardtack, also known as the 'Anzac wafer' or 'Anzac tile'. Many care parcels included biscuits made from rolled oats, golden syrup and flour, which had high nutritional value and kept well while being transported overseas. These biscuits have come to be known as Anzac biscuits and are still popular in Australia today.

Learn more about Anzac biscuits on the Anzac Portal at anzacportal.dva.gov.au/anzac-biscuits.

The word 'Anzac' is protected by legislation. Learn more about the Anzac Regulations on the DVA website at dva.gov.au/anzac-regulations.

Cardboard poppies

You can make commemorative poppies from decorated craft board.



What you'll need

- Thin cardboard
- Red crêpe paper
- Green pipe cleaner
- Black paper
- Scissors
- Pencil or fine pen
- Glue

What to do

1. Use scissors to cut out a poppy shape on cardboard to make a template (see diagram).
2. Place the petal template on red crêpe paper and trace around it with a pencil or pen.
3. Cut out the poppy shape with scissors.
4. To make the stalk, take a pipe cleaner and bend the end over twice at 1 cm lengths.
5. Push the straight end of the pipe cleaner through the middle of the petal shape; continue to push until the bent end sits in the middle of the poppy.
6. Cut a small circle out of the black paper and glue it onto the centre of the poppy; it will secure the pipe cleaner to the crêpe paper.
7. Bend and shape the petals of the poppy.

Find more ideas at anzacportal.dva.gov.au/poppies

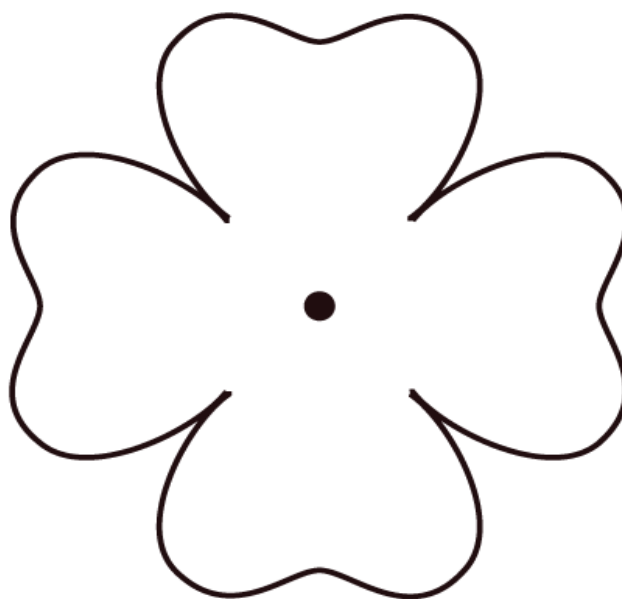


Figure 1.
Petal template

Family Farm Fun Day

Saturday 18th of April

10am - 2pm

230 Orrs Rd Wy Yung

St John's Anglican Church are holding a Family farm fun day.

Bring the family for a day of activities.

There is something for all ages.

Farm Animals
Tractor Rides
Jumping Castles

Face Painting
Lawn Game
Craft Activities

\$25 per car or \$5 per person

Entrance fee covers all activities

Devonshire Tea
and other Hot & Cold food
Available for purchase

The **National Indigenous Disaster Resilience (NIDR)**

gathering is a multi-day, on-Country event celebrating Indigenous leadership in emergency management, disaster resilience and Caring for Country.

As proud partners, we invite the community to the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) Art Gallery for a special evening of music and dance, connection, and shared reflections from day one.

Drinks and canapes will be served

NIDR GATHERING

5-7 MAY 2026, GUNAIKURNAI COUNTRY LAKES ENTRANCE, VICTORIA



Welcome Reception

Tuesday 5 May

Join us for a very special event at the GLaWAC Art Gallery to celebrate the opening of the NIDR Gathering 2026.

There will be traditional dance, music, drinks and canapés from 5pm-6:30pm.

Tickets are limited so secure your ticket to the Gathering
Welcome Reception here: <https://lnkd.in/gGUsfich>

DECISIONS THAT DRIVE SUCCESS

– Proven techniques for effective on-farm decision-making

Success depends on sound decision-making. This is especially so in times of crisis and change. This Workshop provides a proven and practical approach to managing competing priorities so you can make better decisions, rebuild your resilience and capacity and adapt your business to recover from drought and other challenges.

- Learning how to identify key trigger points or events for their farm business, review strategic priorities and know how to optimise resources to mitigate risks, manage costs and seize opportunities;
- Improving their readiness to respond to these trigger points to enable rapid pivoting and minimising disruptions to operations;
- Identifying key stressors (internal/external) unique to their locality and business situation and learning how to navigate and prioritise risks and opportunities;
- Building capacity and confidence in making timely and sound decisions that support business profitability and know how to implement those decisions with on-track/off-track checkpoints and milestones; and
- Strengthening techniques to improve overall adaptability to challenges and change - including contingency planning and access

KEY DETAILS

Lakes Entrance – Bellevue on the Lakes

TUESDAY 21st April 2026

9:00am – 3:30pm

COST: FREE (fully funded by Agriculture Victoria)

Morning tea and a light lunch provided.

For information:

Leigh Crocker (ION Group)

M: 0419 359 409

E: lcrocker@iongroup.com.au

Ion Group





There are many ways you can give us a hand.

Your local CFA Brigade needs you, and there are many ways you can help. Roles include daytime firefighters, community educators, and support roles. You don't need experience, and you'll be amazed at what you will achieve, while fulfilling a vital and rewarding role in your community.



Scan the QR code to find out how you can help.



BUSINESS OF FARMING BOOT CAMP

Plan, Profit, Perform

With Chris Jehu from Countryside Business Partners

This 2 ½ day workshop is designed to help farmers step back from the day to day workload and focus on the bigger picture of their business. We will explore your "why", helping clarify what you want the farm to achieve for you, your family and the future of the business.

Across the two and a half days you will learn:

- practical tools to track and understand business performance
- how to interpret key figures
- measure profitability
- how to make better decisions for long term profitability
- identify opportunities for improvement.



28, 29 & 30 APRIL 2026



10AM 28TH - 12PM 30TH



LAKE TYERS CAMP & CARAVAN PARK

\$50 a property includes 2 nights accommodation and some meals

REGISTER LINK

RSVP is essential to book use QR code or above link. Questions - contact Emma Orgill on 0400 467 921 or emma.orgill@fevl.org.au



Where to go BIRDING



in East Gippsland



Buchan Caves & Canni Creek

Pictured: Southern Emu-wren

Buchan Caves Reserve is located on the edge of the Buchan township, abuts the Buchan River and is open to the public in daylight hours. A map of the walking tracks is available from the Visitor Centre. The tracks include an easy 1km pathway along the valley of Spring Creek or an adventurous (steep) walk to Spring Creek Falls (5km return). Superb Lyrebird may be sighted along the Spring Creek. Other birdlife in the area includes cockatoos, parrots, rosellas, honeyeaters, pardalotes, thornbills, whistlers and many more.

'Canni Creek' is the local name for the Buchan Golf Course and Race Track located 14km south of Buchan township. The various habitats, including heath, support a rich diversity of bird species. The Canni Creek Race Track is only used once a year in February and is part of the golf course.

The track is lined with Callistemons so watch for Honeyeaters when the Callistemons flower in spring. On the road in, the left fork takes you to the racetrack, the right leads to the golf course. It is worth taking a walk right around the area. The elusive Southern Emu-wren and Chestnut-rumped Heathwren are difficult to find but can be sighted in the heath and Callistemon vegetation.



BGaDRA Update - April 2026

The Buchan Gelantipy and Districts Renewal Association (BGaDRA) is an independent strategic body striving for overall betterment and community development post the fires. The (BGaDRA) has done some amazing work over the last 6 years, but it is time to scale back.

The BGaDRA would like to continue as there is still work to be done in our community for example the Play Space and Dump Point.

The BGaDRA will be meeting only 4 times a year, so there is not a huge time commitment needed. Not all of the current members wish to remain on the committee so we are looking for new and interested community members. Perhaps you have a particular interest in a project and would like to get involved.

SITUATIONS VACANT – Secretary Buchan Gelantipy & Districts Renewal Association.

Contact Susan Freeman 0448 710 230 or any of our Committee members if you are interested.

- The BGaDRA will be held in May this year, date to be confirmed.
- The Buchan Football Netball Bus is now available for hire, you can do this on the Buchan Community Website <https://buchan.vic.au/buchan-bus-bookings/>
- The new Pony Club Shed is finally on its way, the shed kit is due for arrival in Bairnsdale on 14 April.
- Buchan Discovery Trail – Landscaping is now complete and signage is ready to be installed.
- Gippsland Community Foundation Grant Round – The Jane Davidson Association and the Heritage Group have both been successful in their bid for funds. Both organisations have received \$30,000.

Thank you to the Gippsland Community Foundation for your ongoing support.



Youth Art Prize 2026

ENTRIES OPEN 5PM / WEDNESDAY 25TH MARCH

CALLING ALL YOUNG CREATIVE ARTISTS AGED 12-25 YEARS IN EAST GIPPSLAND. THE ARTWORK SUBMISSIONS WILL BE JUDGED IN ART CATEGORIES AND AGE GROUPS.

CATEGORIES

- 2D
- 3D
- FIRST NATIONS
- COLLABRATIVE PIECE
- DIGITAL MEDIA / PHOTOGRAPHY

Cash Prizes

ENTRIES CLOSE 5PM / FRIDAY 7TH AUGUST

Aged 12 - 25 Years

CALLING YOUNG CREATIVES

Young creatives across East Gippsland are invited to get ready for the 'Youth Art Prize (YAP) 2026.

Entries open: 25 March 2026 | Entries close: 7 August 2026 | Exhibition launch: 20 August 2026 at The Forge Theatre

Open to people aged 12-25, the program welcomes all art forms – from painting and photography to digital and 3D works. YAP is a celebration of creativity, identity and youth expression, providing an opportunity for emerging artists to share their work with the wider community a range of prizes on offer.

For further details:

<https://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/community/youth>



HOMELEIGH BATTERY PROJECT COMPLETED

In early February, the Rimstone Cooperative proudly switched on our newly installed 32kW solar battery system at Homeleigh, marking an important step toward a more reliable and resilient energy future. The system now provides a dependable source of electricity, ensuring power is available even if the local grid is down.

This new installation will not only reduce energy costs but also strengthen Homeleigh's ability to support both its regular operations and the wider community. In the event of an emergency, the facility can now continue to function fully, providing accommodation, lighting, and essential power when it's needed most.



The importance of this upgrade was highlighted during the Black Summer bushfires of 2019–2020. During that time, Homeleigh opened its doors to fire crews and SES personnel as a place to rest and coordinate efforts. While shelter was available, limitations in power meant the site could not provide lighting, refrigeration, or hot water. Recognising these shortcomings, the cooperative committed to improving the site's resilience so it can better serve the community in future emergencies.



This project was made possible through the support of **AusNet's** Community Energy Resilience Grants Program, which fully funded the installation with a \$17,000 grant. The Rimstone Cooperative extends its sincere thanks to AusNet for this generous contribution.

Additional thanks go to East Gippsland Shire Council, the CFA, SES, Parks Victoria, Solahart Lakes Entrance, and the Victorian Speleological Association for their valuable support in bringing this project to completion.



With this milestone achieved, Homeleigh is now better equipped than ever to serve as a safe, reliable refuge for the community when it matters most.

~ The Rimstone Directors



Buchan Community Garden

Stage 2 Complete!

Stage 2 of the Buchan Community Garden Relocation was successfully completed during the week of 23rd March with another incredible show of community support and collaboration.

We were pleased to welcome Frontier Services back to Buchan, working alongside local volunteers and community members throughout the week. A special thank you to Sharon from Frontier Services for coordinating the volunteers and ensuring the week ran so smoothly. Together the team achieved some major milestones, including the construction of new footpaths and the installation of a much-needed garden shed.

A big thank you goes to everyone who contributed to this stage of the project: Gary Anderson for the concreting works, Greg King for ongoing land preparation, Granite rock for supplying rock dust for the paths, Real Garden for providing topsoil, Kennards Hire for equipment hire and Ean Free and Brad Cross for their help with the fence.

We would also like to thank the Buchan Neighbourhood House for generously providing a welcoming space for morning teas and lunches throughout the week, an important part of keeping everyone connected and fuelled.

We'd also like to acknowledge the community members who came along to help out during the week. Your time, effort, and willingness to get involved played a vital role in bringing this stage together.

Looking ahead Stage 3 will focus on further enhancing the space, including sourcing and installing a rotunda on the prepared slab, constructing front entry gates, and creating a dry river feature with rock and a small bridge.

The garden continues to grow, not just in structure but in the connections and community spirit that bring it to life. We look forward to sharing the next stage with you all!



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.**



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Current housing situation in East Gippsland

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>There are approximately 26,000 homes in East Gippsland.</p> | <p>It is estimated that we will need 11,000 well located new homes by 2050.</p> | <p>The average household size in East Gippsland is 2.2 (compared to 2.52 across Victoria).</p> |
| <p>Almost 4,600 private dwellings are unoccupied. This is 17.5% of total.</p> | <p>To meet year 2050 demand, 2,050 of all new homes need to be social and affordable housing.</p> | <p>Nearly 80% of existing housing stock has 3+ bedrooms.</p> |
| <p>In 2025, 214 people experienced homelessness, which is likely an underestimate.</p> | <p>1,854 East Gippsland households are on the Victorian Housing Register priority access waiting list. (Based on location preferences – June 2025).</p> | <p>Over 6,000 homes have 2+ spare bedrooms.</p> |
| <p>Approximately 2,900 households – 13% of total – are experiencing housing stress. * *30% or more income spent on rent.</p> | <p>Between 2020 and 2025, median house prices in East Gippsland have increased by an average of 9.7% per annum.</p> | <p>Council-owned land supports 60 dwellings for social housing and has historically contributed to a further 38 dwellings through joint venture arrangements with relevant agencies.</p> |
| <p>Private rentals in East Gippsland are classified as 'unaffordable' or 'moderately unaffordable' (SGS Rental Affordability Index 2025) with affordability trends worsening.</p> | | |



EAST GIPPSLAND LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE

UPCOMING SALES

APRIL 2026

*Dates are subject to change by Stock Agents

Prime Cattle Sale, 8.30 am

Wednesday 8 April
Wednesday 15 April
Wednesday 22 April
Wednesday 29 April

Store Cattle Sale, 9.00 am

Friday 10 April
Friday 24 April

Sheep Sale, 10.00 am

Monday 13 April
Monday 27 April



Market results and upcoming dates can be found at:

<http://eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/.../market-schedule-and...>

Buchan Hall and Recreation Reserve Committee of Management

Notice is given of a PUBLIC MEETING (Triannual) to be held at Buchan Recreation Reserve Pavilion on

Monday 22nd June 2026 commencing at 5.30 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to nominate no less than three (3) or more than nine (9) persons as the Committee of Management for the Buchan Hall and Recreation Reserve for a term of three years. We are looking for volunteers to assist in managing the operations of the Hall and the Recreation Reserve including bookings, maintenance, cleaning, RV camping, emergency preparedness and working together with our seasonal and casual users

The current committee's term will expire on Tuesday 30th June 2026. All positions will be declared open, and nominations will be accepted prior to or on the night.

Nominations from women, Aboriginal people, people with disabilities, young people and people from culturally diverse backgrounds are encouraged.

Further information, nomination forms and nominee declaration forms may be obtained by contacting your local Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action office or at the meeting.

For further enquiries please contact the Secretary, Evelyn Schmidt on 0427 586 038.

UNDERSTAND HATE CRIME and INCIDENTS – and how to report it:

Hate has no place in our community. We take all reports seriously, including hate motivated crime and incidents.

A hate crime is a criminal offence motivated by hate or prejudice. It can include assault, threats or intimidation, or property damage towards a person or group because of their identity or perceived difference.

A hate incident is not a crime, but is an action - like verbal abuse, offensive comments or online hate - that is still harmful.

Both can have a real impact on individuals and community.

If you witness or experience hate, you can report it - even if you are unsure.

- ◆ In an emergency or life-threatening situation, always call Triple Zero (000).
- ◆ If it is non-urgent, contact or visit your local police station.

◆ Submit an anonymous report to Crime Stoppers (1800 333 000 or crimestoppersvic.com.au).

Learn more: <http://www.police.vic.gov.au/hate-prejudice-motivated...>



Understanding hate crime and incidents - and how to report it

Posted: EYEWATCH – 17th March 2026
East Gippsland Police Service Area:

CCTV TRUCKS and CREWS working in BUCHAN this week

We were in Buchan, inspecting 61 stormwater pits and 1.5 km of underground pipes as part of a pilot project to better understand how our drainage network is performing. 🚧

This work helps us:

- identify blockages or damage
- improve how stormwater flows through town
- support future flood planning and upgrades 💧

Crews will be working over the next few days, mostly during normal daytime hours.

Disruptions will be minimal, with no road closures or diversions. Trees and other vegetation will be protected during the works.

Please take care around the trucks. 🚚

This work will help inform future maintenance and upgrades to our shire's drainage network.



Mobile Library Dates 2026

TUESDAY: Apr 21, May 5, May 19

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

TUESDAY: Apr 28, May 12, May 26

- 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



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, 3950.

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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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 silvaust@gmail.com or call **0468 387 524**



Contact Buchan Neighbourhood House to advertise your business in this newsletter!

\$55 FOR 12 EDITIONS

OR \$5.50 PER EDITION

INCL GST

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 **Monday 4th May 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
- 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 28th April 12:45pm—1:30pm

Tuesday 12th May 12:45pm—1:30pm

Tuesday 26th May 12:45pm—1:30pm

Buchan Main Street

Tuesday 21st April 9:00am—10:00am

Tuesday 5th May 9:00am—10:00am

Tuesday 19th May 9:00am—10:00am

Gelantipy (Bush Nurse Centre)

Tuesday 28th April 9:00am—9:45am

Tuesday 12th May 9:00am—9:45am

Tuesday 26th May 9:00am—9:45am

W Tree (SIBA)

Tuesday 21st April 1:30pm—2:30pm

Tuesday 5th May 1:30pm—2:30pm

Tuesday 19th May 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