

Buchan Phoenix

Rising from the ashes...

Communication for the community by the community

June 2026 Issue 111

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



Next **Buchan Phoenix**
contributions in by:

**Monday,
6 July 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.



Upgraded **Buchan Recreation Reserve** officially opens

Buchan came together on **Sunday 14 June 2026** to celebrate the opening of its upgraded Recreation Reserve – a milestone community-led project that provides modern facilities for sport, community events and emergency response.

The centrepiece of the redevelopment is a new pavilion which provides modern facilities for sporting and community events, reinforcing the reserve's role as one of Buchan's most important community assets. The pavilion has also been designed to serve as an emergency relief centre.

The broader reserve upgrade includes upgrades to sporting facilities, storage infrastructure, spectator areas, and connections between key recreation spaces.

Buchan Recreation Reserve Committee President Peter Favaloro spoke at the opening, recounting the development of the project, from the bushfire-recovery period to today, and acknowledging the reserve committee volunteers and others whose efforts made it possible.



Cr Ashworth said the reserve had long been at the heart of community life. "This reserve is where people come together to connect through sport, celebrate milestones, support one another and, when needed, respond to emergencies," she said.

"These upgrades ensure the reserve can continue to play that

role well into the future, and the community should feel enormously proud of what has been achieved."

The redevelopment was jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Victorian governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, alongside Council, Emergency Recovery Victoria and Sport and Recreation Victoria, with a total investment of more than \$6 million. The Buchan Recreation Reserve netball and tennis court upgrades were supported by the Victorian Government with a Community Sport and Recreation grant.





On Tuesday 19th May, the Buchan Neighbourhood House hosted the Biggest Morning Tea fundraising event, with around 25 people attending. Guests enjoyed a delicious spread of homemade cakes, slices, biscuits, scones and brownies while catching up with friends and neighbours. Raffle prizes were also drawn during the morning, adding some extra fun to the event.

We were pleased to welcome Marlene and Kerry from St Vincent de Paul (Vinnies), who gave a short and informative talk about the support services they provide throughout East Gippsland. Vinnies assists individuals and families experiencing hardship through emergency relief, including food and clothing assistance, help with utility bills, vouchers, household items and support during times of crisis.

They also spoke about their important work supporting people experiencing homelessness by providing sleeping equipment and other practical essentials to those in need. Their outreach, advocacy and referral services help connect vulnerable people with housing, financial and community support programs across the region. Many attendees were particularly intrigued by the hands-on work being carried out by Vinnies within our local area and the real

difference these services are making in people's lives.

Thank you to everyone who attended, donated food, purchased raffle tickets and helped make the morning such a success. Events like these not only raise valuable funds but also provide opportunity to learn about the great services around us. **We raised in excess of \$775.10.**





Australian Government mobile service centres

If you live in a rural area, you may need to travel greater distances to access government payments and services. To make it easier for you to access these services, we're bringing them to you and your community.

Mobile service centres (MSCs) travel extensively throughout rural and regional Australia to provide help and support. During natural disasters and emergencies, they can provide on-the-ground support for disaster recovery efforts.

Services Australia staff travel with the MSCs and can help you with Medicare and Centrelink payments and services. Our MSCs also have disabled access.

Our staff can also help veterans and their families connect to the Department of Veterans' Affairs phone line and online services. Wi-Fi is available for visitors to the MSC and staff will be able to help you create a myGov account. myGov is a simple and secure way to access government services online.

Our staff provide you with friendly face-to-face service, information and support. From time to time, representatives from other government agencies also travel with the MSCs.

We provide information, help and support to rural and regional communities, including:

- families
- older Australians
- students
- job seekers
- people with disability
- carers
- farmers
- self-employed people

We can assist you with:

- registering and using the agency's online services
- new claims for Centrelink payments
- updating and confirming Medicare and Centrelink information
- information on how financial matters may impact on payments
- assistance with payment and service options
- rural payment entitlements for eligible farmers
- non-cash Medicare transactions
- enrolling for and issuing new Medicare cards
- updating and re-issuing Medicare cards
- social work support and referrals.

**Information
and help you
can access
on board the
MSCs**

**Serving regional
Australia**

Visit the mobile service centre to find out about Australian Government payments and services for rural families, older Australians, students, job seekers, people with disability, carers, farmers and self-employed people.

We can also help veterans and their families connect to the Department of Veterans' Affairs phone line and online services.

Staff can provide you with information and support. They can also help you create a myGov account. myGov is a simple and secure way to access government services online.



For more information, go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/mobileoffice

TUESDAY, 7 JULY 2026

9:30 am to 3:00 pm

Near the mechanics hall, Bruthen-Buchan Road

BUCHAN

Baby & Child First Aid + CPR

BUCHAN

Course

Duration 3 hours

CPR baby & child

Burns

Head injuries

Choking

Poisoning & ingestion

Childhood illness

Seizures



**TUESDAY 8TH
SEPTEMBER 2026
10 AM TO 1 PM AT
THE
NEIGHBOURHOOD
HOUSE**

The
Latrobe Health Services
Foundation



Tickets:

<https://www.intix.com.au/event/baby-child-first-aid-buchan/information>

Baby & Child First Aid Buchan

Buchan Neighbourhood House

8 September 2026

@ 10:00 AM to 1.00 PM

In this session participants will gain knowledge and skills in how to manage common childhood accidents, injuries and illnesses common in children from birth to teens

Following completion of the workshop you will be able to;

- Perform CPR on a baby or child
- Apply and use an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator)
- Identify and distinguish the difference between choking, gagging and coughing
- Perform choking first aid (5 back blows and 5 chest thrusts)
- Identify the red flags for children following head injuries
- Perform burn first aid
- Perform the PIT (Pressure Immobilisation Technique) for snake bites and funnel webs
- Perform first aid for bug bites and stings
- Manage life threatening and non-life threatening bleeding
- Identify the red flags of common childhood illnesses
- Describe common symptoms following childhood vaccinations and identify when to seek help
- Identify signs and symptoms of allergies and anaphylaxis
- Perform administration of an EPI-PEN autoinjector

In addition to the above we cover accident prevention strategies for drowning, choking, burns, head injuries, car accidents farm safety and when to go the GP, versus the hospital or when you can watch and wait at home.

This education is provided free to parents and carers of children in Gippsland by the Sisterhood Project due to the generosity of a grant from the Latrobe Foundation.

www.thesisterhoodproject.com

**Extended
Baby & Child
First Aid**



Buchan Neighbourhood House

**8 September 2026
10:00AM - 1.00PM**

The
Latrobe Health Services
Foundation

Nancy Lousada's Scrapbook

1951

Floods Along the Buchan River

Buchan
River in
flood 1919.



Butter
Factory on
the opposite
side to the
footbridge
built in
1894

From time to time the Buchan River is subject to flooding in a more or less severe form.

A rapidly flowing stream averaging about 45 feet across it generally keeps to a well-defined and rocky bed but when heavy rains fall over the entire district or snow melt on the mountains to the north, the river may rise rapidly, two to three feet in twenty-four hours being a not uncommon rise.

Occasionally a flood may be recorded which is very extensive indeed.

Early settlers recorded a large flood in 1870 but The Flood was that of 1893. It destroyed a considerable acreage of fertile flats on the northern side of the township and washed away many sheds and buildings along its banks.



The main calamity was the washing away of the suspension foot bridge which had connected the southern half of the township with that of the northern bank and over which children had gone to school. This bridge was situated some two chains further down the river than the present bridge site.

When the flood subsided it was found that the river had changed its bed in many places and the present recreation reserve of approximately six acres was one area of the river flat which was found on the opposite side of the river to that where it had been before the flood.

Another large flood was that of 1914 and another in 1950. Residents who remember the great flood of 1893 claimed that the flood of 1950 was almost as bad.





BUCHAN PRESENTS

2026 NYE FIREWORKS ON AGAIN!

*Buchan Presents is proud to once again host the
Buchan New Year's Eve Fireworks 2026 — one of East
Gippsland's most loved and unique community celebrations.*

This event offers something different from the larger coastal celebrations. It's family-friendly, welcoming, and deeply connected to community — attracting locals, travellers, holidaymakers, and families looking for a meaningful way to welcome the New Year together.

Each year, hundreds gather in Buchan to celebrate, creating an atmosphere that reminds us just how special small communities can be.

But events like this don't happen without support.

We're calling on our community — businesses, families, locals, visitors, past residents, and anyone with a soft spot for Buchan — to help us make 2026 bigger and better than ever.

Your contribution, big or small, helps us:

- Keep this free, family-friendly event alive
- Support local tourism and businesses
- Bring visitors into our town
- Create magical memories for local children and families
- Continue building the community spirit Buchan is known for

You don't need to own a business to contribute.



Every donation, sponsorship, raffle prize, service, or helping hand makes a difference.



*When you support Buchan New Year's Eve Fireworks, you're not just funding an event —
you're investing in our community, our future, and the memories we create together.*

If you'd like to sponsor, donate, contribute in another way,
or simply have a chat about getting involved,

please reach out to Kirstie on 0434 350 988

or email buchanbta@gmail.com

Because if we want great things in small towns, we need to build them together.

BUCHAN CAVES HOTEL DISCO in the BUCHAN CAVES HOTEL BISTRO

Get ready Buchan — the kids are taking over the dance floor!

🌟 On **Saturday 4 July**, the Buchan Caves Hotel Bistro transforms into a mini neon disco party packed with music, lights, dancing and plenty of fun for the little party legends of East Gippsland.

With the one and only **DJ Boomer** behind the decks spinning all the best party tracks, expect a night full of singalongs, dance battles, disco moves and high-energy fun that'll keep the kids entertained all evening long. Whether they're tiny twirlers, breakdance champions or just there for the snacks and good vibes, everyone is welcome.

Throw on your brightest outfit, your sparkliest shoes or your favourite party gear and join us for a fun-filled winter night in the heart of Buchan.

While the kids hit the dance floor, the grown-ups can relax with dinner, a drink and the warm country pub atmosphere the Buchan Caves Hotel is

known for   

Gold coin donation entry

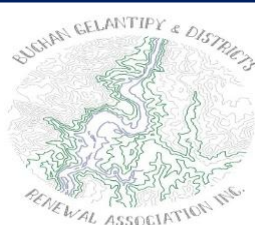
 **DJ Boomer spinning tunes all night**

 **Family friendly fun**
Dance floor open to all ages



A perfect way to warm up these winter school holidays as part of the

East Gippsland Winter Festival
Bring the kids, bring the cousins, bring the neighbours — **and let's fill the bistro with music, laughter and disco magic.**



Presidents Report

**Thursday 19th of May 2026
at the Buchan Rec Pavilion**

The last twelve months has seen a reduction of funding coming in with an increase in the implementation and delivery of some of our longer-term works. Major projects are taking shape and some of our community's priorities are realized with tangible assets being delivered. In the first 5 years we have progressed from establishing priorities to activating resources and accessing grants and now our clubs and community organisations are working alongside the renewal committee to finalise and complete implementation of resourcing. Our Progress has been steady and sustained and we are at last seeing the upgrades and achievements of so much hard work from our committee alongside the community organisations and volunteers that have worked with us to progress our community's renewal.

The passage of time has not reduced the challenges and complexities facing some of our projects that the community identified as part of the early recovery priorities, however we continue to advocate and progress work despite the lengthy negotiation phases. Over the past year we have continued to have regular communications with Clubs, government organisations, external stakeholders and agencies such as East Gippsland Community Foundation the Shire and Emergency Vic to name the most common touch points. I would like to thank all parties for the good faith and persistence you continue to show, along with the leadership of our local people and committees of management as we toil through ever evolving challenges. The next 12 months is destined to be slow going, however as a strategic body we continue to attract funding for our community, following through on the Community Recovery Priorities outlined in our recovery plan. Whilst the pots are not as large, they are reliant on having an established community organization with the credentialed foundations to attract them. So, with that we look at how we can maximise our impact through strategy and an organized approach to the community's priorities.

The Renewal Committee have focused on a great deal of negotiation around our priorities of the REC Redevelopment, Community Playground, Tourism Precinct and Discovery Trail, as these have been the priorities that have the most support, volunteer input and momentum. Projects that have passionate people ready to drive them are the ones that move through the stages to being realized.

New and finishing Committee Members:

The Renewal committee is entering into its seventh year of operating. We would like to thank our committee members who have decided across the course of the year to resign for all their tireless work and recognize that all of this has been done for the betterment of our community in a volunteer capacity. Again, I thank the committee both the existing members and the retired members. We are aware that much of the designated fire funding has ceased. We turn our eyes to strategic streams and continue to seek funding sauces from other pools to resource our community's needs.

We encourage all local groups to continue working with our committee to pursue grants that will assist in the communities ongoing resilience and recovery.

Yours sincerely,

Katie Hodge – Chairperson, Buchan Gelantipy and Districts Renewal Committee

Project Update

AGM 2026

We supported the Buchan General Store's grant application for a Generator with AusNet. - They were successful with their grant.

Gippsland Community Foundation Open Grant Round up to \$25,000.

Jane Davidson Association received \$30,000 to install a new roof and some minor building works.

Heritage Group also received \$30,000 to continue their restoration work.

Heritage Group received an FRRR grant to remove the tree stumps and install a pathway.

The Buchan Football Netball Club now has Bus available for use.

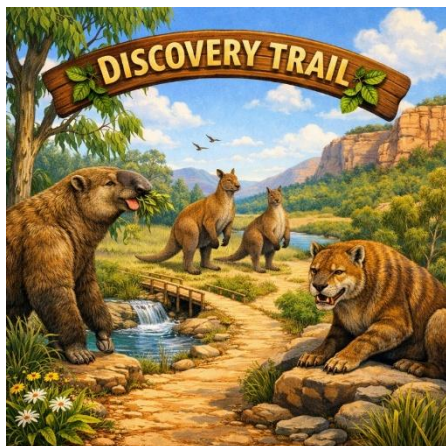
The Pony Club Shed is finally on its way.



Buchan Discovery Trail (BDT)

There are currently two parts to the BDT, one is the Megafauna and the other is the formalising of the walking path along the Buchan River, the BBTA are managing this part of the project.

The first stage of the BDT (megafauna) is complete, signage at Historical and Cultural Precinct along with landscaping. The old signs are being renewed, thank you to the Buchan Heritage Group for their contribution to this part of the project.



What a cracking day at Gelantipy! 🌱☀️

A huge crop of Gippsland farmers turned out to see firsthand how Bayrook Pastoral is adapting their business for profit, sustainability and resilience with a serious deep dive into winter kale, livestock performance and practical farm adaptation.

Days like this remind us just how powerful it is when farmers come together to learn, challenge ideas and see what's working on the ground.

If you want to follow the progress, production and economics of this kale crop and stay across the great projects, paddock walks and opportunities happening across the region make sure you sign up to the GAgG newsletter.

<https://gippslandag.com.au/communications/newsletters>

A big thank you to the South East Drought Node and Meat and Livestock Australia for supporting this event and many more practical, farmer-led projects across Gippsland.

Sourced: Gippsland Agricultural Group Inc Facebook



Dump Point - Donald continues to try and work with EGSC on this project however they are not very forthcoming with information or a willingness to connect with him or the BGADRA.

Play Space – On the 28 April, 2026, I sent emails to all of our Councilor's, Fiona Weigall CEO, Stuart McConnell and Wayne Richards requesting a full review of the Play Space.

I have also emailed Darren Chester and Tim Bull. Darren has made representation to the CEO on our behalf.

Tim has indicated that he has no jurisdiction over Council but would like to be kept informed.

Darren Chester has been responded to by Council, letter has been circulated to the Committee.

ABC Embedded Project visit – Rochelle and Rhiannon spoke to many people, I have been advised that they have lots of material. The first of the stories has been released – Donald and Bronwyn Graeme's story. There will be other stories, as I understand it they are being circulated digitally.

CLASSES ARE NOW BACK WEEKLY!

LINE DANCING

WITH



East Gippy Heart
LINE DANCE & EVENTS

6.00 - 8.00 PM

Venue Buchan Hall



Cost \$20 per session
FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION CALL
Neighbourhood House on
0498 070 332

THE OLD SUGGAN BUGGAN SCHOOL HOUSE COMMITTEE INC

will be combining a social day with a working bee in the reasonably near future.

There'll be a **BYO BBQ** and hopefully a bit of progress on restoring this iconic building.

Absolutely everyone is welcome.

Contact me **Deborah Woodburn** (Secretary)
or **Gordon Moon** for details when we get them sorted.



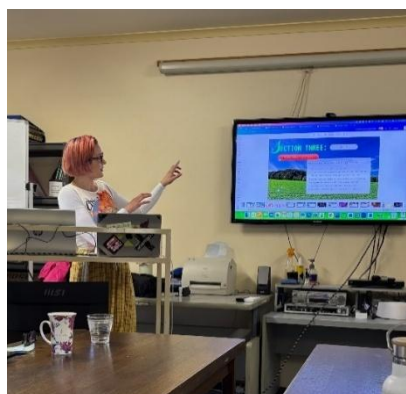
Teach Me the Ways of Instagram' Workshop

held on Monday 18 May 2026

Nothing like an Instagram crash course to kick off the week and get everyone thinking creatively!

Nic Everett of **The NIC FIX** recently hosted the very first 'Teach Me the Ways of Instagram' workshop, guiding a wonderful group of locals through the world of social media marketing and content creation for small businesses and community projects.

The workshop covered the basics of using Instagram effectively, alongside practical lessons on capturing photos and videos, editing content, recording voiceovers, adding text, and turning it all into engaging reels.



What quickly became clear throughout the morning was that confidence grows through doing, with participants jumping into hands-on tasks, trying new things, and encouraging one another along the way. Like anything, practice makes progress, but this bunch of legends are already well on their way to showing up online with a little more confidence, creativity, and clarity.

With plans already bubbling away for future workshops, it's safe to say there may be a few more reels coming out of Buchan very soon!

Buchan Youth Group

Sunday
12th July

Rail Trail Adventure

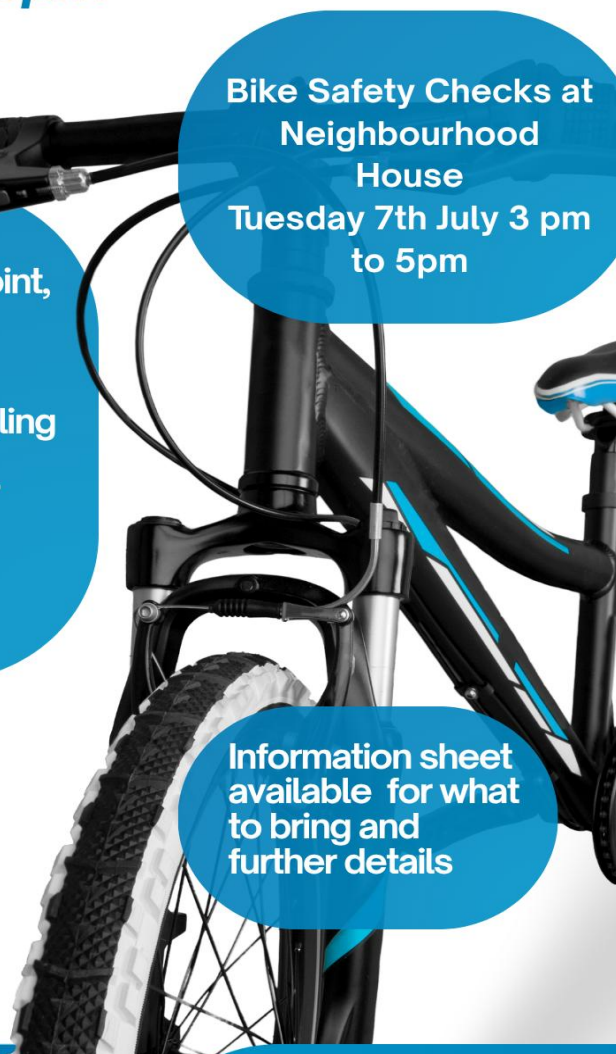
Departing from the Neighbourhood House
at 10am Returning at 3pm

- Drive to Stony Creek access point, Nowa Nowa
- Ride into Nowa Nowa (approximately 5 km).
- BBQ Lunch and Fishing at Mingling Waters.
- Optional ride around the lake or mountain bike park.
- Drive back to Buchan Neighbourhood House

Bike Safety Checks at
Neighbourhood
House
Tuesday 7th July 3 pm
to 5pm

Information sheet
available for what
to bring and
further details

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL BY
CALLING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD
HOUSE ON 0493 070 332 OR
BUCHAN BUSH NURSING ON
0448 064 760





BUCHAN YOUTH GROUP

Tuesdays • 5:00PM - 6:00PM

 Buchan Neighbourhood House

 Ages 12-16

Games • Music • Friends Epic Fun!

No Boredom Allowed!

 **CALL NOW! 0493 070 332 or 0448 064 760** ★



Book a 30 minute one-on-one session, where we'll work together to set tech goals and help you achieve them.

Support is available for using devices, applications, social media and browsers.

We don't cover issues related to security, repairs, or purchase recommendations.

Please note, we cannot assist with online banking-related problems for privacy reasons.

July One-On-One Tech Help Sessions

BAIRNSDALE LIBRARY

Friday 10 July
9:00am - 12:00pm

PAYNESVILLE SERVICE CENTRE

Thursday 16 July
9:00am - 2:00pm

LAKES ENTRANCE SERVICE CENTRE

Thursday 23 July
9:00am - 12:00pm

PAYNESVILLE SERVICE CENTRE

Thursday 25 June
2:00pm - 4:00pm

BAIRNSDALE LIBRARY

Thursday 2 July
10:00am - 11:30am

LAKES ENTRANCE SERVICE CENTRE

Thursday 2 July
10:00am - 11:30am

EAST GIPPSLAND
SHIRE LIBRARIES

FREE | BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

East Gippsland Winter Festival Adult Craft Session



**Join us to celebrate the East
Gippsland Winter Festival!**

Join us at the library for a relaxing and creative adult craft session as we prepare handmade snowflakes to celebrate the East Gippsland Winter Festival!

Whether you're a seasoned crafter or just looking for a fun way to spend your day, you'll learn simple techniques to create beautiful and unique snowflakes.



Libraries
Change Lives



**EAST GIPPSLAND
WINTER FESTIVAL**
Book Now

At your library
5152 4225

[www.trybooking.com/eventlist/
eastgippslandshirelibraries](http://www.trybooking.com/eventlist/eastgippslandshirelibraries)
Scan the QR code



What you need to know about H5 avian influenza (bird flu)

With the increased threat of H5 bird flu due to migrating wild birds, now is the time to take action to protect your birds.

- Keep aviaries and equipment clean.
- Keep bird feed and water out of reach from wild birds.
- Keep wild birds away from your birds by using netting or housing.
- Keep watch for signs of H5 bird flu and report groups of sick or dead birds to the Emergency Animal Disease hotline on **1800 675 888**.
- Keep informed at birdflu.gov.au



Be prepared birdflu.gov.au

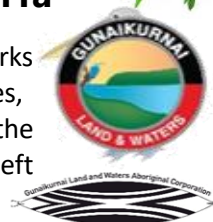
Buchan Caves stalwart Dave Harper

Retires from a remarkable career with Parks Victoria



After an extraordinary 45 years of service with Parks Victoria and the former Lands Department, colleagues, friends, and the wider community are celebrating the retirement of Dave Harper – a man whose mark has left a lasting mark on the Buchan region and beyond.

Dave Harper began his career in 1981 with the Lands Department at the Nowa Nowa depot, where he quickly became known as a true jack-of-all-trades. From fire management and maintenance work to pest plant control and even bridge building, he helped shape and care for the landscape of East Gippsland through decades of dedicated hands-on work.



For many locals and visitors alike, Dave's name is synonymous with the Buchan Caves Reserve, where he spent much of his later career preserving one of Victoria's most treasured natural attractions.

Over the years, Dave became renowned for his technical expertise in maintaining the caves' intricate lighting systems and for his craftsmanship in rock work and stone construction.

Visitors walking through the caves, the reserve grounds, or even around the township of Buchan can still see countless examples of Dave's handiwork, including the impressive stone wall at the Buchan Pub.

Reflecting on his years at the caves during his retirement speech, Dave spoke warmly about the beauty of the workplace and the unforgettable experiences shared with colleagues and friends.

"What a great place to work it's been, underground and above, it's such a beautiful place," he said.

"In amongst stalactites or under spreading trees – what a fantastic office."

Dave recalled countless memorable projects, from planting thousands of trees with Green Corps crews to helping construct cave pathways, walking tracks, lookouts, and upgrading the cave lighting to modern LED systems.

He paid tribute to the many colleagues and mentors who shaped his journey, including long time mentor Jack Llewendon, former boss Dale Calnin, and the many guides, maintenance staff, and visitor centre teams he worked alongside over the decades.



"The best thing about all the years that I've worked at the caves were the people I worked with," Dave said. "I've been so lucky to have worked with such a fantastic crew of people."

As Dave steps into retirement, he leaves behind not only an impressive legacy of conservation and craftsmanship, but also generations of friendships, stories, and contributions that will continue to shape Buchan Caves for years to come.

Statement – Tim Bull MP

For immediate release –
Thursday, May 21, 2026



Let's get better

Get the care you deserve with our **free women's health services** across the state. We're getting better, so you can too.
Learn more at womenshealth.vic.gov.au



Some treatments may incur out of pocket costs. Refer to website for more details.

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

East Gippsland Shire Council publicly thanks Member for Gippsland East, Tim Bull MP, for his service to the community.

Tim this week announced that he will not contest the November State Election, ending 16 years as the Member for Gippsland East. This includes 13 years serving on the front bench as a Minister and Shadow Minister.

Mayor Cr Jodie Ashworth said Tim's leadership during significant natural disasters and emergency events during his time as MP has been invaluable.

"Tim's approach during the many times we have been challenged as a region should not be downplayed.

This was particularly evident during and after

the Black Summer bushfires of 2019-20 when East Gippsland was at its most vulnerable," Cr Ashworth said.

"The ability to understand the importance of local issues, give people a voice in our community, and work with all sides of politics has been significant for East Gippsland.

Tim BULL

State Member for Gippsland East



Buchan Caves Reserve image courtesy of Visit Victoria Content Hub

"On behalf of Council, we thank Tim for his contribution. His willingness to work with us on projects and issues, his persistence on issues for residents, and his advocacy within his own party and across different political views is not lost on us.

"We look forward to continuing to work with Tim over the coming months leading up to the election as we continue to highlight East Gippsland's needs and opportunities.

"When he does step back from public life later in the year, we wish Tim well for what's next."

Arts Centre Melbourne and CDP Kids present

ANDY GRIFFITHS' YOU & ME AND THE LAND OF LOST THINGS

FOR 20% OFF PREMIUM AND A-RES TICKETS USE CODE **LOSTTHINGS20**

ME YOU

LIVE ON STAGE

A play by **RICHARD TULLOCH**
Adapted from the book by **ANDY GRIFFITHS** and **BILL HOPE**

13 – 14 JUNE
ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE

Arts Centre Melbourne VICTORIA CREATIVE VICTORIA cdpKids

Arts Centre Melbourne

Arts Centre Melbourne presents a Monkey Box Theatre Company and GPAC's Out of the Box Festival co-production

FAMILIES
AGES 1-6

WHERE IS THE GREEN SHEEP?

LIVE ON STAGE!

Based on the book by **Mem Fox** and **Judy Horacek**

BOOK NOW

22 – 26 September
ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE

Written for the stage and directed by **Eva Di Cesare**

VICTORIA CREATIVE VICTORIA

Get up to
\$26,000 in wage support*

Hire skilled job seekers
ready to return to work.

WISE, a WorkSafe program that offers financial incentives, premium insurance protection and access to skilled talent to help businesses hire workers returning from injury and support their transition back to meaningful work.

*Terms and conditions apply. Please refer to worksafe.vic.gov.au/WISE for full details.



List your job vacancies

worksafe.vic.gov.au/WISE

WISE
WorkSafe Incentive
Scheme for Employers





AI Information Session



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

Held on
TUESDAY 26th May

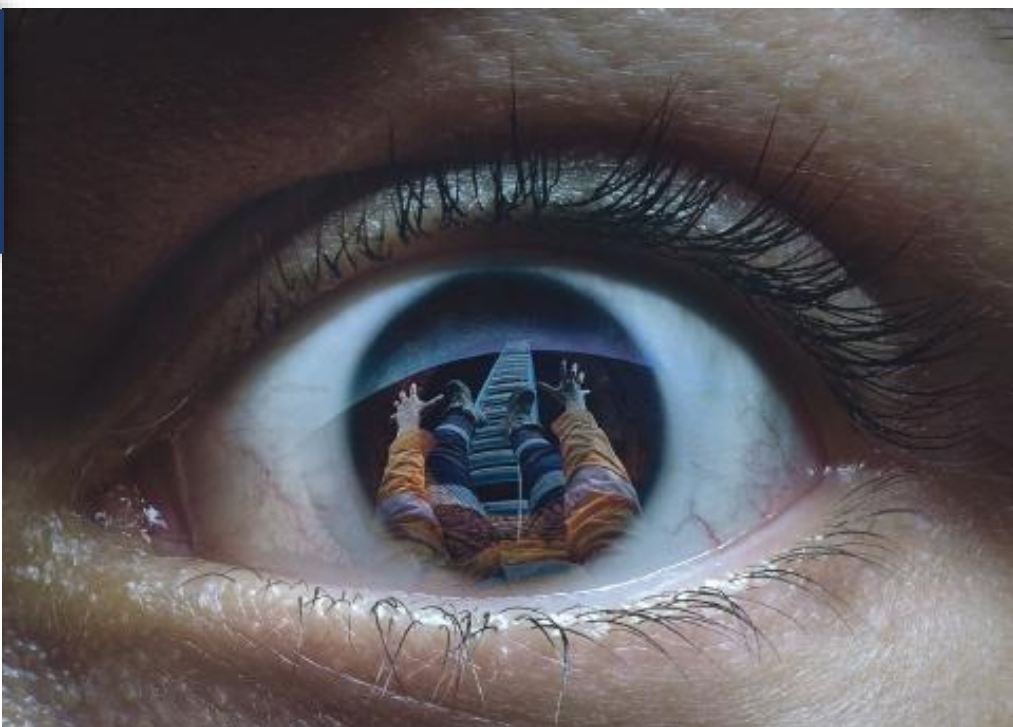
at the
Neighbourhood House



Neighbourhood Houses
The Heart of Our Community

Six itly attended our AI Information Session, where participants had the opportunity to explore and better understand what Artificial Intelligence (AI) actually looks like and how it is being used in everyday life.

One of the most valuable parts of the session was being able to go directly onto ChatGPT in the classroom and ask real questions, helping people see firsthand how AI works in a practical and non-intimidating way. Participants explored how AI can assist with everyday tasks such as finding information, writing emails, generating ideas, and answering questions.



Are you teaching your young workers the skills to stay safe?

If you're an employer, their safety is your responsibility. Get the tools to support your young workers. Ask yourself: would you work for you?

 **WorkSafe Young Workers**



Reducing workplace harm.





Peter Curry our teacher, also demonstrated the live voice chat feature, where the AI responds by talking back, allowing users to interact simply by having a conversation. This gave attendees a better understanding of how quickly technology is changing and how these tools are becoming more common in daily life.

While AI can feel unfamiliar or even overwhelming to some people, the session focused on learning, understanding, and using technology safely and responsibly.



In a world that continues to change rapidly, gaining knowledge and understanding about new technology helps people feel more confident and informed about the future.

Everyone who attended found the session informative, practical, and thought-provoking. Attendees also have the opportunity to arrange a one-on-one follow-up session with Peter at a later date to further explore AI and ask additional questions specific to their own interests or needs.

The 2027 [#lovegippsland](#) calendar competition is now open.

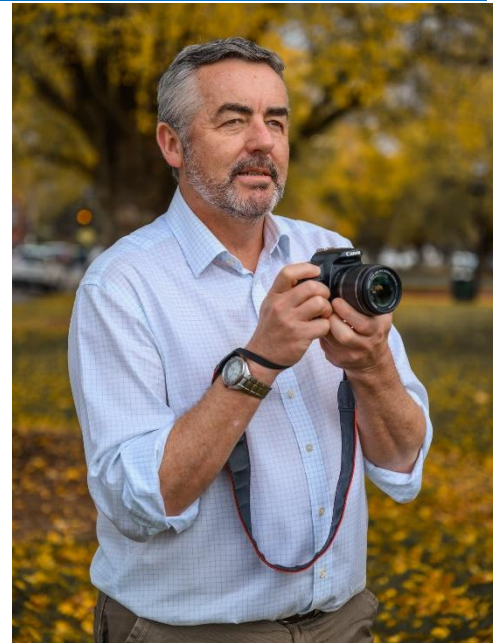
15th annual [#lovegippsland](#) calendar competition

This year's theme is "**My Gippsland**", inviting photographers to capture the people, places and landscapes that make our region such a special place to live, work and visit.

Whether it is our stunning coastline, rivers, lakes, mountains, rolling farmland, historic buildings or unique wildlife, I know there are plenty of incredible Gippsland scenes waiting to be shared.

Thirteen photographs will be selected for inclusion in the 2027 calendar, including one image for the front cover, with the photographers behind the three best entries to receive hampers featuring local Gippsland products.

More than 30,000 free calendars will be distributed across Gippsland at the end of the year, showcasing local photography in homes, businesses and community organisations throughout the region.



Entries close at 5pm on Friday, 25 September 2026.

For competition details or to submit an entry, visit: www.darrenchester.com.au

BEAT DUMB THUMB

SET LIMITS BEFORE YOU BET

Ever noticed your thumb gets excited when it comes to gambling apps? Once it sees the alerts, bonus offers and multi bets, it can't get enough. It's called 'Dumb Thumb'. But the good news is, you can beat it by setting limits.

- ✓ Max once a week
- ✓ Max 2 types of gambling
- ✓ Max 2% of weekly pay

DuffaBet

BONUS BET OFFER

DEPOSIT NOW

Q. Beat Dumb Thumb

vgccc

VICTORIA

EAST GIPPSLAND WATER

Have your say on the future of water services in East Gippsland

Your opinion plays a big role in our future planning. Make it count by doing a quick survey at www.egwater.vic.gov.au or via the QR code below.

Uniting

COMMUNITIES FOR CHILDREN EAST GIPPSLAND Are Pleased To Bring You RESPONDING EFFECTIVELY IN DIFFICULT INTERACTIONS - REDI TRAINING

Interactions with people who are distressed, in crisis, angry or thinking about suicide can be one of the most difficult parts of someone's role in the workplace.

The REDI workshop is a 5.5 hour workshop designed for frontline workers including but not limited to retail, call centre, collections, customer services, complaints handling and escalations staff, case managers or anyone exposed to difficult interactions in the workplace.

Using the 'CALM' framework

(Clarify the situation, Adapt your response, Link to support, Me time - self-care)
participants will learn:

- ✓ What may be going on with a distressed person;
- ✓ How the brain reacts to stress;
- ✓ Communication skills to assist difficult or emotional conversation;
- ✓ How to de-escalate anger;
- ✓ What to do if callers/colleagues are at risk of suicide;
- ✓ Self-care strategies you can use during and after difficult calls

When: Wednesday, 5th August

Time: 9.30am to 3.30pm

Venue: The Hub, 27 Dalmahoy Street, Bairnsdale

Cost: Free (places are subsidised by Communities for Children, Uniting)

Catering: Morning, Lunch and Afternoon Tea provided - please provide dietary requirements upon registering

At every session delivered by Lifeline Melbourne and Ballarat there is at least one trained crisis supporter in the room to provide support to audience members and to answer any questions.

To Register Click on the link: <https://www.trybooking.com/DLKQR>

Or

Phone: Jenny St John - CFC Coordinator on 0439724026

Endorsed 4 March 2025



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Victorian Government Contact Centre: 132 VIC

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**Come into Buchan Neighbourhood
House and we will assist you
through the process.**

Contact Evelyn – 0493 070 332



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: Our first session is now scheduled for

Wednesday 1st July

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:

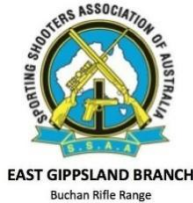
Buchan Neighbourhood House

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

SSAA East
Gippsland -
Buchan Rifle
Range



will be open for business on
Sunday 28/06/2026

**4th Sunday May Shoot
- Range Day**

Starting from 09:00AM
Everyone and anyone is welcome
(.22LR rifles available for hire)

RANGE FEES:

- Non-member = \$25.00
- SSAA Member = \$15.00
- Pensioner = \$10.00
- Juniors = FREE
- Targets = \$2.00 each

⚠️ CASH ONLY ⚠️

Upon Arrival Of The Range,
Report To The Designated Sign
In Location – Admin Shed
(Storage Shed)

*Every Visitor Will Be Required To
Present Their Valid Firearms
License And Sign The SSAA
Registry Book*

B.P.R.C NRL22 COF
11 July and 8 August



🎯 Dust off your .22s, fill
those mags, and get
ready for another
cracking day at
Buchan! 🎯

Recycling and Sustainability

Information Session

Tuesday 7th July

Starting at 11 am

We are pleased to welcome Meg West, Waste and Recycling Education Officer from East Gippsland Shire Council, to the Buchan Neighbourhood House.

Meg will be visiting to provide an informative presentation on recycling, sustainability, and waste management, along with updates on new programs planned as part of the upcoming Container Deposit Scheme in Buchan.

Meg is passionate about sharing her knowledge around sustainability, resource recovery, and the practical ways we can all help protect and conserve our environment.

By working together and improving our understanding of recycling and waste management, we can help reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and support the development of a stronger circular economy within our community.

Community members are encouraged to attend this free session and take the opportunity to ask questions, share ideas, and learn more about recycling and sustainability initiatives in our region.

Please feel free to bring along any queries relating to waste and recycling education for discussion on the day.



Mobile Library Dates 2026

TUESDAY: Jun 30, Jul 14, Jul 28

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

TUESDAY: Jul 7, July 21

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

THE NATIONALS



Bespoke accommodation within the heart of Buchan



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w: buchanstays.com
e: hello@buchanstays.com



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Livestock

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 [th](#) 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 6th July 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 7th July 12:45pm—1:30pm

Tuesday 21st July 12:45pm—1:30pm

Buchan Main Street

Tuesday 30th June 9:00am—10:00am

Tuesday 14th July 9:00am—10:00am

Tuesday 28th July 9:00am—10:00am

Gelantipy (Bush Nurse Centre)

Tuesday 7th July 9:00am—9:45am

Tuesday 21st July 9:00am—9:45am

W Tree (SIBA)

Tuesday 30th June 1:30pm—2:30pm

Tuesday 14th July 1:30pm—2:30pm

Tuesday 28th July 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