

Buchan Phoenix

Rising from the ashes...

Communication for the community by the community

September 2026 Issue 114

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



LOCAL PHONE DIRECTORY

Buchan & District

ONLY
\$4
EACH!

2026 EDITION

AVAILABLE FROM:



**BUCHAN
GENERAL STORE**



**BUCHAN
NEIGHBOURHOOD
HOUSE**



**YOUR HANDY
LOCAL RESOURCE**

Keep important local phone numbers at your fingertips!



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Please support the local businesses and advertisers who help make our community directory possible.

Their support helps us keep the directory affordable and available to our community.

Featuring the
GIANT ECHIDNA!

Learn about the extinct giant echidna whose fossil remains were found in Foul Air Cave near Buchan.



GET YOUR COPY TODAY!

We would like to acknowledge the input to this publication of the Local Phone Directory by the Buchan Neighbourhood House and the sponsorship of Black Rainbow Printing.

100% of all profit from the directory advertising and sales will be donated to the Buchan Neighbourhood House.

Next

Buchan Phoenix

contributions in by:

Mon, 5 October 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
Wulgulmerang



OR to view the complete editorial –

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-08-08/elk-river-cave-explorers-buchan-victoria-odyssey/106696438>

A world formed in darkness reveals its secrets...continued

By Rochelle Hotchkin (Aug 2026)

In 2012, a new group of cave divers attended a VSA meeting, and Peter jumped at his chance to restart exploration of Elk River. The new team's inaugural trip in January 2013 would become the first of 26 trips into Elk River over the next four-and-a-half years. Stephen Fordyce joined the new crew as a key diver.

He has travelled to Buchan from his home in Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs to take me into the cave. As we sit at the streamway, he points to the guideline still fastened at the entrance to the water. This was his lifeline during all those years of exploration — his way in, and his way out.

It brings back memories, and he recounts one of the scariest dives he has ever undertaken. It was in sump seven, a 350-metre passage, where breath bubbles disturbed limestone silt and turned the water milky white.

"I was swimming full speed because you have to, hand out in front, trying not to crash into anything. All I can see is a nice white mist on my mask, a bit of a glow from the [helmet] light," Stephen says.

"Suddenly, this thing waved in front of my face. I screamed so loudly that they probably heard it back in Melbourne.

"It was my hand. That was the one time in the whole dive that I saw my hand."

As the team continued testing the limits of human capability and finding new parts of the cave, they needed bigger dive tanks, and would spend whole weekends carrying in heavy cylinders in preparation.

While Stephen was finding new passages on many of the trips, he says the circumstances didn't allow much time to think about the achievement.

"You have to be doing all of your cave diving things: checking your gases, monitoring all your stuff, putting in the guideline, [which] has to be very good so you can find your way out blind, also while referencing the cave and trying to find the way on, so it is very absorbing," he says.

Stephen says one of the most exciting and enjoyable parts of the experience is returning to Homeleigh and sharing the details of each discovery.

"It can help keep you going on the way out of the cave, to know that you are carrying this fantastic news that people will be really excited about, and no-one else in the world knows except you and the people in the cave," he says.



The trips became longer, with exits as late as 3am, so the divers started camping underground. But eventually, pushing further into the cave network became difficult, dangerous and taxing.

In 2017, it was decided a final attempt would be made to pass sump nine — a 2.4km-long haul, diving through the first eight sumps over nine hours. It would push Stephen to the limits of his endurance. On a previous attempt to find a way through sump nine, Stephen's GoPro had recorded vision of a tiny horizontal crack between rocks that he thought could be a way forward.

On the last dive, he was able to fit through the crack and resurfaced to another dry section. From there, he was able to reach the lake-like sump 10, where he saw a slot between rock slabs going down into blue water.

"It got bigger. This was the way on," Stephen says, recalling his excitement at the time.

"There was some kind of passage down there, but unfortunately, I didn't fit ... and that is the end."

So, after all the years of exploration, Stephen's Elk River odyssey was suddenly over. And, as I make the difficult ascent on safety ropes and grapple with ascenders, so is mine. But, like it has for millions of years, Elk River cave goes on.

Stephen, who engineers scuba diving equipment, doesn't spend much time in Buchan these days. He's been focused on making new cave discoveries, including setting an Australian cave depth record, in Tasmania.

As well as helping the ABC in Buchan, Stephen is spending the weekend at Homeleigh to share knowledge and stories with the next generation of cavers who have become hooked on Elk River. They're planning a new expedition into another cave they believe could unlock clues about the remaining mysteries of the Elk River system.

Tom Elms is part of the crew determined to uncover these answers. The osteopath, who is also president of the VSA, moved to Buchan earlier this year to live at Homeleigh as its caretaker, enticed to the remote area by his new love of caving.

Pointing at a map on a table in the Homeleigh dining room, where old caving photographs line the walls, Tom explains the two big questions remaining about Elk River.

"The first one is exactly the path it takes downstream of sump 10 that Steve has reached, and where that connects to the resurgence," he says.

"But the one that fascinates me more is what is upstream? Where does the water start?"



Josh Van Dyk, Stephen Fordyce and Tom Elms planning a caving trip at Homeleigh in Buchan. (ABC News: Rhiannon Stevens)

We are still not sure to this day where exactly the catchment area begins and where exactly surface water starts entering the cave.” Tom’s focus has been on searching for new caves and exploring known caves in an attempt to find new passages, all with the hope of one day seeing water and uncovering a link to Elk River.

There are hundreds of caves in the area so some have been forgotten or lost, while others have only had one or two visits in the past 50 years.

Stephen, Peter, Kim and Josh say they still think about what lies beyond the known extent of the Elk River network, and who might make the next big discovery and write the next chapter of Elk River’s history.

“To give a sense of the time scale, a lot of the dives that I have been doing in Tasmania, if they have been dived before, [and] often they haven’t, it was around the time I was born,” Stephen says.

“These things often only happen once in a lifetime.



The explorers walking through Potholes Cave Reserve at Buchan. (ABC News: Rhiannon Stevens)

“It is really interesting for me to think who is going to do the next [push at Elk River]. Maybe they are a toddler running around at the moment ... will I even be around to see them?

“[Elk River] is there, it’s documented, and there is no reason why someone with the right skill set or motivation couldn’t do it. It might just take a long time.”

Digging to uncover new caves is a controversial practice. The approach has changed now, but when Kim and John Van Dyk dug up the earth in search of a cave beneath the waving grass, they did it without permission from the landholder, Parks Victoria. Cavers now work closely with Parks Victoria.



Cavers use Homeleigh cottage as a base when exploring nearby caves. (ABC News: Rhiannon Stevens)

Credits:

Reporting: Rochelle Hotchkin

Photography and video: Rhiannon Stevens, Rochelle Hotchkin, Agnes Milowka, Peter Freeman, Stephen Fordyce, Josh Van Dyk, with others supplied

Digital production: Rachel Kelly and Rochelle Hotchkin

Editor: Rachel Kelly **Video editor:** Anthony Scully

Graphics: Mark Doman



Elk River cave’s dry chambers, Stephen, Tom and Josh rest (ABC News: Rochelle Hotchkin)

VSA Introduction Cave Trip

10th – 11th OCTOBER 2026

BUCHAN

This trip is aimed at new and recently joined VSA members, as well as anyone who is new to caving and would like an opportunity to get underground, gain some experience and learn more about the club.

All experience levels are welcome, from complete beginners who have never been underground before through to those with previous caving experience who are looking to get back into it.

The weekend will provide an opportunity to visit some of the caves around the Buchan area, meet other VSA members and develop familiarity with basic caving techniques and equipment in a supportive environment.

The only requirement to attend is that you are a current VSA member.

(to become a registered member is easy)



Contact Tom Elms at
president@caving.org.au
to register your interest.

More information will follow closer to the trip date.

Youth Group Blast Gets a Boost!

Our **Youth Group Blast** has been given a fantastic boost with the successful grant funding we recently received from FRRR, allowing us to offer even more opportunities and experiences for our local young people. The group has been busy each week with a variety of activities including cooking, indoor games at the Buchan Hall, sewing and getting creative. We have also been making the most of the VR headsets kindly provided by The Hub in Bairnsdale, which have proved to be a great hit!



FRRR
Foundation for Rural
Regional Renewal

A GREAT AFTERNOON AT THE RIFLE RANGE

One of our first outings was a visit to the Buchan Precision Rifle Club, where seven of our young people enjoyed a great afternoon at the local rifle range.

The club members were incredibly welcoming. After receiving safety instructions, the group was provided with safety glasses and ear protection before taking turns on the range. The young people had the opportunity to try shooting .22 rifles at targets under the supervision of club members.

The Buchan Precision Rifle Club was extremely generous with their time, equipment and ammunition, giving the group a chance to experience something different and learn about the importance of safety and responsible shooting.

The club was established in 2022 by Matt Bishop and Andrew Lind and has a strong focus on safe and responsible shooting, learning new skills, supporting others and, importantly, having fun along the way. It was wonderful to see club members taking the time to encourage and assist our young people throughout the afternoon.

Young people aged 12 and over can join the club and attend their events when accompanied by an adult, such as a parent or guardian.

A huge thank you to everyone at the Buchan Precision Rifle Club who helped make the afternoon such a positive experience, and to those who volunteered their time, rifles and ammunition for our group to use. We really appreciated your generosity and welcome.



MORE ADVENTURES AHEAD

The grant funding will also help us provide more opportunities for the group, with Mini Golf in Lakes Entrance in the September school holidays and, over the Christmas holidays, a trip to Gumbuya World Theme Park in Tynong North planned. These experiences give our young people the chance to get out into the community, try new things and enjoy activities.

A big thank you also goes to our dedicated volunteers, who regularly give their time to support the group and help make the weekly sessions and outings possible.

It is wonderful to see Youth Group Blast developing into a place where young people can have fun, learn new skills and have a say in what they would like to do. We are looking forward to plenty more adventures!

Evelyn Schmidt
Buchan Neighbourhood House

BAIRNSDALE SHOW
SINCE 1882

THE BAIRNSDALE & DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY INC
Proudly Presents

THE 144TH BAIRNSDALE SHOW

THEME: *Blast From The Past*

FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2026
GATES OPEN 3:00PM - 9:30PM

SATURDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2026
GATES OPEN 9:00AM - 6:00PM

★ TWO GREAT DAYS OF FAMILY FUN! ★

FRIDAY NIGHT FIREWORKS	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT	LIVESTOCK & EQUESTRIAN	VINTAGE MACHINERY	CARNIVAL RIDES	FOOD VANS	LICENSED BAR	ARTS & CRAFTS
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SHOWCASING THE BEST OF Bairnsdale Agriculture, FARMING, ARTS & CRAFTS, COOKERY, TRADE STANDS, LIVE MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT!

OVER 140 YEARS OF TRADITION

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE! Come along and make memories that last a lifetime!

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SHOW AND SHINE

PIE EATING COMPETITION!
Who'll eat the most?
Sponsored by Patties Foods

SINGLE STEM ROSE COMPETITION
Sponsored by GOODMAN seeds

BAIRNSDALE PETS ON PARADE
ALL ANIMALS WELCOME!

BOY & GIRL OF THE SHOW
Local Young Stars!

LEGO Competition
Blast from the Past

HOME BAKING COMPETITION
Show Off Your Best Bakes!

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

6th and 7th November 2026

Meet and Greet Session
20th September

3pm

Bairnsdale Racecourse

MULLET & MOUSTACHE COMP!



www.bairnsdaleshow.com.au

BAIRNSDALE SHOW NEWS DESK

Plus LOTS & LOTS MORE

THE BAIRNSDALE SHOW

6TH & 7TH NOVEMBER

The Bairnsdale Show NEEDS YOU

VOLUNTEERS LEND THEIR TIME MAKE A DIFFERENCE BE PART OF THE TEAM!	VENDORS SHOWCASE THEIR BUSINESS CONNECT WITH THOUSANDS BE PART OF THE EXCITEMENT!	SPONSORS SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY GAIN LOCAL EXPOSURE MAKE A LASTING IMPACT!
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★ TOGETHER, LET'S MAKE THE SHOW SPECTACULAR! ★

INTERESTED? GET IN TOUCH TODAY!
BAIRNSDALE SHOW SOCIETY INC

★ www.bairnsdaleshow.com.au ★

Remembering Judi Sykes



Purchase your tickets for Friday
Night! →
Adults (17+): \$10 Kids (0-16): \$5



★ THE BAIRNSDALE SHOW ★

FRIDAY NIGHT

MAIN STAGE PROGRAM

A NIGHT OF MUSIC, MEMORIES & MAGIC!

6TH NOVEMBER 2026

MAIN ACT

HOLLOWAY

Local favourite Mick Harrington kicks off Friday night with great music and good vibes!

BATTLE OF THE BANDS WINNERS
Check out the amazing local bands who rocked the competition!

SINGING COMPETITION WINNERS
Our talented vocalists take the stage – don't miss it!

SPECIAL APPEARANCE
A special guest will take the stage – stay tuned... the surprise is worth it!

GROUP SONG "WE ARE THE WORLD"
A special moment when everyone comes together for an unforgettable song!

Get ready for an incredible performance from Holloway – a night not to be missed!

\$10 ENTRY ★★ ★

GATES OPEN 3:00 PM

SHOW STARTS 4:00 PM

FOOD VANS ON SITE
Something delicious for everyone!

ALCOHOL AVAILABLE
Enjoy a drink with friends!

FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR
Lighting up the night sky!

FUN FOR EVERYONE! ★★ ★

<https://www.ticketbo.com.au/bairnsdaleshow2026>

MUSIC – MEMORIES – COMMUNITY

BRING YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE FRIDAY NIGHT!

Mum, My First Solo Didn't Go So Well

~ Written by Author Robert Bate-
LOCAL RESIDENT

The Telephone Call

The phone rang twice in the quiet suburban kitchen.

"Hello Mum."

"Yes dear, that is sooner than expected," with a hint of surprise, then, twiggling her suspicion something might be wrong, she asked, "Did your solo go okay?"

"Not so well," the young pilot replied sheepishly.

"Oh, are you alright?", inquisitively anxious is Mum.

"Yes, amazingly I'm okay," he said, trying to steady his voice. "The accident potentially endangered the lives of quite a few people, and luckily no one was hurt. I feel justifiably embarrassed. Yet also, very lucky to be alive and well"

"That's a relief," she said, then, after a pause, "Oh dear, what accident?"

"Mum, it was a bewildering experience," a little pause, "I'm too shaken to drive."

"Oh, ah! Yes, of course, try and rest and we'll be there soon," Mum with thoughtful resolution.

The above is pure fiction but it is also an ongoing process to consider his extraordinary landing. Which was real. This short field landing attempt ended with literally no landing roll in quite a show.



The above is pure fiction but it is also an ongoing process to consider his extraordinary landing. Which was real. This short field landing attempt ended with literally no landing roll in quite a show.

Cessna 150 VH-EAH resting nose-down in the grass at Moorooduc, photographed a few hours after the incident once the site was declared safe.

Note the absence of any forward skid marks. It seems no official air craft safety investigation was undertaken. However, damage was logged in the Historic Aircraft Registry for this aircraft, on the 16th August 1980 for an incident at Moorooduc.

~ Photograph taken by Robert Bate

Introduction

It's hard to imagine how this student pilot was feeling, left with the immense psychological weight of what had just occurred. It was, by all accounts, a miraculously lucky escape, for many who were there, particularly the very stunned pilot. In reality, despite his miraculous survival, his misfortune had continued. His wife, who was not present, was heard to be quite disturbed by news of the incident.

An Incident at Moorooduc Airfield, Winter 1980

A small Cessna had taken off from the airstrip towards the north, early on a mid-August, Saturday morning, whilst the Drop Zone there was gearing up for a weekend of skydiving on the quiet rural strip. The Chief Instructor (CI) for parachuting, Andy Harris, intimated towards a corner of the shed and said, "Robbie. Please grab an empty oil bottle and go over to the Aero Club and swap it for a full one," which was for the jump plane, Cessna 205 VH-FXK. The Cessna 150 that had taken off previously was by this stage on its downwind leg of a RH circuit.



Purchase your tickets for Show Day Saturday!

Adults (17+): \$10 Kids (3-16): \$5 Infants (under 3): Free



★ THE BAIRNSDALE SHOW ★

SATURDAY

MAIN STAGE PROGRAM

A FULL DAY OF ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Mick Harrington

1:00PM
45 MINUTES

Local favourite Mick Harrington kicks off the afternoon with great music and good vibes!

Glenno's KIDS SHOW!

2:00PM
2 HOURS

Fun music, singing, dancing and heaps of laughs for the whole family!

Cam & J

SINGER DUO FROM METUNG

Beautiful voices, acoustic favourites and plenty of feel-good tunes.

★ **BATTLE OF THE BANDS WINNERS**

Check out the amazing local bands who rocked the competition!

★ **SINGING COMPETITION WINNERS**

Our talented vocalists take the stage – don't miss it!

BRING YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY FOR A GREAT DAY AT THE SHOW!

★ **AND SO MUCH MORE!** ★

More entertainment, surprises & good times all day long!

MUSIC – FUN – COMMUNITY

<https://www.ticketebo.com.au/bairnsdaleshow2026>

The Melbourne Parachute Centre (MPC) used a small gravel carpark near the airstrip's south-west corner, close to the threshold, just a short distance from the Mornington-Tyabb Road. Several aircraft were parked along this side of the strip, and Robbie began carefully drifting his way between them. Suddenly, the voice of the Chief Flying Instructor (CFI) cut through the morning air. Standing outside the Aero Club straight across on the other side of the runway, he was passing instructions via a handheld radio: "The end of the strip is very wet! Land further down!"

Robbie looked south and spotted the Cessna he'd been keeping track of was now on "base leg", naturally assuming this was the pilot the CFI was communicating with. Turning onto final then after a tight circuit, the Cessna came in fairly low. The plane was doing about 100 Km/Hr, 150m from the main road flying inbound at about 10m altitude above the paddock just south of the airstrip. The plane was pretty low, flying a straight and level approach. Robbie, about to cross to the runway now, stopped right beside the nose spinner of one of the parked planes to watch the final approach play out.



BUCHAN CC

JUNIOR & SENIOR FAMILY DAY

TRAINING, REGISTRATIONS & BBQ

SUNDAY, 4 OCTOBER 2026

Buchan Cricket Club

is firing up for an action-packed

Junior & Senior Family Day

this

Sunday, 4 October 2026!

*Bring the whole crew for a
big day of cricket fun*

— training sessions, sign-ups for the
season ahead,

and a *sizzling* BBQ to keep

everyone fuelled. It's the perfect
chance to meet teammates, welcome
new families, and kick off a huge
year for the club.

*Let's make it a cracker of a
day together!*



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING BUCHAN DISTRICT OUTREACH INCORPORATED

TRADING UNDER BUCHAN NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of
Buchan District Outreach Incorporated will be held on

Monday 16th November at 6 pm

being held at the Buchan Neighbourhood House 6 Centre Road
Buchan 3885.

A light supper will be provided. Please RSVP
For further information, please contact the
Committee of Management
Email buchannhcom@gmail.com



Neighbourhood Houses
The Heart of Our Community

DISCOVERING BUCHAN'S ANCIENT PAST

In early September, Jayne, Robyn, Mackie and Kate were
treated to a private tour of the Melbourne Museum.

Tim Zeigler, the museum's curator and palaeontologist, who
has a strong connection with Buchan, took us behind the
scenes to see where the megafauna replicas are being
created.

We also had the opportunity to view the many fossils that
have been discovered in Buchan and the surrounding area.
These replicas will soon be on display at the Uniting Church,
alongside the new mural, as part of the Buchan Discovery
Trail.

It was an
exciting and
fascinating
experience,
and we felt
very
fortunate to
be given this
unique
opportunity.



**A huge thank you to Tim for sharing his
knowledge and enthusiasm with us!**



CARERS WEEK
11-17 OCTOBER 2026

Care for a CARER

This National Carers Week, show carers you care

Check-in regularly - Offer a break - Acknowledge and appreciate - Initiate support



National Carers Week is just around the corner! In the week **11-17 October 2026** Carers Victoria is asking everyone in our community — from individuals to organisations and government — to make time to **Care for a carer** through sometimes small, but always powerful, actions.

Over three quarters of a million Victorians provide unpaid care and support to a family member or friend with disability, mental illness, chronic or terminal illness or an older person with care needs. Which means there is a 1 in 10 chance that you are, know, or will be one!

Let's all pay our respects to Victoria's unpaid carers. Reach out to a carer you know and show them you care. There are so many little things you can do to today to make their life a little easier.

- Show your support by checking-in on them regularly.
- Offer to provide carers with a break and take time for themselves to recharge.
- Use your words to recognise and acknowledge the exceptional work of a carer you know.
- Initiate support – carers often prioritise the wellbeing of the person they care for, remind them to care for themselves.

For more tips and resources visit www.carersvictoria.org.au/carersweek

REMOTE RURAL Meals

FREE
FROZEN MEALS
FOR EVERYONE!



A little help,
a little variety
& one less meal
to worry about.



TAKE WHAT YOU NEED • ENJOY!



PICK UP
FROM

Buchan Bush
Nursing Centre
or
Buchan
Neighbourhood
House

DELICIOUS MEALS
INCLUDING...

- ♥ Chicken Casserole
- ♥ Pea & Ham Soup
- ♥ Meatballs & Rice
- ♥ Italian Braised Lamb Chops
- ♥ Chow Mein
- ♥ Savoury Mince on Rice
- ♥ Baked Chicken & Vegetables



FREE
FROZEN
MEALS

GENEROUSLY SUPPLIED BY
BAIRNSDALE NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE



2026-27 Calendar of Events



19-20 September 2026	GCA 17yrs & Over Clinic @ Sale - Rob King 0409 881 341 - robbking90@gmail.com
26-27 September 2026	Dutson Downs Campdraft @ Sale - Cindy Ryder 0438 502 718 - cindy.ryder4@bigpond.com
3-4 October 2026	Hinnomunjie Campdraft - Brenda Flannagan 0409 846 711 - brendaflannagan67@gmail.com
14-15 November 2026	Byron Lodge Challenge @ Heyfield - Michelle Boulton 0447 451 429 - byronlodgeec@gmail.com
21-22 November 2026	GCA Youth Camp @ Sale - Tash Adams 0429 787 952 - tash.adams1@gmail.com
28-31 December 2026	Dumbalk Country Campdraft - Richelle Hengstberger 0429 648 373 - dumbalkcountry@gmail.com
8-10 January 2027	Yarram Campdraft - Marni Hamilton 0400 143 369 - marni.hamilton2019@gmail.com
15-17 January 2027	Sale Campdraft - Michelle Boulton 0447 451 429 - mp.boulton@bigpond.com
22-24 January 2027	MDU FNC Campdraft @ Dumbalk - Marni Hamilton 0400 143 369 - marni.hamilton2019@gmail.com
29-31 January 2027	Trafalgar Campdraft - Cheryl Joosten 0416 166 027 - cheryl.joosten@bigpond.com
13-14 February 2027	Yanakie Campdraft - Marni Hamilton 0400 143 369 - marni.hamilton2019@gmail.com
20-21 February 2027	Fish Creek FNC Campdraft @ Yanakie - Marni Hamilton 0400 143 369 - marni.hamilton2019@gmail.com
27-28 February 2027	Stony Creek FNC @ Dumbalk - BJ Thorburn 0400 143 064 - rtbjthorburn@hotmail.com
6-7 March 2027	Tarwin Valley Campdraft @ Dumbalk - Tracy Scoble 0407 342 038 - tveventsecretary@gmail.com
19-21 March 2027	Lang Lang Campdraft - Sophie White 0411 720 654 - sophie.white@bigpond.com
2-4 April 2027	Byron Lodge Campdraft @ Heyfield - Michelle Boulton 0447 451 429 - byronlodgeec@gmail.com



BUCHAN

FOOTBALL & NETBALL CLUB



SAT SEPT 26TH

WE ARE OPENING
THE REC & BAR

FOR THE
★ 2026 ★



AFL



GRAND FINAL

WATCH IT ON THE BIG SCREEN!



DOORS
OPEN
FROM
1PM



\$5
BEERS



HALF TIME
PIES

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

please support those who support
this **Blowfly Hill Photography**



<https://blowflyhillphotography.com/events/wulgulmerang-team-penning/>



31ST OCTOBER 2026



Wulgulmerang Team Penning & Sports Day

At Wulgulmerang Recreation Reserve

HOSTING

Annual Melbourne Cup Weekend Team Penning Competition and Sporting Day.

Food vans onsite for weekend.

Get updates and entry forms via facebook page 

WULGULMERANG POST OFFICE.

*Posted by Jay Coleman and shared from
Gippsland History site.*

Information regarding the history of this Post Office is fairly sketchy. Bukan Mungie publication has it opening in 1889. It was operated by the Hume, Bowman and Woodburn and possibly Tye Roger families. The Tye Rogers had Wulgulmerang in 1889. Not sure when the Hume family moved to Wulgulmerang but they would be early. The photo below appears to be taken at the front of the Bowman property. Last Post Mistress was Joy Woodburn, Deborah's mother. She used to come down from Seldom Seen to run the Post Office.

VICTORIAN POST OFFICES.



1970.

WULGULMERANG, VIC.

57 miles North of the Princes Highway
at Nowa Nowa

Register via text to 0428 516 751

by 10am each Saturday and Include your name and the number of people in your group.

(you must register to be eligible for your catch).

Log your catch by photo with your phone, while on 'Brag Mat'. Attend photo / 'Brag Mat' BBQ to register your catch, 1pm at the Community Room.

Fishing is from 'the island' to 50 metres past the 2nd bridge along Wetlands Walk, by the lake edge. (no boat fishing)

SPRING COMMUNITY FISHING

26th & 27th September | 24th & 25th October | 28th & 29th November

Fishing time from 8am Saturday to 12 noon Sunday

Register via text to 0428 516 751 by 10am Saturday

Cost: \$2 per person



REAL RURAL CONVERSATIONS

Recognise
Engage
Acknowledge
Link

FREE
WORKSHOP

LUNCH
PROVIDED



YOU NOTICE. YOU WONDER. DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO?

If someone seemed different, would you know what to say?
Would you know what to do next?

Sometimes, having the confidence to start that conversation can make all the difference, and it **could save a life**.

This free, practical workshop will give people working in agriculture supporting farmers the confidence to recognise the signs, start a respectful conversation and connect someone with the right support.

You don't need to be a counsellor. You just need to know how to open the door.

You'll learn how to:

- Recognise when something does not seem quite right
- Engage in a respectful conversation
- Acknowledge what you are hearing
- Link people with the right support

Real Rural Conversations is a NEX Business Farming Wellness initiative delivered through the Detect & Protect Wellness Framework and supported by the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR).

Buchan

Wed Oct 20th

Buchan Neighbourhood House
10:00am - 1:00pm

Practical
skills for
conversations
that matter

Typically
valued at
hundreds of
dollars.



What a weekend!!



the rally drivers came...



Well... that was LOUD. 🏁🔥 What an adrenaline-fuelled weekend!

The Australian Tarmac Rally Snowy River Sprint came to town, took on the Buchan bends and absolutely ROCKED IT. 🏁🔥

ATR

AUSTRALIAN TARMAC RALLY

The roar of engines, the smell of fuel and some seriously impressive machines tearing through our neck of the woods — we loved every minute of it.

Thanks to all the drivers, crews, officials and supporters for bringing the action, the atmosphere and FULL NOISE to Buchan. You came. You saw.

You conquered the Buchan bends. Same time next year? 🏁🔥

THE FORGE

eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/forgetheatre

80 McKean Street, Bairnsdale
03 5152 1482



Sat, 19 Sep, 7:30pm - 9:45pm A...
**Elvis & Buddy Rock
and Roll Mania**

The Forge Theatre, Bairnsdale
VIC, Australia



Sun, 20 Sep, 2pm - 4pm AEST
**Darren Coggan -
The Poems, Prayer...**

The Forge Theatre, Bairnsdale
VIC, Australia



Mon, 21 Sep, 11am - 12pm AEST
DinoManiacs

The Forge Theatre, Bairnsdale
VIC, Australia



Mon, 28 Sep, 11am - 12pm AEST
THE SNOW FAIRY

The Forge Theatre, Bairnsdale
VIC, Australia



Thu, 1 Oct, 7:30pm - 9:15pm AE...
Daniel Champagne

The Forge Theatre, Bairnsdale
VIC, Australia



Sun, 4 Oct, 2pm - 5pm AEDT
**East Gippsland
Musical...**

The Forge Theatre, Bairnsdale
VIC, Australia



Wed, 14 Oct, 10am - 12pm AEDT
**East Gippsland
Seniors Concert**

Riviera Christian Centre,
Bairnsdale VIC, Australia



Thu, 15 Oct, 7:30pm - ... + 4 dates
Allo Allo

The Forge Theatre, Bairnsdale
VIC, Australia

Make a plan!

grab your tickets and come see what
The Forge is all about.

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

DEECA Gippsland

While the risk of H5 bird flu in pets is extremely low, it's best to take precautions. If you're out walking your dog or spending time outdoors:

- ✓ Keep dogs on a lead in areas with native wildlife
- ✓ Don't allow pets to investigate or eat dead animals
- ✓ Stop cats from roaming and hunting wildlife

These simple actions help protect pets, wildlife and curbs the spread of disease.

If you suspect H5 bird flu in birds, mammals, poultry or other captive birds, report it immediately by calling the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888 or to DEECA online.

Find out more at agriculture.vic.gov.au/birdflu

More information about responsible pet ownership and legal requirements:

agriculture.vic.gov.au/animalwelfare



H5 bird flu

- Keep dogs on lead
- Don't allow pets to investigate sick or dead wildlife

EAST GIPPSLAND Seniors CONCERT

A morning of music,
memories & swinging 60s!

Wednesday
14 October
10.00 am

Riviera Christian
Centre, Bairnsdale

Wendy Stapleton –
The Swinging Sixties

Cost is
FREE!
Includes
morning tea

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL:



Scan the QR
code or call
our Box Office
on 5152 1482

Bookings close Monday 12
October at 5pm



**Wendy
Stapleton**
**THE SWINGING
SIXTIES**

BOOK NOW: events.humantix.com/east-gippsland-seniors-concert or call 5152 1482

Brought to you by East Gippsland Shire Council



 OurRelationship

Access free
online
relationship
support



Who Can Apply?

- ✓ Currently in a relationship for 6 months or longer
- ✓ Both you and your partner are willing to participate
- ✓ Aged 18 or older
- ✓ Access to a smartphone, tablet, or computer with internet



What is Required?

- ✓ Complete secure, confidential online surveys about your relationship.
- ✓ Access relationship support
- ✓ Completely remote: participate from the comfort of your home.



How to Join:

Scan the QR code to
See if You Qualify



This study has received Deakin University ethics approval (Reference No: 2024-HE000384).
Email: relationship-RESET@deakin.edu.au



 OurRelationship

A Free
Alternative
to Couples
Therapy



Tailored to Your
Relationship



Flexible Access
Anytime, Anywhere



Evidence-Based
Support

Ready to strengthen your relationship?

Deakin University is offering free access to this program for eligible couples.

Scan the QR code to see if you qualify and start your journey today.



Neighbourhood Houses
The Heart of Our Community

Venue Buchan Hall
LINE DANCING
WITH


LINE DANCE & EVENTS

6.00 - 8.00 PM



East Gippy
Heart
LINE DANCE & EVENTS

★ Cost \$20 per session ★

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL
Neighbourhood House on

0493 070 332



FARMERS HAVE YOUR SAY

Help update the 2019 "Looking Ahead" advocacy paper for Gippsland agriculture. We want to make sure it genuinely represents Gippsland's agricultural sector. That means hearing from the people at the heart of it – you

If you live in Wellington Shire Council or East Gippsland Shire Council we need your input:

-  What are the key issues affecting your farm?
-  What opportunities do you see?
-  What challenges are you facing?
-  Take 15 minutes to have your say

If you have any questions please reach out to:



Kaylene Wickham
Email kaylenewi@egipps.vic.gov.au
Phone 0423 205 007

Don't miss the opportunity to influence the future direction of advocacy for agriculture in our region. Share your views and help shape the priorities that matter most

Gippsland Drought
Response Proposal

Looking AHEAD 2026

QR Code



Scan the QR to take the survey:



Survey closes on 26th
September 2026 (4 weeks)
Information captured by this
survey is private and confidential.



Calling all farmers
To have your say



Farmers have your say on Shaping Agriculture's Future

A new **Looking Ahead** advocacy document is being developed to support the agricultural sector.

We need to hear from you to make sure it reflects your priorities.

If you live in Wellington or East Gippsland Shire Council we need your input: What are the key issues, opportunities and challenges that matter most to you and your business?

This is a collaborative effort involving Gippsland agricultural organisations, working together strengthen the sector voice.

Don't miss the **opportunity to influence** the future direction of advocacy for agriculture in our region.

Share your views and help shape the priorities that matter most. Fill in this form or scan the QR.

For questions reach out to Kaylene Wickham
kaylenewi@egipps.vic.gov.au phone 0423 205 007

**NOTE: Whilst some of these questions may not be relevant to your operation, please progress to the next question to answer those that are, thanking you*

**FORM CAN BE MAILED OR DROPPED TO ANY COUNCIL
LIBRARY OR CENTRE BY 26 SEPTEMBER 2026**

Your 2026/27 Valuation and Rate Notice

has been issued, with information about your property valuation, rates amount and payment options.



Rates notices have been issued

First instalment due 30 September

If you have not received your notice by this Friday, please contact us for a free copy.

We know rates can sometimes be confusing, so our team is here to help you understand:

- how your rates are calculated
- what your rates help deliver
- available payment options
- support available if you're having difficulty paying

If you pay your rates by quarterly instalments, make sure your first payment is made by 30 September.

Go paperless with eRates to receive your rates notice electronically and pay your rates online whenever it suits you:

<https://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/our-council/rate-payment-options-and-timetable>

RATES ROADSHOW

We understand that rates can sometimes feel confusing, and you may have questions about how they are calculated, your property valuation, or whether you are receiving all the entitlements available to you, such as rates or exemptions.

Our friendly rates team is here to help, and they are heading out into the community to answer your questions, listen to your concerns, and support you in making sense of it all

Come meet with our friendly rates team

GELANTIPY MOBILE LIBRARY STOP
13 October, 9:00am – 9:45am

BUCHAN MOBILE LIBRARY STOP
13 October, 10:30am – 11:30am



We are here to help. If you cannot attend the session, please know that support is still available. You can call our office during normal business hours on 5153 9500 to speak with one of our customer service staff or a member of the rates team.



(03) 5153 9500



eastgippsland.vic.gov.au



EastGippyShire



PO Box 1618, Bairnsdale 3875

HAVE YOUR SAY – WHAT WOULD HELP YOU?

What would make running a business, community group or local project a little easier?

Buchan Neighbourhood House and the Buchan Business & Tourism Association are exploring an opportunity to bring **Ric Marks from Ultimate Marks** to Buchan in March 2027 for a practical session focused on the challenges people face when they are trying to keep businesses, organisations and community projects moving.



Neighbourhood Houses
The Heart of Our Community

We Want to Hear from You

We want to know what would be useful to **business owners, tourism and hospitality operators, farmers, employees, volunteers, committee members, community organisations** and anyone else who finds themselves carrying responsibility for making things happen.

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY

We're asking:

- What is the biggest challenge you would like help with?
- What sort of session would you find useful?
- Would you be interested in participating?

There is no commitment to attending at this stage. Your feedback will help us determine whether there is enough interest to proceed and, if so, what the March 2027 session should look like.

Complete the short survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5JWFYGD>

Survey closes on Wednesday 30th September, 2026

Key Challenges We Want to Tackle

This isn't about sitting through a generic leadership workshop. It's about the real challenges of carrying responsibility in a small community, such as:

- Clarifying roles, responsibilities and decision-making
- Making sure people have the clarity and authority they need to make decisions
- Reducing bottlenecks when decisions or knowledge are concentrated with one person
- Creating clearer structures so responsibility can be shared effectively
- Knowing who is responsible for what, and who has the authority to make the decision

Ric's proposed work has been developed around these practical issues, **but we want to hear from Buchan first.**

Your feedback will help shape the program.

B.P.R.C **NRL22** COF

SSAA East Gippsland - Buchan Rifle Range

We will be hosting up to 40 shooters and utilising our range in ways it hasn't been used before to ensure this an exciting match you will not want to miss.

BUCHAN BUSH BASH 2-DAY .22 COMPETITION

COF being created by Matt C and Stu G

REGISTER FOR THE EVENT **NRL22**

<https://www.revolutionise.com.au/bprc/events/376073>

This will be a precision rifle .22lr match, so entries are restricted to rifles firing 22lr only and an NRL22/PRS22 rifle is the most advantageous configuration to bring along but you'll still have fun with the humble bunny buster!

Sight in will be available on **FRI 9th Oct** from **2:00pm**

The main competition days will be
SAT 10th Oct & SUN 11th Oct,
finish up around 4pm on the Sunday



BUCHAN BUSH BASH
9-11th OCT | 22lr
SSAA BUCHAN RIFLE RANGE
MATT C & STU G - MATCH DIRECTORS

Veterans Card – Victoria

The digital Veterans Card – Victoria offers:

- ✓ \$100 discount on the registration of one light motor vehicle
- ✓ free public transport on Anzac Day and Remembrance Day
- ✓ one free trailer and one free caravan registration
- ✓ free boating (marine) licence
- ✓ fishing licence exemption
- ✓ access to veteran employment programs

Who is eligible?

Any person who has served or is currently serving in the Australian Defence Force and resides in Victoria.

How to apply

Apply, store and show your card in the Service Victoria app on your smartphone or visit service.vic.gov.au to apply online.

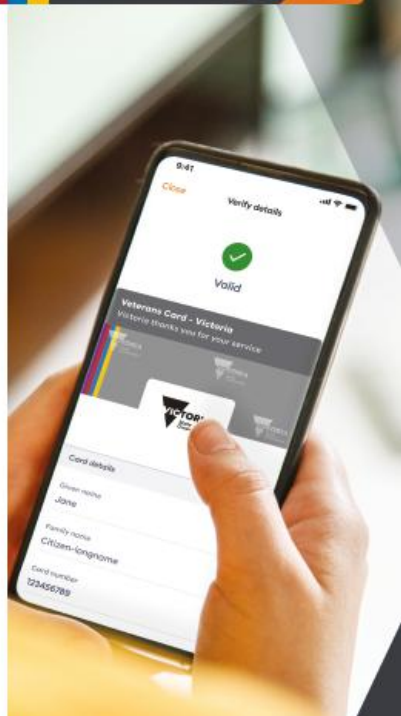
Support for veterans

The digital card is just one of the many ways the Victorian Government is providing support to our veteran community.

For more information on the supports and services available to veterans visit vic.gov.au/veterans-support-and-commemoration

Sign up in 5 minutes
Scan this QR Code or visit service.vic.gov.au/services/veterans-card-victoria

To receive this document in another format email veterans@dl.vic.gov.au
Subsidised and subsidised printing and distribution by the Victorian Government
State of Victoria, Australia, AB 2023 PMR managed by Treasury (2023042)



Find the help you need with My Aged Care

If you're finding it harder to do the things you used to do, you may need some support.

My Aged Care can help.

Access services to support you with:

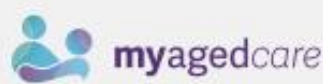
- transport to appointments and activities
- household jobs such as vacuuming and preparing meals
- modifications to your home such as handrails and ramps
- nursing and personal care such as help getting dressed or help with showering
- end-of-life care to help people remain at home in their last months of life.

Find information on:

- in-home support, short-term care and aged care homes
- how to apply for an assessment to access services
- aged care costs
- organisations that provide aged care.



Scan QR code



Freecall 1800 200 422

Monday to Friday from 8am to 8pm,
and Saturdays 10am to 2pm

MyAgedCare.gov.au

Bairnsdale –

21 Sept 10:00am – 12:00pm –

Paynesville –

21 Sept 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Lakes Entrance –

22 Sept 10:30am-12:00pm

Home is where the heart is – stay there longer!

Our health needs change as we age, but one thing stays the same.

Our desire to remain living in our own home. Hear our service experts explain how you can access government funding to help you stay living at home for longer. This session is in partnership with East Gippsland Shire Council's Positive Ageing Education Series, presented by Pooja Khatwani

EAST GIPPSLAND
SHIRE LIBRARIES
FREE | BOOKINGS REQUIRED
Support at Home



Libraries
Change Lives

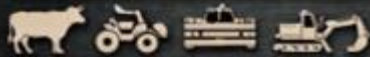
PETER ADAMS CONTRACTING

FARMER WANTS WORK

0492 888 057 (prefer SMS)

peteradamssixtyone@gmail.com

**Cattle Work: Stock Handling,
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- Cleaning Windows etc

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Services include but not limited to:



- Veranda & decking
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- Renovations
- Re-stumping
- Landscaping
- Sheds
- Mechanics
- In house/on site fabrication & welding

Kristaan Large

0483 104 111

buchanoathcarpentry@gmail.com

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 0468 387 524



MOBILE LIBRARY DATES 2026

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 cat



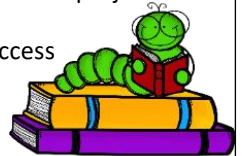
Access and complete surveys, feedback on projects



Use a computer with free internet access



Have a chat and much more



TUESDAY

SEP 22 | OCT 6 | OCT 20

9:00-10:00am

Buchan Main Street

10:30-11:30am

Buchan Neighbourhood House

1:30-2:30pm

W Tree - SIBA

TUESDAY

SEP 29 | OCT 13 | OCT 27

9:00-10:00am

Gelantipy Bush Nurse

10:30-11:30am

Buchan Neighbourhood House

12:45-1:30pm

Buchan Primary School

CLO

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Let's chat about:

- › Business / Term Loans
- › Seasonal Finance Overdraft
- › Line of credit
- › Livestock Funding
- › Elders Asset & Commercial Finance

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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
for Regional Victoria



Bespoke accommodation within the heart of Buchan



p: 03 5155 9419
w: buchanstays.com
e: hello@buchanstays.com



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0455-023-173



Alexandra Jenkins

Cattle Ultrasound Technician

Ph: 0455 068 599

Email: avscanning.info@gmail.com



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- ✓ Foetal Aging
- ✓ Foetal Sexing
- ✓ Reproductive Abnormalities



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Portraits

Headshots

Websites

Stockwork

Livestock



**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 5th October 2026**. We welcome articles and contributions from everyone and encourage our local clubs, groups, agencies, organisations and businesses to send us their information. Submissions can be sent to info.buchan@gmail.com or drop them into the Neighbourhood House. The Buchan Neighbourhood House takes no responsibility for opinions expressed by contributors to the *Buchan Phoenix*.

The Editors reserve the right to reject articles and advertisements and to edit submissions if necessary.

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

Buchan Neighbourhood House contact details:

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

Monday – Thursday 10:00am-4:30pm

6 Centre Road, Buchan

0493 070 332

03 5155 9216

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



East Gippsland Shire Outreach Services

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

What you can do at the mobile service:

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



The next services will be:

Buchan Neighbourhood House

Every Tuesday from 10:30am—11:30am

Buchan Primary School

Tuesday 29th September 12:45pm—1:30pm

Tuesday 13th October 12:45pm—1:30pm

Tuesday 27th October 12:45pm—1:30pm

Buchan Main Street

Tuesday 22nd September 9:00am—10:00am

Tuesday 6th October 9:00am—10:00am

Tuesday 20th October 9:00am—10:00am

Gelantipy (Bush Nurse Centre)

Tuesday 29th September 9:00am—9:45am

Tuesday 13th October 9:00am—9:45am

Tuesday 27th October 9:00am—9:45am

W Tree (SIBA)

Tuesday 22nd September 1:30pm—2:30pm

Tuesday 6th October 1:30pm—2:30pm

Tuesday 20th October 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 the month

For details contact

Rhonda Coates 5155 9373