

TUBBUT TATTLER

ISSN 2200 - 5245



December 2018

Tubbut Neighbourhood House

E-mail: tubbutnh@iinet.net.au

Phone: 02 64580295

<http://www.tubbutnh.com> Like us on Facebook

Open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in school terms

<http://www.tubbutnh.com> Like us on Facebook

Next deadline: January 20th 2019



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CLASSIFIEDS

Orbost Solar and Electrical

Happy to come to our area and comes highly recommended by the Tubbut Neighbourhood House

Call Ben on 0434038395



WANTED

Old crockery of any colour except white, can have patterns, can be broken.

Please contact Sue Collins 64580287 or the NH, or leave at the Bonang Hall.

The Bonang Hall is looking for a fridge in good working order.

Contact Sue on 64580287 or the Neighbourhood House

Septic getting full?

Robert Hampshire will pump out your loo. Septic tanks, porta-loos— no problems Truck has capacity to handle 2 tanks/trip Phone: 0417423983

Please keep your old glass bottles for Robert too as he is a passionate collector.

GOONGERAH HALL

goongerah@iinet.net.au

This fantastic venue is a great space for functions & workshops . There are comfy couches or a deck out the front to relax & have a cuppa & a chat. Wi-Fi, a stylish Op Shop as well as the Goongerah

Good Foods,

We welcome more volunteers

If you see the sign out the front there will be a happy local inside to greet you & help or maybe an interesting work shop may be on.

Bobcat contractor for hire

Slashing, clearing, small earthworks, levelling, preparation for sheds, carports, water tanks and paving and clean ups

Ring Steve 02 6458 0303 or email stephenscroope@bigpond.com

Bates' Fencing & Machine Hire

- Large 90hp Compact Track Loader. Tracks ensure minimal ground disturbance.
 - 900 mm Trencher ideal for pipe / cable laying
 - 6 ft slasher for paddock, scrub & advanced re-growth clearing with tree pusher, ideal for fence line maintenance.
 - 1600mm Road Broom / sweeper
 - 300mm post hole auger
 - Bucket, dozer blade , pallet & forks
 - Fan assisted sprayer for difficult rain
 - Experienced operator
 - Fully insured & GST registered
 - Experienced in Rural fence design & construction
- Call Mark on 02 64580225



FOR HIRE

The Tubbut Neighbourhood House has the following for Hire:

Trailer—\$5.00 per day

Wood Splitter—\$10.00 per day

You can also borrow many of our books & gadgets:

Laminator, recording VHS to DVD player, Laptop, tablet, digital photo scanner, convert photos, slides

TO RENT

House for rent—Willis Road Tubbut

Contact James Leatham

Elders Orbost 03 51542115

Available for cleaning (only)

Contact Natasha 64588162 or 0408477774

Tattler Contributions: We welcome your articles, news, reports on local groups, photos from local events, milestones, interesting stories, poems, biographies, births, deaths, historical items, and more. *We also welcome any letters to the editors.*

The Tubbut Tattler is produced by the Coordinators of the Tubbut Neighbourhood House which is funded by the Victorian Government. Material herein is the responsibility of the authors and does not represent the views of the DVICG or Tubbut Neighbourhood House unless stated. We welcome material from, and of interest to, people in the border areas of East Gippsland and NSW.

Tubbut Neighbourhood House

Thumbs down

To the people who are trashing our beautiful bush roads by throwing their rubbish out the window.

That behaviour is not welcome here

Xmas Cookie workshop

A fun day even though our Community Pizza lunch took up so much time that everyone took their cookies home to decorate.



Tubbut Neighbourhood House—Drawing Workshops

Expression of Interest

Shoshana is looking at running drawing classes with a focus on hills. Which will be held outdoors in locations yet to be determined. For this to be successful you will need a sturdy easel. If we have enough people interested we may be able to purchase some easels for those that don't have one. Please let us know here at the Neighbourhood House if you would be interested.

Position Available

Coordinator at Tubbut Neighbourhood House

Tubbut Neighbourhood House has a position available for a coordinator. The position is for 10 hours per week hours and times are negotiable plus volunteer hours. For a job description and key selection criteria or any other enquires please contact

Deb Foskey 0413223585 or Tubbut Neighbourhood House 0264580295

We are keen to hear from people interested in working in the community and managing the day to day business of the neighbourhood house.

Forward your application by 25th of January 2019 and mark as Confidential.

To: Deb Fosky Warm Corners Bonang 3888

Community Issues

Regional Roads Victoria ph 133778 regionalroads.vic.gov.au

Bonang Hwy Road damage

Regional Roads Victoria have promised to keep on top of the road maintenance especially with the log trucks using the Bonang Hwy. Give them a ring on the number above to inform them of any problems on the road. I rang them today about the section Between McKillops Road and Rising Sun Road, I was on hold for 7 minutes, but spoke to a lovely lady who then sent this email: "Thank you for your enquiry in relation to road conditions at Bonang Road and McKillops Road, Bonang. Our maintenance team have inspected the area and it has been programmed for repair works. This will be occurring during the early weeks of the new year."

Log Truck Movement over Christmas Holidays

We have been informed that the loggers at Tubbut will be having time off from the 20th of December to 7th of January but this is subject to change. So stay alert and warn any visitors to the area to be aware.

What's happening with the School????????

We have recently received several enquiries about what is happening with the Goongerah Tubbut p-8 College, we can advise that yes there are no students currently attending but as yet with no official communication from the education department in regard to the schools closure we all seem to be in the dark .

This has had a huge impact on the area as the school has always been the heart of our communities.

Maybe we should all be contacting the department and asking the hard questions.

Contact- South Eastern Victoria Region
Phone- 1300 338 738
Hours- 8:30am- 5:00pm Monday- Friday

District Community Plan—Errinundra to Snowy

A very successful Community Planning meeting was held at Bonang on Wednesday the 12th of December. There were representatives from Bendoc, Goongerah, Bonang, Delegate and Tubbut. Lots of positive ideas were put forward on what is needed to move our community forward and hopefully give us a sustainable future.

The next meeting "Making it Happen—Expert Panel is on the 20th of February 2019 We will hear from experts on the topics identified in the previous workshop.

Out and About

Delegate Pony Club Training Day and Gymkhana

30 riders took part in the annual training day and obtained some great new techniques from trainers in cross country, dressage, show jumping and sporting.

Gymkahana day was very competitive, with everyone showing great sportsmanship to each other.

The results:

1. Assisted: Champion - Darby Walder, Reserve Champion- Anna Cameron
2. Under 7s: Champion - Myah Voveris, Reserve Champion- Asha Walder
3. 7 & Under 9s: Champion - Sage Dixon, Reserve Champion-Alexa Duncan
4. 9 & Under 11s: Champion - Lydia Jamieson, Reserve Champion-Frankie Dennis
5. 11 & Under 13s: Champion - Zali Duncan, Reserve Champion-Ella McCoullough
6. 13 & Under 15s: Champion - Lauren Blacka, Reserve Champion-Rochelle Voveris
7. 15 & Under 17s: Champion - Chelsea Blacka
8. Associate: Champion - Caitlyn Pratt, Reserve Champion- Jasmine Butterworth.



Lydia Jamieson took out 2 Perpetual trophies The Stan Collins Shield, for highest point scorer on the day and The Ken Summerill Memorial Trophy- for any Delegate Pony Club member highest point scorer over 3 gymkhanas.

Out and About

The Neighbourhood House is hoping to run a **kids fun day** at Bonang ,in mid January.

We would like expressions of interest from parents in the area and also a day or date that would suit . Some activities we would be providing are:

Art & Craft

Adventure—climbing, balance, tunnels

Music, dance

Story time

Game of soccer.

Please let us know asap so we can make this fun day happen.

NOTE:

The Neighbourhood House will be closed from the 22/12/2018 and will reopen on the 2/1/2019.

Give us a call on 64580295.

Lisa & Sue.



Hello Rail Trail Supporters.

It's time to give you some news of what is happening with our project. There are two lines of activity to comment on.

Firstly, the crowd funded prefeasability study has been completed. The consultants have confirmed the trail would have tourist appeal and that the Canberra cycling market will create a real boost to village and town economies. Canberra cyclists alone will put \$3 million into the Monaro economy. Results of the study have been met with great interest by the Snowy Monaro General Manager Peter Bascomb who says "Council is grateful to MRT for this report, which we'll use as the starting point for the more detailed study which Council has planned."

The second line of activity, which has occurred independently of the MRT committee, is seen in recent reports from NSW government agencies. The NSW Dept of Regional Services and Infrastructure has identified that the more than 3000 km of disused rail corridors in NSW have potential for regional tourism. Again, the NSW Department of Planning and Environment has specifically identified the disused Monaro rail corridor as an opportunity to boost tourism in the south east region. Finally, the tourism orientated, Destination Southern NSW Region Management Plan very clearly identifies the Monaro Rail Trail as being a game changer for tourism in the region. In Canberra the ACT government Cycle Tourism report also identifies niche cycle trails as being important to create a cycling hub in the region

So supporters, with your encouragement we continue to push our case. Our next major goal will be to get the big feasibility study done.

Thank you all again for your support and please make sure your friends know of the proposal.

Best wishes

Andrew Carter for Monaro Rail Trail

What's On

Summer Reading Challenge on again

Kids, get ready to join the Summer Reading Club Program at your local library.

East Gippsland Shire Libraries is once again supporting the national program, which is also available online and in more than 1,000 public libraries across the country.

Created for children from pre-school age to 17, the Summer Reading Club is a free program led by State Library of Queensland that inspires imaginations and instils a love of libraries and reading.

This year's theme, Curious Creatures, encourages young readers to discover new worlds as they explore and connect with a curiosity of creatures through a range of interactive activities available in libraries and online.

East Gippsland Shire Mayor Cr Natalie O'Connell encouraged children and young people across the region to participate.

"You can join the Summer Reading Club and take part in activities online, which is great for any young people who might not live close to one of our six libraries," Cr O'Connell said.

"Reading is a great activity and no matter what your interests there'll be a genre to suit. In our libraries you'll find cartoons and graphic novels, non-fiction, realistic fiction, factual books on topics like historical events, animals, or the planet, fantasy, young adult fiction and more."

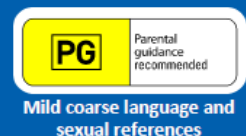
Over 43,000 children registered with the Summer Reading Club last year, reading over 360,000 books between them over summer, and organisers are hoping participants will crack half a million books in 2018.

Summer Reading Club members can also meet 21 new Australian authors and illustrators online, read their helpful creative hints and tips and preview exclusives of their up and coming work.

Online participants will also have the opportunity to blog with children's authors Dr Cameron Stelzer and Emma Middleton, search for answers to Encyclopaedia Britannica's sponsored quiz, craft a What Happens Next story ending to Dave Lowe's story starter, share their book raves and artwork, and lots more.

Summer Reading Club is free and runs until Thursday, January 31, 2019 at all East Gippsland Shire Libraries.

Movie Screening



Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again

Join us for the screening of *Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again*

The musical romantic comedy is a sequel to the box office hit *Mamma Mia!*

Featuring many of the original cast members, the sequel is part prequel and covers more of the story of Donna Sheridan's daughter Sophie's three possible fathers.

||||| /
Libraries
Change Lives

Phone 5152 4225 or
book in person at the
library for this FREE event.

Tue. 8 January
Omeo
Service Centre
2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Tue. 8 January
Orbost
Service Centre
2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Thu. 10 January
Bairnsdale Library
2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Mon. 14 January
Bairnsdale Library
2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Fri. 18 January
Paynesville
Service Centre
10.30 am – 12.30 pm
& 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

What's On

UPLIFT LIVE

FREE • 12.30pm • 20th DECEMBER 2018

Downstairs at the [South East Regional Hospital](#) –

SWELL: The Art of Living Well project presents [Guitarama](#)

Spend your lunchtime listening to the latin american guitar stylings of the South Coast's premier classical guitar ensemble.

ALL PATIENTS, STAFF, VISITORS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC are invited to attend this special event.

Grab your lunch and come down to the ground floor at the hospital.

This is the final in a series of musical presentations as part of our SWELL - Arts and Health Project.

The Uplift Live Music program has been supported in 2018 by the Mumbulla Foundation



Day of Abilities
Exhibition

Raglan Gallery
Cooma
Sat 1 Dec
to Sun 23 Dec
10.30-3.30pm daily

Featuring a variety of artists
from Cooma Challenge and
Tulgeen's Art in the Garage,
Bega

COOMACHALLENGE
LIMITED

Tulgeen
LIVE WORK PLAY GROW

RG **SouthEastArts**

Pictured: Images by Cooma Challenge Artist (L) and Miriam Kydd from Tulgeen (R)

SOUTH/EAST INTERFERENCE 2 | Bega Valley Regional Gallery

Ramesh Mario Nithyendran | Jumaadi | Chayni Henry | Val Wens | Gunybi Ganambarr |

Dadang Christanto

15 December - 9 February 2019

Official opening Friday 14 December 6pm

South/East Interference II brings together artists working around themes of personal identity, cultural heritage and storytelling.

Contemporary shadow puppets, performance and documentary photography, diary style chronicled experience and traditional Yolngu stories and art making techniques, sculptures that strut and shout, and paintings and installation pieces that honour victims of crimes against humanity

Health; Letter from Birgit

Dear Community Members

I would like to thank you for your ongoing support for the programs I am lucky enough to have run (and have run) in your communities for the last 4 years. It is an enormous pleasure to work with you and for you all. I am hoping you will all have a very merry Christmas and a great start to 2019.

I am continuing with the current counselling outreach program via Orbost Regional Health on a full time basis. There are some recent changes I would like you to be aware of. There is no need to see a GP for a referral anymore, you can now refer yourself or help a family member or friend to make contact with me.

I cover the following areas in East Gippsland – Omeo area, Buchan/Gelantipy area, Cann River area, Orbost area and everything from Goongerah to Deddick Valley and Bendoc.

As you can imagine It can be tricky to answer the phone at times, so please leave a message or send a text and I will get back to you asap. Sometimes people ask me, what would I talk to you about, so here are some of the things people talk to me about:

Relationship troubles

Misunderstandings or poor communication with family, friends or work mates; problems with commitment; jealousy or abuse.

Family issues

Problems with partners or children; parenting difficulties; separation and divorce; access and custody problems; employment; money or housing issues.

Lack of confidence

Worry about failing; never feeling good enough or feeling judged; difficulties with social media.

Depression

Feeling in a black hole, alone, lonely, empty, sad, unloved or suicidal.

Repeated unhelpful behaviours

Anxiety and Stress

Persistent worrying; fearfulness; phobias; panic attacks; homesickness; feeling out of control; trauma & PTSD.

Grief and Loss

Experiences of bereavement, including anger, loneliness and sadness; a major change in life circumstances; or diagnosis of an illness.

There are no set topics. If something is troubling you it is helpful to explore this safely and in confidence.

Do you have stress due to money worries, relationship problems, grief and loss, a history of abuse or neglect, or seem to struggle with low motivation?

Often just having someone listen without judgement to your story can help you see new ways of doing things.

If I seek help does it mean I am weak?

You may feel a failure by asking for help—we all know we want to be managing. Think of it as ‘life coaching’ and how you can benefit from talking things through with an independent professional. We all have times in our lives when we need someone with whom we can talk things through.

The program is now called

Psychological Strategies (formerly ATAPS).

Provides free sessions with a Mental Health Nurse. Please contact Birgit Schaedler 0491 090 452 for more information or email Birgit.Schaedler@orh.com.au

For urgent response due to risk to a person's safety please call 000

Out of Business hours advice on Mental Health concerns ring Mental Health Triage 1300 36 33

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For someone to talk to out of business hours

Lifeline 13 11 14

Mensline 1300 789 978

Health

Royal Flying Doctor Service brings Dental health to Bonang and Bendoc

The Royal Flying Doctor Service's Mobile Dental Clinic has been of enormous benefit to the small communities of Bendoc and Bonang, according to President of the Deddick Valley Isolated Community Group Committee (DVICG) Deb Foskey.

"As we know, poor oral health can lead to serious health complications. In some parts of Victoria, it is the second leading cause of preventable hospital admissions," said Dr Foskey. "Places like Bendoc and Bonang are far from dental services and the result is that many people have neglected their oral health.

"RFDS Victoria's Mobile Dental Care program brings the dentist to small Victorian rural communities. The program is run in partnership between Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) Victoria, Dental Health Services Victoria and the Australian Dental Association Victorian Branch.

"Working with a team of dental practitioners, the Flying Doctor Dental Clinic is a purpose built mobile dental van that ventures out onto rural roads to bring the expert services of skilled dentists to people.

"We first saw it in our community at the Big Bonang Arvo at the end of October where several people took advantage of its well-appointed clinic for a check-up.

"A couple of weeks later, it returned for a week in Bonang and three weeks in Bendoc where people attended for more comprehensive work like fillings, extractions and a good clean.

"In all 31 people have benefitted so far and, due to a wait list, several more will be treated when the Mobile Unit returns in January next year.

"Clearly, this is a service that is worth continuing. Bringing services to isolated rural communities is the best way of ensuring that the maximum number of people attend, leading to better health outcomes.

"The best outcome would be an annual visit of the mobile dental clinic so that the good start can be followed up and word of mouth will bring new people to the excellent care of the dentists in the RFDS clinic," said Deb Foskey.

Health Direct Helpline

Non-urgent assistance

If your health concern is not urgent call the healthdirect helpline at any time on **1800 022 222** for free advice and reassurance.

The healthdirect helpline is a 24-hour telephone health advice line that operates seven days a week. It is staffed by registered nurses who provide expert health advice. You can call for advice if you or a member of your family are feeling ill and are unsure what to do, or for health information on a particular condition.

National crisis numbers

24 hours a day, seven days a week (24/7):

- **Lifeline** – 13 11 14
 - **Kids Helpline** – 1800 551 800 for young people 5-25 years
 - **Suicide Call Back Service** – 1300 659 467
 - **MensLine Australia** – 1300 78 99 78 for men of any age
- These phone lines are available to

New from the Shire

Recycling Myths Fact Sheet September 2018



At a Glance

The Creation of Recycling Myths

The last 30 years has seen the development of Council's recycling collections in Australia, giving householders a convenient way to return materials for use in new products. Initially, the recycling industry had teething problems, as can be expected with emerging industries. The industry of today is relatively mature and consolidated, with far greater experience. The trial and error of early years, coupled with lack of education and degrees of reluctance to change from the community, have seen misconceptions of recycling grow in Australia.

By removing the myths that weaken public confidence in recycling programs, we will see better public participation, an increase in recycling rates, and establish a better partnership with the community for a more environmentally friendly East Gippsland.

Myth 1: 'Australia has abundant space to bury our waste, so I don't need to recycle'

Fact: Concentrating on landfill space misses the point and ignores the fact that burying household waste in landfill has many environmental and economic impacts.

Myth 2: 'All recyclables go into one truck and are sent to landfill'

Fact: False. Contractors in East Gippsland are required to take waste to landfill and recyclables to the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF).

Myth 3: 'I don't need to recycle – everything biodegrades in landfill'

Fact: The anaerobic (without air) conditions in landfill slow down the process of biodegradation of organic materials, and increase the production of methane gas - a greenhouse gas responsible for global warming. Complex products such as plastics and alloys are likely to remain in landfills for over hundreds of years.

Myth 4: 'I can put anything into the recycling bin – someone else will sort it for me at the recycling plant'

Fact: Putting inappropriate waste in your recycling bin causes contamination which can damage or destroy other recyclables and machinery, affect the quality of recycled materials, and pose health and safety issues for sorting staff. Even a small amount of contamination can prevent an entire bin, skip bin or trailer from being recycled.

Myth 5: 'Recycling doesn't really help the environment'

Fact: Recycling helps the environment by extending the life of existing landfills. This lessens the need for new landfills which emanate greenhouse gases, and damage the surrounding environment. Recycling also helps conserve resources by producing goods from recycled materials instead of raw materials.

New from the Shire

The council has asked us to be aware that we put rubbish in the correct side as the wrong placement can contaminate the recycling and then it all ends up in the general waste.

The rubbish trailer at Tubbut has on occasion had no sign telling you which side is for recycling and which side is for rubbish, it has also been undivided. This is due to no correct trailers being available on the day of swap over

What CAN I put in my kerbside recycling bin, skip bin or trailer?

- Paper and cardboard
- Newspapers/envelopes
- Telephone books
- Milk and juice cartons
- Glass bottles and jars
- Steel cans, aluminium cans, and clean foil
- Plastic containers numbered 1 to 7



Recyclables must be placed in your bin loose.

Do not bag your recyclables or use a bin liner in your recycling bin.

What CAN'T I put in my kerbside recycling bin, skip bin or trailer?

- Plastic bags and soft plastics*
- Polystyrene foam cups, meat trays or packing material - commonly used in the packaging of white goods and furniture. (Please note: Polystyrene is a number 6 plastic that we accept as recycling in it's rigid form eg. yoghurt containers, but not as a foam).
- Waxed cardboard
- Broken glass/crockery/pyrex/mirrors
- Motor oil or Fuel
- Green waste
- Hazardous waste, including paint tins
- Food waste
- Household Appliances eg toasters, DVD players
- Scrap metal and /or steel
- Household furniture and mattresses
- Home improvement items eg sinks, fittings, hot water systems
- Carpet / Linoleum
- Fencing material
- Medical waste / syringes
-

*You can recycle plastic bags and soft plastics through the [REDcycle](#) program if you drop them in at participating Coles and Woolworths supermarkets.

New from the Shire

Two bridges to be replaced in Bonang

Council will also replace two timber bridges along Waterhole Gully Road in Bonang at Jingalalla River and Waterhole Creek

Both are listed as priorities for replacement under council's bridge replacement program and will be replaced with reinforced concrete and steel bridges.

The bridge over Waterhole Creek has a load limit making it unsuitable for heavy traffic such as B-double trucks.

Council will remove the timber bridges and build new bridges on the same alignment. While this takes place, side tracks will be built for both projects to allow residents to access their properties.

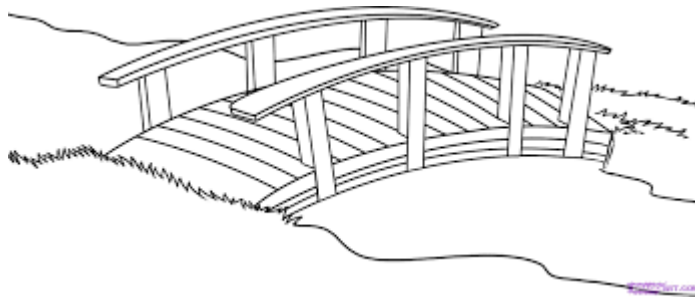
Affected landowners have been notified, and will be consulted as required throughout the projects.

Council awarded both contracts to Tambo Constructions.

The Jingalalla River contract is worth \$270,595, while the Waterhole Creek contract is worth \$267,545.

Both projects are funded until the Australian Government's Roads to Recovery program, providing \$275,571 for the Waterhole Creek project and \$278,721 for the Jingalalla River project.

Anyone wanting further information on any of these bridge projects can contact council's Sean Heinemann on 5153 9500.



On-farm Energy Grants (Victorian Government)

Agriculture Victoria is rolling out the Victorian Government's \$30 million Agriculture EnergyInvestment Plan with free on-farm energy assessments and on-farm energy grants:

- Tier 2 grants: \$50,000 to \$250,000 to support farms make energy improvements across farm systems.
- Tier 3 grants: \$250,000 to \$1 million to support strategic energy projects that benefit multiple farms.

Farmers are encouraged to apply early, as [grants are available](#) to eligible primary producers until March 2020 or until available funding is exhausted (whichever comes first). For any questions, email the Agriculture Victoria team at agenergy@ecodev.vic.gov.au or call 136 186.

New from the Shire

YOUTH AMBASSADORS APPLICATIONS OPEN

Young people across the region are being invited to apply for East Gippsland Shire Council's Youth Ambassador program.

Youth Ambassadors work to make changes in their communities that benefit youth and help council understand the needs of young people.

People aged 12– 25 living, studying or working in East Gippsland are encouraged to apply for a Youth Ambassador role.

This year's Youth Ambassadors have been part of community events, awareness raising activities, Youth Week Colour Fest, fundraising opportunities and training sessions including violence prevention, event management and Teen Mental Health First Aid.

Council is looking for a diverse group of people with different interests and backgrounds for the program. No experience is necessary, and help with travel can be arranged.

The Youth Ambassadors have links with council and youth-focused agencies to allow the ideas of young people to be turned into real action.

Youth Ambassadors participate in a range of training opportunities to build their leadership skills and introduce them to the world of local government. The group meets regularly to discuss youth issues, help organise events, take part in a variety of leadership forums and development activities.

Youth Ambassadors chair Pheobe Butler said the program was a great experience.

"Youth Ambassadors are committed, passionate and hardworking young people dedicated to being a positive influence for young people in our area. They are constantly thinking out of the box and finding new ways to engage East Gippsland's youth in constructive activities, contributing to not only the growth of the community but personal growth as well," Ms Butler said.

Mayor Cr Natalie O'Connell said the Youth Ambassador program was growing each year.

"The program has been really beneficial not only for participants, but youth in East Gippsland generally. I have no doubt each Ambassador has found the program rewarding and feel a sense of achievement for the work they've done this year. Being part of this program helps develop skills and experience that can be used in the future; I think it is a great opportunity and I encourage anyone who is interested to apply," Cr O'Connell said.

To apply, visit eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/youth or facebook.com/YouthVoiceEG.

Applications close Thursday, January 18, 2019.

CHARGING GIPPSLAND FOR FUTURE TRANSPORT: ELECTRIC VEHICLE PROJECT

East Gippsland Shire Council is partnering with Gippsland local governments to plan for the roll out of electric vehicles. South Gippsland Shire Council successfully applied for a grant to lead a study into electric vehicle charging infrastructure for participating Gippsland councils. The study is funded by a secured grant of \$30,000 under the Collaborative Councils Sustainability Fund Partnerships program by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), and each local government will contribute cash or in-kind.

The project will investigate the optimal location and preferred types of electric vehicle charging points across Gippsland, to ensure the most efficient and effective roll-out across the region. In addition, it will examine the planning and asset management implications and considerations resulting from the predicted demand for electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

New from the Departments

CROSS BORDER FIRE DAY BOOSTS SKILLS AND CONNECTIONS

Bushfires know no boundaries, so it's important our firefighters along the border work together to ensure communities are protected.

Forest Fire Management Victoria staff from East Gippsland and several New South Wales fire management agencies have strengthened cross border relationships and enhanced the skills of staff involved in firefighting activities during a recent training day.

More than 50 representatives from Forest Fire Management Victoria, NSW National Parks & Wildlife, NSW Rural Fire Service and NSW Forestry Corporation attended the session in Bondi State Forest.

The training covered topics such as seasonal outlook, communications, hazardous trees, structure and property protection, fire line first aid and hazards, the potential use of drones and getting familiar with different agencies' equipment.

Snowy Region District Manager for Forest Fire Management Victoria, Craig Chapman said that leading into the fire season, the training was an opportunity everyone to come together to work on cooperative firefighting activities in the event that collaboration is required between the two States.

"This was also a great way for firefighters from the different agencies to meet their counterparts and build a close working relationship."

Forestry Corporation of NSW Silviculture and Fire Coordinator, Jason Vincent said the interagency day was also a great opportunity to train together.

"The training gave firefighters the opportunity to form strong working relationships with colleagues from other agencies.

"The experience and the relationships which have been developed will help us work co-operatively in our firefighting efforts which will benefit the community as a whole.

"Everybody came away with new learnings and connections, and a better understanding of a range of issues

New report finds Victorians with disability need better opportunities for good health and wellbeing

This week we recognised International Day of People with Disability, a day to ensure inclusiveness and equality for people with disability.

To coincide with this important day, VicHealth has released a [new report](#) revealing inequities in health and wellbeing faced by Victorians with disability.

The study of over 22,000 Victorians, including more than 6,300 people with disability found:

- People with disability are 40% less physically active than people without disability. In particular, women with disability are less active.
- People with disability are half as likely to feel safe walking around their neighbourhood than people without disability.
- They are also a quarter less likely to feel positive about their neighbourhood than people without disability.

The report also found that people with disability experience significantly lower mental wellbeing, resilience and life satisfaction than people without disability.

VicHealth CEO Jerril Rechter said the research showed the critical need to improve inclusion and accessibility and provide more opportunities for people with disability to participate in all aspects of society.

"Everyone deserves the opportunity to experience good health and happiness. However, this new research shows Victorians with disability are missing out on opportunities to improve their health and wellbeing," Ms Rechter said.

Battery Back-up for Telstra Tower

Response received from Telstra after concerns voiced to Darren Chester:

Andrew Penn
Chief Executive Officer



20 November 2018

Mr Darren Chester MP
Federal Member for Gippsland
PO Box 486
Sale VIC 3853

Dear Darren

Thank you for your correspondence received in my office on 1 October 2018, sent to me on behalf of your constituent and members of the Bonang community regarding battery back-up capabilities to mobile base stations and exchanges.

More specifically I acknowledge a recent outage affecting services in Dellicknora and the surrounding Bonang area as a result of fires, and the concern over the amount of time to restore both fixed and wireless services as a result of power loss to the Bonang Exchange (corner of Dellicknora and McKillops roads)

During disaster events, in the event of mains power loss, we have transportable generators on standby to top up batteries. These go into an area once we have been cleared by police/fire/local SES, and while there are exceptions, typically we are able to ensure service is continued via generator deployments within the window of operation of existing battery reserves. In this instance our technicians were unable to safely access the site until the next morning upon which services were restored via the use of a portable generator.

As advised in correspondence sent to you earlier this year, while we cannot guarantee that all services will continue to operate during a bushfire, we have engineered our network and manage our workforce in a manner that takes into account the risk of bushfire and other extreme events so as to minimise the loss of service. When services are lost, we work in collaboration with emergency service organisations to bring them back online as quickly as possible.

In relation to request that Telstra considers reviewing our policy to allow for 48-hour battery back-up capabilities to bushfire prone sites, it is important to note that the loss of power at the base station's physical site is not the only factor that can result in the loss of connectivity, and in many instances the loss of connectivity is unrelated to mains power loss. For example, often the intensity of the bushfire will damage external antennas, cabling and even buried backhaul.

In the event of a power outage, we have found that battery power of 7-9 hours is typically sufficient to provide continuity of service pending the local disaster management authority's clearance to permit us to recharge batteries.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

Gardening

Should I Prune My Tomatoes?

Written by Jennifer Charlotte Date Posted: 30 November 2018

Among all the popular crops a gardener can grow, it's perhaps tomatoes that have the most lore, myth, and mystery associated with them.

Pruning, in particular, is often portrayed as a dark art, with dire consequences for your crop if you get it wrong.

But it's really not as complicated as it sometimes seems. And increasingly, veggie gardeners are deciding it might not even be necessary in all cases.

What's the Theory Behind Pruning Tomatoes?

Tomato plants come in two main types, known as determinate and indeterminate. Straight away, it's clear why some people find the whole subject of tomatoes so intimidating. What's wrong with the more straightforward names of bush or climbing tomato?

Nonetheless, conventional wisdom says that indeterminate (climbing) types need pruning if you want to grow a respectable crop. Why is this?

Two Different Growing Habits

Determinate (bush) varieties of tomato have a preferred number of stems and fruit which they'll produce so long as conditions allow. Once they've achieved their predestined size and fruiting level, they'll stop growing.

There's no need to systematically prune these types of tomato plant. All it'll achieve is to reduce yields and increase the risk of disease.

In contrast, indeterminate (climbing) tomatoes will keep growing so long as they're alive. They'll continue to produce new side stems, new foliage, and new fruit for as long as they can.

This means that left to their own devices, indeterminate tomatoes will behave much like pumpkins. They'll collapse under their own weight, sprawling their way across your vegetable patch, eventually forming an impenetrable mess of vines, leaves, and hidden fruit.

Clearly, this isn't ideal. The traditional solution is to heavily prune the plants to keep them under control, and support what's left with stakes to keep them upright.

This is done by removing the young side stems, known as suckers, which sprout from the joints of the main stem and the fruit-bearing branches. This concentrates growth where it's most important for plant strength and fruit yield, in theory producing larger, healthier tomatoes.

But does this conventional wisdom always hold true? Is pruning always really necessary?

Opinion is divided. But apart from the fruit yield issue, there are several undisputed advantages to pruning.

Good Reasons to Prune Tomatoes

- Pruned plants are easier to manage, leaving one or two central stems which can be supported by a single stake.
- With less of the plant in contact with the earth, there's a lower risk of infection from soil-borne pathogens.
- With less energy devoted to leaf growth, the fruits arrive earlier and grow larger.
- The resulting tomatoes are easier to harvest, instead of being hidden behind masses of foliage.
- The open growth increases air flow between the leaves, reducing damp and fungal problems.
- Open plants also make it easier to deal with pests.
- Pruned tomato vines look neater and take up less space per plant.

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Reasons Not to Prune

So far, pruning indeterminate tomatoes seems like a winning strategy. However, there are some definite drawbacks to bear in mind.

- Pruned vines necessarily have less foliage. This means there's less opportunity for photosynthesis, and so potentially less energy available to the plant for strong and healthy growth.
- Excessive or clumsy pruning can harm the plants, risking disease or infection.
- Pruning tends to produce smaller numbers of larger fruits. Of course, you may be happy with larger numbers of smaller fruits, making pruning counterproductive.
- It's extra work. Once you start pruning you're committed to it for the length of the season. Suckers which develop late will produce poor-quality fruits while using up precious growing resources. It's sometimes better to let a larger number of early suckers get a head start, so they'll crowd out the latecomers.

There are good arguments for and against. But if you do decide to prune, here's what to do for maximum success.

Tips for Pruning a Single Stemmed Tomato Plant

For both determinate and indeterminate varieties, it's a good idea to remove any side stems that are low to the ground. These lower stems rarely fruit successfully and, and just drain energy from more productive parts of the plant.

From then on, for indeterminate (climbing) varieties, look for the young suckers sprouting from where the side stems meet the central stem. If you've never pruned tomatoes before, it can be hard to know exactly what to look for.

There's a simple, if slightly colourful, way of visualising the suckers. Imagine someone standing on their head, with their arms pointing upwards and outwards from their body at 45 degrees. Their arms represent the fruiting vines, while the suckers would be shoots sprouting from their armpits. These are what are removed.

For tender young suckers, simply pinch them out using your thumb and finger. This offers less risk of disease or infection compared to a clean knife cut, while also preventing regrowth.

For larger, thicker stems, a sharp blade or secateurs will be needed. In these cases, some gardeners like to prune a little distance away from the stem, leaving a leaf or two intact. This has two advantages.

Firstly, it leaves a couple of energy-producing leaves behind to soak up the sunlight. Secondly, if the cut becomes infected, there's a chance to remove it before the problem spreads to the main vine.

However, be aware that doing this can increase the overall pruning workload. The growth you leave behind will continue to sprout new suckers which need to be dealt with.

Lastly, whether you regularly prune or not, it's a good idea to give your tomato plants a late pruning a few weeks before the end of the growing season. This is especially true if you're facing a race to ripen the fruits.

Pinching out all the upward and outward growth concentrates the plant's sugars into the remaining fruits, helping them to ripen before the season's end.

Gardening

Want Two or More Stems?

If you want more than one stem all you need to do is select the suckers you want to keep and leave them be. They will increase in size and ultimately turn into a new stem. How many stems to keep is really up to you and depends on your circumstances.

One of the most popular methods though is to prune the tomato plant to two stems. The sucker that forms immediately below the first set of flowers is the best one to keep as this is usually the most vigorous.

To Prune or Not to Prune?

Pruning has its purposes, but it's not something to do simply because every gardening book or website says so. If you want fewer but larger fruits, try it and see - you'll soon discover whether the results are worth the effort.

Likewise, if your tomatoes are plagued by fungal or damp problems, then heavy pruning is a sensible solution to attempt.

And lastly, if you want a neater, more compact tomato patch, you could either prune indeterminate varieties, or avoid the effort entirely by growing bush varieties.

But don't prune as a knee-jerk reaction, just because you feel you should. They're your tomatoes, it's your garden, and it's your choice.



Short Story

The Cafe Tell

Coffee + Bics

by Laurie Neven

There we were, my girlfriend and myself. Two girls opened up a coffee and biscuits cafe. All outdoor open planned with six tables and twelve chairs. Often the weather was wrong but we did alright with business as an outside cafe. We eventually opened another cafe in a building to help keep customers in from the bad weather. Business wasn't as good inside as it was outside. The reason we did change was the first cafe we had had nowhere to put chairs and tables, just a big container to lock up at night time to open and put back out in the morning. We started putting tables and chairs back outside at the new cafe so customers would be able to choose indoor or out. We hired two new girls for the new indoor cafe but we didn't know why people wanted to eat outside with the flies all year. It pays well though as we did this for 2 years with having both cafes.

We were both living with our parents to begin with but were able to move into a bigger flat together. It was closer to the cafe's and we were able to keep it open for another 2 years. We become so popular we opened a third cafe and hired 2 young guys to run it for us. They were our age so we used go out with them when we could and they were only short dates. We had to be careful not to wear ourselves down. You know what boys are like, they want more of you. We kept our cafe's going. It was hard to go out every night socially because we were always running our business. Working at the Coffee and Bics was still the big winner, so my friend and myself were thinking about opening another place. We were talking about it one day while we were walking through town and we come to an old cafe for sale. We looked at one another and said "what do you reckon?" Yep, lets do it was the reply. We talked it over with the bank manager and he read through the business proposal and he said I'll check it all out and get back to us. We went back to work and the thought of opening a new cafe was buzzing in our minds. We wondered what will be the outcome. A week later the manager hauls us both in to the bank to talk to the two of us. We were overly excited when he finally told us we were approved for the new cafe. While we didn't jump up and down in the bank we surely signed on the dotted line and said a very big thank you to the bank manager and we left the bank. We got a few yards away and yelled, jumped and shouted out in joy. We started to get some weird looks from people around us so we went back to work.

Later we went to see the old cafe that we just bought. We had to hire 2 more girls to replace us in the original outdoor cafe that we were running so we could focus on the new cafe because this was our new baby. We thought we would clean out the whole setup and give it a new look, a good coat of paint inside and out to bring new colours and brighten it up. New tables, chairs and a new counter. The kitchen got a new makeover as well. You know, make it stand out in the street. We opened a month later and it was strange because we give the other workers in the other cafe the night off and they all said it was most unusual to be waited on. The new cafe opening was packed. The old couple that owned it before us came to have a last look. When they walked in it opened up their eyes to see how it had changed since they owned it. The night went so well, there we were my girlfriend and myself. We were really successful we thought. We were hauling in the rewards, making new friends and the 4 girls and 2 guys stuck it out with us for some time. We used to go back to them to see how they were all going. We don't know what we would've done without them. We knew we had to find reliable and trusting workers to get ahead and keep the cafe's going for us. We knew if you wanted to get ahead you had to work at it like everything else in the world. Where there is people there is money, or so they say. You don't have to be a smart person to work that out. People come and go all over the world. They say all roads lead to Rome, and I say a lot of roads are built in Australia. If you go to Canberra, ACT it's a very busy place with lots of cafe's I tell you my friend. Maybe we'll get one there one day. Who knows. Well another customer another dollar so I better keep things going round and round like a teaspoon in a cup.

The end.

Recipe

Banana, brandy and butterscotch trifle

Layers of gooey butterscotch and the warm notes of brown sugar and brandy.

JUN 13, 2013 12:00AM BY EMMA KNOWLES

Serves 6 - 8 | 40 mins preparation | 40 mins cooking plus cooling



INGREDIENTS

5 bananas, thickly sliced

For drizzling: brandy

To serve: salted roast peanuts (optional)

Brown sugar sponge

4 eggs, at room temperature

80 gm each brown sugar and raw caster sugar

100 gm plain flour (1/3 cup)

50 gm butter, melted and cooled

¼ tsp baking powder

Brandy crème fraîche

750 gm crème fraîche

40 gm brown sugar

40 ml brandy

Scraped seeds of 2 vanilla beans

Butterscotch sauce

320 gm brown sugar

300 ml pouring cream

80 gm butter, coarsely chopped

40 gm golden syrup

40 ml brandy

METHOD

1

For brown sugar sponge, preheat oven to 180C. Whisk eggs and sugars in an electric mixer until thick and tripled in volume (5-6 minutes). Sieve over half the flour, fold to combine, fold in melted butter, then sieve in remaining flour and baking powder. Spoon into a deep 20cm square cake tin buttered and lined with baking paper and bake until golden and centre springs back when pressed lightly (20-25 minutes). Cool in tin, then store in an airtight container until required.

2

For brandy crème fraîche, whisk ingredients in an electric mixer to soft peaks (2-3 minutes), then refrigerate until required.

3

For butterscotch sauce, stir ingredients in a saucepan until sugar dissolves, bring to the boil and cook until thick and syrupy (5-10 minutes). Add a pinch of salt and set aside to cool for 5 minutes.

4

To serve, coarsely tear cake into rough pieces, then layer ingredients in a large serving bowl. Start with brandy crème fraîche, scatter with some sliced banana, drizzle with butterscotch sauce, scatter over a layer of torn cake, drizzle cake with a little brandy and butterscotch sauce and continue layering until you've used all the cake. Finish with peaks of brandy crème fraîche, scatter with sliced banana and drizzle with more warm butterscotch sauce. Serve with extra warm butterscotch sauce and salted peanuts.

NOTES

When you're making caramel, stir water and sugar over heat until sugar dissolves, then let mixture boil without stirring but swirling the pan so the caramel cooks and colours evenly, brushing down the sides with a pastry brush to remove sugar crystals.

December 2018

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
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17	18	19	20 NH Closed for the day	21 Last NH day	22	23
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31 New Years Eve	JAN 1	2	3 NH re- opens for the year	4	5	6
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The Neighbourhood house will be closed from the 22nd December to the 2nd of January. Then we will be back on deck for the New Year on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 8.30am to 3.30pm.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.