TAMBO RAMBLER

Bruthen and District Newspaper
Produced by Bruthen and District Citizens Association

May 2023 **NUMBER 285**

The Tambo Rambler is proudly sponsored this month by Elders Real Estate Lakes Entrance & Metung

The Tambo Rambler would like to acknowledge the Gunai Kurnai People, the Traditional Owners of the land on which we gather, and pay our respects to their Elders both past, present and emerging.

Are you looking to Sell, Lease, Buy or Rent a property?

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Lest We Forget - ANZAC Day in Bruthen

A very good turn out of about 250 locals attended the 2023 Bruthen ANZAC Day Commemoration held in Main Street Gardens.

One of the highlights of the day was the attendance of the Light Horse Troop, dressed in WW1 uniforms and regalia. Their presence made it a true country service.

The service led by Chaplain Brian from Saint Matthews involved a number of community groups, including the flag bearing party from Bruthen Primary School and the reflections read out by two students from Tambo Upper Primary School.

Lieutenant Mike McStephen from the Bruthen Fire Brigade read the modified Requiem. The requiem highlights the achievements of all Australians who died in war across the ages, and acknowledged the sacrifices made by families and friends of servicemen and women. Mike's daughter Angela, who kindly travels from Melbourne every year, played the Last Post followed by the Reveille, first at dawn break where the sound echoed across Bruthen in the still of the morning light. A second rendition was played at the main service with Angela also providing the music for the National Anthem.

It was great to see many of the local children turn up to the service and march proudly wearing their relatives' medals. Many thanks to the ladies from St. Matthews Church who provided morning tea afterwards, likewise to the band of volunteers (Pete, Julie, Alan, Marj, Lesley, Perry and finally Brent who soldiered through poor health to provide the sound system). Without this volunteer contribution the day could not have gone ahead.

- James N

Bruthen Op Shop's new managers

Bruthen Op Shop had a very exciting month in April. The Easter weekend saw a fantastic customer numbers and great turnover. Most exciting of all, we are happy to announce the appointment of our new co-ordinators, Helen Crosby and Trish Brogan who will share the role.

Helen has worked with various volunteer organisations for many years. Her committee roles included coordinating projects, promotion, media; and customers service. She has worked at the Bruthen Op-Shop for many years.

Trish a Bruthen local, also volunteers at the Op Shop and has had extensive experience in customer and community service, including leadership roles over many years engaging with people.

Both Helen and Trish strongly believe that the Bruthen Op Shop is an important hub of our local community, assisting not only in times of disaster and need, but also providing a welcoming space to have a friendly chat.

NEW VOLUNTEERS are still needed to join this vibrant community hub so if you can spare a day or even half a day please do pop into the shop and make yourself known. We would love to have you on board. **- Heather R**

Pictured Right top:
The new Op Shop Co-ordinators Helen and Trish.

Pictured Left top:
Ros sorting new stock.

Pictured Right below:
Gary on his way to a bad taste fancy dress wedding party.

Pictured Left Below:
Customers browsing in store.

Seen around Town

These classic Studebaker cars were seen in Bruthen in April.
From all over Australia they converged on Bruthen for a lunch stop at the Mechanics Hall catered by Albert & Co's Food Truck.

Symphonia visits St. Matthews

On Sunday 30 April, the East Gippsland Symphonia came to St Matthews Anglican Church in Bruthen, first to play for the morning service, and then to perform a special concert.
They delivered a terrific show, with music ranging from classical to songs from hit musicals, and ending with a selection of beautiful spirituals.

Please Help The Bruthen Op Shop

Our Community (Bruthen) Op Shop is in serious need of volunteers.
Three to Four hours a week if possible.
If you can help, please call into the shop to chat & leave your details. Many thanks

Smile, Sparkle, Shine!

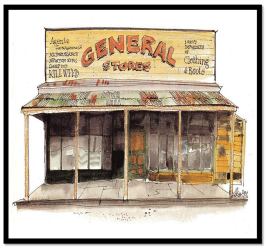
Smile, Sparkle, Shine!
What a wonderful name for Bruthen's new art gallery/shop which opened in the old Main Street Butcher's Shop on March 24.
Owner, Denise Jonkers and husband Lou have worked tirelessly with helpers to present the historic building as a white/bright atmospheric space to celebrate the two young resident artists, Priscilla Pike and Josie Jarvis.
Combined, Priscilla and Josie have been painting for 30 years!
The bright blue-tiled front rooms house the gallery and shop. At the rear is the working studio where customers may be lucky enough to see the artists working. I was intrigued to watch Priscilla decorating an old fridge!
On sale are a variety of Priscilla and Josie's colourful paintings and prints, cards, painted garden pots, mugs and ornaments. Other sale items include pottery, handknits, jewellery, painted lanterns and party products. In future Denise also hopes to have organic doggy snacks for sale.
Denise says it's possible that the gallery may, in future be able to offer other artist's hanging space.
Come and enjoy this fantastic addition to Bruthen's art community.
Currently open Thursdays and Fridays from 10am – 4pm and occasionally at other times plus holidays. **- Heather R**

Above: Priscilla decorating an old fridge.
Below left: Josie working in her studio.
Below: Josie and Katrina with Priscilla and Denise.

BRUTHEN OP SHOP
has *RAGS available*
great for any cleaning
$8 a big black bag all cotton!

Tim **BULL** MP
MEMBER FOR GIPPSLAND EAST
Servicing Bruthen and district community

143 Main Street, Bairnsdale VIC 3875
03 5152 3491
tim.bull@parliament.vic.gov.au
Funded from Parliamentary Budget

54 Main Street, Bruthen.
Open 7 days
Ph: 03-51575 415


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✓**Provider of Butcher Supplied Quality Meats**
✓**Supplier of gas heating, stoves, hot water systems**
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0429 398 730
teresa.young@atrealty.com.au
http://www.atrealty.com.au/

Medieval Winter Fire Festival returns in 2023

The Medieval Winter Fire Festival was so good last year that Bruthen Arts and Events Council want to do it again and you are invited to join us! Dress up in your best Medieval costume, rug up and venture out into the winter evening. Or come along a bit earlier and check out the Medieval market in the gardens first. BYO chairs.

Starting at 3pm there is going to heaps to do and see. The East Gippsland Historical Re-Enactment Group will be there in full costume to share and teach us some medieval games, demonstrate some good old sword fighting and lots of medieval skills demos. Flaming swords will light up the combat area after dark as will an impressive fire act. Morris Dancers will be here showing us how people danced in the late Medieval days.

Bruthen CFA are doing a big bonfire and fire pots to keep the reveller toasty warm

Families are invited to join the beautiful Lantern Parade featuring lanterns made in the pre-event workshop, or bring along your own special lantern (no live flames please). We will have a few spares too.

Food? Ooh yes, there will be a lot of good food to sample with spit roasted pork in rolls cooked by the Bruthen Bowls Club, Sausage Sizzle by Bruthen Primary School, donuts, baked spuds and more. Sailors Grave Brewery and Wyanga Park Winery with wines and mulled wine. And hot coffee to finish off the day.

Best Dressed Medieval Costumes Competition

Join us on Saturday, June 24, from 3pm in Bruthen as part of the East Gippsland Winter festival. Get Dressed Up. We have **lots of great prizes to give away** for the Best Dressed Costumes. Visit your local Op shop and see what you can find. Raffle tickets for a surprising duck game, involving a trebuchet, will also be available.

- Lesley C

Last years locals were inspired to dress up in Medieval costume with a focus on staying warm on the day and night.

Bruthen Music Cafe with the Merindas supported by local performer Christine Watterson

On Friday, June 16, at the Bruthen Mechanics Hall Bruthen, doors will open at 6:30pm. Music starts at 7pm.
Adults $25 each, Secondary School Age $10 each, Primary School and Under Free.
Your tickets to this classy act in Bruthen includes hot soup, nibble platters and some amazing homemade sponge cake.
The Merindas are the collective force of Ballardong Whadjuk Nyoongar woman Kristel Kickett and Candice Lorrae of Jawoyn and Thursday Island heritage.
Formed in 2012, The Merindas began their career singing Motown hits for the premiere of The Sapphires movie. What was meant to be a one-off show soon bloomed into a full-time career, with the dynamic duo now having performed over 400 shows in the last nine years, including supporting international stars Brandy and Craig David.
Now based in Melbourne, these soul sisters are trail -blazing with their innovative style of Indigenous music, which they describe as “electronic pop with a dance-hall feel, alongside hip hop and R&B influences” . Think TLC, Destiny’s Child and Salt n Pepa – but with double the amount of swagger and sass!
During their 60-minute set, audiences can expect extraordinary music, with soaring vocals. Don’t miss this unique opportunity to experience the infectious energy and soaring vocals of this home-grown, international-quality act.
Christine Watterson is an artist and songwriter based in East Gippsland, who has recently released her debut album, ‘Wonder’.
Tending towards an alternative folk-rock genre, the record features nine original songs and is the culmination of 20 years of melodies and lyrics created by Christine. Recorded and produced at Warrior Records in Bruthen, ‘Wonder’ features vocals, piano and guitar work developed by Christine.
She is also an avid diver and aspiring mariner with a chemistry background, and so her first album alludes to themes of both science and the sea, with lyrics communicated through deep, evocative vocals that are drawn from both her Celtic and Aboriginal roots.
This event is thanks to the Bruthen Arts and Events Council Inc.
0437152808 or bruthenaande@gmail.com
Booking link coming soon. On the East Gippsland Winter festival web site
https://egwinterfest.com.au/program/

St Matthew’s Anglican Church Bruthen

Services every Sunday at 9.30am except the fifth Sunday.
Services also at St Columb’s Swan Reach on the second and fourth Sundays at 11.15am, & at St Mary’s Buchan on the third Sunday every second month at 2.30pm commencing in February of each year.
Volunteers always welcome at the Bruthen Op Shop.
ALL WELCOME!! Please come and you are most welcome to contact: The Rev’d Brian Norris on 0418 633446

Bruthen Inn Hotel

Kitchen is open 7 days
Lunch 12-2pm (excl. Tues) Dinner 6-8pm
Tuesdays open from 5pm
Friday night raffles supporting local sporting clubs—10 draws.
Catering for private functions and community meetings
Courtesy bus operates Wed, Fri, Sat nights only
For enquires or bookings contact Bruthen Inn Hotel.
Cheers and beers, Stretch

Phone (03) 51575201

bullant BREWERY BRUTHEN

OPEN
Wednesday to Sunday
10am to 5pm

Phone: (03) 5157 5307

Friday - Dine in or Take-Away
6 to 8pm

The Bite @ Bullant Brewery food philosophy is simple:
* Use local seasonal produce
* Use sustainably harvested seafoods & responsibly stewarded meats
* Introduce local flavours and ideas to produce tasty food

Our menus present a contemporary and seasonal approach to food that can be enjoyed with beer
If you haven't already tried Craft beer why not pop in and have a taste of one of ten beers on tap

NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE NEWS

Bruthen & District Neighbourhood House

Coming up on the BDNH calendar:

May

Tuesday 9th
Bruthen Remembers
10.30am at Community Hub

Thursday 11th
Bruthen Bookies
1pm–3pm at Community Hub

Mondays
Bruthen Men's Shed
9am–1pm at Community Hub (rear)

Wednesdays
Sew What at Creative Space
1pm–3pm

Wednesday Evenings
Young People's Project
4.30pm–6:30pm at Creative Space
Enrolment required

June

Saturday 24th
Medieval Festival Market
12:00pm-4:00pm, Bruthen Gardens

BDNH Locations

Community Hub
36 Main Street Bruthen
9am-1pm Monday (Men's Shed only)
10am-4pm Tuesday-Thursday
10am-1pm Friday

Creative Space
51 Main Street Bruthen (rear)
Thursday-Friday 10.30am

Ph: 03 **4141 5302** (Community Hub)
Mobile: **0497 544 490**
Email: **info.bdnh@aussiebb.com.au**
https://www.facebook.com/bruthenhouse
https://bruthendistrict.org.au/bruthen-district-neighbourhood-house/

New manager welcomed to Neighbourhood House

The team at Bairnsdale and District Neighbourhood House (BDNH) is truly delighted to welcome Nikki Willett as its new manager.

As well as her professional expertise, Nikki, as a local resident, has great knowledge and experience of the Bruthen and District community. She will be looking to survey residents of the area for their views on the role of BDNH and suggestions as to the sort of programmes and services that could be offered.

Committee members and volunteers also expressed their thanks to Programme Co-ordinator Joe Ciemcioch and book-keeper Kelsey Schueler for stepping up to ensure the smooth running of the House until a new manager was appointed.

The team is looking at holding a community lunch where people can gather together to connect and chat, sharing views and ideas about future directions. Watch this space! …. more details (and photos) in next month's issue.

Jenny C

Neighbourhood Houses Victoria™ Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand VICTORIA State Government

New round open

24 Mar to 31 Aug
all Victorian households can apply **again**.

We can help!

Come by the Neighbourhood House with a recent power bill and use our computers to apply.

BDNH: 0497 544 490 info.bdnh@aussiebb.com.au

Bruthen Easter Market

It was touch and go in the lead up to the Easter Market, with uncertainty about the exact shape of the Streetscape and the weather looking to worsen.

Fortunately things shaped up for the day. Much of the expected Streetscape work was completed: the curb and channel of the western garden section, the through-road opened, and angled parking made available to the public.

While clouds suggested the possibility of rain throughout the day, they never followed through on their threat. However, we do thank our stallholders for contending with the gusty winds of the day.

There was a variety of stallholders selling all sorts of great items: woodwork, plants, candles, crystals, jewelry, handmade textiles, donuts, ice cream, coffee and more!

Local community groups joined in as well including St. Matthews, the Bruthen Lions, and the Bruthen Bowls Club.

And of course the Easter Bunny visited our event and delighted young market goers, handing out eggs and joining in photos.

The next market planned will be on June 24th to coincide with the exciting Medieval Festival being organized by Bruthen Arts & Events, which will be part of the broader regional Winter Festival.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone again then!

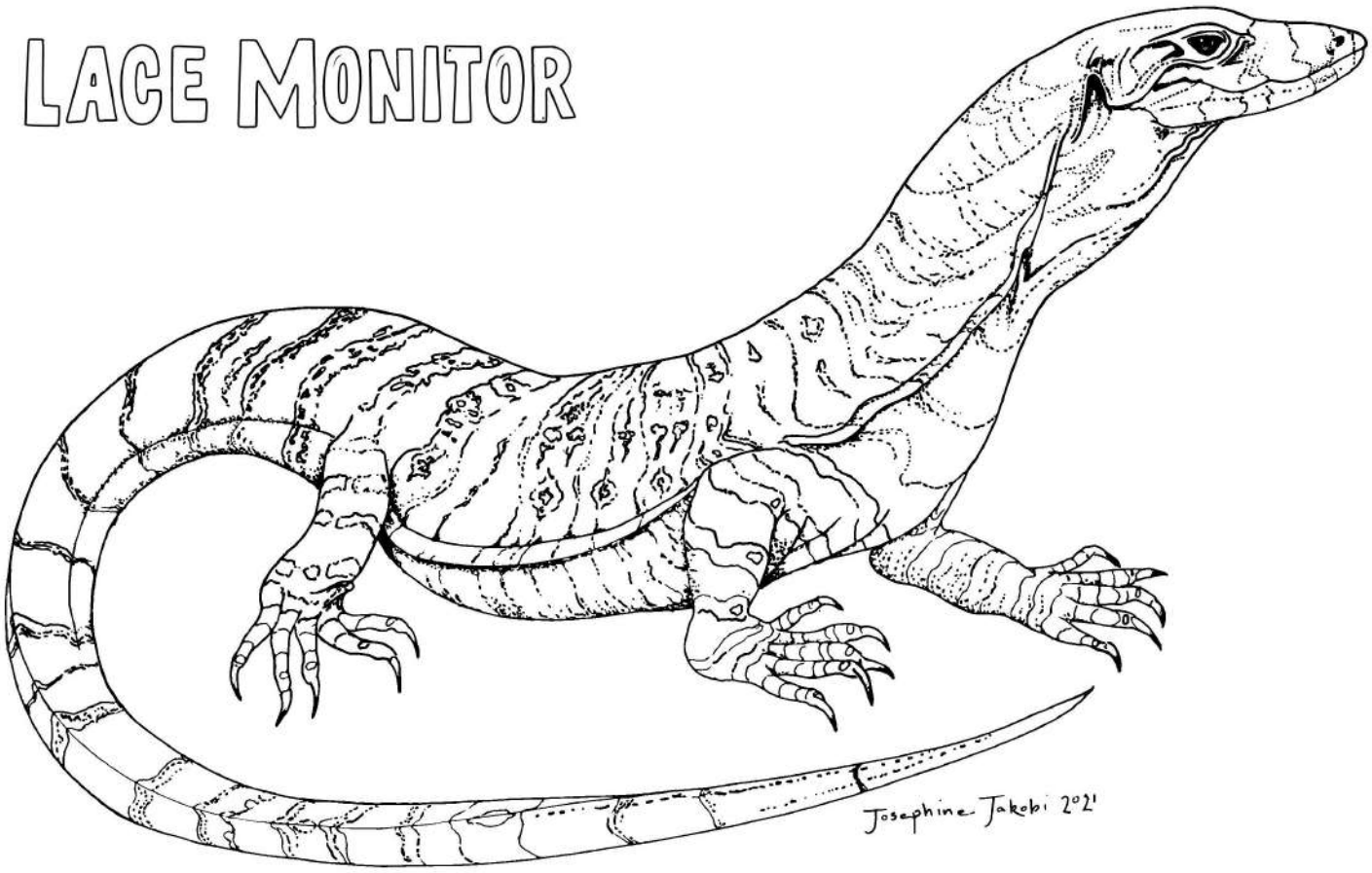
D I H P A C R P H B W M S O B
X V J D O G C O E E H C H R E
S T G L A T I N T S Y C E A N
W W O R G M E K K A T L L N E
A U D L F F S L S L D S L G F
R E P L I Y S P W F J E P E I
N S T C Q E I T T B D I R U T
C D I C S R I E N I J L G P K
R A U U H P D A Y A S P O R C
L B R T O V R V R G L S A Y Q
C U E E A Q D R O M T P N W C
K E S E D N C A X O M I T E S
N R E T T A P L P Z M H D N X
W C F F Z L F S D O T S C G N
H Q V D C F E H K I B S P U W

MONITOR GOANNA WOODLAND PREY VEGETATION TONGUE TREE
FOREST CLAWS FORKED POWERFUL POSSUM DOTS CARRION
SCALY CLIMB MOUND EGGS FOXES TERMITES

Target Words

E	E	K
R	I	M
L	O	T

How many words of at least Four letters can you make?
Each word must include the centre letter. And there are at least two 9-letter words!
No abbreviations, no capitalised nouns.



LACE MONITOR or *Varanus Varius*

The lace monitor, or tree goanna, is a very large lizard that has powerful legs and claws and a long tail. They can grow up to 2m and weigh in at 20kg. Their scaly skin is dark grey in colour with a yellow 'lace-like' pattern across their body, often forming rows of lines or dots.

Feeding on a variety of animals, such as insects, reptiles, mammals, birds, eggs and carrion, lace monitors cover a large area (one to two square kilometres) in search for food. Despite their size, they are avid climbers; using their strong legs and claws to reach hollows that may contain prey. In fact, ring-tailed possums are a favoured food for the East Gippsland lace monitors.

Females will lay 4–14 leathery-shelled eggs in termite mounds. Females will return to the nest 6–8 weeks after laying to excavate the hatchlings. Those that have hatched are left on their own. Lace monitors are not poisonous like snakes; however, their teeth contain a lot of bacteria from their meat laden diet meaning a bite can cause severe pain and possible hospitalisation. If you come across a lace monitor around picnic areas or campsites, do not feed them and keep your distance.

Did you know?

Monitors are the only lizard to have a forked tongue, just like snakes. They use this tongue to smell scents.

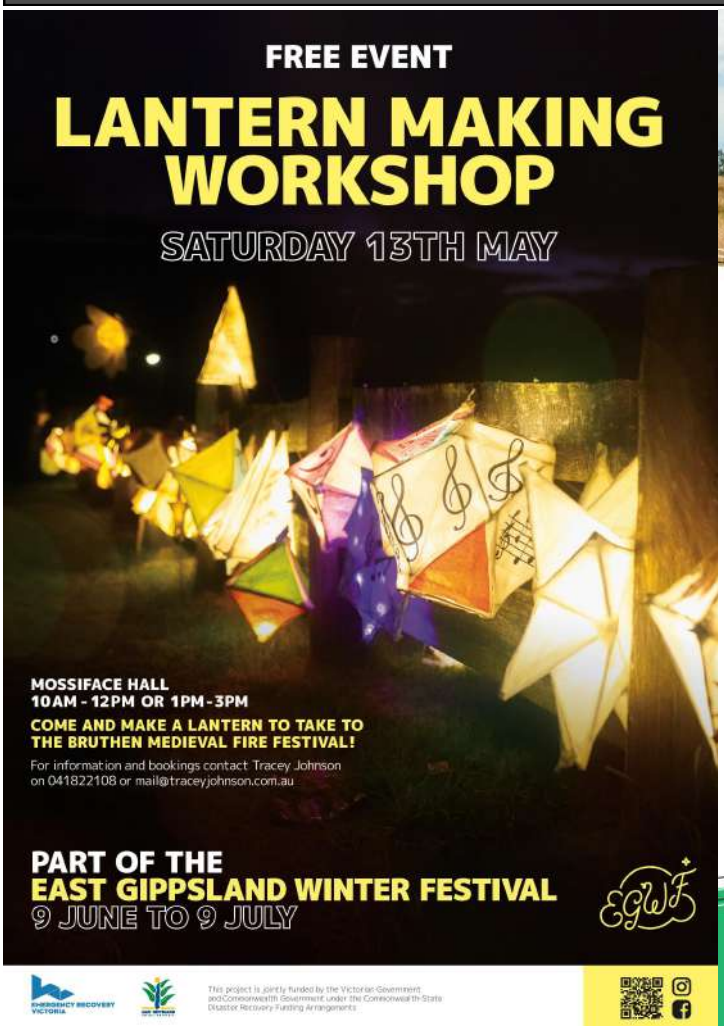
Under threat

The lace monitor is listed as Endangered in Victoria.

Adults have very few predators due to their size, but unfortunately the small striped young, who are left to fend themselves after hatching, are preyed upon by foxes. Although they are still relatively common in East Gippsland due to the amount of available habitat, they are uncommon in other parts of Gippsland.

Lace monitors need significant areas of healthy woodland or forest with abundant prey to feast upon. As these areas are lost, due to vegetation clearing, the lace monitor's habitat is also lost.

PUBLIC NOTICES



The Kevron crew (below) on the Bruthen Streetscape renewal project are looking very pleased after finishing the north side of the service road. All curbing, paving, line-marking and night-time asphalting has now been completed. Our thanks go out to all the contractors who worked so hard to finish this project. Right Bruthen's shiny new bus stop.

Bruthen - Bairnsdale Bus Timetable Dysons Bus Lines Ph: 5152 1711

Bruthen to Bairnsdale Morning	**Monday & Friday AM**	**Tues, Wed, Thurs AM**
Bruthen (opp) General Store	08:10 am	09:50 am
Bairnsdale, Corner Main & Bailey St	08:30 am	10:20 am
Bairnsdale Train Station	08:35 am	10:30 am
Bairnsdale to Bruthen Afternoon	**Mon to Thurs PM**	**Friday PM**
Bairnsdale Train Station	1:25 pm	3:40 pm
Corner Chemist (Service & Main Street)	1:30 pm	3:45 pm
Bruthen, Station & Great Alpine Rd	2:00 pm	4:15 pm

Mobile Library

May

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Wed	**Tambo Upper**** (near school)	9.00 am – 9.45 am
	Bruthen (Main Street)	10.00 am – 11.15 am
	Nowa Nowa (Mingling Waters C/park)	1.30 pm – 2.00 pm
Thu	**Bruthen**** (near kinder)	10.45 am – 11.15 am

*Sites marked** are not visited during school holidays*

Phone 51524225 or 1300 555 886
www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au

OPEN: Mondays & Wednesdays from 8.00am to 12 midday

GP Clinic: Wednesday by appointment only. Call 5155 8300 and select option `1'. Please make sure you let our Customer Service team know you would like your appointment in Bruthen.

Community Health Nurse: Monday and Wednesday, $12 per consult or $6 concession. Note: services will not be denied if you are unable to pay. Call 5155 8300 and select option `1'.

Maternal & Child Health: Once a month on a Tuesday by appointment only. Call 5155 8300 and select option `4'.

Room & Bus Hire: all bookings are to be directed to our Customer Service team on 5155 8300.

Pathology collection: Monday and Wednesday from 8.00 to 11.00am. Nurse fees apply.

These services are for Bruthen and district residents. For more information about GLCH, our services and programs, please visit glch.org.au or find us on social media.

GIPPSLAND LAKES COMPLETE Health

Bruthen & District Landcare Group

Group meetings
3rd Wednesday of the month
@ 7 pm

Bruthen & District Neighbourhood House

New members welcome

For details contact
landcare.bruthen@gmail.com

EVENTS & NOTICES

Injured Wildlife Rescue

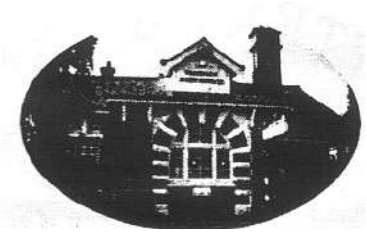
When you find injured wildlife please keep these details in case of emergency:
WILDLIFE SHELTERS
Jade Whittingham
Wombat Wisdom, (Bairnsdale), 0473 446 161
Holly Corbett
Holly's Wildlife Rescue (No bats) (530 Bairnsdale Dargo Rd Hillside 3875), 0432 539 408
Suzie
Waterholes Wildlife Shelter Clifton Creek Koala specialist, 0447 470 905.
Geoff Nicol
Treehouse Wildlife Refuge Metung, 0419 345 820
Birds, wombats, kangaroos, etc

Tai Chi

For all those people wanting to ease into autumn, Tai Chi is a series of gentle movements to encourage flexibility and mindfulness. Yes, the space is heated, and classes are on Mondays from 10.30 to 11.30am in the Bruthen Mechanics Hall. Increased patronage is needed for the class to continue, so please think about trying it out. Any enquiries please call 0439 812 166.

BRUTHEN LICENSED POST OFFICE
(Est.1893)

East Link Toll Passes



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& Australia Post Postal Services**

Howard & Jenny Young, Phone/Fax (03) 5157 5209

In event of an emergency

Bruthen has 3 Heart Start Defibrillators

Located at

Bruthen General Store
6.30am – 6.15/7.15pm (7 days)

Bruthen Rec Reserve
for sports events / Caravan Park

Bruthen Police Station
Note: under 24/7 video surveillance

Nationals' State Member for Gippsland East is concerned about firewood availability this winter

With the cooler weather fast approaching, Nationals Gippsland East MP Tim Bull, is encouraging those with solid fuel heating to consider participating in the domestic firewood collection season which opened this month, while also flagging concerns with availability of wood to commercial suppliers.

"Unfortunately, I have had commercial suppliers contact my office saying they cannot get access to their coupes due to the timber industry shutdown the State Government refuses to fix.

"Last sitting week, I raised this issue in Parliament and asked the Minister for Environment what she is doing to ensure Victorians will have access to firewood to heat their homes this winter.

"We knew the shutdown of the timber industry would have dire consequences in our communities, and now we are seeing some of the unintended consequences that will impact vulnerable people.

"I doubt whether many of these city-based Labor MP's have seen a wood splitter or understand the ramifications of their war against the timber industry," Mr Bull said.

"The result is contractors cannot fulfill their annual firewood orders for the elderly and others who cannot collect their own wood and it is a major concern with the colder months arriving quickly.

"Making matters worse is that the scarcity of commercially sold firewood is also driving up prices of what stocks remain. People on a fixed low income will unfairly be priced out of the market due to the demand.

"And it won't be any better next year, as wood typically collected in one season needs to be stored and dried in preparation for the following winter.

"I have not yet had a response from the Minister after three weeks and it seems this Government has absolutely no idea no how to fix this mess they have created.

"If you are in the position to be able to collect firewood this season, please consider helping those who can't do it themselves, as it may be one of the greatest gifts you can offer this winter," Mr Bull said

TRADES AND SERVICES

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122 Omeo Highway Bruthen
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E. chrisfella@bigpond.com

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Phone – 0402 137 148
Tambo Upper

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0417 318 363
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BP Bruthen
'Personal service with a smile'
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bruthenstation@gmail.com

Bruthen Garden Supplies
NOW OFFERING WATER CARTAGE
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• DOMESTIC & GENERAL 7 DAYS
Tip-trucks 6m³ & 10m³, Bobcat, Excavator, Post Hole Boring, Trenching, Slashing.
SUPPLIERS OF SAND, SOIL & MULCH
WE NOW SELL CHOOK PELLETS
ALL AREAS
76 Main St, Bruthen
M: 0429 944 297
C13151

TAMBO RAMBLER

Tambo Rambler Advertising Costs

BLACK AND WHITE Advert Options

⇒ 9 x 5 cm - **Cost $10.00**
⇒ 9 x 8 cm - **Cost $15.00**
⇒ 1/4 page - **Cost $25.00**
⇒ 1/2 page - **Cost $50.00**
⇒ Full page - **Cost $100.00**

25% discount for BDCA Members,
(only applies to black and white adverts)

COLOUR Advert Option 1: Full Page

⇒ One full page, full colour feature / advert placed on the inside cover of the Tambo Rambler
⇒ Plus acknowledgement as the major sponsor for that month's edition of the Tambo Rambler
⇒ **Cost - $165 per edition**

COLOUR Advert Option 2: Half Page

⇒ One half page, full colour feature / advert placed on the inside cover of the Tambo Rambler
⇒ Plus acknowledgement as the sponsor for that month's edition of the Tambo Rambler
⇒ **Cost - $100 per edition**

COLOUR Advert Option 3: Quarter Page
Full Colour Promotional Package

⇒ One quarter page, full colour feature / advert placed on the inside cover of the Tambo Rambler
⇒ Plus acknowledgement as the co-sponsor for that month's edition of the Tambo Rambler
⇒ **Cost - $65 per edition**

Closing date for June issue is May 25.

Please send your articles by e-mail only to:
tamborambler@gmail.com
(Word, Publisher, JPG or PNG format with photos please **PDF format will no longer be accepted**.)

Tambo Rambler is distributed across East Gippsland via email and on the web page at
https://bruthendistrict.org.au/tambo-rambler/

We also distribute to Government representatives, Bairnsdale Library, Victorian State Library, and local Historical Societies
Hard copies are available in Bruthen at the P.O, General Store, Oppe Shoppe, Bakery, Blue Bee, Hotel and Neighbourhood House for a gold coin donation.

The Tambo Rambler Committee and BDCA do not take responsibility for opinions expressed by contributors to the Tambo Rambler.
The Editors reserve the right to reject articles and advertisements and to edit submissions if necessary
All submissions must carry the author's full name, address and phone number. They may be published anonymously if preferred.

Macropods
The strange hopping marsupial

When Captain Cook and his party first landed, they could not believe their eyes when the first sighted a kangaroo (named after the sound of an aboriginal word).

Firstly, the Kangaroo hopped like no other animal they had previously seem. Secondarily, they had pouches in which they reared their young for many months and thirdly, they existed in many different sizes and habitats including up trees.

There are, in fact, 67 different species of macropods that include Kangaroos, Wallabies, Pademelons, Potoroos and Quokkas as well as some species like Malas which is another unique aboriginal name.

In East Gippsland, we see mainly Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Red-necked Wallabies in open forest and grassland. In wetter and more dense forests Swamp Wallabies are the most common macropods.

All these species are relatively abundant and are widely distributed throughout the east coast of Australia.

In a few, very restricted areas around the Snowy River high country, there are Brush-tailed Rock Wallabies that are a critical endangered species of macropods that are rarely seen.

East of Lakes Entrance, there are two species of Potoroo, the Long- nosed Potoroo and the Long-Footed Potoroo that was only first identified in the 1960's.

They are rarely seen as they are essentially nocturnal.

Both of these Potoroos are small in size (similar to a large cat) and are threatened by foxes. Regular fox eradication programs by Parks Victoria have allowed populations of both these Potoroos to survive in spite of the horrendous bushfires that destroyed much of their natural habitat.

Potoroos are unique amongst macropods in that they are soil farmers that turn over enormous volumes of soil in their efforts to locate specific fungi that are the essential core of their diet.

Very few people will have seen a Potoroo and most evidence of their presence is from wildlife cameras triggered by movement at night.

- Geoff N

This Potoroo (above) was observed at Red Bluff in April. Photo courtesy Ken Russell.

Community Planting Days
Bruthen
Roadside & Wetland Rehabilitation

Over 2 Weekends – 6 - 7 & 13 - 14 May

9am-12.30pm

- Bring your kids and plant indigenous flora
- Free BBQ – **SUNDAYS ONLY** 12.30pm Bruthen Skate Park
- Bring sturdy footwear, gloves and water

Parking: Opposite 31 & 35 Giles Street, Wiseleigh

Follow signs along East Gippsland Rail Trail to access Wetland

Enquiries Contact: Norm Borg 0427 063 494

This project is available to residents of districts with a Community Recovery Committee. Supported by East Gippsland Shire Council and jointly funded by the Victorian Government and Commonwealth Government under the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

EMERGENCY RECOVERY VICTORIA

EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

Bruthen & District Landcare Group

regional roads victoria

Victorian Landcare Program

VICTORIA State Government