TAMBO RAMBLER

Bruthen and District Newspaper
Produced by Bruthen and District Citizens Association

April **2024** **NUMBER 295**

Bruthen Artists @ FLOAT

GIPPSLAND Community Foundation

EGCF proudly supports the Tambo Rambler Community Paper

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.

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Bruthen Artists join the Flock at the Slipway

The old Slipway Sheds on The Esplanade in Lakes Entrance have recently taken on a fascinating new presence in the hands of regional community/arts collective FLOAT. The two sheds and their decks have been transformed into a vibrant venue for meetings, conversations, exhibitions, workshops, music and a source of locally made art, books and home-made produce. In addition, FLOAT has partnered with Gippsland Jersey, The Minotaur and Sailors Grave Brewing who provide delicious food and drink in the adjacent space.

Recently a call went out to local artists to contribute to an exhibition called 'Flock' with postcard-sized illustrations of birds. About fifty local artists responded, including Donna Davies and Allison Johnson from Bruthen. This free exhibition, which runs until April 14, is really worth a visit: there is such a variety of styles as well as species on show (and the view out the door is pretty special!)

ANZAC Day 2024

ANZAC Day 2024 for Bruthen will be quite different. The usual organiser of the day's commemoration will be out of state prior to and on ANZAC Day. Recently a call went out (on the Bruthen FB Notice Board), for any community member willing to run the Bruthen Ceremony (with help and assistance in preplanning), to come forward. Unfortunately, no responses were received. Additionally, approaches to individuals have not been successful. Accordingly, locals wishing to attend ANZAC Day ceremonies are encouraged to attend dawn service in either Bairnsdale or Buchan; likewise, options to participate in or view mid-morning marches will also be possible at both locations. The Bairnsdale Advertiser usually details times for each location the week prior to the day.

Local Community Efforts Build Tambo Upper Primary School a Sporting Field

As many of you may have noticed there were some high-level earthworks occurring at Tambo Upper Primary School over the summer holidays. The scale of the works was quite impressive with the volume of soil and clay moved and then reinstated being quite an undertaking.

54 Main Street, Bruthen.
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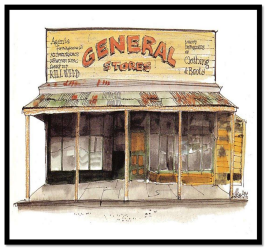

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Fortunately for our school there are a number of people in our community who were very keen to help us get the development of a sporting field up and running. After speaking with a few different people along the way I was finally able to make connections with some very special people who were only too keen to help out. These special people varied from those who could help out with the paperwork/administration side of things to those who could assist with the excavations.

The area excavated holds significant cultural heritage importance and the support from GLaWAC, was pivotal. Russel and Grattan Mullett, in particular, were very keen to support our efforts to reshape the hillside and make a sporting field.

Another person instrumental in this process was Anita Barker, Senior Archaeologist & Heritage Advisor for Opero Consulting, who supported the school in creating a new cultural heritage management plan. The goodwill afforded to our school by these people and organisations was phenomenal and quite simply we couldn't have proceeded without their generosity and sense of community spirit.

Another key ingredient was the works undertaken by Jason Akeroyd and his excavation team. Jason was very keen to get this project up and running and his supportive nature, mostly reassuring me the soil would all go back into a nice and neat package, was first class. Jason's sense of community spirit ensured the project went ahead smoothly and was completed professionally. Once again generosity was the key and without his support we wouldn't have been able to proceed.

The efforts of the community to rally around this project also shone through with Warren Kennedy who not only sourced grass seed through Goodman's but also power harrowed and planted the seed. Martin Sandy from R&M Contracting was also instrumental running his grader over the

CAPTION: EARTHWORKS START (LEFT), PROGRESS (TOP) & THE FINISHED PRODUCT (ABOVE).

surface in preparation for the seeding and finally thanks to Bruce Nethercote who lent his heavy roller so that Michael Kennedy could spend many hours running over the surface smoothing it out.

Not only is the development of the sporting field a wonderful advancement for our school but so too has been the unearthing of many cultural artefacts. Anita and the team from GLAWaC sifted through the soil as the earthworks were undertaken and identified many key items. In particular, two stone axe heads and numerous silcrete stones were identified. These and other findings have been sent off for dating and cataloguing. In time these will be returned back to the school and we will be able to share these with the community.

The end product is a wonderful facility that the kids from Tambo and from the wider community will be able to enjoy for many years to come. Without the very generous support of the people and organisations both financially and in attitude this development simply wouldn't have happened. May the kids spend many hours in the years to come running, chasing, throwing, catching, cheering and playing in a space that was created by local community-minded people who care so much for the people in it.

Mark Chandler, Tambo Upper Primary School Principal.

Bruthen's Main Street Gardens

Many in town have been asking what is the status of the final stage of the Bruthen Main Street Gardens and proposed new toilet block, noting delays which have seen the project extended approximately 18 months behind schedule.

The first main point is: there have been some issues with Ausnet and the new toilet block building.

The designer and Project Development Officer (from EGSC) met with an Ausnet representative onsite and was told to allow for 2.7m sag/swag offset from the overhead lines; however, when the in-house (EGSC) building team submitted final plan approvals prior to construction, Ausnet then advised there needed to be additional offset. EGSC subsequently confirmed with Bruthen Project Control Group (PCG) members from the BDCA, that the existing toilet blocks are also not compliant with the new standards for sag/sway. But as the building is 'in-place', the new standards are not implemented retrospectively, until such time as existing facilities are replaced by a new construction. EGSC have assured PCG representatives that while the existing building is non-compliant with the new standards; the current facilities *are safe to use*. The introduction of the new standards has resulted in two options being available for the project to be progressed. Both have advantages and disadvantages. The Bruthen PCG members were officially advised of the latest developments on Wednesday 20th March, and were required to elect a decision by Monday 25th March.

Option 1– push on through with the new building.

Basically, hold off until we have the specialised electrical survey back to see what the additional sag/sway allowance is. This may require the roof (currently gable) to be amended to a skillion style (likely), and there might (?) be a possibility to move the building further away from the overhead lines. The key point from the survey is that there is also a real possibility that the survey could confirm the toilet block cannot be built in the proposed location (in front of the current toilet blocks). This option risks funding having to be returned if the new building is not completed and funds expended by 30 June.

Importantly, EGSC have confirmed that they cannot determine new design alterations until the survey/ report has been completed. EGSC as the project manager have been in contact with specialised electrical survey consultants who have been booked to attend from Melbourne, but are yet to commit to a definitive time. The risk of this option (due primarily for the need to obtain the specialised advice and the lead in time required), is not being able to secure the assessment in a timely manner to allow for amendments to be made to building design; with subsequent planning and building permits to follow. The EGSC have stated they are very cognisant of the deadline to expend funds by no later than 30 June. Put simply, it is a spend it or hand it back scenario. EGSC have confirmed that full funds remain to build the new toilet block if it were to proceed.

While the EGSC have attempted to obtain a 'variation' to the funding agreement with the Victorian Government, this has not been forthcoming. Such a variation would enable an extension to the 30 June deadline.

*Option one **while preferred** is limited and essentially now **not feasible** due to reasons articulated.*

Article supplied and written by the **BDCA**

Bruthen & District Citizens' Association

Option 2 – Refurbish the existing toilet block.

Option 2 is disappointing and not what the community had asked for or been told they were getting. EGSC have advised they want to give the Bruthen community a new toilet block, that has never been in question. However, the EGSC have an unexpected situation that has been presented and need to work with what they have and keep the project moving to demonstrate to the grant funding body, that the project is progressing.

Option 2 (refurbishment) will include: for the men's toilets - new dish/cup urinals (remove the elongated trench urinal) – with new partitions to separate each, new fixtures (wash basins), new toilet partition & cubicle, new windows, full repaint (inside and out); as well as new floor surface to replace the ageing/worn surface.

For the female toilets – three toilet cubicles will remain, new basins, new flooring surface, paint inside and out. For the disabled toilet – refurbishment of floors, walls, basins, and replacement of the baby change table. Importantly, no permits are needed for refurbishment works to proceed. This work can proceed, as soon as partitions arrive and the estimation of time required is approximately 6-8 weeks.

Comparisons.

If new toilet blocks were constructed (old ones demolished and replaced), the new designed toilet

update and Status

blocks would have greater capacity by increasing to six compartmented and lockable unisex toilets, with external wash basins, plus two all accessible toilets/ parents' rooms, bringing the total toilet facilities to eight. The existing toilets only provide five toilet cubicles. The need for additional toilets was identified as a key future requirement due to the high use (passing and tourist traffic), and increases to local population currently being experienced.
While Option 2 was not what the PCG wanted (preference was for completely new facilities) – it is the option that now must be pursued or risk losing funding. Bruthen members on the PCG have identified that even with a refurbished toilet block, the need still exists for new toilet facilities to be constructed **within** a five-year time frame. Refurbished facilities will simply enable continued use until such time as increased capacity purpose-built facilities, are constructed. Bruthen PCG members have sought an undertaking from the EGSC for new toilets to be included as a priority project for funding to realise this time frame. At the time of this article being sent to the Tambo Rambler – the EGSC was yet to confirm this undertaking.

Advantages to refurbishment.

Option 2 – refurbishment does enable several other improvements to the Main Street Gardens and Lions Park able to be pursued with remaining funds. EGSC have committed to installing a dump point (for caravans and the like) near the new toilets at the skatepark (a Bruthen Lions funded project).

- Additionally, extra picnic tables can be installed in the Main Street Gardens (including wheelchair compliant variants), with high shrubs surrounding the toilet blocks which obscure vision to be removed and replaced with more appropriate foliage.

- Footpaths will be constructed to link the pedestrian crossing and disabled parking spots (on the service road), to improve movement around the toilet block and enable effective access to the pedestrian crossing.

- The relocated pergola will be restored with rotting wood replaced, the corrugated tin roof cleaned and painted. Options for recycled material for the internal benches (currently wood that degrades with time), is being examined. Likewise – placement of solar powered lighting will enable sensor detected illumination at night time as required.

The memorial rose garden which was removed due to the relocation of the pergola, will be re-established, with roses that were taken from the garden replanted (those that survived have been kept). A location near the brick walled (seating) area is a possibility, with plaques returned to the rose garden. Alternatively, roses could be re-established around the newly refurbished pergola which will enable those who have placed memorial plaques a contemplation area.
When further planning details come to hand - updates will be published in the Tambo Rambler. Bruthen PCG representatives will meet with the new EGSC Project Manager the week after Easter to complete a walk through of proposed works in the Main Street Gardens. While separate to this project, restoration of the Bruthen Main Street Cenotaph will also be discussed.

S N T A I K W J F P V W U V M

R H O L A O F O S A A S F A H

E V E I N P O B O L R U R C O

H T P L L H Y Z O O I E H Y R

T E B O D L U H B M E M L K S

I X U R M I A R H I T R C K E

W G C O L T R T Y N Y E E A S

H E L D D A S B S O N X T W H

S C U D H L K B H H P X U W O

G X N O G M G V N Y L H C M E

S B R Y L L I F O U C F D O V

M S R R C R J G I G A L L O P

E A F E D O M E S T I C A T E

S A N H E S U G I J X I U E Z

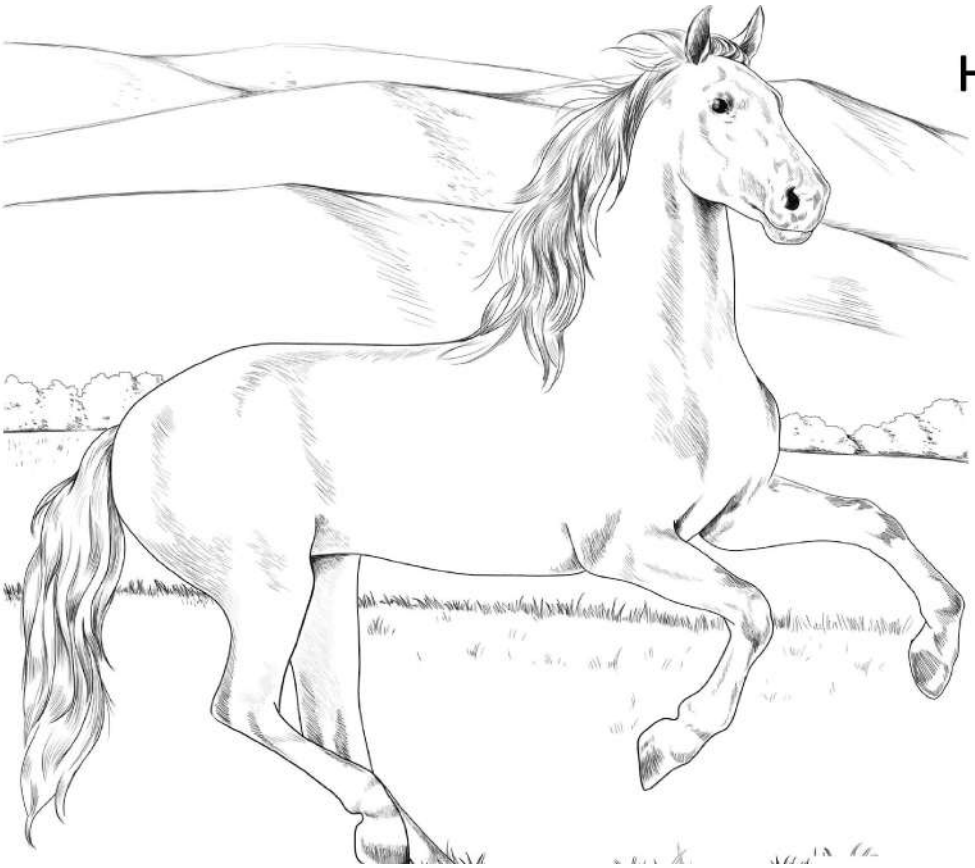
O X S E S D G S V N F G Q U N

PALOMINO	**HORSE**	**FILLY**	**STALLION**	**VISION**
HOOF	**GALLOP**	**BREED**	**VARIETY**	**PLOUGH**
SADDLE	**BRIDLE**	**WITHERS**	**NECK**	**COLT**
HORSESHOE	**MARE**	**FOAL**	**DOMESTICATE**	**MANE**

Target Words

T	**T**	**A**
I	**E**	**P**
L	**O**	**N**

How many words of four or more letters can you find? Every word must use the centre letter, and each letter is used only once.



Horse

Horses have evolved over millions of years, and since they were first domesticated around 6,000 years ago there has been a very special relationship between them and humans. Riding on horseback was the main form of transport over distances before mechanized vehicles were developed, and the horse has been used, among other things, to plough fields, haul goods and passengers, participate in races and tournaments, and carry soldiers into battle and explorers into new lands.

A mature male horse is known as a stallion, the female a mare. Young ones are known as foals (male foals are colts and female foals are fillies). The foals are able to stand on their feet very soon after birth.

There are many breeds of horses which show great variety in strength, build, size and colouring. The most common colours and markings are black, chestnut, brown, palomino, bay, roan, grey and pinto or 'paint' (for example, piebald is black and white, skewbald is white and any other colour except black).

And they vary enormously in size as well. Their height is measured in hands (One hand = 4 inches = 101.6 mm) at the highest point of the withers, where the neck meets the back. The biggest horse ever recorded was Sampson (later renamed Mammoth), born in 1846 in Bedfordshire, England, who stood 21.25 hands tall, or 2.19 m. Compare that with the average horse, which stands 14-17 hands tall. At the other end of the scale is the tiny Thumbelina, a dwarf miniature horse born in the U.S. in 2001, who stood only 43 cm high.

Some other interesting facts:

- The average horse lifespan is 25-30 years. The record for the oldest horse is held by Old Billy (1760-1822) from Lancashire, England, at 62 years old.
- The four natural gaits of the horse are walk, trot, canter and gallop.
- Horses can sleep both standing up or lying down.
- There are no horses left in the world that can be truly classified as 'wild'. Both the American Mustang and Australian Brumbies are known as feral horses as they are descended from domesticated animals. Mustangs are descended from horses brought by the Spanish to the Americas, while the first horses came to Australia with the First Fleet in 1788.
- Horses have the biggest eyes of all land mammals (and they're about 8 times bigger than ours!) Their large and high-set eyes mean they have a very wide range of vision … all the better to spot a potential predator.
- While horses have exceptional vision, they do have blind spots, so you should never approach them silently from behind … they are liable to kick out if they are scared as this is a natural form of defense.
- The average size of a horse's heart (4-4.5 kg) is more than 10 times bigger than ours (0.28-0.34 kg)

Magnificent creatures.

Bruthen Identities

Edith Juillerat and her dog Goldie have lived in Gunson Homes for fourteen years, and are often seen walking together.

Edith (nee Sheward) was born in Foster, South Gippsland in 1931. During World War Two the family moved to Melbourne. Upon marriage, Edith moved to East Gippsland and brought up her daughter and two sons. When her children became adults Edith moved to Queensland and bought a mixed business/sub-newsagency.

Later, she moved back to Victoria, buying a house in Lake Tyers, which eventually she sold in order to move into a retirement village in Kalimna. When the owner went bankrupt Edith moved to Bruthen to be close to her daughter Sue Saulle.

Throughout her life, Edith has been involved in her community. In Bruthen this has ranged from being Tennis Administrator, to Secretary of the Bruthen Bowls Club and Secretary of the Ladies Auxiliary of Gippsland Lakes Community Health.

Now Edith enjoys watching sport and reading, and particularly delights in seeing her two grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, with her Jack Russell Goldie by her side.

Kath G

Bruthen PS adds to its flock

Two baby chicks made their debut at Bruthen Primary School in December last year and were warmly adopted by five mother hens.

Both of them are thriving, and are now almost as big as their mothers. Can you pick the chicks?

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

EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

The mobile bus service provides an opportunity to not only use the library service, but to engage with them on Council matters. All community members welcome. See the schedule below for when one of our busses 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

1st & 3rd Wed Thu	**Tambo Upper** *	9.00 am – 9.45 am
	Bruthen (Main Street)	10.15 am – 12.15 am
	Swan Reach Kinder	1.30 pm – 2.00 pm
	Nicholson	2:15 pm—3:15 pm
	Bruthen (near kinder) *	11 am – 11.15 am
	Mossiface	11:30am to 12 noon

Sites marked are not visited during school holidays*

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

@GLCH

Mondays & Wednesdays from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm

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 8.30 to 11.00 am. 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

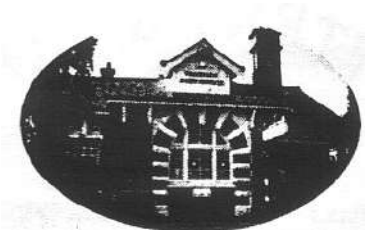
EVENTS & NOTICES

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

BRUTHEN LICENSED POST OFFICE
(Est.1893)

East Link Toll Passes



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Bruthen Rec Reserve
for sports events / Caravan Park

Bruthen Police Station
Note: under 24/7 video surveillance

Also Bruthen Bowls Club, CFA and Neighbourhood House

Bruthen Key Events Calander

A long L K @ what's coming up

Month 2024	Event / Theme	Group
Apr (9th-12th)	School Holiday Program	N'hood House
April (13th)	Bruthen Market (Family Day)	Market Team – N'hood House
May (22nd)	Australia's Biggest Morning Tea	N'hood House
June (22nd)	Markets (Medieval theme)	Market Team – N'hood House
June (22nd)	The Medieval Winter Festival	Bruthen Arts & Events Council
July (11th-14th)	School Holiday Program	N'hood House
Aug (8th)	You're an Instrument (Kids Show)	Bruthen Arts & Events Council
Sept (21st)	Bruthen Market (Spring Fair)	Market Team – N'hood House
Sept (7th)	Casting Off Theatre Show	Bruthen Arts & Events Council
Oct (1st-4th)	School Holiday Program	N'hood House
Nov (23rd)	Bruthen Markets (pre-Christmas)	Market Team – N'hood House
Dec (8th)	Bruthen Christmas Carols	N'hood House & St Matts Parish
2025	**Event / Theme**	**Group**
Jan (18th)	Eat, Drink, Explore Bruthen	Bruthen Arts & Events Council
Feb (15th)	Bruthen Markets (Music)	Market Team – N'hood House

As events approach – more info will appear in the Rambler.

Check out what's on

Junior Rangers holiday program

Lakes and Eastern Alps

Date	Time	Activity	Meeting point
Tuesday 2nd April, 2024 Monday 8th April, 2024	10:00am -11:00am	**Minibeast discovery** Discover a bug's world by getting to know some tiny critters and their importance to our environment. Get to know our Rangers and come peer through magnifying glasses into the world of an aquatic minibeast	Boat ramp, Mitchell River Silt Jetties
Wednesday 3rd April 2024 Thursday 11th April 2024 Saturday 13th April 2024	10:00am -11:00am 1:30pm- 2:30pm	**Koala walk** Visit and find out more about a koala's neighbourhood on a ranger-lead walk. We will investigate the habitat they enjoy and how they are being managed. **Accessibility:** Pathways wide, concrete and gravel. Suitable for wheelchairs and prams.	BBQ shelter/Playground, Raymond Island
Thursday 4th April, 2024	10:00am -11:00am	**Bush detectives** Unravel the secrets of the bush. Join a Ranger to look for scats, tracks and traces animals have left behind.	The rotunda, Nyerimilang Heritage Park rotunda
Tuesday 9th April, 2024	1:30pm - 2:30pm	**Beachcombing** Visit the beach with Parks Victoria rangers to learn about the plants and animals that call the land and sea home. Beaches can be like a window to the sea, exploring the coastline will give us clues to what lives in the deeper water.	The carpark, Red Bluff Surfing Beach
Saturday 13th April, 2024	10:00am-11:00am	**Bushcraft** Get creative with a local ranger and learn how to make bush crafts. **Accessibility:** Pathways wide, concrete and gravel. Suitable for wheelchairs and prams.	The rotunda, Nyerimilang Heritage Park

About our activities

- All activities are free.
- Junior Rangers activities are designed for primary school aged children.
- Group numbers are limited, please book early.
- Each child must be accompanied by a parent/carer over the age of 18 years, who is responsible for their Junior Ranger/s.
- Activities may be rescheduled, changed or cancelled due to adverse weather or for emergency response.
- Attendees must wear sturdy closed-toe shoes and appropriate clothing, such as raincoats or a broad brimmed hat.

Bookings are essential.
Scan to book your activity at juniorrangers.vic.gov.au

Can't get to an activity? Visit **juniorrangers.vic.gov.au/make-and-do/** to find fun fact files, activity books and games you can use with your family in parks or at home anytime you like!

Parks VICTORIA | Sharing Nature's Stories

Supported Playgroup

Come and join us for:

- Songs and rhymes
- Art & craft
- Messy Play
- Fun & Friendship
- Information about your child's development
- receive support around parenting and play
- Discuss topics from the small talk program

Session times:
Tuesdays- 9:15 - 11
Tambo Upper Primary School
in the Rainbow room
in collaboration with Uniting.

Our playgroups are facilitated by a child development specialist & trained smalltalk facilitator.
Please contact prior to attending a session.
Jade on 0477 738 303
Jade.davies@54reasons.org.au

54 reasons | smalltalk | Uniting

Funded by the Victorian government. Smalltalk developed by the parenting research center

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Tambo Upper

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C13151

TAMBO RAMBLER

Tambo Rambler Advertising Costs

BLACK AND WHITE Advert Options

⇒ 9 x 5 cm - **Cost $15.00**
⇒ 9 x 8 cm - **Cost $20.00**
⇒ 1/4 page - **Cost $25.00**
⇒ 1/2 page - **Cost $50.00**
⇒ Full page - **Cost $100.00**

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 May issue is April 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 also 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.

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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.

BirdLife East Gippsland goes to Monkey Creek

On the 12th of February members of BirdLife East Gippsland (BLEG) gathered in the Main Street gardens in Bruthen before proceeding to the turnoff to the old Monkey Creek bridge site a few kilometers north of town.

This disused section of the Alpine Highway is now quite overgrown with wattles and ti-tree, but several intrepid birders made their way down to where the old timber bridge once spanned the creek. We then drove up to the Boys Camp Track for morning tea and another birding session down the track to the creek crossing.

BLEG has been birding at Monkey Creek since the early days of the club in 1984. After the 2006-07 fires that swept through much of East Gippsland BLEG initiated a Bushfire Recovery project to document the impact of the fires on birds and to chart their recovery. Monkey Creek was one of our target areas, and over the next four years we conducted well over 40 monthly surveys. This last visit was our 70th to the site, and we have now recorded 115 species in the bush and adjacent farmland!

The Monkey Creek bushland is a great area for a variety of forest and woodland birds, from species favouring the drier upper slopes like the Grey Shrike -thrush and Jacky Winter to those frequenting the dense moister forest close to the creek, such as the Superb Lyrebird and Eastern Whipbird.

On our recent visit the weather was hot, and the birds were a bit quieter than usual, but we still managed a birdlist for the day of 37 species. The most abundant bird was the Brown Thornbill, a nondescript little brown bird with an active and engaging character and cheery twittering song. Whipbirds, Grey Fantails and White-throated Treecreepers were also plentiful, and we could hear several Lyrebirds calling in the gullies. The Rose Robin is frequently encountered at Monkey Creek, but we only managed to tick a single bird, giving its characteristic call which ends with a double trill like an old-fashioned telephone.

Perhaps the highlight of the day was hearing the sweet song of the Pilotbird calling from a dense tangle of bush by the creek at Boys Camp Track. A small dark brown bird, this gets its name from its habit of accompanying Lyrebirds to snatch up insects disturbed by its larger companion.

BLEG conducts birding outings every Monday except over the Christmas holidays. We welcome visitors and new members, whether new to birding or more experienced. You can access our schedule of outings at our website https://birdlife.org.au/groups/birdlife-east-gippsland/ or find us on Facebook.

Chris H

Photos by Ken Russell

Dogs return to Bruthen's kennel

There's nothing quite like the feeling a club can get when junior players return after time away playing higher level football. In addition to the previous announcements of other junior boys returning, The Bruthen Football Netball Club is pleased to add two more to our senior list. Welcome back Zac Svetlik and Luke Sutton. Zac has been a benchmark Centre half back in the East Gippsland league for a number of years and Luke has returned from traveling and playing in Melbourne. Our senior side is strengthening every week with a great balance of youth and experience.

Another Bruthen lad returning to the kennel. The club is thrilled to have 2009 Bruthen U16 premiership player Matthew Arnold sign for the upcoming season. Having spent the last decade or more winning premierships in the EGFNL, Matt has already brought leadership qualities to the group and will be another powerful mid/forward for our senior side.

We are also very excited to welcome Jirra Moffatt to the kennel. Jirra is renowned for his footy intelligence and is an exciting forward/mid, who we can't wait to see in action. With a strong history with our local community, he is one to keep an eye on.

Willow raises funds for Mental Health

Bruthen swimming sensation Willow Elrington has just completed a Laps For Life charity swim to raise awareness of youth mental health.

Did you know suicide is the leading cause of death for young people in Australia?

That means that each year more young people die by suicide than in car accidents or from cancer.

"This March, I was swimming to make sure young people in Australia have the mental health support they urgently need," said Willow.

"By sponsoring my challenge, it helped to prevent youth suicide."

All funds raised went to help young people feel better about today and the future, no matter what challenge they're facing.

Willow swam 12.03 kms or 481 laps, she exceeded her fundraising target of $550 by raising $578.

Bruthen should be very proud of young Willow's efforts in helping her community.