

# TAMBO RAMBLER

Bruthen and District Newspaper  
Produced by Bruthen and District Citizens Association

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## Bruthen's Biggest Morning Tea



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Community Paper

The Tambo Rambler is proudly sponsored this month by [Shoreside Real Estate Lakes Entrance](#)

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.



**A huge turn out to enjoy Bruthen's Biggest Morning Tea with a selection of Coffee, Tea, Cakes, Big Bear's Donuts and Sandwiches.**



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# Bruthen's Biggest Morning Tea

When I first suggested to the staff at Bruthen & District Neighbourhood House (B&DNH) that we might put on a biggest morning tea I was thinking of a small group coming together. My dad, John McKay, his 3 brothers, 2 sisters and his father had all died from cancer and I felt the need to help raise money towards research on curing cancer. Nikki and Kelsey at B&DNH were very receptive and soon had funding from Gippsland Community Foundation to run a bigger event involving the whole community. A big thankyou goes out to Pam Boyd, Sue Smith & Faye Brooks for volunteering to help run the event.

What a community we have in Bruthen & District. Our goal was to raise \$1000 but we far exceeded that through the generosity of all who attended raising \$2449.95 for vital cancer research. All the businesses and individuals who donated prizes, without hesitation, for our raffles were amazing. A big thank you to all these people, please support them as they have supported our community:

- Bruthen & District Neighbourhood House
- Big Bears Doughnuts
- Anywhere Espresso
- Resinware Designs
- Artwork created & donated by Marg Pearson
- Award-winning locally-captured Photo Prints- shot and donated by Marg Schutte
- Art by Tess- wearable art pieces



**On Saturday, May 18 , an extremely hardy posse of Neighbourhood House volunteers braved the freezing, windy morning to man our cake and plant stall. Their efforts were well worth it as they raised \$500 for Bruthen's Biggest Morning Tea.**

**Pictured from left: Pamela Boyd, Sue Smith, Wendy Robinson, Kelsey Schueler and Willie Bowlen**

- Black Rose Crafts – Handmade art pieces
- Alan's Rusty Barbwire Creations - Alan Redshaw
- Bruthen Inn Hotel
- Quick Pics Photography
- Bruthen General Store
- Bruthen Bakery
- Shorelines Hairdresser
- Le café Bruthen
- Tambo Valley Honey
- Blue Bee Café
- Bullant Brewery.
- Bruthen Corner Garage
- Fermio Garden Centre - Johnsonville
- New Leaf Café & House of Bloom
- Marg Van Der Velde - Flowers
- Linda Moncrieff – Flowers
- Eastwood Lollie Emporium
- Bulls Botanics
- Pam Boyd, Faye Brooks, Sue Smith and Pat Clark.

Last but not least a big thankyou to you the community for supporting this event and helping to make a difference.

This letter was received from Jacqui on the day of the biggest morning tea along with a donation. Please take a minute to read her letter which explains exactly why we need these events.

## A Letter From Jacqui

The Biggest Morning Teas are close to my heart. Like many people within the community, cancer has touched us. Either personally, close family members, friends or work colleagues. For me it was my sisters. Most of you probably don't know me but many of you would've known my beautiful bubbly sister Ginette Hunter. We moved down here from Melbourne to be closer to her well before her cancer diagnosis. What a shock to her family and ours when she was diagnosed with bowel cancer. But right through her journey of cancer and treatment she never lost her sense of humour or her passion for craft. She was extremely talented like her other sisters. Cancer is non discriminatory, often taking the best people. For me it wasn't just Ginette we lost, it was both my other sisters as well. First Susan five years before Ginette, then Carole the same year and six months after Ginette. Both Carole and Susan were amazing artists with Carole being extremely sensitive and compassionate to everyone. I often think she left to look after her sisters in death like she did in life. The biggest morning tea isn't just about eating yummy cakes, although that's a pretty good reason, it's about raising funds to help with cancer research and running programs to support those with cancer and those supporting them. Its about helping find a cure and about finding early intervention. So dig deep and eat cake to get behind this amazing community event.

**Wendy Robinson**

## Medieval Market comes to Bruthen

The market will be on Saturday, June 22, from 11am till 3pm.

Last year was a huge event with visitors local and interstate! We currently have: food and drink stalls including BB Donuts, Melting Momentz icecreams, The Bearded Meadery selling mead (honey wine), the Dough Shack, and sweet and sour liquorice.

We also have art and craft stalls such as woodwork, fossils, soy candles, customised drink bottles, denim jackets, gaming dice and figurines, homemade soaps and body care products, artwork, rainbow clothing. Plus, FREE face painting for the kids! Should be a fun day.

Here's the link to our Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/bruthenmarket/>

And this is the link to our event: <https://rb.gy/mhgvvt>



## Historic Organ Arrives In Bruthen

A pedal organ more than 120 years old, with historic links to Wiseleigh, has recently found a new home at the Bruthen and District Neighbourhood House.

The organ was used at the Wiseleigh Sunday School (see below) though it is not a church organ but a "parlour" organ, with 122 reeds. It was housed at the premises of the Lakes Entrance Regional Historical Society and Museum, and when Bruthen local Brian Gustus visited there, Historical Society member Judy Davies suggested that really, it belonged in Bruthen. So Brian (aka Gus) spoke to local musician Brent Hodgkins, who has more than a passing familiarity with pedal organs. Brent suggested that the Neighbourhood House would be a suitable home for it, so that it could be accessible to any locals who wanted to play it, and Gus duly followed up with its delivery. Volunteers at the House are currently assembling an array of sheet music across a range of genres for people to experiment with on this beautiful instrument.

**The following information was provided by Rev. Ken Campbell.**

This reed organ was made by the Leslie Organ Company of New York, USA around 1890 – 1900.

The organ was used for many years in the Wiseleigh Sunday School (originally part of the Bruthen Congregational Parish), which began in 1909 at Deep Creek (the old name for Wiseleigh).

It was in use in 1930 when Miss Vera Seehusen was the head teacher and Miss Rita Terrill a junior teacher. Miss Terrill continued to teach and play the organ until 1981 when the old Sunday School was closed.

Rita Terrill was the daughter of William and Annie Terrill (nee Calvert). She was a deacon of the Bruthen Congregational Church for many years as well as serving in some 66 positions in the Bruthen branch of the Country Women's Association. Rita joined the CWA in 1936 and was treasurer from 1972 to 1996.

There were many organ manufacturers in the USA and Canada during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and up to about 1930 when the electric organ began to take over. In those earlier days the reed organ in the parlour would be almost as common as the television is today.

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# Tourism has changed in Gippsland

You only have to stop in Main Street at lunch time to know that tourism very important for the businesses in Bruthen. This information may be of interest to anyone catering for visitors to the area or thinking about starting a new business where tourism will be important.

I was able to attend a breakfast presentation by East Gippsland Shire where they reported on the latest data around tourism and on the findings of the review of EG Visitor Centres which was interesting.

**Of note:**

1.71million people visited East Gippsland in 2023, half stayed at least one night. This is an increase of 26%. They spent \$671 million dollars in East Gippsland.

**Current trends in Tourism include:**

- Back Packers and working holiday numbers have gone up.
- Nature and wildlife interest.
- Increased sense of purpose and connection to community and culture.
- Increased interest in sustainability.
- Focus on wellness and adventure.
- Agritourism.

**The Visitor Centre review report showed that:**

- The Visitor Centre Network is fragmented.
- Centres are outdated.
- Face to face is still important especially for baby boomers and older Gen X. Younger people rely more on technology to get information.

**Key recommendations of the review:**

- An enhanced EG Visitor Web Page.
- Visitor signage kiosks will direct people to the web page. They will include maps, images and a QR code for the web page.
- Produce an official visitors guide for East Gippsland.

**Bruthen Info Centre News**

The Centre has not been able to open as often as usual due to only a few volunteers available to man the Centre. This is a problem most volunteer-run organisations have and it seems to be getting worse. The management group would love to open the Centre more often so we can cater for the visitors and locals wanting to get information or browse in the gallery. We will continue to look for more helpers. We have asked for assistance from the shire but the funding is not available to pay staff to work at the Centre.

The reduced number of opening hours has resulted in fewer people coming in overall but on the days we were open during April we were getting 20 to 30 visitors. This has dropped off now as winter approaches and the street has quietened down. There still isn't an obvious route to get to the centre from the main gardens with most people walking through the new garden and the intersection to get



there.

After long delays the sign at the top of the building should be in place by the end of June. The committee is also looking into buying a smaller sign to go at the rear of the building aiming to attract the attention of west-bound traffic.

Most of you will have noticed the new EV charging station being built in the Centre car park. This is almost finished.

If you would like to know more about volunteering please ring Joy on 0490819507. Hours spent working in the Art and information Centre can help meet your volunteering obligations if on Centrelink payments.

**Joy M**



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 Saturday 8.00am - 2.00pm  
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DINE IN

# Grand opening of WildKraft Apothecary & Natural Medicine Centre in Bruthen

Bruthen will soon be home to a Herbal Apothecary and Natural Medicine Centre, providing on the spot natural health advice and herbal medicine formulation, as well as appointments for Naturopathy, Holistic Counselling, and a range of other natural health services. It will be open in time for the Medieval Winter Festival.

Melinda Kearsley moved to Bruthen almost two years ago from Melbourne with her two children, bringing forward a long term plan to move to East Gippsland. After taking a break from consulting and health services, she has decided that Bruthen is the perfect place to revive her passion for community health and offer a natural health service and shop to the community.

Melinda is a qualified Naturopath, Mindfulness & Meditation Practitioner, Holistic Coach, and has also worked as a Financial Counsellor. The shop will offer free holistic health advice drawing on her experience, and a traditional apothecary, in which individualised herbal medicines can be made on the spot for a range of ailments. It will also stock a range of products including crystals, salt lamps, books, plants, incense, candles, jewellery, art, and Melinda's own range of therapeutic herbal products.

<https://www.wildkraft.com.au/>



Improve recycling campaign!

East Gippsland Shire have embarked on a recycling campaign to improve recycling and reduce contamination rates in the commingled recycling bins. We have bin stickers, fridge magnets and a new Waste Wise booklet available to make recycling the right way easier for all residents in East Gippsland.

The new material is available from our service centres in Mallacoota, Orbost, Omeo, Lakes Entrance, Bairnsdale and Paynesville or we can post it to you on request if you call us on 5153 9500.



Small acts make a big impact!  
Let's do our bit and recycle right!



## Sew What

Join the ladies for sewing, knitting, crochet, conversation and more

**Wednesdays 1-3pm**

**Creative Space Rear 51 Main Street**

# Winter Festival offers more tasty treats

This year's East Gippsland Winter Festival culinary program has something for everyone.

From sophisticated high teas, to kid-friendly damper making workshops, every palate and passion will be catered for.

Celebrating its fourth consecutive year, the festival begins on the winter solstice, 21 June running to 21 July 2024, with the region's epicurean-excellence showcased across the entire East Gippsland region. Try an off-grid fire-cooked feast in an Alpine High-Country Hut, or a degustation dinner at a cliff-top mansion. Some may prefer a paddling progressive picnic, or a long lunch on a bridge 50m above a river.

Aspiring artists can enjoy a lake-side sketching class with cheese and wine, and families can celebrate winter school holidays with the food truck festival at a free outdoor cinema. Along with multiple farmer's markets, cooking classes (yes, there is even a sourdough making workshop), and marshmallow roasting opportunities, everyone can eat and drink their way through winter at the East Gippsland Winter Festival.

Along with so many bespoke food experiences on the festival program, the best of East Gippsland's restaurants and eateries will be quietly plating up incredible local produce to ensure you never go hungry. Visit the recently opened EAST Handy Store, hatted-restaurant Sardine, and other local favourites including Albert & Co, Long Paddock, Northern Ground, Sodafish and many more.

There's no chance of going thirsty either, thanks to the region's celebrated wineries, breweries and micro-distillers. Festival contributors include Sailors Grave Brewing, Lightfoot Wines, Nicholson River Winery, Tambo Wines, Wyanga Park Winery, Logan's Micro-Distillery and Bancroft Bay Distillery. If the 100 plus events on the festival program aren't enough to keep you satiated, there's always plenty of cellar doors to visit.

Highlights of this year's Festival Food and Drink Program include :

- 22 June: Bancroft Bay Gin Tasting High Tea - enjoy bottomless G&T's, cucumber sandwiches, scones and canapes as you overlook the stunning Bancroft Bay. Included is a guided tasting of Bancroft Bay Gin range with the Founder, Craig.
- 22 June - 16 July: Nazeema's Kerala's Indian Cooking Class - learn about spices and flavours used in Kerala Cuisine, then enjoy lunch with the Chef herself and take home a signed copy of her award winning book, "Nazeema's Kerala Kitchen."
- 28 June: Hot Honey Winter Feast – Tambo Valley Honey is hosting an evening filled with fine food, inspired by local producers and showcasing the versatility of honey as an ingredient in all courses, cuisines, remedies and beverages!
- 30 June: Woolshed Lamb Feast by the Lake - the Sunday Lamb Roast like no other. Settle in for a

fireside soiree at the Forge Creek Lamb Wool Shed, perched above the Gippsland Lakes. This annual Paddock to Plate feast, prepared by Chef Stuart Derham is an annual 'sell-out' event and highlight of the program - don't miss it!

- 5 - 6 July: Tinamba Hotel Feast at La Riva – a spectacular combination of sunset views, ambling gardens and culinary expertise will once again be served up at the cliff-top Mansion, La Riva on Eagle Point Bluff. To really make a night of it, why not ask hosts Andrea & David if you can book a helicopter ride home?!
- 7 July: Nicholson River Trestle Bridge Long Lunch - back due to popular demand. This unique event sold out in record time last year, so don't miss your chance to dine 50m above the 'Nicho' River, where the views are as good as the produce!
- 12 July: Winter's Harvest - A Farmer's Feast – this grazing-style feast will flow all night long, featuring local Skylor Park Pork, Forge Creek Lamb, Lakes Entrance seafood, East Gippsland grass fed beef, Lindenow veggies and to finish, Picnic Point Apple Crumble with Tambo Valley Honey ice-cream - now that's farm to fork!

*Renowned as one of the largest winter festival programs in Australia, this year's festival coincides with the Victorian school holidays and features dozens of free events and activities, offering an affordable family-friendly winter getaway.*



## AT THE POETS WALK

(Poets Walk entry near Swifts Creek Police Station)

- 2pm **Family Picnic** and fun activities (BYO rugs)  
All afternoon: face painting, bonfire, basketry & lantern workshop, story time, rock painting with The Hangout Crew
- 3pm **Ecologist's Talk - local species in the habitat**  
Laura Owen, Wildlife Unlimited
- 5.30pm **Lantern Parade** with the giant water dragon  
from Poets Walk to the Great Alpine Gallery

## AT THE GREAT ALPINE GALLERY

- 6pm **Exhibition Opening**  
Soundscape & projection installation  
Refreshments provided

# Bruthen Rec Reserve upgrades underway



Federal Member for Gippsland Darren Chester says it's terrific to see the progression of works at the Bruthen Recreation Reserve as part of major upgrades.

"Bruthen Recreation Reserve received \$1.07 million in federal funding for upgrades, which includes improvements to current facilities and the addition of new amenities to increase accessibility and promote the development of community sport," Mr Chester said.

"The project also included the construction of a second netball court to accommodate the expanding club and encourage more women and girls to play netball in our community, promoting healthy, active lifestyles.

"Bruthen is a growing community, with the recreation reserve serving as a central hub for a wide range of activities," he said.

"This work wouldn't have been possible without the hard work of local volunteers, and it's fantastic to see the recreation reserve improving each year."

**Pictured: Federal Member for Gippsland Darren Chester met with Brenda Streeter from the Bruthen Recreation Reserve Committee of Management to see the progression of works as part of the Reserve's major upgrades.**

**Say "no thank you" to single use plastic takeaway items and bring your own**



**Did You Know?**

Single use takeaway items - cutlery, plates, straws - cannot be recycled and end up in landfill, whereas compostable cutlery takes about 180 days to break down. or better still, real cutlery can be used again and again!

For more information contact Council or visit our A - Z - Where to next? on our website.

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# SILVEREYE - Bird of the Month – June 2024

There is more to Silvereyes than meets the eye! I should start by pointing out the silver does not refer to the eye, which is brown, but to a bold ring surrounding the eye, which is not silver but white. Bird names can be baffling at times!

There are a number of sub-species to this bird, and almost all form large flocks as they migrate north and south each year. Most of the Tasmanian population crosses Bass Strait into the southeast of Victoria, NSW and Qld, an astonishing feat for 12cm birds weighing only a few grams. Although they are among Australia's smallest birds, Silvereyes are capable of travelling great distances during migration.

This common small bird has a conspicuous ring of white feathers around the eye. It has a green head and wings, with the rest of the body a greyish colour, with grey legs and feet. During winter you may see individuals with salmon-pink sides which are migrants from Tasmania.

The Tasmanian sub-species twice yearly flies across Bass Strait, a notoriously fickle stretch of ocean subject to sudden and dramatic weather changes and extreme sea conditions. It seems somewhat inexplicable that tiny land birds such as Silvereyes would migrate twice a year across a potentially hostile stretch of open sea such as Bass Strait. But they have been doing it for the past 10,000 years, before the sea level rose and Tasmania was joined by a land bridge. The migration flights are often at night and follow well established paths.

The many races of Silvereye occupy diverse habitats that include woodlands, forest, coastal heath, mallee, mangroves, gardens and orchards. While foraging, they are busy active birds, constantly on the move; they head to the next patch of shrubbery with quick, bouncy flight and much calling. Silvereyes are omnivorous with a diet that includes insects, berries, fruit and nectar.

Breeding in spring and early summer, they make a tiny, neatly woven deep cup of grass bound with moss, hair and spiderweb. The nest is usually well hidden in dense foliage and suspended by the rim from slender twigs. Both sexes construct the nest and incubate the clutch of 2-4 eggs. Two to three clutches may be raised in a good season and will be actively defended.

**Karen Ellingsen, BirdLife East Gippsland**



(Photo by John Hutchison)

## Bruthen Inn Hotel



Kitchen is open 7 days

Lunch 12-2pm (excl. Tues) Dinner 6-8pm

Opening from 5pm on Tuesdays (Roast Dinner avail)

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

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**M R M E I R H R Y S S B I K K**  
**R H L V L E R P E S K E M O V**  
**T A T I B A H O T D A C C Q R**  
**K G N I T S E N T O P S I T N**  
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**R G C S K T G P R O T E C T C**  
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**EGGS**

**HABITAT**

**MIGRATORY**

**VICTORIA**

**LERP**

**INSECTS**

**WINTER**

**NESTING**

**PROTECT**

**RARE**



## Target Words

<b>P</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>Y</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>U</b>

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.



# Important numbers of critically endangered Swift Parrot seen on Raymond Island

Over 30 individual Swift Parrots have been seen and photographed feeding on Southern Mahogany eucalypts in one small area of Raymond Island in April and May this year.

The Swift Parrot is one of very few migratory parrots, breeding in the forests of eastern Tasmania and flying (swiftly as its name suggests) across Bass Strait to Victoria, then dispersing to feed on flowering eucalypts, especially in the Box Ironbark woodlands of southern and eastern Victoria and eastern NSW. On their way north in the autumn and back south in Aug-September, a small patch of the large, mature Southern Mahogany Gums and Red Gums that Swift Parrots prefer, lying just behind Western Boulevard on Raymond Island, receives the largest number of Swift Parrots of any site in Gippsland, and has done for many years. This autumn, local naturalist Robert Wright became aware of over 30 Swift Parrots using this feeding site (and indeed his birdbath), with a succession of birds present for over six weeks. Raymond Island's eucalypts were not in flower at that time, but the parrots can get their sugar fix from what is termed 'lerp'. Lerp is a tent-like, white covering excreted by lerp insects (technically psyllids) of which there are many species, and which are rather like tiny cicadas. The lerp is made of excess starch or dextrose, which the insect excretes as it tries to suck as much protein as it can from leaves or branches.

30 birds might not seem a large number, but Swift Parrots are now critically endangered. In the late 1980s there were thought to be around 1,300 pairs. Even then, the 1991 Scientific Advisory Committee looking into their position concluded that they were 'very rare in terms of abundance and distribution' and that they were 'in decline likely to lead to extinction'. Since then, numbers have continued to decline with something under 750 individual birds and probably a breeding population of less than 340. Swift Parrots are listed as Critically Endangered under the Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act and under Victoria's Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act. So.... to have 30 or more birds at one traditional spot, starting their journey to their winter feeding sites, is really very significant.

The biggest threats to Swift Parrots are in their breeding areas. Radical reductions in the number and distribution of the old growth nesting gum trees is a major issue. Another is the result of an unfortunate introduction of Sugar Gliders into Tasmania in 1835. Despite their name, these endearing possums are carnivores when they get the chance, and the eggs, chicks and even incubating female Swift Parrots, fall prey to them. Fortunately, Bruny and Maria Islands off the Tasmanian coast are still free of sugar gliders



making them increasingly important in the survival of Swift Parrots in the wild.

By coincidence, the federal government has just released the latest Recovery Plan for Swift Parrot ([www.DCCEEW.gov.au/national\\_recovery\\_plan\\_swift\\_parrot\\_2024](http://www.DCCEEW.gov.au/national_recovery_plan_swift_parrot_2024)) with a budget of \$14 million over five years. It makes a number of strategy recommendations. Strategy number 1 has half the budget and the first three action priorities are: To 'Identify breeding and foraging habitat; To incorporate that information into government planning; To protect areas of 'habitat critical to survival' from developments (including residential developments, mining activity, wind and solar farms) and land clearing for agriculture through local, state and Commonwealth government mechanisms.

This hot spot for the Swift Parrot on Raymond Island clearly meets the criteria as 'critical habitat' and has done for many years. Unfortunately, there are subdivision and tree clearing proposals before the Shire council for exactly these large Southern Mahogany feeding trees. Their importance has been clearly signalled to Shire planners by Birdlife Australia, the Gippsland Environment Group and others. We need to trust that the situation will be referred to the federal government, as required under the EPBC Act, and that appropriate protections will be put in place quickly.

There have been 100 extinctions in Australia since Europeans arrived in 1788 – about 6-10% of global extinctions since 1500 AD (33 of them mammals). For comparison the USA, with a similar land area and history of European settlement, has had only one mammal extinction. The Australian federal environment minister Tanya Plibersek has pledged that there will be no more extinctions. A great deal of action will have to happen very quickly if the Swift parrot, and the even more endangered Orange-bellied Parrot and the Western Ground Parrot, are not going to follow our magnificent Paradise Parrot into extinction.

**Dr Derek Russell**  
Birdlife East Gippsland

## Local students encouraged to enter Parliament Prize

Nationals Member for Gippsland East, Tim Bull, is encouraging local students to enter the annual 2024 Parliament Prize competition.

"Entries are now open for Years 5 - 12 to enter this year's Parliament Prize where applicants are being asked what they would say to Parliament if they were an MP," Mr Bull said.

"To enter, pupils need to record a video of themselves delivering a Member's Statement that they would make to Parliament.

"A Member's Statement is an opportunity for elected members to make a brief statement of up to 90-seconds in State Parliament on matters of interest or concern to them and those living in their electorate.

"In the last couple of years, two East Gippslanders have been selected as prize finalists, which is proof our young people have great ideas and their contributions are of a high quality," he said.

The Parliament Prize competition is open to all Victorian primary and secondary school students, with age categories of years 5 to 6, years 7 to 9 and years 10-12.

A prize of \$500 and a commemorative trophy will be awarded to the first-placed entry in each category.

There will also be prizes of \$250 to the second-placed entries and \$125 to the third-placed entries in each age group.

An award of \$1,000 will be made to each first-placed student's school, which will ideally be used to promote civics and citizenship and law-related education within these schools, at the schools' discretion.

For more information on the competition including entry terms and conditions visit <https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/teach-and-learn/parliament-prize/>

Entries close 5pm, Friday 14 June 2024.



**Gippsland East State MP, Tim Bull with St Brendan's Lakes Entrance student, Lyra Nowell, who placed third in last year's Parliament Prize for years five to six.**

## Bruthen Identities: The Rev. Brian Norris

Reverend Brian Norris is the Anglican Minister for Bruthen, Swan Reach and Buchan.

Bruthen used to have several Churches of different denominations. With the decreasing number of attendees, there is now just one, The Anglican Church.

Bruthen Op Shop was built by the Church, therefore the income raised does go to the upkeep of the Church and stipend to have a minister, plus the cost of the Rectory.

There is more to a Ministers work than a Church service on a Sunday!

Brian's main residence is in Sale so he is usually in Bruthen three days a week when he is available for pastoral care, home visits, baptisms and funerals. Brian also is a member of SES, BDCA, and supports projects with Bruthen Neighbourhood House, eg Christmas Carols.

Along with his wife Kerrie, he occasionally helps in the Op Shop.

Outside of Ministerial duties, Brian is an online member of Rotary, in addition to being a qualified commercial cook.



**Kath G.**

# Buchan's brilliant wonders

Buchan has been in the news recently with the discovery of the rare fossil remains of the extinct short-faced kangaroo (*Simosthenurus occidentalis*). Found deep within Nightingale Cave in the connected Buchan - Murindal cave system, the 50,000 year - old fossil is 71 percent complete and well preserved. It will be on display in time for the school holidays at the Melbourne Museum.

So on a gloriously sunny Sunday, the Buchan Caves seemed like the perfect destination to reacquaint myself with this world-renowned wonder in our backyard. Victoria's largest cave system, this spectacular limestone honeycomb was formed almost 400,000 years ago by an ancient underground river which dissolved the limestone, creating a huge network 3 to 4 kilometres long. The bones of kangaroos and a wombat the size of a horse have been found.

Both the Royal and Fairy Caves are a stable and pleasant 17°, so guests were advised to take off their extra winter gear at the entrance and I'm glad we did, along with our backpacks and drink bottles, which aren't allowed, in case they come into contact with the fragile surfaces.

The Fairy Cave was discovered by Frank Moon in 1907, opening to the public the same year. The Royal Cave's tiny entrance was found by Frederick Wilson and his indigenous guide in 1910 and with blasting was opened to the public in 1913. The Reserve, on Krauatungalung Country is jointly managed by Parks Victoria and GLaWAC (Gunaikurnai Land and Water Aboriginal Corporation), recognising the traditional owners' ties to this important spiritual meeting place and stop on the way to and from the high country to feast on the Bogong moths and other seasonal foods. They traditionally avoided the caves, believing the spirits inhabited them.

It certainly feels like a spiritual experience within the caves - knowing the awe-inspiring formations have taken thousands of years, distilling their beauty drip by drip. We pale into insignificance amid the wonder, leaving our senses free to absorb its astonishing atmosphere. Photos do it no justice - the

crystalline sparkling like diamonds, the water pools so clear and ice-blue, the gorgeous stalactites and stalagmites, some of them connected to form pillars, very rare. The unusually large shawl stalactites with red and brown bands of iron oxide, green of copper. The tiny squid fossil. The crystal Niagara Falls looking like a rounded wave formed by water flowing over a ledge. The beautiful "altar" of King's Chamber (the largest of the chambers in the Fairy Cave) where Frank Moon's daughter Fairy (named after the cave) was married to Frank Hansford on 14 April 1930) as an inspired publicity stunt to encourage visitors. Rather foolhardy with such slippery, slopy and brittle surfaces.

In both cave tours, the tour guides extinguished all lighting to envelop us completely in total darkness. It brought to mind the incredible bravery of the first cavers with only candlelight to guide them.

Bookings should be made 24 hours prior to visiting through the Parks Victoria website [parks.vic.gov.au](http://parks.vic.gov.au). Remember to bring any concession cards as they are required before tickets can be issued.

**Pamela B.**



**The Bruthen Fire Brigade recently held elections for two-year appointments in leadership and support roles. All positions were filled, with the Brigade now using the quieter Winter months to conduct training, maintenance and preparation for the next Summer season.**

**Congratulations to all those elected, with most of the Brigade leadership and support team pictured (below).**

**The Brigade is currently seeking to recruit new fire fighters to train up during the Winter months. If you are interested in providing a valuable service and contribution to keeping your community safe, email**

**[bruthen.sec@memers.cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:bruthen.sec@memers.cfa.vic.gov.au) and we can meet up for a cuppa and take you through what being a member of the Bruthen Fire Brigade is all about. Remember - this is your community volunteer fire brigade. Come join us!**



**Back Row L-R: OHS Officer Bob Cooper, Treasurer Neil Streeter, Station Maintenance (Ext) Gill Renshaw, VFBV Rep Jon Whitfield, Secretary & Strike Team Coord Kylie Martin**

**Front Row L-R: Captain James Nicholas, 1st Lieut Mike McStephen, 2nd Lieut Rick Cameron, 3rd Lieut Ross Hermans, 4th Lieut Anthony Martin, 5th Lieut Bryce Lewis**  
**Absent: Paul Nichol, Jason Armistead, Bec Whitfield, Alena Walmsley**  
**Photographers: Marj and Alan Jones**

## BRUTHEN REMEMBERS

Bruthen Remembers meets on the second Tuesday of every month at the

[Community Hub 36 Main Street, Bruthen.](#)

**All Welcome.**

**Next meeting 10:30am  
June 11**

## 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



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

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

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

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



## 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](http://glch.org.au) or find us on social media.



## 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](mailto:tim.bull@parliament.vic.gov.au)

Funded from Parliamentary Budget

# 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 Key Events Calander

A long L 🙄 K @ what's coming up

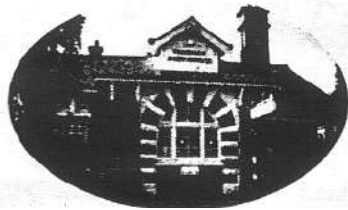
Month 2024	Event / Theme	Group
June (22 <sup>nd</sup> )	Markets (Medieval theme)	Market Team – N'hood House
June (22 <sup>nd</sup> )	The Medieval Winter Festival	Bruthen Arts & Events Council
July (11 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> )	School Holiday Program	N'hood House
Aug (8 <sup>th</sup> )	You're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

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

## BRUTHEN LICENSED POST OFFICE

(Est.1893)

East Link Toll Passes



Photocopying And Facsimile Service

**CBA, NAB, WestPac Banking, Western Union Money Transfer, Bill Payments, Post Bill Pay, Stationery, Greeting Cards, Wrapping Paper, PostPak & Australia Post Postal Services**

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

In event of an emergency

## Bruthen has 6 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

Also Bruthen Bowls Club, CFA and Neighbourhood House

**INATIONALS** for Gippsland



**Darren Chester**  
Putting Locals First

#lovegippsland



[www.darrenchester.com.au](http://www.darrenchester.com.au)

Authorised by Darren Chester MP, Member of Parliament, Level 1, 80-81 Riverwood Street, Sale VIC 3820



# Meet some of Bruthen's CFA Volunteers



**Name:** James Nicholas "Nico"  
**Position:** Captain  
**Joined CFA:** 2009  
**Responsibilities:** Fire Ground and Brigade Leadership, Community Safety, Group Delegate, Emergency Management Coordination, Fire Fighter  
**Family:** Married with 2 children  
**Interests:** Camping, fishing, yabbing, watching Collingwood win multiple deserved premierships



**Name:** Mike McStephen  
**Position:** 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant, VFBV Rep  
**Joined CFA:** 2009  
**Responsibilities:** Crew Leader, Vegetation Management, Group Delegate, Fire Fighter, Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria rep for the Brigade  
**Family:** Married with 3 children  
**Interests:** CFA, SES

**More profiles of Bruthen's CFA volunteers will appear in the next edition of the Tambo Rambler.**

## TRADES AND SERVICES

### Chris Fella

**Qualified Carpenter**  
**Renovations, Decks Pergolas, New Houses, Fencing**  
**20 Year Experience**  
TFN 195 357 871  
MB. 0412 9912 60 PH. 5157 5198  
E. [chrisfella@bigpond.com](mailto:chrisfella@bigpond.com)

## ACG

### KITCHENS & CABINETS

Adam & Carly Greenwood  
Email – [info@acgkitchens.com.au](mailto:info@acgkitchens.com.au)  
Phone – 0402 137 148  
Tambo Upper

## RIVIERA GAS SERVICES

### Peter Weeks

Specialising in Gas Installations  
Conversion and Maintenance  
General Plumbing

Lic No 21065 **Mobile: 0418 516 745**

## Bruthen Garden Supplies

### NOW OFFERING WATER CARTAGE

- 13,000L WATER CARTAGE.
- DOMESTIC & GENERAL 7 DAYS

Tip-trucks 6m<sup>3</sup> & 10m<sup>3</sup>, Bobcat, Excavator,  
Post Hole Boring, Trenching, Slashing.  
**SUPPLIERS OF SAND, SOIL & MULCH**



76 Main St, Bruthen  
M: 0429 944 297



# TAMBO RAMBLER

## We Need You to serve your Community

Elections will be held for the newly incorporated **Bruthen & District Neighbourhood House (BDNH)** on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024 (630pm) at the Neighbourhood House Premises - 36 Main Street, Bruthen (the old RSL building).

All current Committee of Management (CoM) positions will be declared vacant with nominations sought for:

- Chairperson
- Vice Chair (x2)
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- General Committee positions (x2/3)



The role of the BDNH CoM is to guide the NH in its strategic direction and ensure that the NH meets the needs of the local community. The BDNH is a member of the East Gippsland Network of Neighbourhood Houses and is funded by the Department of Families, Fairness & Housing (DFFH). The CoM also ensures regulatory adherence to departmental regulations. For further information, the BDNH can be contacted via [info@bdnh.org.au](mailto:info@bdnh.org.au)

Consider the contribution you can make to this vibrant and growing community-led organisation. Those elected to positions are expected to be active and not passive appointment holders.



The Bruthen & District Citizens Association (BDCA) will hold its **AGM on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> JULY 2024** commencing 6.30pm sharp at the Bruthen Mechanics Hall, Main Street, Bruthen.

The BDCA exists to serve Bruthen and surrounding districts. It provides an interface between the community of Bruthen and the East Gippsland Shire Council on community issues, likewise to the local member for issues that extend to Victorian State Departments.

Accordingly, all positions at the BDCA are up for election – so consider whether you would like to nominate for one of the following. President, Vice President (x 2 positions), Secretary (Public Officer), Treasurer, and up to three general committee positions (to assist with the running of projects / activities). The Elected committee also takes on the role of the Community Recovery Committee. For further information, the BDCA can be contacted via [question2bdca@gmail.com](mailto:question2bdca@gmail.com)

### 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 July issue is June 25.

Please send your articles by e-mail only to:  
**tamborambl@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.

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.**



## Olivia Lay launches her new single

**ABOVE: Olivia Lay.**

**BELOW: Christine Watterson.**

On a cold, grey Sunday afternoon on 19 May, a fortunate crowd of around fifty were warmed by the pure voice and intricate guitar of Olivia Lay, launching her new single "Crooked River Road". It's always a pleasure to listen to her amazing talents, honed over years of dedication to perfect her incredible finger-picking and beat-keeping style. Mixing originals with fantastic covers from artists such as John Butler, Olivia gave the listeners a wide-ranging and uplifting experience.

Christine Watterson beautifully supported Olivia with her deep, sultry, powerful voice and terrific guitar playing. She also played many originals including her latest single "Somewhere in Eden". Besides her musical prowess, Christine is an accomplished artist whose works can be purchased on her fb page, Christine Watterson Artistry.

Huge thanks to Todd Cook (who features on Olivia's new single), stepping in for Brent Hodgkins at short notice to do the sound desk. All four of these superb local artists will be featured in a huge line-up at the "Songs from the East" extravaganza on July 12, at the Bruthen Inn.

**Pamela B, Photos by Jenny C.**



# Fire up at this year's Medieval Winter Festival

The Bruthen Arts and Events Council is in full swing this month with planning well underway for the upcoming Medieval Fire Festival on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Our big night has become a major event of the East Gippsland Winter Festival which runs from 21<sup>st</sup> June to 21<sup>st</sup> July across the region. There will be lanterns, medieval reenactments, a duck trebuchet, live music, fantastic food/drink and much more. BAEC has secured a grant of \$10,000 from the Community Foundation to go towards (increasing) running costs and keeping it as a free event.

There will be markets in the main street on the day from 11am to 3pm. If you are interested in having a stall – email [bruthenhouse@gmail.com](mailto:bruthenhouse@gmail.com) for information and bookings.

The lantern making workshops and parade have become a trademark of the Winter Festival. We will be holding a workshop on 15<sup>th</sup> June at the Bruthen Mechanics Hall. Click on the link or QR code below to book a place and produce a beautiful lantern to proudly parade at our festival.



QR Code for Trybooking page

<https://www.trybooking.com/CSJNN>

Make a lantern to carry in Bruthen's Medieval Winter Fire Festival lantern parade. Simple lanterns made with bamboo, paper and glue will look wonderful when lit up at night. Workshop to be led by local artists. NB Sessions are limited to 15 people. A second session will be added in the afternoon if there is enough interest.

If you are interested in helping out at the event, we are always looking for a few extra hands. Contact Joy if you have a few hours to spare for setting up before the event and/or cleaning up the following day – ph 0490819507.

Ideas that we are discussing for future events include the possible return of Bruthen's Got Talent – time to start brushing up on your acts! Another idea is a pet-themed art exhibition and pet parade. There is so much scope for this in Bruthen where pets almost outnumber people! Keep an eye out for further details, and meanwhile get working on your costumes for the Medieval Fire Festival. See you all on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

