

TAMBO RAMBLER

Bruthen and District Newspaper
Produced by Bruthen and District Citizens Association

April

2026

NUMBER 317



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.

We are already a quarter of the way through 2026, so it must be time to catch up with our news since the November 2025 Rambler.

The combined Bruthen Sports Clubs' Christmas party/roll-up at the beginning of December was a huge success, with the weather gods smiling on us once again. Santa also showed up, to the delight of the many younger children who came. Bruthen Cricket Club had organised the posters prior to the event, and the Football Netball Club had arranged some awesome raffle prizes. The food was AMAZING, and was donated by members of all clubs, to complement the venison, brisket & pork cooked by our crew. The desserts were out of this world too! Watch out for more fun with the other clubs later in the year.

On to the serious stuff - the Pennant season runs from October to February each year, and our Weekend Division 2 team advanced to the semi-finals, when they played Lindenow on their home green. It was a close game, with Lindenow winning by only 2 shots.

Division 4 had a few new players this season, and they all improved no end, but no flags this year. Watch out for next year!

On the subject of **new players**, we're always on the lookout and welcome anyone who'd like to give it a go, and especially younger people. We are a very friendly club, and a good place to start is at barefoot bowls on a THURSDAY evening, when you can also get a delicious feed. As we're nearing the end of daylight savings, this will be every fortnight, and will be posted on our Facebook page.

We have been actively involved in coaching the **Bruthen Primary School** students in preparation for their annual regional primary school competition in Bairnsdale. Unfortunately, this has been postponed due to the 'inclement weather' this week, and they are awaiting the new date.

We were sad to hear of the passing of Edith Juillerat, who was a great bowler & played into her 90's. She was also our club secretary, and member of several East Gippsland clubs at various times. Edith had celebrated her 90th birthday in the clubhouse in 2021. This, and the green, are available for celebrations of all kinds. We have a large and well-equipped kitchen, seating area and

well-stocked bar.

For all enquiries, as well as Facebook, you can email (bruthenbowls@gmail.com) or contact Len Hooton on 0427 188188, or Don Cameron on 0409 608782.



Meet The Team



03 5155 3133

1/521 Esplanade, Lakes Entrance VIC 3909

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admin@shoresidere.com.au

The Growing Heart of Our Community: Churches Welcoming All

St Matthews Bruthen and Beyond – Faith, Fellowship, and Flourishing Together

Over recent months, there's been a genuine buzz about the growth of church congregations and a renewed interest in faith across our region. Churches are seeing more faces, both familiar and new, as communities rediscover the value of coming together for spiritual guidance and social connection. Amidst global challenges such as ongoing conflicts and the rising cost of living, many are finding solace and support within church walls.

These turbulent times have nudged people to seek out places where they can connect, reflect, and belong. The struggles faced worldwide have reminded us all how important community is, and churches are stepping up to offer both comfort and companionship. What's especially heartening is the way urban dwellers are turning towards rural communities, appreciating their warmth and sense of togetherness.

Take St Matthews Bruthen, for example. This Easter, the church hosted three vibrant services that brought together locals and visitors alike, filling the pews with laughter, song, and heartfelt reflection. Not only was the spiritual aspect uplifting, but the shared celebration fostered friendships both old and new. And just recently, the parish ventured to Buchan, where they gathered for a joyful service followed by a lively lunch at the Buchan Hotel. 'St Columb's Swan Reach has also been a hive of activity with its free community BBQ's and pop-up op

shops. These events highlight how churches are more than places of worship—they're community hubs that bridge gaps, celebrate diversity, and spark conversation.

The faces in the congregation are changing, too. Gone are the days when church attendance was dominated by older generations. Now, young families are joining in, bringing children and fresh energy to services. It's a wonderful sight—different ages and backgrounds coming together, united by a desire to explore faith and nurture relationships.

Churches are finding new life as both spiritual sanctuaries and social spaces. Whether it's a service, a community meal, or simply a friendly chat over a cup of tea, the church is a place where connections flourish and support is never far away. It's a space where questions about faith can be explored openly, and where friendships are formed that reach beyond Sunday mornings.

Looking ahead, the positive trends in local congregations give us much to celebrate. The spirit of community, curiosity about faith, and inclusive welcome found in churches like St Matthews Bruthen, St Columb's Swan Reach and Buchan inspire hope. As we continue to navigate uncertain times, these gathering places remind us that together, we can weather any storm—and find joy along the way.

Rev'd Brian Norris

Plenty to do at East Gippsland Field Days

There's an action-packed couple of days coming up this month as the East Gippsland Field Days return for their 2026 event at the Bairnsdale Aerodrome on Friday April 10 and Saturday 11.

The event has over 350 exhibitor spaces providing a very diverse range of products, services and information relating to agricultural and rural industries and community organisations and interests. Each year thousands of visitors are attracted to this family-friendly event, which has been run by the Lindenow Lions Club since its inception in 1986.

As always there will be a great range of demonstrations and entertainment, including the woodchop, sheep dog trials, live music, line dancing, whip-cracking shows (and lessons!), dog education demos (though note that you cannot bring your own dog onto the site), and free kids entertainment. One favourite is the Black Snake Reptile and Animal Live Shows, which will be familiar to readers who attended the Bruthen Winter Festival. As always there'll be plenty of great food. And you never know who you will bump into.

The Regional Landcare Hub will bring a range of local community organisations together at the Hangar site, where they will bring different perspectives to the theme of 'Pests and Diseases', and several members will give illustrated talks.

Tickets for adults are \$20, while children under 16 are admitted free. You can get tickets at the gate or book online to avoid wait times at the gate. The event runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on both days. For more information visit <https://egfielddays.com.au>

Jenny C



'Past & Present' at Tambo Upper Primary School

Our Grade 1/2 students (Blue Room) have been busy learning all about 'past and present' in History this term. Students have learnt about the changes in toys, technology, transportation, education and clothing. Part of our learning also involved learning about the history of Tambo Upper Primary School. We were able to look at artefacts including old school photographs and the old school pupil register.

Here are some of the facts students enjoyed learning about this term:

Paddy: We learnt that students used to travel to our school, by boat, horse and across the river on a punt.

Scottie: Teachers were much stricter and students would write on chalkboards. Sometimes kids would get the strap or cane!

Georgia: Boys used to wear suits to school and girls used to wear long dresses and smocks.

Van: The original wooden bridge was ruined by a flood and we now have a brand new bridge named after Fred Albert.

By great coincidence, during our learning, our principal Mr Chandler received a call at the school from Mr Shaw the grandson of a past Tambo Upper principal Mr Alexander Gall who was principal for 27 years and began in 1893. Mr Shaw has kindly called to offer us some artefacts to be returned to the school including an old bell from the boat which used to travel the Tambo River and an old chess board which was used at the school. We are very appreciative to Mr Shaw in his efforts to keep these great relics honoured at our school.

As part of their studies, Blue Room will be heading to Old Gipps town early next term to celebrate the end of this unit of learning. Students will also be having an 'Olden Day in the Life' day at school where they will see what it was like to be a student in the Tambo Upper Classroom in the 1900's.



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HALL NEWS

The Triennial General Meetings for both the Mossiface & Wiseleigh Memorial Hall and the Bruthen Mechanics Hall were held on February 22nd at the Mossiface & Wiseleigh Hall. As has been the case for the past six years, both Committees of Management will continue with the same dedicated members, and meetings will remain scheduled on the same day.

2026–2029 Committee of Management

President: Alan Jones

Treasurer: Jeff Wagstaff

Minutes Secretary: Joy Manley

Bookings & Administration Secretary: Merewyn Davis.

Occupational & Safety Officer: Marj Jones

Ordinary Members: Warren Kennedy, Dan Calvert, Adam Greenwood, Lesley Czulowski.

Both halls are located on Crown Land, which limits the number of official committee positions to nine. However, the committee warmly welcomes anyone with an interest in the halls to attend meetings and contribute ideas. Community involvement is always appreciated.

Achievements over the past three years

Mossiface & Wiseleigh Memorial Hall

- Continued major renovations, including full interior painting.
- Installation of reverse-cycle air conditioners.
- Replacement of louvre windows.
- Completion of a disability access ramp.
- Donation and installation of an AED.
- Updated terms of use and new booking forms to streamline the booking process.
- Funding secured for a new storage shed, now completed.
- A well-attended Christmas celebration, with a follow-up event the next year (less attended due to extreme heat).

Strong community appetite for more events, confirmed through a 2023 Christmas function survey
Ongoing priority: Improving car parking options.

Bruthen Mechanics Hall

- Installation of a modern stainless-steel kitchen.
- Scoping and planning for a bathroom upgrade and extension (awaiting grant opportunities).
- Updated terms of use and new booking forms.
- Improved external lighting, including rear spotlights and extended power access for Police Paddock users.
- Installation of reverse-cycle air conditioners in the main hall.
- Exterior of the building fully painted.
- Drainage improvements and removal of trip hazards.
- New floor covering installed in the entrance foyer.
- “Bruthen Hall Jazzed Up” celebration event held in

partnership with the Bruthen Arts & Events Council.

- Replacement of the old wire fence on the Police Paddock with a new post & rail fence.
- Significant clean-up of old paperwork, including the discovery, framing, and hanging of original 1912 architectural drawings.
- Collaboration with other DEECA-managed facilities to lobby Council to continue covering Public Liability and Building Insurance, successfully funded this year, with future allocations under review.

Looking Ahead

The committee is eager to see both halls used more frequently. Each venue is well-equipped for meetings, workshops, celebrations, and community gatherings. With renewed interest and community support, both halls have the potential to become even more vibrant and well-used local assets.

For bookings, please contact **Merewyn on 0473 445 180.**

Bruthen Inn Hotel



Kitchen is open 7 days

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

Tuesdays open from 5pm

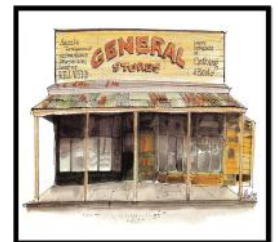
Friday night raffles supporting local sporting clubs—10 draws.

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

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- **Supplier of groceries, fresh fruit & vegies, hardware, fishing supplies and basic newsagency.**
- **Beer, wine, RTD cans and ice.**
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- **Shop local – support local employment**
email: BruthenGeneralStore@gmail.com

Communities Care for Community Spaces

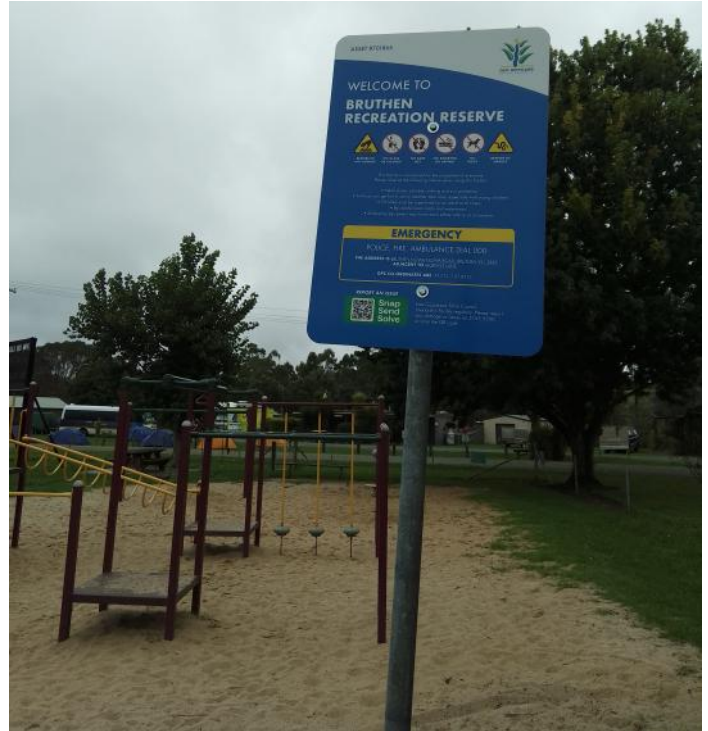


Community spaces like Recreation Reserves, ovals, playgrounds and club buildings are valued assets in small communities. They provide a place to gather, play sport, socialise and celebrate sporting or community events. Volunteer committees, club members and community supporters are proud of their recreational spaces and welcome members and visitors using the facilities for exercise, recreation and community gatherings. Maintaining a safe and pleasant environment contributes to the general enjoyment and community connection.

The Bruthen Recreation Reserve is greatly valued by the Bruthen and district community. As the welcome sign at the entrance states: ***"This facility is maintained for the enjoyment of everyone"*** and includes safety and wellbeing advice to observe when using the facilities.

It was disappointing on a recent quiet Sunday afternoon to observe a small group of children playing in the open BBQ area of the club room in a reckless and destructive way, leaving a mess and some broken equipment. When approached by concerned adults investigating the ruckus, they hastily departed on bikes and a scooter.

This incident was discussed with Recreation



Reserve Committee members who advised that due to repeated vandalism by local children, police will now be informed to investigate further. It is likely that a trespass notice will be issued to anyone identified misusing or damaging Recreation Reserve facilities, with legal action against repeat transgressors. Responding to vandalism damage is costly to the Recreation Reserve Committee and local tenant clubs, as well as it being disheartening to see community facilities treated poorly.

If we all respect and care for our Recreation Reserve and facilities, and community spaces generally, they provide a safe place to play and socialise, and enjoyment for all.

Editorial Team.



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Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea is a major annual fundraiser supporting cancer research, prevention, and support services through the Cancer Council. Since its launch over 30 years ago, more than 500,000 hosts have taken part, helping raise \$14.6 million in 2023 alone.

Come along to support the **Bruthen Biggest Morning Tea**, held at the **Bruthen Mechanics Hall on Thursday 21st May 2026 at 10:30 – 12:00.**

Enjoy trivia and a delicious high tea, with a \$10 donation payable at the door. This year's event will also support Bruthen's entry in the Cancer Council Winter Shitbox Rally.

For further detail contact Lesley – 0437152808 – lesleycz@westnet.com.au



Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

Every dollar raised helps support those impacted by cancer.

When: Thursday 21st May 2026

Where: Bruthen Mechanics Hall - 49 Main St Bruthen

Time: 10:30am - 12:00pm

Details: Come and join us for a fun morning of trivia and high tea for \$10, including finger sandwiches, savoury pastries, scones with jam and cream, and dainty sweet treats.

biggestmorningtea.com.au



**Cancer
Council**

Queries? Contact Lesley Czulowski on 0437 152 808

E S F C R E F L E C T I O N C
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Target Words

A	I	O
L	G	P
L	L	I

How many words of four or more letters can you find? Every word must use the centre letter, and each letter can only be used once. And what is the 9-letter word?



Anzac Day is a national day of remembrance to honour all those who have served or given their lives in war and peace-keeping operations.

The name ANZAC comes from the initial letters of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, when Australian and New Zealand soldiers were grouped together in Egypt before going to fight in World War 1. April 25 marks the anniversary of their landing at Gallipoli in 1915.

This year, on Saturday 25 April. the Australian War Memorial (pictured here) will mark the 111th anniversary of that landing. It will of course also be commemorating all Australians who have served since in times of peace and war.

*In this issue you will see information about the Anzac Day dawn service in Bruthen.

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

(From "In Flanders Fields" by John McCrae, 1915)



**SUNDAY
BIRD
OUTING**

Date & Time: Apr 12th - 9am - 1pm
Location: Bruthen Walking Trails
Meeting Point:
 Service Rd off Great Alpine Rd in
 Bruthen, toilets in town centre
BYO morning tea and lunch





Bird Brochures &
Outing Schedule
[birdlife.org.au/groups/
birdlife-east-gippsland](http://birdlife.org.au/groups/birdlife-east-gippsland)

ANZAC Day

Be part of your community
ANZAC Day commemoration.



When: SATURDAY 25 April 2026

**Assemble 0550h sharp,
Service commences 0600.**

Bruthen Main Street Gardens – Cenotaph
Dress for warmth.

*Dawn will be breaking, the birds will be stirring,
with sunrise about 0644 'ish'.*

Bugler will sound the Last Post & Reveille.

National anthems of Australia and New Zealand
to be played.

Wreaths able to be laid.

Bruthen Seniors

A group of 19 happy seniors, many taking advantage of going in the Community bus, enjoyed lunch at Off The Wharf Cafe in Lakes Entrance last month.

Views of the lakes, pelicans and fur seals, blue sky and sunshine, good food and company made for a very enjoyable day. Peter, thank you, our driver made a stop at Jemmy's Point Lookout for us to take in the view over Lakes Entrance. Thank you to Sue Smith, our President and organiser.

Kath G



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

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What can you do at this mobile service centre?

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- Make enquiries, collect and lodge application forms
- Register your dogs and cats
- Access and complete surveys
- Learn about and provide feedback on projects in your community
- Use a computer with free internet access
- Have a chat and much more

Wednesdays
Fortnightly
11.15am - 12.30pm
Fortnightly

Jan 7th & 21st

Feb 4th & 18th

Mar 4th & 18th

Apr 1st, 15th & 29th

May 13th & 27th

Jun 10th & 24th

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Bruthen Health Services What's available

Opening times

Mondays & Wednesdays, 8.30 am – 12.30 pm

GP Clinic

Wednesdays – by appointment only

To book, call **5155 8300** and select option 1.

Please let our Customer Service team know you'd like your appointment in Bruthen.

Community Health Nurse

Mondays & Wednesdays

- \$12 per consultation
- \$6 concession

No one will be turned away if payment is difficult.
Bookings via **5155 8300**, option 1.

Pathology Collection

Mondays & Wednesdays, 8.30 – 11.00 am
Nurse fees apply.

Room & Bus Hire

All bookings are managed by our Customer Service team. Call **5155 8300**.

These services are available to Bruthen and district residents.

For more information about Gippsland Lakes Complete Health and our full range of services, visit glch.org.au or find us on social media.



Tim BULL MP MEMBER FOR GIPPSLAND EAST

*Servicing Bruthen and
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143 Main Street, Bairnsdale VIC 3875
03 5152 3491
tim.bull@parliament.vic.gov.au

Funded from Parliamentary Budget

WILDLIFE EMERGENCY CONTACTS (2026)

Wildlife Victoria – emergencies 0384 007 300 24 hour emergency response. They will refer you to an appropriate carer.

The following are also willing to help:

Local Wildlife Carers

Kate 0423 088 585 (Mossiface). Possums/wombats/wallabies/lizards/echidnas. No birds/foxes or bats.

Jo-Lee 0401 293 375 (Metung). Birds/possums.

Jade - Wombat Wisdom, 0473 446 161 (Bairnsdale). Wombats & all other wildlife.

Nikki 0403 688 761 (Metung). Birds/possums/kangaroos/wallabies.

Suzie 0447 470 905 (Waterholes). Kangaroos/Koalas

Wendy 0423 712 397 (Wy Yung). Birds of prey

Main Street Vet Clinic – 5152 6666. Will take and refer on to local carer or if necessary – euthanise.

SNAKES:

Phil 0448 684 368 (Bairnsdale). A snake catcher NOT carer but will relocate if found around house or on road.

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IN AN EMERGENCY



AED

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(7days during business hours)

Bruthen Rec Reserve
(for sports events / caravan park)

Bruthen & District Neighbourhood House
(during business hours)

Bruthen Fire Brigade
(on responding appliances & in the station)

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C13151

Bird of the Month: Great Crested Grebe

Grebes are highly specialised waterbirds, usually seen swimming or diving singly, in pairs or loose flocks. They rarely walk and do so clumsily. Grebes have a laboured flight, humpbacked with rapid wing beats and extended neck, feet sagging below the body.

The Great Crested Grebe is the largest of the grebes with both sexes exhibiting characteristic dagger-like bill, shiny white underparts, black double-crest and black tipped chestnut tippets (frills) on the cheeks. Many adults retain the breeding plumage crest and tippets year-round. The adult female is slightly smaller than the adult male. Chicks and juveniles have a striped black and white head and neck.

Large deep open bodies of water provide favoured habitat for grebes which are commonly found on deep freshwater ponds, rivers, lakes, open wetlands, and on coastal saltwater estuaries and bays. Great Crested Grebes look quiet and peaceful on the water and are mostly silent. Diet includes large fish, crustaceans and molluscs, sometimes also amphibians and insects. They exhibit a surprising characteristic of eating their feathers to aid digestion, also feeding chewed feathers to their chicks to aid digestion and prevent injury from sharp fish bones.

Breeding occurs on freshwater wetlands with a combination of open water for feeding and aquatic vegetation for building and anchoring the nest. Courtship displays in Spring include a range of harsh guttural calls along with 'mewing' calls during elaborate, ritualistic 'water dances' to strengthen pair bonds. Breeding pairs are territorial with pair bonds maintained throughout the year. Nests can be found on or near the vegetated margins of large open waters, constructed from a mass of dead water-plants, weeds and mud, usually attached to reeds, fallen or drooping branches or a submerged stump. Both parents incubate the eggs and tend to the chicks which are ready to swim soon after hatching and are often observed riding on their parent's back.

While the Great Crested Grebe conservation status is 'least concern', they are vulnerable to environmental impacts which affect their breeding



The Great Crested Grebe: Photo by Roy Greer.

habitat, including altered drainage, increased salinity, clearing, grazing and extraction of ground water.

Birdlife East Gippsland welcomes visitors and newcomers

Birdlife East Gippsland meets weekly from 9am to 12pm on most Mondays, and on the second Sunday of each month. New members and visitors are always welcome. The annual schedule of outings across the region ensures diverse locations and interesting bird observing. The records collected are submitted to the national database.

BYO refreshments & water; wear appropriate clothing, boots and sun protection. Binoculars are handy. Planned outings may be affected by regional weather and emergency warnings. If unsure, please check via Birdlife East Gippsland Facebook page or email.



March 2026 Outings Schedule.

DATE	LOCATION	9AM MEETING PLACE
Monday April 6th	Healey/Stanley properties.	110 Bellbird Rd. Granite Rock/Clifton Creek.
Sunday April 12th	Bruthen Walking Trails.	Main St Bruthen, service road adjacent to Main St gardens/toilets.
Monday April 20th	Point Fullarton & Eagle Point Track.	Burden Place, off Paynesville Rd.
Monday April 27th	Lake Guthridge & Sale Common.	Car park end of McIntosh Drive, Sale.

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, Bruthen 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.

HOMESHARE East Gippsland

A way of easing local housing pressure?

Spare rooms offer a new way to ease housing pressure in East Gippsland.

An idea that turns unused bedrooms into much-needed homes is gaining momentum in Lakes Entrance, offering a practical and community-focused response to the region's housing pressures.

The concept, known as Homeshare, connects people with a spare room to those seeking affordable accommodation. In return for a place to live, home seekers contribute to household costs, help out around the home and often provide companionship — creating arrangements that benefit both sides.

What sets Homeshare apart from informal house-sharing is the support behind it.

Participants are carefully screened, agreements are clearly set out from the start, and ongoing support is available to help ensure the arrangement works smoothly.

The model is already proving successful elsewhere in Victoria and other states. In the Castlemaine region, the Mt Alexander Homeshare program, supported by Dhehkaya Health, has helped match householders and home seekers in stable, mutually beneficial living arrangements. In Newcastle, New South Wales, Hunter Homeshare has set up their first match with a widowed Homeowner and a local school teacher in need of stable accommodation. The homeowner reports "it has changed his life".

Local interest grew following a recent community meeting hosted by the East Gippsland Housing Affordability Conversation Group. Guest speaker Wendy Francis from the Homeshare Australia and New Zealand Alliance (HANZA) outlined how the program works and how communities can establish their own initiatives.

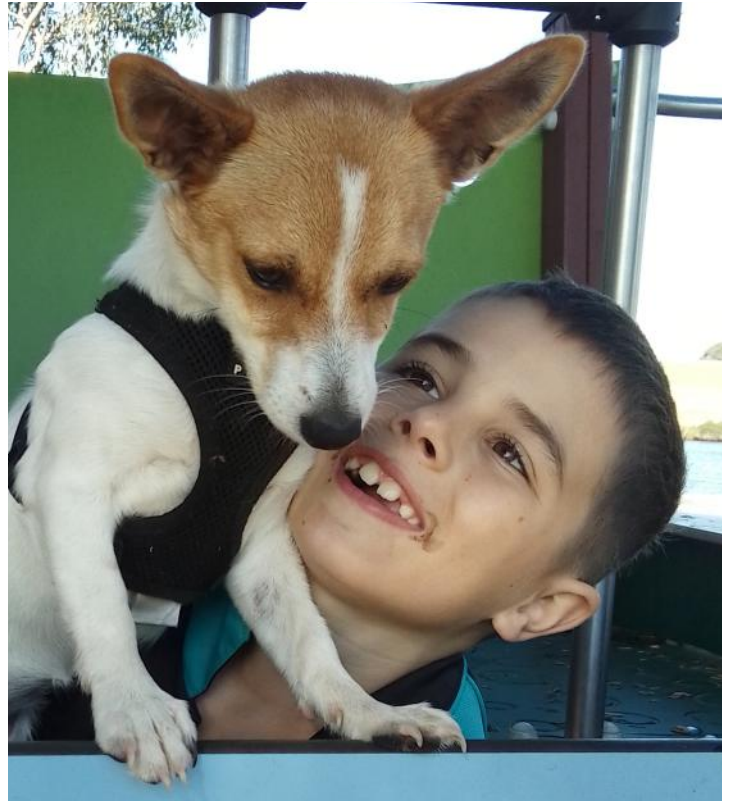
Homeshare is also attracting attention at the state level, with a Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry recently recommending the development of a statewide framework and regional pilot programs.

With housing pressure continuing to affect people of all ages, locals are being encouraged to consider whether Homeshare could work for them — either by offering a spare room or by helping build a local program.

Anyone interested in supporting the establishment of a Homeshare initiative in East Gippsland can contact Grace McCaughey Gracemc1936@gmail.com Those keen to learn more about how Homeshare works, or to explore taking part, can contact Wendy Francis at the HANZA wendy.francis@hanza.org.au.

Jack Russell Bella is a Boy's Best Friend.

Bella is a 7 month old Jack Russell, a best friend to 7 year old Van, seen here playing together on a recent warm afternoon. After school adventures are enjoyed on the rail trails, rivers and bush paths around Bruthen and district. Owning a puppy is a big responsibility and Bella needs time, attention and care so she grows well and interacts happily with other animals and people she meets when out and about. Van loves the snuggles he has with Bella and watching her grow up. Her 'zoomie' runs around the garden are funny and she learns new things every week. Bella gets very excited when she goes to school and is a favourite visitor.



Why do I see or smell smoke?

With calm autumn conditions across much of the state, communities can expect to see smoke in the air as a mix of planned burns, private burns under CFA's permit system and agricultural burns take place over the coming weeks.

While current conditions are ideal for burning, weather patterns may cause smoke to linger over parts of the state overnight and through to early morning on some days.

FFMVIC Chief Fire Officer Chris Hardman said it is crucial fire agencies take advantage of favourable conditions when they present.

"Planned burning on public land is one of the tools FFMVIC uses to keep Victoria safer from bushfires," Mr Hardman said.

"Our climate is changing and that means finding the right days for safe and effective planned burning is becoming more challenging. Autumn typically provides our crews more opportunities to conduct planned burns, as the weather is more stable, and fire behaviour tends to be manageable and predictable

"With the current favourable weather and forest conditions, we are delivering as much planned burning as we can.

"Reducing dry vegetation such as grass, leaves, bark, shrubs and small fallen branches means fires are less intense and slower to spread, making it more likely that firefighters can keep bushfires small and contained before they pose a risk to communities.

"We work closely with CFA, Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and Bureau of Meteorology to keep the smoke impact from planned burns as low as possible. We make every effort to make sure favourable weather conditions reduce smoke drift into communities.

"Victorians can register to receive notifications of upcoming planned burns at the [Planned Burns Victoria website](https://plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au/)."

The Planned Burns Victoria website has details of all planned burns currently on the three-year Joint Fuel Management Program, visit <https://plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au/>.



Figments Of Imagination

What an appropriate title for the recent exhibition at Bruthen's Village Maker gallery.

Local artists, Joy Manley and Marg Pearson's works are energetic, vibrant and varied in medium and title. Colourful realism, fantasy and abstract subjects express their forever expanding talent and delighted viewers at the exhibition opening on the evening of March 6th.

Thirty plus people, friends, family and fellow artists attended the well catered for event and their enthusiasm for the evening brought a fantastic vibe to this gallery wonderland.

The exhibition unfortunately finished on March 29, but you can view both artists' works at the Bruthen Arts and Information Centre as well as other local venues and I can certainly recommend a visit to the Bruthen Village Maker gallery from Thursday to Sunday for a true wonderland of creative talent.

Heather R

