

TAMBO RAMBLER

Bruthen and District Newspaper
Produced by Bruthen and District Citizens Association

May

2026

NUMBER 318



Dawn Service Remembers



GIPPSLAND
Community
Foundation

GCF proudly
supports the Tambo
Rambler
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.



Gus in his happy place- chewing his bone in the sunshine. Now 13 years old and still happy despite the arthritis. Monthly Acupuncture from mobile vet Dr Jacqui at Gippsland Natural Veterinary and monthly Beransa injections with daily medication keep his quality of life up.



Have you noticed the old VB sign has been replaced at the Bruthen General Store?



Pamela's Pets

Introducing Cricket (black mother), Zoosie (black & white) and Blaze (ginger). I treasure the birds, insects and lizards too much to let them out but they enjoy watching the world go by from their catio, and other windows and doors.



Meet The Team



03 5155 3133

1/521 Esplanade, Lakes Entrance VIC 3909

shoresidere.com.au

admin@shoresidere.com.au

ANZAC Day remembers those who served

Bruthen commemorated ANZAC Day this year with a Dawn Service attended by well over 100 people. While the morning chill was present, the weather was perfect for the six AM start. The service commenced with a haunting musical lament which provided those assembled with an opportunity to reflect prior to the commencement of the service.

Sarah Smith, granddaughter of the late Tommy Smith (a WWII digger) read the modified requiem, before local veteran James Nicholas (MAJ rtd.) provided a prologue of why ANZAC Day held such an important place in the national identity and consciousness. Chaplain Brian Norris (St Matthews Church) led prayers and benediction, while Paul Domanski recited the Ode to those assembled. Bruthen Primary School took on flag duties for the service, while

local student from Tambo Upper Primary School Scott Pritchard read 'The Oath' or veterans covenant which thanked all who had served in the defence force, their families for what they had done and the sacrifices made in time of war and peace. The Last Post and Reveille were sounded by Bugler Angela McStephen who continues to make the trip back from Melbourne to be with the local Bruthen community.

Photographer Martine Hersey from Page 1.

Photo 1 The general crowd.

Photo 2 Bugler Angela McStephen.

Photo 3 Scott Pritchard (who read the Veterans Oath), alongside James Nicholas (Iraq and Afghanistan veteran).

Gippslanders thanked for ANZAC Day services

Federal Member for Gippsland Darren Chester has thanked Gippslanders for remembering the sacrifices of Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel and their families on Anzac Day.

Mr Chester says commemorative services across the region are an opportunity to 'give thanks' for the freedoms our nation enjoys.

"At a time of escalating global tensions, it's important to gather as a community and celebrate our freedom and the opportunity to live in Australia," Mr Chester said.

"I believe Anzac Day is the most important event on our national calendar because it's our chance to say 'thank you' to all who have served, and continue to serve today, to keep us safe in an ever-changing world.

"At its core, Anzac Day is all about respect.

"Respect for the fallen. Respect for their families. Respect for the men and women who continue to serve today.

"It's also about acknowledging the freedoms we enjoy today have come at an enormous personal cost to others, and we must never take that service and sacrifice for granted.

"Whether it's wars, conflicts, peace-keeping missions, or humanitarian aid and disaster relief, they are dangerous tasks which expose people to the risk of injury, and take them away from the people they love.

So when we gather at a dawn service or a local march, we are helping to keep our nation's promise to remember the fallen, and to give thanks."

Mr Chester said it was important to remember the pressures faced by current generations of service personnel and their families.

"I have been very fortunate to visit ADF personnel on many deployments, and to represent Australia at commemorative services on the Western Front and throughout south-east Asia. It reinforced my view that we can all be proud of their service and we must share their stories, and never forget the hideous cost of conflict," Mr Chester said



Darren Chester
Putting Locals First

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NATIONALS for Gippsland

www.darrenchester.com.au

Authorised by Darren Chester MP, Nationals Party of Australia, Level 1, 88-91 Rouswood Street, Geelong VIC 3220

Update on the Tambo Upper Hall

The Tambo Upper Hall was built around 1986 and originally operated as a subscribers' hall. Since then, it has been used for a wide range of purposes, evolving over time to meet the growing needs of the local community.

Over the years, the hall has undergone numerous improvements. These include restumping, installation of a new floor to replace the original surface worn from years of dancing, relining of the walls, and the addition of a kitchen in the 1980s. In 1999, an outdoor stage was constructed at the front of the hall.

The small township of Tambo Upper consists of only two public buildings, making the hall and the school the true heart of the community. Together, they have become an important source of connection,



resilience, and support for many local families. In recent years, maintaining and upgrading the hall has been a key focus. With financial support from the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR), new kitchen cupboards and appliances were installed a few years ago. More recently, the timber floorboards have been sanded and polished, and the kitchen walls and flooring have been tiled. The East Gippsland Shire Council has supported the re-levelling of the floor, as well as the construction of retaining walls and improved water drainage. The Gippsland Community Foundation has also generously funded the replacement of the hall's old and deteriorating roof sheeting. The refurbishment of the hall is now complete, and it is ready to be enjoyed by the local community for many years to come. We extend our sincere thanks to the many volunteers and local organisations whose combined efforts have made this project possible.



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For enquires or bookings contact Bruthen Inn Hotel.

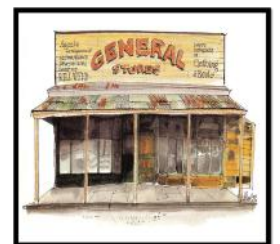
Cheers and beers, Stretch

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email: BruthenGeneralStore@gmail.com

The Biggest Morning Tea is coming up on Thursday 21st May from 10:30 to 12 noon as a fundraiser for cancer research.

Cost is \$10 for a delicious morning tea and you can enjoy some fun and trivia. We will be running a silent auction featuring artwork by Marg Pearson. The Bruthen Op Shop Fashion Parade will present their latest fashions on the catwalk, with outfits available for purchase. There will also be raffles, music, and dancing, and we will be blessing the rally car as it heads off on its long journey from Mildura to Townsville in support of the Cancer Council.

Photo to the right shows the newly-painted car that Lesley and Wags will be driving in the Rally.

Kath G

Bruthen's Biggest Morning Tea.



Gippsland East Matters



An independent
for
real progress on local issues

Are YOU the next independent member for Gippsland East?

We want a representative who works for the community, not a political party. We see the positive impacts of quality independent members in other regional seats; and Gippsland East deserves the same.

Gippsland East Matters is a local, community-powered independent movement with a growing, skilled volunteer base, ready to run a grassroots campaign.

If you're passionate about representing the people of Gippsland East, or if you want to join the group organizing to elect an independent in this year's state election, we'd love to hear from you.

Visit www.gippslandeastmatters.org to learn more

or email us at hello@gippslandeastmatters.org

Bruthen Mechanics Hall: A Cornerstone of Community Life for More Than a Century

The Bruthen Mechanics Hall has stood at the heart of the township for more than 140 years, evolving from a modest Mechanics Institute and Free Library into one of the district's most enduring community venues.

The site was first gazetted in 1882, with the condition that a boundary fence be removed to create a shared line with the Police Paddock. The original hall was erected soon after and officially opened in May 1883. Later that year, a tender for an extension was awarded to W. A. Sands of Bairnsdale, and the newly formed Tambo Shire began holding its meetings in the building.

By 1884, the Mechanics Institute and Free Library housed 185 books and recorded 1,835 visits, with opening hours stretching from 10am to 9.30pm. A decade later, the collection had grown to 527 books, and annual visits had increased to around 2,628.

Government grants supported the library from 1883 through to at least 1906, and the service continued to operate until the 1950s.

The current main hall was constructed in 1912 or 1913 by local builder John Holford, using sandstone blocks. It was later extended to include a stage and a larger dance floor, creating the spacious interior familiar to residents today.

Across the decades, the hall has hosted an array of community events - balls, dinner dances, concerts, talent shows and regular movie nights. The original projection room still sits above the front entrance, a reminder of the hall's cinematic past. The grounds once accommodated the town's first tennis courts before they were relocated to King Street, and the hall itself was a popular venue for basketball and badminton.

Behind the hall lies the Police Paddock, now managed by the Hall Committee. Once a rough grazing area for the resident police officer's horse, it has been transformed into a lively event space. Each June it becomes the setting for the Medieval Winter Fire Festival, complete with bonfires, sword fighting and roving knights in armour.

The Bruthen Mechanics Hall remains a valued community asset, continuing its long tradition as a gathering place for events, celebrations and local activities.

If looking for a venue for your event, think about hiring the hall. The whole hall is available or just the main hall, supper room or the modern kitchen.

For venue enquiries, contact Merewyn on 0473 445 180.



Plantain Broad Leaf (Plantago major)

How to use Plantain in your daily life:

LEAVES:

- Apply crushed leaves directly onto cuts to stimulate new cell growth and boost the immune system.
- Chew a piece of leaf until soft and squishy and place it between the gum and inner cheek to reduce toothache.
- Finely chop leaves and infuse in boiling water to make a tea which can be used for inflammation, dandruff, high blood pressure and cholesterol, candida, thrush, gastro, upset stomach, diarrhea, constipation and many more therapeutic uses.
- Young leaves can be used in salads or eat raw, slightly bitter mild mushroom flavour.

SEEDS:

- Seed and husks soaked in water mixed with juice can help with losing weight by giving a feeling of fullness. The fibre from the husks can help absorb excess consumed fat.
- Mix with lemon juice for a diuretic and blood rejuvenation

HISTORY & SYMBOLISM:

- Also known as White Man's Foot, Snakeweed, Way Bread, Feaseed, Cuckoo's Bread, Large Plantain.
- Native to Eurasia, Perennial 40-60cm tall. Grows in most climates.

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C	F	S	Y	P	E	T	A	R	E	N	E	G	E	R
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Y	Q	Q	E	S	P	T	Z	O	B	F	N	T	I	A

SEEDS	WINGSPAN	POLLEN	POLLINATE	FLYING
COAST	FOREST	REGENERATE	TONGUE	SPECIES
NOCTURNAL	NECTAR	TAMBO	COLONY	JUICE
BLOSSOM	ECOLOGY	FOOD		



Target Words

L	L	E
T	A	I
T	S	E

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?

Fly-In Visitors at the Tambo River



Many of our readers would be aware that the banks of the Tambo River in Bruthen are now playing host to a visiting colony of grey-headed flying foxes (*Pteropus poliocephalus*, also known as fruit bats, and *not* related to foxes!)

These bats are quite easy to distinguish from other species, their bodies being covered mostly with thick brown-black hair but having distinctive orange-red hair on their neck and shoulders. They roost in quite large and sometimes noisy camps, and while they can be observed in action through the day they are mostly nocturnal, flying at sunset perhaps 20 or even up to 50 km to their feeding areas. The body measures from 23-28 centimetres, while the wingspan of an adult is about 1 metre. As these animals cannot stand upright, they may be seen flying low over the river, wetting the hair on their chest then flying back into the trees to lick the water from their fur.

Grey-Headed Flying Foxes feed on the fruits, blossoms and nectar of a range of native trees such as eucalypts (their favourites), melaleucas, banksias, grevilleas and others, as well as some introduced fruit trees. (You can protect your backyard trees with wildlife-friendly netting.) It is the nectar and juices they are after: they will use their long tongue to draw out the nectar and pollen from the blossoms, and they feed mostly at night when the blossoms are most fully open. When they eat fruits for the juice, they spit out the pulp and seeds or excrete them in their droppings. A single flying fox can excrete up to 60,000 seeds in one night.

The Grey-Headed Flying Fox is listed as Vulnerable in Victoria under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act. It has great ecological and economic importance to often fragmented ecosystems due to its critical role in pollination and the dispersal of seeds. This is vital for the regeneration of Australian forests right down the eastern and south-eastern coastline from Rockhampton to Adelaide. These bats can carry pollen and disperse seeds over much greater distances than bees or birds; some have referred to them as “flying farmers”. The term “Bat Ripple” was recently coined by Australian scientists

to describe the physical range and impact of these animals.

When blossoming finishes in the site of their colony and food supplies are reduced, the bats will fly off to new sites. And they cover significant distances: one that was satellite-tracked was shown to have travelled about 500 kilometres in a 48-hour period.

People are advised to admire these fascinating creatures from a distance. Sometimes you might come across an injured bat (for instance one that has been tangled in netting or barbed wire) but the clear advice is to call for experienced help, such as by ringing Wildlife Victoria’s Emergency Response Service on (03) 8400 7300, rather than attempting to touch or handle it yourself. Flying foxes have the potential to carry diseases that can be transmitted to humans via a bite or scratch. In this context it is worth noting that one of our photos shows Mike, from wildlife education group Black Snake Productions, holding a young grey-headed flying fox at the East Gippsland Field Days. Mike is very experienced and knowledgeable, and the little bat he is holding does not carry any disease: it is quite tame, and one of a family kept in a large aviary at his home base in Wandin North.

More information about these creatures can be found at <https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/our-wildlife/flying-foxes/living-with-flying-foxes>



New Committee Of Management for Bruthen Recreation Reserve

On 13th of April the tri-annual AGM of the Bruthen Recreation Reserve was held to present annual reports and also elect a new Committee of Management (CoM). Outgoing Chair of the CoM James Nicholas thanked all members of the previous committee for their hard work and diligence over the last three years. Specifically, the work that was conducted to complete upgraded tennis and netball courts, the Community Storage Sheds near the cricket nets and the new change facilities which are now in use and are a much-valued new asset to the reserve. Various CoM members were thanked for their individual contributions to various projects over the last three years.

The new CoM as elected is comprised of:

Linda Dillon (Chairperson), James Nicholas (Secretary/Treasurer), Peter Favaloro, Michael Spong, Rick Mehlert, Brenda Streeter (all General Committee), Lucy Whillance (General Committee Netball Rep), Sally Whillance (General Committee - Football rep) and Graeme Gardam (General Committee - Cricket rep). Pleasing to note was the election of three new members and the retention of some committee of management members who

have up to 35 years experience in being on the committee. A good mix of experience and new enthusiasm will lead the reserve for the next three years.

Also pleasing to note is the fact that the Bruthen Recreation Reserve has received a \$50,000.00 Gippsland Community Foundation grant for completion of the Community all-weather shelter in the vicinity of the tennis/netball courts and cricket nets. This shelter will be of use to sporting associations using the facilities, rail trail visitors who stop at the reserve and members of the general public. Specifically, works will commence on a previously partially constructed shelter which will be used for maintenance storage, but also extend the sheltered area which covers seated table facilities and further extends to installation of tiered viewing stands to watch local sports. A water fountain will also be installed for public use. The grant will finalise a project which started many years ago, but was unable to be completed due to insufficient funds. Many, many thanks to the Gippsland Community Foundation.

Bruthen Bowls Club News

It is a common misconception that lawn bowls is "an old person's game", which when you think about it, doesn't make a lot of sense. An 'old' person must have been young(er) when they started?! It is becoming a more popular sport with young people throughout Australia, partly due to the School Sports programs of inter schools competitions. Locally, Paynesville and Tambo Valley bowls clubs have recently had young members join their ranks, and they are really enjoying the game. It is also great for those who are not so keen on contact sports.

Regardless of age, we are always on the lookout for new members, and beginners will be warmly welcomed, and coached. In Bruthen, we have a lot of keen players in the primary school, and we'd welcome them and their families to come and 'have a go'. Bowls are available to borrow, so there is no initial expenditure until you're sure you'll enjoy it. If you're not competitive, just come along and have some fun. You never know where it might lead!

We are a very friendly club, and have barefoot bowls on alternate Thursday evenings during winter, but weekly during daylight savings. The food on those evenings is to die for (not literally!!), and bar prices are very reasonable.

Watch out for our BIG mid-year raffle which will be drawn on June 5. Tickets will be available soon - \$5 each - in all the usual places.

See us on our active Facebook page, or email (bruthenbowls@gmail.com). You can also contact Len Hooton on 0427 188188, or Don Cameron on 0409 608782.

How to make your own Dishwashing Tablets

Ingredients:

- Two cups each of borax and washing soda.
- Half a cup of bi-carb.
- Half a cup of citric acid.
- Half a cup of salt (can use Epsom Salts).
- Half a cup of white vinegar.
- One tablespoon of castile liquid soap (or dishwashing liquid).
- 20 or so drops of essential oil. (I use lemon).

Instructions:

- Mix all dry ingredients in a bowl then add the wet ingredients. (It will fizz a bit).
- Mix well to combine. You want the consistency of wet sand.
- Put into moulds and press down firmly. (I use ice cube trays with the silicon pop bottoms, the larger ones.)
- Let dry for a few hours, pop them out and store in jars.

Jo 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

EAST GIPPSLAND
SHIRE LIBRARIES

Mobile Service Centre / Library Bruthen (Main St)



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- Use a computer with free internet access
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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

Phone 5153 9500 with
any queries about
the service.



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
district community.*



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.



Bruthen Seniors

A bus load and full car of Bruthen Seniors recently enjoyed a trip to Buchan with lunch at the Pub on Wednesday's fortnightly outing.

Excellent service with all meals arriving together.

5 of us then drove to the Bluff, a rocky outcrop above the Buchan River.

Work is currently being done on building a huge water tank and there is a new cafe worth a visit.

Kath G

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IN AN EMERGENCY



AED

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Bruthen General Store
(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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Bird of the Month: Grey Butcherbird

Butcherbirds are medium to large predatory perching birds with longish blue-grey beaks with a distinctive black hook at the tip, their 'butcher's hook'. When hunting, they perch watchfully then sally forth to capture prey from foliage, on the ground or in the air. The common name 'butcherbird' reflects their characteristic behaviour of hanging prey on a hook or in a tree fork or crevice to dismember and eat later. Prey includes small animals, birds, lizards and insects, and they also eat some fruits and seeds.

This rather brutal feeding behaviour is somewhat at odds with their rich piping, melodious and varied songs. Grey Butcherbirds often sing in duets or in groups, their repertoire including quieter whispering songs, harsh alarm shrieks and mimicry. Their throaty warbles and begging calls can sound like the Australian Magpie.

Widespread and endemic to Australia, Grey Butcherbirds are common in open eucalypt forests and woodlands, farmlands and urban habitats that offer some wooded shelter. They are in the same 'bird family' as wood swallows, magpies, currawongs and other butcherbirds. Their conservation status is listed as of Least Concern.

Seen singly, in pairs or small family groups, Grey Butcherbirds are a smaller sized butcherbird with a grey saddle and white throat contrasting with a black face and crown. Juveniles and immature birds have a brown rather than grey saddle.

Breeding season is July to January. The nest is bowl shaped and made of sticks and twigs, lined with grasses and other soft fibres. It is usually built within 10m off the ground, with a clutch of 3 to 5 eggs. The female incubates the eggs, and the young are fed by both parents. After 25 days the chicks are ready to fledge but remain in the breeding territory for about a year, helping the parents raise the young of the following season.



The Grey Butcherbird: Photo by John Hutchison.

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.

eastgippsland@birdlife.org.au

May 2026 Outings Schedule.

DATE	LOCATION	9AM MEETING PLACE
Monday May 4th	Goldsmiths in the Forest	191 Harrison Track, via Scriveners Rd.Kalmina.
Sunday May 10th	Lake Bunga/Eastern Beach	Car Park end of Lake Bunga Beach Rd.
Monday May 18th	Pettman's Beach	Cnr Princes Hwy & Lake Tyers House Rd.
Monday May 25th	Heyfield Wetlands, Glenmaggie Weir	Heyfield Wetlands, Traralgon-Maffra Rd. Heyfield.

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 June issue is May 25.

Please send your articles by e-mail only to:
tamborambler@gmail.com

(Word, Publisher, JPG or PNG format with photos please
PDF format will 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.

The Tambo Upper Eco-Warriors

The students at Tambo Upper Primary School have been on a 12 month "Eco Warriors quest" to gain a deeper understanding and awareness of our local ecosystems, animal adaptations, environmental sustainability and land conservation.

The quest kicked off in August 2025 with a visit from animal and ecosystem expert Mike from Black Snake Productions who discussed ways for the students to keep our native animals safe and the important roles each living thing plays in establishing and maintaining healthy ecosystems.

Our Eco Warriors then continued their discovery journey to the return of migratory birds on the Eagle Point foreshore in October. Lisa Wilson and the fantastic team from East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority greeted the students and led them on a bird discovery and information scavenger hunt. The students engaged in conversational talks with many of the local animal & land conservation groups and came home with a wealth of knowledge and a sausage in bread.

October also brought the visit of Jaxson & Julia from Trash Puppets, with a presentation puppet show and puppet making workshops for the students. The students learnt creative ways of making "Trash with a purpose" puppets using recyclable materials.

In November our students in Grades 3 and 4 embarked on a sustainability mission to become more waste-wise. Big thanks to Megan and Luke from Tambo Waste for their very informative waste and recycling tour of the East Gippsland waste and recycling facilities. All our students have a better understanding of transitioning to circular economy and their role in minimising landfills.

Our discovery continued here at the school with a visit from Matt at East Gippsland Fish Care. Our students engaged in informative discussion about fish species and the importance of caring for our local river, lakes and water ways to ensure the sustainability of fish varieties.

2026 has brought about some new awareness of the Gunaikurnai creation story of Borun the Pelican and Tuk the Musk Duck and the Bataluk Cultural Trail. Our first stop in March was at Buchan where the students enjoyed a peaceful walk taking in the pristine waterways of the Buchan River and the natural beauty of the local rustic bushlands and wildlife. The students engaged in an educational guided walk through the majestic caves with their limestone sculptures of stalagmites and stalactites. A truly eco-educational experience had by all who attended.

Our final destination point along the Bataluk Cultural Trail is scheduled in May with a visit to the Burnt Bridge Reserve and Salmon Rock along the Gunai Boardwalk at Cape Conran. The students are looking forward to learning more about the sensitivity of the Gunaikurnai history and the local environment.

It has been wonderful to see our students more actively engage in recycling around our school, show care for our local wildlife and be very inquisitive through our quest. We definitely have wonderful "Eco Warriors" in the making!





Bruthen Arts and Events Council News

What have the Arts and Events Crew been up to lately?

In February we reviewed our Strategic Plan to see where we can improve and what we have done well. We were pretty pleased but did decide that we want to engage the community of Bruthen more, so we would love to hear what you would like to see more of in Bruthen. It would be awesome to see more locals at the events we put on. Email us with your ideas or flag us down in the street.

Eva and Lesley did a presentation at the **East Gippsland Creative Summit**. They talked about how bigger isn't always better and that a major KPI for our future success is the members and volunteers wellbeing and enjoyment in their involvement, not being over-whelmed and over stretched.

Talking and planning! It is what we do well. Planning for our next Creative Victoria funded show, **Tinderella and the Eight Unique Uses For Tinder**, on May 16, at 7 to 9:30pm. A fantastic comedy from Theatre on Toast written and performed by Alyce Fisher. Maybe a Girls Night out opportunity with a Welcome Drink and Tapas on tables included in the \$25 entry.

And planning with the East Gippsland Re-enactment Society for our big event of the year. Yes the **Medieval Winter Fire Festival** will be back for Winter Solstice on June 20th. This was huge last year so we need helpers.

Help Needed. Please contact us if you can help with setting up, on the gate, on the bar, packing up or in any other way. This is a great event for Bruthen and District bringing lots of people into the town showing off our area and leaving their money behind.

Our group likes to put on a show for young people every year. Lesley and I popped up to the School on April 22nd to watch **The Amazing Scott's BMX Trick Bike Show** with the students and teachers. And it was both inspirational and a great spectacle. Scott has been all over the world and Australia performing his tricks in a circus so it was a real treat having him here in Bruthen. He kept emphasising the importance of not giving up. So if your child is

trying to ride backwards or doing monos blame Scott! A grant from Creative Victoria enabled us to bring this awesome show to Bruthen.

Bruthen Art Collective is back and meeting at the rear of the Community Health building in Main Street on Sundays at 2pm to 4.30pm. Come along and see what it is all about. Bring your own creative works or try out the Collective's supplies.

The new Art Collective shed behind the hall is finished and looking great. The extra space means pottery will start soon.

Contact us by email:

bruthenaande@gmail.com or

follow our facebook and Instagram pages.

