

TAMBO RAMBLER

Bruthen and District Newspaper
Produced by Bruthen and District Citizens Association

July

2026

NUMBER 320



Bruthen lights up for WINTERFEST

Photos courtesy of Smith Creative
and Bruthen Arts and Events



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.



Meet The Team



03 5155 3133

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Fire, Friendship & a Whole Lot of Medieval Mayhem!

It was cold.
It was damp.
It rained.

...and still, the people kept coming!

The Bruthen Medieval Winter Fire Festival once again proved that a little winter weather can't dampen community spirit, as hundreds of people rugged up, embraced the medieval magic and helped create another unforgettable night in Bruthen.

From the very beginning, this festival has been about more than knights, Vikings, dragons and bonfires. It is about bringing people together in the depths of winter to celebrate community, creativity, connection and a little glorious medieval madness. Once again, that is exactly what happened.

Behind the scenes, however, was a very different story!

For months, the small but mighty volunteer team from Bruthen Arts & Events Council planned, booked performers and vendors, juggled budgets, ticked endless boxes, crossed fingers, watched weather forecasts far too often and wondered if there would be enough helping hands to pull it all together. (There was..... just!)

From Thursday afternoon the transformation began.

With the incredible support of local volunteers, the East Gippsland Historical Re-enactment Society, Ashen Circle and friends from near and far, bonfires were built, fences erected, the Hall transformed into a magnificent Medieval Great Hall and decorations appeared across the precinct until, almost magically, it looked like a medieval village had sprung to life.

Saturday morning brought the final flurry of activity as food vendors, market stalls and performers arrived, the stage was assembled and, despite the forecast, festival-goers began pouring through the gates.

There were knights and Vikings.

There was duck flinging.

There was jousting.

There was laughter.

There was fire.

There was music.

There were dragons.

And there were hundreds of smiling faces enjoying one of East Gippsland's most unique winter experiences.

Unfortunately, Mother Nature had the final say, with persistent rain forcing WRioT to cancel the planned grand finale performance. As disappointing as that was, electrical equipment and rain simply aren't the best of companions!

Sunday morning brought yet another remarkable display of community spirit, as volunteers

returned, despite the soggy conditions, to dismantle the village they had so lovingly created only days before.

To everyone who braved the weather, donned a cloak, dressed as a knight, Viking, peasant, princess or wizard, launched a duck, cheered at the jousting, gathered around the bonfires or simply came along to soak up the atmosphere.

Thank you.

You are what makes this festival so special.

Bruthen Arts & Events Council would also like to acknowledge our incredible partners and supporters, whose generosity and enthusiasm help make this event possible each year.

A very special thank you to:

- East Gippsland Winter Festival and Adam Bloem and the team, for championing community-led winter events across our region and helping East Gippsland come alive with a month-long celebration of light, fire, food, music, art and culture.

- East Gippsland Historical Re-enactment Society – Sean, Crossy, Grant, Tom and the whole crew. Your passion, amazing skills, professionalism and wonderful sense of fun continue to make this festival truly unique.

- Ashen Circle, for bringing fearless Viking spirit, spectacular combat and glorious medieval mayhem to Bruthen.

- Jacqui Reid and Bruthen & District Neighbourhood House for the terrific market.

Our wonderful sponsors and supporters:

- **Kennards Hire**
- **Tambo Waste**
- **Bruthen Electrical**
- **Bruthen General Store**
- **Tambo Valley Honey**
- **Wildkraft**
- **Bruthen Football Club**

Finally—and perhaps most importantly, thank-you to every single volunteer. Community festivals don't simply happen. They happen because ordinary people give up countless hours to create something extraordinary for everyone else.

From planning meetings to ticket sales, from fencing to firewood, from decorating halls to cleaning toilets, from setting up in the rain to packing down in the rain... our volunteers did it all with generosity, humour and determination.

To every volunteer, every performer, every sponsor, every stallholder, every community group and every person who came through the gates...

Thank you.

We can't wait to do it all again next year. Until then... Huzzah!

Bruthen Arts & Events Council (Bruthen Presents)

Learn Taekwon-Do in Bruthen

Aadi is an accomplished young martial artist who has just moved to Bruthen. He invites anyone aged 7 to adult to come along and enjoy a fun, inclusive, non-contact martial art! Aadi is an accredited instructor with Jung Shin Taekwon-Do Academy, a large martial arts academy with many branches in northern NSW, training under the expertise of Master Damian Burke.

<https://www.facebook.com/jungshin.martialartschool/>

Aadi is a first Dan black belt with many years training in International style Taekwon-Do (ITF), a traditional non-competitive martial art. He is keen to share his love of Taekwon-Do with Bruthen!

Taekwon-Do is a martial art that features kicks and hand strikes. It teaches the 5 tenets of Courtesy, Integrity, Perseverance, Self Control and Indomitable Spirit. Training features non-contact sparring, fun and fitness, board breaks and patterns

of movement. It is safe for all ages and training progresses at your pace. Come and join in for a free trial in the mixed ages family-friendly class! Uniforms and grading are included in the affordable membership package, with family discounts available.

Classes will start first week term 3 (July 13) and will be held Monday and Thursday evenings at Bruthen Mechanics Hall from 5pm- 6.30pm.

Enquiries: 0482172696 or come along and chat to Aadi on the night.

"A black belt is a white belt who never gave up!"

Bruthen Inn Hotel



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Tuesdays open from 5pm

Friday night raffles supporting local sporting clubs—10 draws.

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For enquiries or bookings contact Bruthen Inn Hotel.

Cheers and beers, Stretch

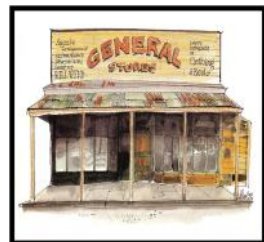
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Bruthen Bowls Club News

First of all, a correction from last month's news - due to a printing error of the raffle tickets, and a legal obligation that was brought to our notice, the raffle was drawn on June 5!

BIG FIREWOOD RAFFLE WINNERS

1st prize: 3 meters of firewood went to Willie Bowlen.

2nd prize: 2 meters of firewood - Paul Newton.

3rd prize: bulk bag mill-ends was won by Mia Reeves.

With grateful thanks, once again, to Wayne and Clare Morgan, and Fenning Timbers, for their generous donations, and congratulations to the lucky winners. Thanks also to everyone who bought tickets in support of the club.

The 'come & try' day on Sunday 14 June was cancelled due to lack of preparation time, with so much else happening in Bruthen in the lead-up to the Winter Festival. We are always looking for new members, and you don't have to be competition-ready (well, not straightaway!!) Coaching and handy

hints, as well as bowls, are available. Look out for our barefoot bowls on alternate Thursday evenings during winter, which is a nice easy introduction to the sport. The dinner menu is different every week, always delicious, and is prepared by volunteers. Our bar prices are very reasonable too.

Our regional primary school competition took place on Tuesday, June 2, in Bairnsdale, and the team came fourth (out of six) against some stiff competition. We have some very enthusiastic youngsters at Bruthen Primary School, and we look forward to next year's competition, and maybe the involvement of more family members too?

Don't forget our clubroom is also available for any social engagements at a very reasonable price. (Bruthen Seniors have lunch here on the first Wednesday of every month). Just contact Len Hooton on 0427 188188, or Don Cameron on 0409 608782 for details, or see us on our active Facebook page. (Email:-bruthenbowls@gmail.com). Last, but by no means least, our AGM will be held on Sunday, July 19 at 2pm in the clubhouse.

Fire on Babylon illuminates East Gippsland

Last month Bruthen was treated to Metung composer and entrepreneur Ernie Glass's latest DREAM production, Fire on Babylon, a tribute to Sinead O'Connor. The show opened with a rousing but rather incongruous recital of "The Man from Snowy River" by Geoff Didier. Production suffered by needing better stage lighting and a muddy sound to begin with.

Geoff broke into "Kisses Sweeter Than Wine", sort of 20's jazz, accompanied on guitar by Mollie, then "The Long Black Veil".

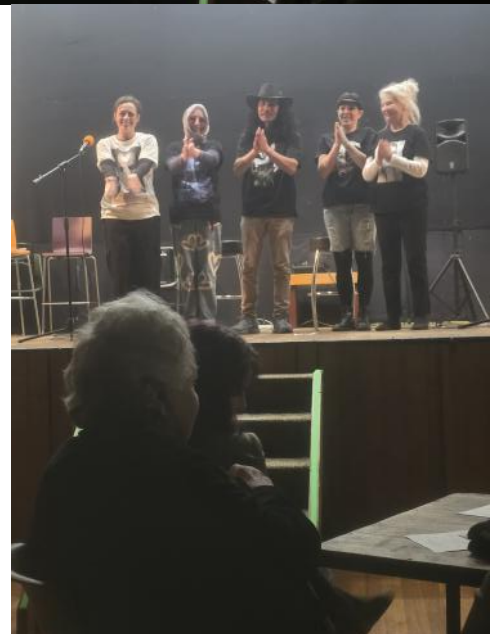
Four girl singers and male guitarist sang "We're Going To Bairnsdale" instead of Jackson which won the locals over.

"I Am Enough", another original by the Journeyman then another original "Chasing The Sun". From "A Star Is Born", "The Shallows" was beautifully rendered.

Then the whole ensemble sang Kris Kristofferson's ode, "Sister Sinead".

The second half opened with "War", then "Take Off Your Shoes". Lovely harmonies on "Fire on Babylon". Great guitars and rich voices on all the Sinead O'Connor covers. There were moments of spoken word detailing her eventful life - her abuse at the hands of her mother till she ran away at 13, her stint in a mental asylum at 18, her bipolar diagnosis, her four tempestuous marriages and other relationships, her cancellation after ripping up the Pope's photo on Saturday Night Live, her son's suicide at 17 and her own suicide a year later from a broken heart at losing the one person she felt loved and understood her. A very tragic life.

The shows in Paynesville and Nowa-Nowa were well-attended, it was a shame not more people ventured out here for this excellent performance.



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

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Target Words

P	N	S
E	A	A
D	L	C

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?

Wintering in Gippsland

So here we are, in the second month of winter (which is defined as running from June to August). And what a mixed bag it's been!

The previous month has been recorded as the warmest June in decades for large parts of eastern Australia. The alpine regions had no snow cover, so it was a lousy start to the supposed ski season. But colder weather in early July has seen significant snowfalls in much of the high country and the Victorian Alps to our north.

These are areas of stunning landscapes, and home to a range of resorts where people come to enjoy skiing, hiking, snowboarding, sled rides with husky dogs, and all sorts of fun in the snow.

When you're travelling into the mountains during the snow season, weather conditions can change quickly and dramatically, and drivers can face wet and icy roads and reduced visibility due to snow, rain and misty conditions. They must carry snow chains which can then be attached as needed to the tyres of the vehicle to get extra traction or grip when roads are affected by snow and/or ice. There will be signage on the roads when chains must be used.

There's so much to see and do when you head up that Great Alpine Road!

Bruthen Seniors

On Wednesday, July 1, lunch for Seniors was provided by Zappit Nest, Bruthen Bullant and served at the Bowls Club.

As well as enjoying a shared meal we had a guest speaker, Moss Marney. This talk was about Men's Health, stressing the importance of regular blood tests by your GP, including PSA, prostate specific antigen.

Not just for Seniors, for younger men too.

Fellow speaker John shared his journey of being diagnosed with Stage 4 prostate cancer with the emphasis on the need for early detection.

I wish to thank both these brave men for speaking out.

Kath G



Be aware of your prostate cancer risks and get checked - late diagnosis of prostate cancer can be deadly.

Call PCFA on 1800 22 00 99
or visit prostate.org.au for
more information.

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**Photos on inside pages
by Tambo Rambler
volunteers.**



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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 and Customer Service July - Dec 2026 West Schedule

What can you do at this mobile service centre?

- Borrow books, CDs, DVDs, audio books and more
- Pick up a Council newsletter and subscribe
- 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 with free internet access
- Have a chat and much more

Mon	Tambo Crossing Swifts Creek Primary** Benambra - neighbourhood house	9.45am - 10.30am 11.00am - 11.30am 2.00pm - 3.00pm
Tue	Bupa Eastwood ## Maddocks Gardens ##	9.00 am 10.00am
Wed	Tambo Upper - near school** Swan Reach Kinder ** Bruthen Main Street Clifton Creek - near tennis courts	9.00am - 10.00am 10.15am - 10.45am 11.15am - 12.30pm 2.00pm - 3.00pm
Thu	Bruthen Kinder ** Swan Reach - near school** Swan Reach Kinder ** Sarsfield - recreation reserve	9.00am - 9.30am 10.00am - 11.00am 11.15am - 11.45am 12.15pm - 1.00pm
Mon	Eagle Point Primary Newlands Arm - old general store Clifton Waters Retirement Village	9.30am - 10.30am 11.00am - 12.00pm 2.30pm - 3.30pm
Tue	Metung - near school** Metung - Patterson park Nungurner - near school** Calvary Lakes Entrance **	9.00am - 10.00am 10.15am - 12.00pm 12.15pm - 12.45pm 2.15pm - 3.00pm
Wed	Ensay Swifts Creek - near steam engine	10.30am - 12.00pm 1.30pm - 3.00pm
Thu	Bairnsdale Christian College** Lindenow Main Street Lindenow Primary**	9.00am - 10.30pm 11.00am - 12.15pm 1.15pm - 2.15pm

Individual sites - roster posters available on request

Closure periods and public holidays highlighted in blue

School holidays highlighted in red

Sites marked** are not visited during school holidays
Sites marked ## only visited the first Green Tuesday of the month
Sites marked with ** only visited on last Yellow Tuesday of the month

Phone (03) 5152 4225
feedback@egipps.vic.gov.au eastgippsland.vic.gov.au



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 (Mossface). 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.

Mossface & Wiseleigh Get to Know Your Neighbour

Mossface and Wiseleigh Memorial Hall recently received a grant to run several social events for the community. The aim is to encourage locals to 'Get to Know Your Neighbour' while also increasing use of the hall. Some suggested events are card/games nights, a local history day, an old-time dance, AFL footy finals on a big screen plus more. Some people will remember putting forward some suggestions at the Christmas party three years ago.

The hall committee would love some help expending this grant and is calling for local residents to contact them if interested.

Email. mossface.wiseleigh.hall@gmail.com or ring Joy on 0490819507.

The Bruthen Hall has been getting more use recently, especially during the East Gippsland Winter Festival. The amazing transformation into a Medieval Great Hall during the Medieval Winter Fire Festival was a special treat.

The Art Collective pottery shed is in the final throes of being finished with painting and a few small things to do before the furniture can be moved in. The hall has an excellent relationship with the Arts and Events Council who are very supportive and appreciative, helping to make it a much-loved facility in Bruthen.

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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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C13151

Bird of the Month: Black Swan

The Black Swan, a familiar sight around East Gippsland, is the only black swan in the world. It is a large, long-necked swan with black plumage, white wing tips that are visible in flight, and a bright red bill tipped with a narrow white band. Juvenile birds are grey with black wing tips and a duller red bill.

Black Swans are found in shallow wetlands throughout Australia except for the far north and are more common in southern Australia. Western Australia's state symbol is the Black Swan.

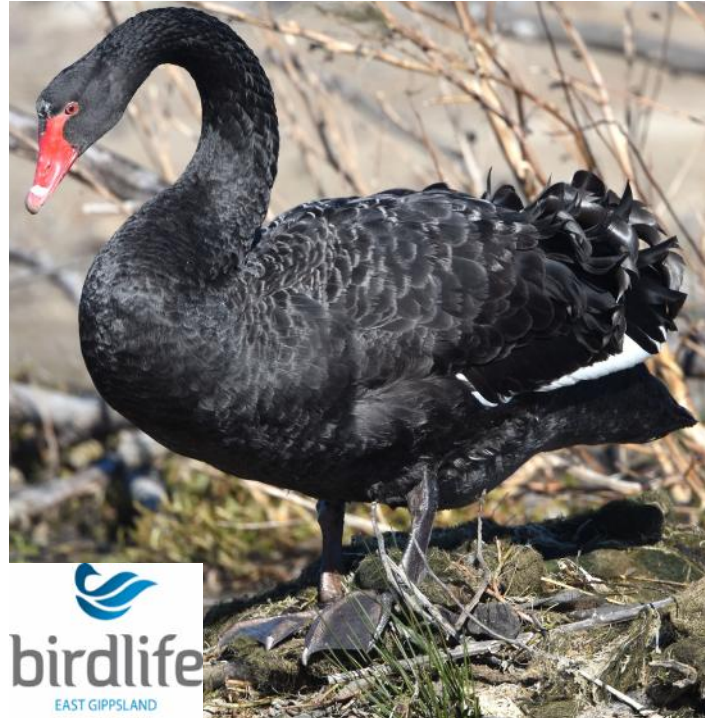
Preferred habitat includes larger salt, brackish or fresh waterways, with the swans requiring 40m or more of clear water to take off in flight. They are common on sheltered marine or estuarine waters, flooded pastureland and ornamental ponds. When not in breeding season, Black Swans travel quite long distances, flying at night and resting during the day with other swans. They fly gracefully with neck fully extended, with frequent chorusing of their distinctive musical bugle.

Black Swans feed on aquatic plants like algae and seagrasses which they access by plunging their long necks into water up to 1m deep, or by up-ending. They occasionally graze on land but are clumsy walkers. They are partially nomadic in response to changing water levels and food availability.

Winter is breeding season. Nests are made of reeds and grasses, either on land close to the water, on a small island or floated in deeper water. They are often re-used, restored or rebuilt annually. Black Swans pair for life, producing one brood per season. Clutch size is up to 10 eggs, with both adults sharing the incubation and cygnet rearing duties. Parent birds will aggressively defend their nests. The cygnets are covered in grey downy feathers and can swim and feed themselves as soon as they hatch. When the young have fledged, the adult birds moult and are unable to fly for up to a month, settling on large open waters for safety.

Black Swans are fully protected in all Australian states and territories. Their conservation status is listed as 'of least concern'.

While they are commonly in shared spaces with people, it is not recommended to feed human snacks, especially bread, to swans (and other waterfowl). Bread fills them up, is too high in protein and lacks the vital nutrients they need from their natural diet. It disrupts natural foraging behaviours



Black Swan at nest G.C.

and pollutes waterways, impacting the aquatic plants they need for a healthy diet. If cygnets eat a lot of bread or grains, they can experience unhealthy accelerated growth. Mouldy bread is toxic and can cause respiratory infection. When visiting parks, reserves and waterways, check local signage for advice about feeding wild birds.

<https://birdlife.org.au/a-guide-to-feeding-wild-birds-in-australia/>

Photo by Gary Cousens.

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

June 2026 Outings Schedule.

DATE	LOCATION	9AM MEETING PLACE
Sunday July 12th	Picnic Point Reserve	Parking area, end of Bredt St. Bairnsdale.
Monday July 20th	Wattle Point & Blond Bay	Wattle Point Rd – Picnic area car park.
Monday July 27th	Strathfieldsaye – Perry Bridge	Entry gate, Corner of Strathfieldsaye & Bombing Range Roads.

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 August issue is July 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.

Bruthen Pets

Blake was adopted from Animal Aid. He arrived there as a 3-year-old whole male cat. Un-desexed tomcats fight and this can lead to FIV, Feline Aids, which suppresses their immune system. This is NOT spread to humans. Blake was vet checked, neutered, vaccinated, microchipped and registered before being adopted by Jacinta.

He is an only cat but has dog brothers!

Blake is an indoor cat but does get taken for walks in the garden wearing a harness on a lead. He also is taken out and about in a backpack or stroller.

Welcome, Blake, to the Bruthen Pet Community

Kath G

