

Mallacoota Recovery Update

MARCH 2022



An update from your Place Manager

I am looking forward to continuing to work closely with the Mallacoota and District Recovery Association (MADRA) and the many active recovery working groups in our community. My ongoing focus is progressing recovery priorities with an emphasis on further inclusion of the broader community priorities and future vision.

I am proud to continue to be a part of a collaborative and place-based approach to our recovery, and to be working alongside my community to overcome the challenges thrown at us over the past few years. It has been groundbreaking work for us all, to undertake bushfire recovery in a global pandemic.

2022 has started well for the district with the announcement of multiple successful grant applications as a result of significant local efforts and with the support of Council. I would like to acknowledge the Mallacoota and district community's hard work, ongoing resilience and optimism, and the many volunteer hours our community continues to dedicate to not just our recovery, but for future renewal.

Welcome event to raise spirits

The National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRA) and Rotary Australia Community Outreach Program visited Mallacoota on Friday 19 February.

Several NRRA and Rotary Community Outreach days were hosted across East Gippsland to provide support and advice on drought, bushfire and flood. The event brought together all levels of government, charities, not-for-profit and agricultural organisations to support farmers, rural and regional communities.



Australian music icon Paul Kelly took to the stage in Mallacoota on 17 March for a free, locals-only Rural Recharge show - a night of entertainment to help lift community spirits. The event was supported by Council and the Victorian Government. A couple of years in the making due to postponements, the concert was worth the wait!

It was an opportunity for these community groups to grab a sausage-sandwich, catch-up with friends and neighbours and find out what support is available during drought and other challenging times. Some in attendance reported this was the first time since the fires they had attended the halls, with many receiving one-on-one personal wellbeing support. Some said they were coming for half an hour to see what was available, and then stayed for two!

Information provided to the community from Council, NRRA, Rotary Australia, The Salvation Army, Red Cross, Rural Aid, Regional Investment Loan, Drought Angels, Landcare, Agriculture Victoria, RFCS, Gippsland Lakes Community Health, National Centre for Farmer Health, Good shepherd, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), The Royal Flying Doctors and Services Australia, Rural Minds and Small Business agencies was well received by those in attendance.

Mallacoota Skate Park

Construction of the skate park is currently out for tender, with this step of the project expected to be finalised in early April. We are working in collaboration with Bendigo Bank's Community Enterprise Foundation, Mallacoota Lions Club, Mallacoota Halls and Recreation Reserve Committee, and the Mallacoota community in the delivery of this exciting redevelopment for the Mallacoota Community and visitors to the area.

The layout of the skate park has been developed by renowned skate park design company Baseplate, with a high level of flow and function, incorporating passive sectioning of areas where you will find that beginner elements start near entry points and become more advanced as you move into the skatepark. We are looking forward to moving into the delivery phase of this project.

Project construction updates will continue to be provided through this update and our Your Say website.

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Mirrabooka Road footpath

The contractor for the footpath redevelopment will commence onsite in March. The 450m footpath will be constructed from Lakeside Drive and along Mirrabooka Road up to the Raheen Drive intersection. A road crossing point will be located near the Lakeside Drive and Mirrabooka Road intersection, on Lakeside Drive.

Upon completion of the new footpath and road crossing, we will be installing guardrail along an 80m section of Mirrabooka Road.

Pittosporum Walk - Stage 1

The Pittosporum Walk is progressing well with the hope that Stage 1, between Mortimers Street and Bastion Point Road, can be opened for public use in early April 2022. We would again like to remind residents and visitors that the entire Pittosporum Walk currently remains 'closed for public use' and is an active worksite. There are still many hazards present along the track that require reconstruction or removal. We appreciate the communities ongoing patience.



Community facilities resilience

We have completed the following works relating to the Community Resilience and Development Program within the Mallacoota District. Bushfire Attack Level Assessment (BAL) completed and results received; electrical switchboard upgrade and installation of a transfer switch in Genoa Hall; Mallacoota and Genoa halls have had AV equipment installed.

In addition to this work, we have collaborated with the Department of Jobs Precincts and Roads (DJPR) and NBN on the completion of thirty-seven Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters (STAND) satellite communication systems on community facilities, complementing the existing eight systems currently installed in our region; Mallacoota Hall being one of the eight. Genoa Hall now also has the STAND system installed.

For more information contact your Place Manager, or project lead Paul Oakes on (03) 5153 9500.

The work on the above initiatives will also assist the efforts currently being undertaken by MADRA in developing a resilience profile and disaster preparedness measures for future events.

To keep informed of Council's major projects, visit the Major Projects Dashboard on our website.

Grants announced

We were pleased to be informed of the multi-million-dollar boost for bushfire-impacted communities across the region by the Federal Government.

Nearly \$30 million has been pledged to support recovery and resilience activities in Gippsland as part of Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program.

To address a broad range of priority community needs, we made several

applications on behalf of community groups or addressing priorities identified by communities. We were successful in our application for the upgrade of the Bairnsdale Aerodrome. As East Gippsland's primary airport and key hub for Air Ambulance Victoria patient transfers, aerial firefighting and emergency response, this infrastructure upgrade is integral to continued operations as a key hub for emergency response and will increase the resilience of our disaster-impacted communities.

For the Mallacoota District, we successfully applied on behalf of the community for the Mallacoota Mudbrick Pavilion upgrade (\$493,628). We recognise the significant efforts of the local community groups in applying for these grants and congratulate those who were successful across the shire.

Successful applications in the Mallacoota district: Mallacoota and District Tool Library (\$124,899); Mallacoota Emergency Services Facility (\$2,570,000); Mallacoota Bowling Club Community Hub (\$85,000); Operation Phoenix The rebuild of the Mallacoota Gun Club (\$276,277), Miva Miva Accessible cottages for the frail impacted by Bushfires (\$2,150,000); Community-Led Recovery & Resilience through Music in the Far East (\$456,480).

We are also aware of the significant disappointment for those who were unsuccessful in their grant applications. We will continue to work closely with those communities, to identify and seek funding for local recovery priorities and be vocal in advocating for funding to support resilience and renewal across the regions. For full details on the successful projects lodged by us visit our website.

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Grant opportunities

The following grant opportunities are currently open to further support your local recovery:

BRV LER Round 3

The final round of Local Community Projects Grants, funded under the Local

Economic Recovery (LER) Program, is now open. The program closes Monday 11 April 2022 11.59 pm.

For more information or to apply, visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/bushfire-recovery-local-community-projects-grants-fund>

Strengthening Rural Communities

Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) have grant funds of up to \$25,000 available to not-for-profit organisations and community groups for projects that support communities in remote, rural or regional Australia with fewer than 15,000 people.

This program is always open for applications. Round 13 is currently open. For more information or to apply, visit <https://frrr.org.au/funding/place/strengthening-rural-communities/>

Community Bushfire Recovery Grants

Grants up to \$75,000 are available to support local projects that strengthen community-led recovery.

This is the second grant round for East Gippsland Community Foundation, which formed in 2021 to support the region's long-term recovery from the 2019-2020 Victorian bushfires.

Michelle Dowsett, Executive Officer of East Gippsland Community Foundation, is encouraging community groups and not for profit organisations to consider applying.

For more information visit www.givetoeastgippsland.org.au

INVITATION - Genoa Pedestrian Bridge - Official Opening

Mayor Cr Mark Reeves and Councillors invite you to join them for the official opening of the Genoa Pedestrian Bridge.

Wednesday 13 April 2022

10.30am

Park Road, Genoa

RSVP: civicevents@egipps.vic.gov.au or by telephone: (03) 5153 9500 by Wednesday 6 April.

This opening event is subject to project completion, following delays in construction due to recent weather events.

The project to build the Genoa Pedestrian Bridge, destroyed by the 2019-20 Black Summer Bushfires, has been led by Council working with the Genoa and district community. Council has fully funded the project.

Please join us for light refreshments onsite after the official proceedings.

Please note, a photographer may be at the event to record the activities for East Gippsland Shire Council. Photographs or videos taken may be used for future publicity and educational materials, including publications and websites. If you do not wish to be photographed, please notify the photographer at the event.



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