

Mallacoota District Recovery Update

SEPTEMBER 2022



Update from Meg

The Mallacoota and District Recovery Association's (MADRA) Annual General Meeting on 16 August saw the establishment of the third iteration of the association. I would like to extend congratulations to returning committee members, welcome new committee members, and sincerely thank outgoing committee members for the huge amount of time, work and effort committed to our community's recovery. It has been a pleasure working closely with you all. A special acknowledgement to Maggie Langdon, MADRA Administration Officer, for the many hours of preparation and dedication she awarded to make the event run smoothly. It was a great night and wonderful to see so many people in good spirits. I look forward to continuing to work closely with MADRA and the extended community to progress our ongoing recovery, resilience, and preparedness work.

Road signs

Wangrabelle and Wroxham localities have recently received new road signs to replace those damaged by the fires.

Snapshot of capital projects 2022-23

\$1.4m across Mallacoota and District:

Mallacoota Mudbrick Pavilion upgrade: The project will move to detailed design before Christmas.

Mallacoota streetscape: Community consultation is completed, and we are awaiting detailed design. Construction is expected to start early in 2023 after the holiday season.

Mallacoota Foreshore Holiday Park toilet blocks: Block 1 will be upgraded this financial year. Work will be scheduled around peak periods.

Further funding for shire-wide projects that will strengthen future resilience include:

\$281,000 Static water tanks
\$845,000 Stormwater infrastructure
\$350,000 Gravel road renewal

Mallacoota Airport update

Staff from the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) and Council have been working hard to reintroduce instrument flight procedures at Mallacoota Airport.

Meetings over the past two weeks have established a clear plan to transition the airport to certification and to reintroduce the Terminal Instrument Flight Procedures.

A validation flight has already been completed. Subject to documents being submitted to CASA within agreed timeframes, we plan to reintroduce the instrument procedures on 6 October by returning the airport to certified status.

Pilots are reminded to review before flight the Aeronautical Information Publications (AIP) and Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) for the latest information regarding the status of the aerodrome and its instrument approach procedures.

Mallacoota Airport remains open and functional and will continue to be operational during the transition period.

Note: This is a joint statement from CASA and Council and follows our

commitment at a meeting on August 9 in Mallacoota to report back to the community on progress to transition the airport to certification.

Rental accommodation shortages

To support people in our community struggling to find rental properties, we have moved to encourage property owners to put secondary properties into the local rental market. Ratepayers with secondary properties will get a letter from Council with their rates notices, asking them to consider the rental market. This approach has been taken by other councils with some success. More than 80 homes were made available for rental after the Black Summer Bushfires in the Eurobodalla in response to their Council's request. If that generosity is shown here, many people finding it difficult to get into the rental market will benefit. To read more on what we are doing to assist, visit <https://bit.ly/3RI308a>

If you're considering putting your property into the rental market, please contact a local real estate agent as a priority.

Foot and Mouth Disease

We recently moved to reassure the region's farmers, who were drought affected and bushfire affected, that we have been proactive in preparing for any impacts related to the overseas outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). Agriculture Victoria officers recently briefed Council on the risk FMD could have on Victoria's farming industry.

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The East Gippsland Livestock Exchange is prepared for any FMD outbreak. The facility has a saleyard standstill plan and all agents who sell through the yards have been briefed on its detail. All livestock that are sold or go through the yards in transit are traceable via the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS), and staff are in the process of sourcing equipment such as foot baths and personal protective equipment to ensure they are fully resourced if an outbreak occurs.

With these exceptional biosecurity practices the facility is one of the safest and most bio-secure facilities in the region. We encourage all farmers to stay vigilant in their NLIS practices and ensure their farm biosecurity plans are up to date. For more information about Foot and Mouth Disease, upcoming workshops and the precautions you can take, please visit the Agriculture Victoria website: <https://bit.ly/3R1Xvf2>

International study targets East Gippsland farmers

International researchers have approached East Gippsland Shire Council to collaborate on worldwide research looking into the impacts of extreme events on farmers.

Lund University, in conjunction with the University of Montana (United States), is surveying agricultural producers in

the United States (Montana), Sweden (Skane), Bangladesh, Cambodia, Martinique and East Gippsland.

Dr Guy Jackson, from Lund University Centre of Sustainable Studies, said they are reaching out to specifically understand the experiences of East Gippsland and Wellington agricultural producers who have experienced extreme weather events, such as drought, heatwaves, floods and bushfires.

The opportunity to share lived experiences of some of the most challenging circumstances with international researchers is testament to what our farmers have been through, their resilience, and that East Gippsland is a valued contributor to this sector.

The survey and related information can be accessed at: <https://bit.ly/3cvkLdf>

Surveys are also available at Council's customer service centres and libraries or by contacting Agricultural Development Officer Kaylene Wickham.

Fruit tree grafting workshop

A fruit tree grafting workshop held at the end of August at the Genoa Hall was a welcome event for community and one of many workshops held across East Gippsland. It provided an opportunity to come together

to share food, stories, and at the same time learn from the wonderful Neil Barraclough from the Heritage and Rare Fruit Network. Neil shared his knowledge and skills on fruit tree grafting, planting, ongoing care, and provided people with free grafted fruit trees. These workshops were supported by Council and funded in partnership with Regional Development Victoria and GIVIT.

Grants available

East Gippsland Community Foundation has grants available with applications closing 9 October:

- Youth specific grant - maximum \$50,000; available to support local projects that strengthen youth recovery.
- Small community grant - maximum \$5,000; available to support events, projects, and minor equipment purchases.

Both grants are aimed at community groups, incorporated entities, and associations to support their recovery.

For further information on the grants, visit www.GiveToEastGippsland.org.au/grants/ or contact your Place Manager.



Neil Barraclough from the Heritage and Rare Fruit Network held a fruit tree grafting workshop.



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