

Summer Bulletin

Strathbogie Shire Council – December 2022



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A message from our Mayor

I would like to extend a huge congratulations to our community for the way we came together during the recent flooding events throughout our Shire.

We were as prepared as we could be, and we worked under the guidance of Incident Controller Victorian State Emergency Services during the event itself.

As a Council, we would like to thank the community, emergency services and Council staff who stepped up during this time.

We are now in recovery mode so please ensure to read the information in this Bulletin regarding the next steps.

While it might seem like summer is never going to arrive, we are also reminding the community that the Fire Danger Period could be declared by the Country Fire Authority soon. There are several rules that come along with that and we encourage you to check the CFA website for regular updates to the Fire Danger Period.

There is also a new Fire Danger Rating system and you can read how it works in this newsletter.

We are also very excited to round out 2022 by inviting interested community members to sign up to be a part of Council's Community Panel.

This concept is a first for our Shire and we are proud to introduce this new approach to ensure best practice engagement into the future.

In addition, we are calling on community members and groups to submit their ideas for our Pitch My Project initiative leading into next year, so we are well and truly prepared to include the projects in next year's Draft Budget.

Council will take a short break over the festive season, and we hope you can take time to relax, catch up with your loved ones and make the most of our community pools during the summer period.






Have a safe and happy new year.




Mayor Cr Laura Binks

Visit our website by scanning the QR code



Strathbogie
SHIRE COUNCIL

 **Freecall 1800 065 993**
 info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au
   @strathbogieshire

 www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au
 www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au
 www.strathbogiestory.com

Exciting times for our Shire



Euroa takes out Victorian Tidy Town of the Year Award

On 23 November, Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria presented the town of Euroa with the 2022 Tidy Towns trophy.

The community came together for a ceremony at the Euroa Arboretum, which won a Premier's Regional recognition award in this years Premier's Sustainability Awards, and they celebrated the towns remarkable efforts to work towards a more sustainable future.



1. Strathbogie Shire youth band YNOT were among those to take part in Kool Skools

2. State funding for a Mountain Bike Trail feasibility study

3. A portable exhibition space, ARTBOX, will soon be circulating around our region

"Strathbogie Shire Council is so incredibly proud of Euroa for winning the Keep Australia Beautiful Victorian Tidy Town of the Year Award," Strathbogie Shire Council Mayor Cr Laura Binks said.

"It is a huge honour for our community to be recognised for its incredible work when it comes to our environment and sustainability.

"Congratulations to all involved in taking out this very prestigious award."

Youth updates

There has been some exciting things happening for Strathbogie Shire's youth recently.

An awesome CD launch event was held in Violet Town recently to celebrate the Kool Skools Program where some of the Shire's talented young musicians recorded a CD at Empire Records in Melbourne.

Youth who are interested in agricultural-based careers recently attended an informative networking breakfast event. They heard from guest speakers and had the chance to connect with local education providers and services.

Stay up to date with youth events happening over the summer period via Council's website or social media platforms.



Balmattum Hill Mountain Bike Trail a step closer

Strathbogie Shire Council has received state government funding to complete a feasibility study for a Mountain Bike Trail on Balmattum Hill at Euroa.

The project was one of 38 to recently receive funding from the Victorian Government's Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund (RJIF).

Strathbogie Shire Council Mayor Cr Laura Binks said the funding received would be used to carry out a feasibility study to determine all aspects of the potential trail.

ARTBOX coming your way

Strathbogie Shire Council is excited to announce a portable exhibition space, ARTBOX, will soon be circulating around our region.

Mayor Cr Laura Binks said the initiative, currently undergoing the pilot program in Huon Valley Council in Tasmania, is a unique method to promote professional and emerging artists and makers.

"The box's design has been improved to enhance its sustainability and features. Once installed, the shipping container design - ARTBOX - will support community arts and culture projects throughout Strathbogie Shire. The schedule and rotation of locations is currently being considered by Council staff," she said.

Council was successful in acquiring this infrastructure project funding through Creative Victoria under the Creative Neighbourhoods Infrastructure Program.

Cr Binks said ARTBOX comes after results from a 2021 arts and culture survey showed community support for micro galleries and public art.



Pitch My Project returns for 2022/23



Strathbogie Shire residents - it's time to pitch your idea!

Strathbogie Shire Council's annual Pitch my Project initiative is now open for ideas to include in the 2023/24 Budget.

And, as part of our commitment to continually improving our engagement this year we'll put the final decision making into the hands of the community through a participatory budgeting exercise.

1. A shire-wide Playground Masterplan, incorporating detailed design of a nature play space at Seven Creeks, was funded in 2021/22.

2. Violet Town's Southern Aurora Gardens received funding from Pitch My Project 2021/22

3. A Longwood Master Plan received Pitch My Project 2021/22 funding

We want our community to be involved in every step of the development of our 2023/24 Budget. This means we're making sure we fund the projects and initiatives that matter to our residents.

Council has \$300,000 for Pitch My Project as part of the 2023/24 annual budget. Each of the six Strategic Focus Areas within the Council Plan will receive \$50,000.

Since we launched the Pitch my Project initiative, we're proud to have funded more than 20 incredible ideas from our community.

This year we're extending the 'pitch' timeframe and our community will have more than three months to pitch their ideas.

We've also released guidelines which include a clear assessment process, and the successful applications will be put to the community to decide which make it into the 2023/24 Budget.

By putting the decision into the hands of our community we are showing our commitment to truly meaningful community involvement.

When it's time to vote we'll put all successful projects on our engagement platform www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au, but we'll also be hitting the streets to ensure everyone has the opportunity to have their say.



But first, it's time to pitch your ideas. Head to www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au to read the guidelines and get pitching.

The pitch period will close at 5pm on Friday, March 3, 2023.



Join our Community Panel!

We want to develop fantastic solutions together. So... we're asking our community to help us.



Strathbogie Shire Council has been working hard on improving its community engagement.

Our goal is to strengthen community representation in our decision making. We know that we make better decisions when we're working with our community.

Last year we held our first ever deliberative forum to develop our Community Vision and Council Plan.

We want to increase opportunities for genuine, meaningful and informed participation.

Our aim is to ensure that future engagement methods are established, structured and operate in the most effective and efficient manner, while adding value to the projects we deliver to the community.

Council wants to have positive and proactive conversations with our community.

We want to see projects, plans and strategies progressing quickly and meeting the needs of our community.

We want to see modern engagement methods, that make it easy for people to find out information and have their say and reach a broad audience.

We want to be able to work through problems together, to feel we can be brave and share these problems with our community.

This is why Council recently endorsed the establishment of a Community Panel.

The panel is a new approach to ensure best practice engagement into the future.

It is in addition to broad community engagement - and we will always provide opportunities for our whole community to share their thoughts feedback and advice.

We want to develop fantastic solutions together. So... we're asking our community to help us achieve this.



Put up your hand to join our Community Panel by visiting www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au



Help for flood-affected businesses and properties

The Victorian and Australian governments have announced funding support to flood affected people, families and businesses across Victoria – this includes Strathbogie Shire.

The Flood Recovery Hotline 1800 560 760 is a single, state-wide number that Victorians impacted by the October 2022 floods can call for help with:



Navigating available support, clean-up, temporary accommodation, mental health and wellbeing support. The Flood Recovery Hotline **1800 560 760** is open from 7.30am to 7.30pm every day.

Visit www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au where you can find links to a number of recovery support links including relief payments for households, small businesses, primary producers and more.

Road Impacts

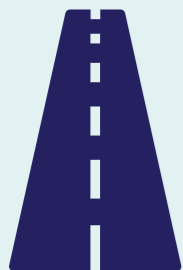
We are urging people to please take care driving on our rural roads which have been significantly impacted by flood.

Our team continues to respond as quickly as possible to ongoing matters arising from the floods however we know many many road surfaces have deteriorated to a point where some sections are difficult for drivers to navigate without significant reductions in speed. Please drive safely and to the conditions of the road.

Strathbogie Shire has more than 2210km of roads – 1465km unsealed and 748km sealed. On top of this there are 521 bridges and culverts to maintain.

We know poor road conditions are frustrating for our community and we are working as hard as we can, but there is no quick fix and we are not keeping up.

We are advocating to State and Federal governments for funding. Recently our Council moved a motion at the Municipal Association of Victoria's conference to lead a state-wide advocacy campaign calling on the Victorian Government to increase funding for road maintenance. Our motion was supported unanimously.



1. Strathbogie Shire Council Mayor Cr Laura Binks recently chauffeured Strathbogie Shire Council Senior Engineer Jeeva Ali to conduct assessments on road damage caused by recent flooding.

2. Retired former Member for Euroa Steph Ryan, Member for Nichols Sam Birrell, Mayor Cr Laura Binks conducted a tour of flood affected businesses.

3. Triaging our repairs to ensure our most used roads are repaired first.



We ask our community to please be understanding. We may not get to your road tomorrow, next week or even next month. We are triaging our repairs to ensure our most used roads are repaired first. You can submit a road request through our online portal at www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au

Transfer Stations

Council will be **waiving fees** for flood waste to our Transfer Stations until the end of 2022. See page 8 for information on Transfer Station opening hours during the festive season.

Share your thoughts on flood recovery

Council conducted pop-up sessions with its Mobile Flood Recovery Hub during early December 2022.

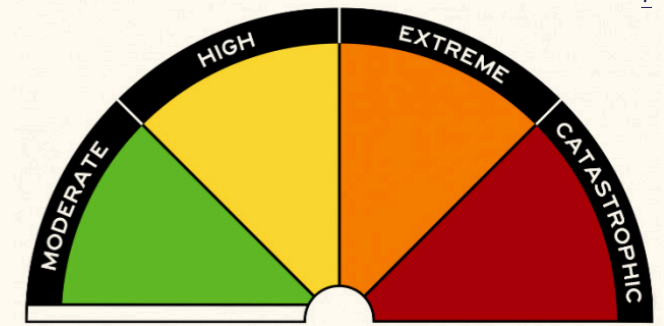
This followed on from a dedicated Flood Recovery Team conducting one-on-one visits to affected households and businesses who had registered with Council.

We are still eager to hear your thoughts and we are calling on our community to have their say via our online engagement platform Share Strathbogie.

Simply visit www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/flood-recovery where you can share your thoughts (either privately or publicly).



New Australia-wide fire danger ratings in place



Catastrophic

For your survival, **leave bush fire risk areas**

As of 1 September 2022, Fire Danger Ratings have changed across Australia.

Each year, the CFA declares the Fire Danger Period for each municipality.

At the time of printing Strathbogie Shire is yet to enter this period. Updates on when the Fire Danger Period begins can be found on the CFA website.

Fire Danger Ratings are incredibly important to monitor during the Fire Danger Period. The ratings provide information so people in affected areas can take action to protect themselves and others. The higher the fire danger, the more dangerous the conditions and the greater the impact will be if a fire starts.

Extreme

Take action now to protect your life and property

The new system uses better technology and research to determine fire danger ratings. It was developed using feedback from one of Australia's largest surveys of communities.

High

Be ready to act

The new ratings are designed to be easier to understand and provide clear advice about actions to take.

Moderate

Plan and prepare

There are now four Fire Danger Rating levels. When no Fire Danger Rating is issued, the arrow will point to a white 'no rating' level.

Protect yourself against mozzies

The Victorian Government has announced that Japanese Encephalitis (JE) vaccine is recommended and available for specific priority groups, including people who may be exposed to the virus where they live or work.



Wodonga Council will be offering Japanese Encephalitis (JE) vaccination at special Japanese Encephalitis only vaccination sessions to priority groups.

You can find a list of the eligibility criteria at www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases/japanese-encephalitis-virus



The JE vaccination is now available free of charge to those in the priority groups. To book an appointment for JE vaccination, please phone Wodonga Council on **1800 655 360**. JE vaccination is also available through certain pharmacies and GP's.

For further information on Japanese Encephalitis and other mosquito borne diseases and mosquito bite prevention, refer to the Beat the Bite website on the Better Health Channel: www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/campaigns/beat-the-bite

In brief



Sign up for our eNews

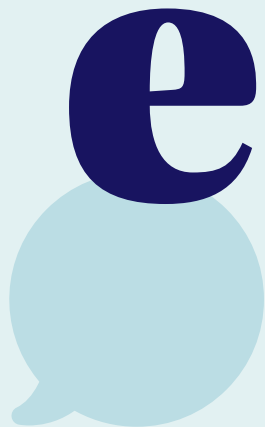
Council's monthly eNews bulletin is another way to keep you up to date on the latest news, information and work of Strathbogrie Shire Council.

You can sign up by scanning the QR code or visiting the Strathbogrie Shire Council website homepage and providing your email address.

Have your say

Strathbogrie Shire Council's online engagement portal Share Strathbogrie enables community members to have their say on our important projects.

It's updated regularly so we encourage you to visit often and have your say.



There are currently some great projects open for engagement on Share Strathbogrie including Council's Community Panel page.



Not only is this a chance for you to sign up to our Community Panel (see pages 4-5 for more information), you can also provide feedback on Council's engagement with our community.

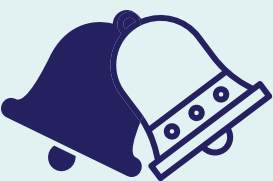
Read our Draft Community Engagement Strategy and provide your thoughts - either on the page or directly to Council.

Visit Share Strathbogrie www.share.strathbogrie.com.au where you will be able to view and engage with several Council's current projects.

Opening Hours: December 2022 and January 2023

Council offices in Euroa and Nagambie will close at noon on Thursday December 24, 2022 reopening at 8.45am on Tuesday January 3, 2023. If you have an emergency during this time, we will be here to help! Please phone **1800 065 993** and follow the prompts.

Council's Transfer Stations will operate as per usual, however, the facilities will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.



1. New Year's Eve Fireworks, Nagambie

2 & 3. 'Seriously Red' and 'Lyle Lyle Crocodile' screening in January 2023 at Euroa Community Cinema

Upcoming events

December 31 - New Year's Eve Fireworks, Nagambie

January 26 - Australia Day Celebrations, events to be held in Avenel, Euroa, Longwood, Nagambie, and Violet Town

January 28 - Paddle Victoria Sprint State Championships, Nagambie

February 18 - Nagambie Regatta

February 25 - Nagambie On Water (NOW) Festival

February 25 - Longwood Beer Wine and Cider Festival

March 4 - Rowing Victoria State Championship Regatta, Nagambie

March 25 - Ruffartz Outdoor Concert (Phil Para Band), Ruffly



To view more upcoming events in 2023, visit www.strathbogrie.vic.gov.au/things-to-do/events/whats-on/

Euroa Community Cinema

Screenings are held regularly on Saturdays at 7.30pm and Sundays at 4pm, unless otherwise stated.

There are additional special screenings during the school holidays and on the first Friday of the month.

You can also vote on monthly community choice screenings by visiting www.share.strathbogrie.vic.gov.au/euroa-community-cinema

The Cinema is Council managed and is overseen by an operating committee made up of Council staff and local volunteers. A group of dedicated community members volunteer their time to screen movies as projectionists and operating the kiosk and ticket box.



To view upcoming screenings and more, visit www.strathbogrie.vic.gov.au/things-to-do/euroa-community-cinema/