

Strathbogie Shire | August 2024

Community Update

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We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we strive, the peoples of the rivers and the hills of the Strathbogie Shire region who walked these lands for generations. We pay our respects to the elders of the past, and the speakers of the first words, who lived in harmony with this country.

Our Community Update is printed locally on 100% recycled paper.
Cover image. Local musicians performing at Winter Wonderland.



Winter Wonderland

Embracing the winter spirit, the towns of Nagambie, Avenel, and Euroa hosted this year's Winter Wonderland event.

Over three weekends in August, free ice-skating and various fun activities were offered on an inflatable ice-skating rink.

This family-friendly event introduced many to the joy of skating. Staff were on hand to provide instruction and assist with skates, helmets, and kangaroo trolleys for younger children.

The high participation numbers and the smiles on our younger residents' faces made it clear this event will long be remembered.

This event was made possible through funding from the Australian and Victorian Governments, provided via the Community Recovery Hub grant, a flood disaster recovery initiative.



ARTBOX TURNS ONE

ARTBOX, Strathbogie's very own travelling art space, has reached its one-year anniversary.

Since launching the portable exhibition space in June 2023, ARTBOX has been embraced by residents, creatives and visitors of all ages with more than 30 artists exhibiting across the Shire.

The next ARTBOX will be at Avenel with Angus Cameron exhibiting in August and Avenel Arts and Crafts in September. The ARTBOX will then head to Ruffy with Isobel Morphy-Walsh exhibiting in October and Shlomit Moria exhibiting in November.



More than 30 artists exhibited



Scan here or visit strathbogie.vic.gov.au/artbox to find out more or book the exhibition space.

AVENEL ARTS IN SEPTEMBER

Join the Avenel community for these free September Arts Festival activities and exhibitions.

Avenel Arts & Crafts Exhibition, ARTBOX
5 - 24 September

Avenel Primary School Art Show
Friday 6 September 5pm - 6.30pm
Sunday 8 September 10am - 12pm

Strathbogie Artists Exhibition, Nomad Art,
Saturday 7 September (food and music)

Avenel Arts & Craft Exhibition Launch/Opening with local music and speaker*
Sunday 8 September (Avenel Market)

Nomad Art Printmaking Workshop*
Sunday 29 September 10 - 4pm
Maximum 8 people - bookings essential

For updated information visit:
www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au

*Funded by the Australian and Victorian Governments through the Community Recovery Hub grant, a flood disaster recovery initiative.

Sustainable solutions

TEXTILE RECOVERY SUCCESS



Strathbogie Shire residents have saved nearly 8 tonnes of textiles from going to landfill in the first eight months of the textile waste initiative at the Shire's four transfer stations.

Textile recovery boxes were introduced at Nagambie, Euroa, Violet Town and Avenel Transfer Stations in November 2023.

People can donate clean and dry clothing, shoes, underwear, home textiles, accessories and soft toys.

Project partner Upcycle4Better collects the donated textiles for free and delivers them to a sorting facility.

Textiles saved from landfill from November 2023 - June 2024

Avenel Transfer Station	752kg
Euroa Transfer Station	4033kg
Nagambie Transfer Station	764kg
Violet Town Transfer Station	2251kg

Nearly 8 tonnes of textiles saved from landfill since November 2023.



TIPS

You can find opening hours and locations for Council's Transfer Stations and Collection Points on the Council website: strathbogie.vic.gov.au/transfer-stations



NAGAMBIE TIP SHOP OPEN

We're turning one person's trash into another person's treasure at the newly opened Nagambie Transfer Station Tip Shop.

The Tip Shop sells second-hand items including furniture, household goods, garden equipment and construction items with prices starting at \$1.

You can grab a bargain, save reusable goods from landfill and reduce disposal fees - a win for the environment and the hip pocket.

Items will be accepted at the transfer station operator's discretion and will depend on space available at the time.

COOL CANOPIES PROJECT

Our Cool Canopies project has entered its second year with 350 trees planted in Avenel, Nagambie and Euroa this autumn and winter.

The Cool Canopies plantings are supported through Council's Tree Management Plan and Climate Action Plan with \$235,000 available over three years with a mixture of species on town streets.

Once grown, the trees will provide a canopy for much needed shade which will reduce environmental temperatures, provide valuable habitat in urban areas, and increase biodiversity.



350 street trees planted this year

Community in action

NOMINATE A LOCAL LEGEND

Recognise an outstanding volunteer in your community by nominating them as a Local Legend.

Nominations close on 30 September with a special celebration planned later in the year.



Nominate a Local Legend and find more information at share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/local-legends



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Learn new skills, meet new people and make a positive contribution to your community by volunteering locally.

We're looking for people to join our volunteers at the Nagambie and Euroa Visitor Information Centres and the Euroa Community Cinema.



Scan the QR code or call 1800 065 993 for information.



LOCAL EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS

Call out for Kirwans Bridge community members to share their knowledge and join a steering committee to create a Local Emergency Action Plan (LEAP).

Building on plans developed by Avenel, Euroa and Violet Town communities and in progress for Nagambie and Strathbogie Tablelands, the LEAP steering committee will help tailor content and suggestions for the Kirwans Bridge community.

Register on the Share Strathbogie engagement portal or contact Council's Customer Service team on 1800 065 993.

Closing Friday 30 August.

To find out more, scan the code or visit share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/LEAP



CHANGE ROOMS FUNDED

Women and girls will soon have female-friendly change rooms at the Longwood Recreation Reserve thanks to funding from Sport and Recreation Victoria announced last month.

The \$686,825 project is part of the Longwood Recreation Reserve Master Plan and is possible thanks to \$549,460 from Sport and Recreation Victoria's Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund, \$50,075 from Longwood Football Netball Club and \$87,290 from Strathbogie Shire Council, including in-kind contributions.

The project is included in Council's 2024-25 capital works program.

1. The Hon Jaclyn Symes, Member for Northern Victoria, Council Administrator Peter Stephenson, representatives from the Longwood Football Netball Club, Longwood Community Centre and Council staff.



HAVE YOUR SAY

Strathbogie Shire Council's online engagement portal, Share Strathbogie, enables community members to have their say on a range of important projects.

You can contribute ideas, provide feedback, and exchange views with others to help shape key decisions and priorities in the community.

Projects are updated regularly.



Scan the QR code or visit share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au for the latest projects.

Council elections

INFO

For session details and registration, scan the QR code, visit strathbogie.vic.gov.au/elections or telephone 1800 065 993.



Strathbogie Shire Council will return to elected Councillors when the local government elections take place across Victoria in October.

We will move from wards to an unsubdivided municipality represented by seven Councillors.

The Victorian Electoral Commission will conduct the postal election.

We've prepared a range of information for voters and candidates in the lead up to the elections.

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Thinking of nominating or know someone who you think would make a good Councillor?

Find out what's involved in being a Councillor and what to expect if you are elected. Access a range of information from Strathbogie Shire Council, Local Government Victoria, the Municipal Association of Victoria and the Victorian Local Governance Association.

Check upcoming sessions, watch previous recordings and access a range of information about Council and being a Councillor.

WWW.VEC.VIC.GOV.AU

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) website has key dates, how to nominate and how to vote.



BOOK A CONFIDENTIAL CANDIDATE 1:1 SESSION

30-minutes with Administrator Peter Stephenson and Interim CEO Tim Tamlin.

Check the latest dates online or book another time by contacting Council.



CONTACT ADMINISTRATOR

Peter Stephenson was appointed Administrator last year when Council was suspended. He was a Municipal Monitor at the Shire prior to his latest appointment.

He is available to carry out a range of civic functions previously undertaken by the Mayor and Councillors - including discussing constituent matters and conducting Council meetings.

Peter's appointment will cease on election day - 26 October 2024.

Contact: 0460 802 154 or email peter.stephenson@strathbogie.vic.gov.au

WELCOME INTERIM CEO

Tim Tamlin joined Strathbogie Shire Council as Interim CEO in July. Prior to this he has held a number of roles as CEO and Interim CEO at Councils including South Gippsland, Campaspe and Kingston. He has also worked in the private sector, most recently in the waste recycling sector, and has a background in road construction and major projects.

Tim's appointment will focus on supporting the elections and induction program and assisting the newly elected Council to appoint a permanent Chief Executive Officer next year.

Budget 2024-25

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICE FOCUS

Highlights of the capital and operating budget for 2024-25 include:

- Increased funding for road rehabilitation and resealing including a dedicated road reseal preparation crew.
- New information technology to improve customer service including online service delivery.
- Female-friendly change rooms at the Longwood Recreation Reserve. *(Now fully funded – see story on page 4)*
- \$300k for six Pitch My Project initiatives and \$163k for Community Strengthening and Reducing Emission grants.

Major projects for the year included in the operating budget and the 2024-25 Council Plan Action Plan include:

- Strategic planning studies for flood controls, rural residential land use, urban growth and town plans as well as development of the Euroa Railway Precinct Master Plan, a Public Open Space Contributions Policy and an Environmentally Sustainable Development Policy.
- Conduct of the election, induction of new Councillors and preparation of a new 4-Year Council Plan and associated strategic plans.
- Strategy and plan updates and implementation including Arts Strategy, Social Inclusion Strategy, Play and Open Space Strategy, Active and Connected Walking and Cycling Strategy, Climate Change Action Plan, Domestic Waste Water Management Plan, Drainage Strategy, Information Technology Strategy, Customer Service Charter Review and Civic Accommodation Options Study.
- Roll out of the new four-bin system to introduce glass recycling.
- Ongoing advocacy on a range of items including telecommunications, power and bridge and road funding.

\$13.59M CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM



Roads
\$4.63m



Bridges
\$1.57m



Drainage
\$874k



Plant and equipment
\$1.9m



Footpaths cycleways
\$344k



Buildings
\$1.2m



Parks, open space and streetscapes
\$2.06m



Recreational, leisure and community facilities
\$1.02m

Plus \$7m to maintain roads, bridges, footpaths, drains and reserves in the \$37.8m operating budget for service delivery and maintenance.

Scan the QR code or visit our website to find out more about the budget and upcoming works program for 2024-25.

PITCH MY PROJECT

Six projects were endorsed for this year's Pitch My Project initiative, with \$50,000 allocated to each project following a public vote.

- Avenel Memorial Hall Generator
- Euroa Branding Project Stage 2
- Euroa Strathbogie Shire Art Trail
- Longwood Nature Play Space Stage 2
- Ruffy Tablelands Centre Verandah
- Strathbogie Walking Path *(provisionally approved subject to Department of Environment and Climate Action advice and direction regarding native vegetation impacts).*

Capital works

Road and footpath safety improvements, streetscape enhancements, recreation upgrades and toilet replacements are among more than \$12 million in capital works projects delivered last financial year, or recently started. We've featured some of the highlights from the last few months below.

NAGAMBIE-LOCKSLEY ROAD



A new bridge and road realignment on the Nagambie-Locksley Road has improved safety and visibility at the Charles Creek crossing with nearly \$2 million of works recently completed.

Pothole patching is underway in August and September in preparation for resealing early next year as part of a \$720,000 works program along Creightons Creek Road, Euroa-Strathbogie Road, Spring Creek Road and Merton-Strathbogie Road.

LIGHT TOWERS, NAGAMBIE



The project is funded through Council and the Sport and Recreation Victoria Local Sports Infrastructure Fund and was developed in partnership with the Recreation Reserve Committee of Management.

Sports enthusiasts can now train at night under the new \$530,600 light towers at Nagambie Recreation Reserve. The lighting at the oval and revamped netball courts extends playing and training hours.

Ageing toilets in Nagambie's main street are now open with new facilities which are easier to clean and will need less ongoing maintenance.

STREETSCAPE, STRATHBOGIE

The \$373,000 for this project is funded through the Local Roads Community Infrastructure Program.



New kerb and channel and other safety and visual amenity improvements have been delivered around the Memorial Hall and median strip.

SALEYARDS TRUCK WASH, EUROA

The project is partly funded thanks to \$165,000 from the Federal Government's Drought Communities program.

Euroa saleyards is getting a new state-of-the-art truck wash facility with a \$642,000 project underway delivering a drive through, double-bay wash facility suitable for B-Double trucks – improving access, safety and biosecurity.

BICENTENNIAL PARK, EUROA



Inspired by survey responses by local children the \$240,000 revamp of Bicentennial Park Play Space in Euroa features adventure play equipment, shade sails and a bike education track.

TOILET REFURBISHMENT



Events, eNews markets & more

eNews

Scan the QR code to sign up.



Our monthly eNews helps keep our community up to date on the latest news, events and projects happening in Strathbogrie Shire.

Get the latest news delivered to your inbox – just scan the QR code to sign up or go to the home page of our website at www.strathbogrie.vic.gov.au

Pssst! Pass it on to family and friends – nobody wants to be the last to know.



SENIORS FESTIVAL 2024

Celebrate the Victorian Seniors Festival with a free live concert for local seniors on Sunday 27 October.

Sway along as the Goulburn Valley Concert Orchestra takes you on a musical journey through jazz, pop, baroque and classical styles.

This seniors-only event kicks off at 11am in the Violet Town Community Complex, 35 Cowslip Street.

Bookings are essential – scan the QR code or visit www.strathbogrie.vic.gov.au



EVENTS

For event information scan the QR code, visit www.strathbogrie.vic.gov.au/things-to-do/events/whats-on/ or phone Council on 1800 065 993.



LOCAL MARKETS

Live music, well-stocked markets and family-friendly fun are regularly on offer in Strathbogrie Shire.

There's a market on every weekend:

Go Nagambie Market	1st Saturday
Violet Town Market	2nd Saturday
Avenel Community Market	2nd Sunday
Euroa Farmers' Market	3rd Saturday
Nagambie Farmers' Market	4th Sunday



EUROA COMMUNITY CINEMA

An upgrade to the Euroa Community Cinema toilet facilities means the cinema will be closed until renovations are complete.

Sign-up to the cinema email list on our website or follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates and reopening.

The Cinema is supported by Council, and is operated by a dedicated group of volunteers. Visit our website if you'd like to join this amazing team.

PARKRUN EVENTS

All ages and abilities can run, or walk at their own pace, or volunteer at parkrun.

When: Every Saturday 8am

Nagambie Lake parkrun: Starts at the foreshore, Blaney Lane, Nagambie

Euroa parkrun: Starts at Sevens Creek Park, Kirkland Ave, Euroa

Distance: 5km (2km juniors)

Register for this free event at www.parkrun.com.au

1. Parkrun Nagambie participants
2. Fun at the Violet Town Market