



Bendoc Wheel

bendocpa@bigpond.com 02 64581531 Bendoc.org.au



BENDOC NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

**TUES WED FRI
9.00-2.00**

**LAST DAY FOR DEC IS 23RD
BACK ON 2ND JAN.**

printing, laminating,
internet, computer, books
to browse & borrow,
friendly chats, tea & coffee
local info
Council Outreach

**Crafts & Get together
WED am**



THE GREEN SHED

RE-USE, RECYCLE,
REPURPOSE
BEHIND BENDOC HALL

NORMAL HOURS
TUES, THURS, SAT
9-12 ISH
Cost by Donation

EAST GIPPS SHIRE MOBILE LIBRARY

Join, borrow, return or
order a book from the
Mobile Bus at Bendoc
Hall Grounds
Back in Bendoc
9th Jan

Thurs 10.30 - 11.30

WELLNESS NURSE

Reopening 8 Jan
Bendoc -

Thursday fortnightly
Goongerah Tues. Ft.
Tubbut Wed Ft.

Ring Birgit
0456167011

POST OFFICE CLOSED

PUB HOLS
MON-FRI 12-5
BENDOC PUB

MON 8-11
WED 12-3
SAT 8-11

Closed public holidays

0403196528

Contact Jim for info



The Bendoc Progress Association wish all our readers & friends a wonderful
& safe time over Xmas — whether you're taking it easy or being adventurous — stay cool



A SNEAK LOOK AT WHAT'S HIDING IN THE GREEN SHED. See over page for holiday opening times





Having a clean up over Christmas?
Drop off your unwanted usable items for recycling & reusing.
PLEASE NOTE—We have had a large amount of books, clothes & shoes donated, & due to running out of room cannot receive anymore for a time.

**WE'LL BE HAVING A
BREAK IN BETWEEN
XMAS & NEW YEARS &
OPENING AGAIN ON
SAT THE 3RD.**



Bendoc Neighbourhood House will be hosting an information session on recycling early in the new year.

What is Council's role? What happens to our recycled items? What should we be doing?

Asking for Expressions of Interest

if you would like to attend please email or call in—bendocpa@bigpond.com

Bendoc Neighbourhood House will be closed on Wednesday 23rd Dec. We'll be back Friday 2nd January ready as always with

cuppas, chats, visitors info, books to borrow & a relaxing place to sit in the sun.

There will be no January 'Wheel'

Looking forward to readers input & pictures ready for February issue.



Errinundra to Snowy Wellbeing Spaces

December 2025

Services Include:

Health education	Health checks and health care plans
Telehealth appointments and support	Wound care, dressings, suture removal
Urine analysis	Mental health support
Help navigating health services	Ear Wax Removal/Cleaning
Help filling medical forms, My Aged Care and Home Care Packages	
And more ...	

If you have any questions about call 0456 167 011.

Here is some of what we offer:

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy start to 2026

Dear Errinundra to Snowy Community Members,

The E25 Team would like to thank you for your support for the Nursing Service in 2025. It is always a pleasure to work with and for you and we would love to welcome you to the Service in 2026 if you haven't tried it before. Come in and have a chat and find out the many ways we can support your health. Specialists are booked for 2026 visits.

Birgit (Nurse Care Coordinator) 0456 167 011
Tama (Admin Coordinator) 0448 639 754
Compliments/Complaints feedback@orh.com 03 5154 6666

Christmas Break Where / When

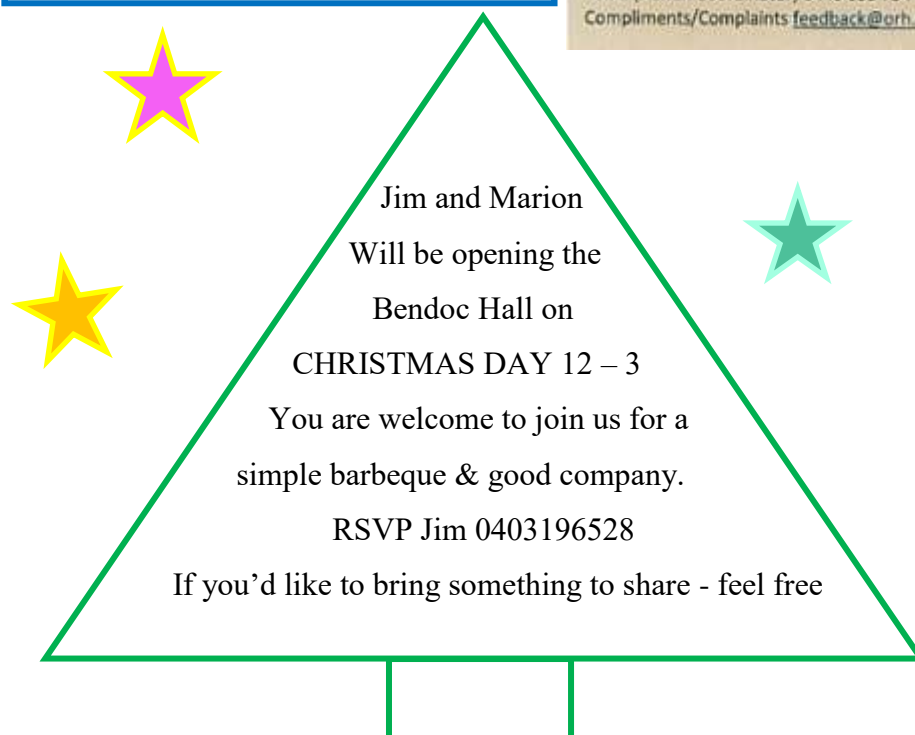
- Goongerah
2025 last day – 9th December
2026 first day – 6th January
- Bendoc
2025 last day – 11th December
2026 first day – 8th January
- Tubbut
2025 last day – 10th December
2026 first day – 7th January

ERRINUNDRA TO SNOWY WELLBEING SPACES
Tubbut Bendoc Goongerah

Here to Support our Communities

Operates fortnightly in each community – please check the Tubbut Tattler and Bendoc Wheel for updates

Put this on your Fridge ☺



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING HEALTH & WELLBEING IN OUR REGION ?

LOOKING FOR INTERESTED PEOPLE TO JOIN THE ERRINUNDRA TO SNOWY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE.

ZOOM MEETINGS ARE HELD MONTHLY (SOMETIMES BI MONTHLY) . YOU CAN ACCESS MEETINGS AT HOME OR FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES.

CONTACT TUBBUT 04 82855670
OR BENDOC bendocpa@bigpond.com 02 64581531



Thankyou to everyone who filled out the postcards supporting Victorian Neighbourhood Houses. Bendoc's contribution has been sent off together with thousands of other postcards from Victorian Neighbourhood Houses to their local MP office.



DON'T FORGET Power Rebates are still available for Victorian residents with a Health care card, Pensioner concession card, Veterans Gold Card, Veterans Pensioner concession card. You can apply yourself or Bendoc Neighbourhood House can sort it for you.
It's best to contact us first to ensure we all have what we need.



Susie Bady from Mental Health & Wellbeing Local is

available for visits to Bendoc Neighbourhood House regularly next year. If you would like to drop in for a chat or book a private consultation please ring Susie on **0476112665** or **BNH Mental Health & Local wellbeing** is an all encompassing mental health program offering support, info & access to specialists online, phone & in person. At 'The Local' your story doesn't get lost

Aged between 20 and 59?

You may need another measles vaccine

Protect yourself and your loved ones - get your FREE MMR top-up today

You need two doses of the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine to protect yourself and others.

If you were born between 1966 and 1992, you may have only had 1 dose of the MMR vaccine.

If you haven't had two doses, or you don't know, visit your GP or pharmacy.

No Medicare card is required to get a free state-funded MMR vaccine.

Scan here to find out where to get vaccinated

lrh.com.au/gippsland-region-public-health-unit/free-measles-vaccines/

Gippsland Region Public Health Unit
VICTORIA
Department of Health

Message from The Gippsland Public Health Unit

We're getting in touch to let you know about a public health initiative now underway across Gippsland. Adults aged 20 to 59 years are being encouraged to get a **free** MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) top-up vaccine to make sure they are fully protected against measles.

Many adults born between 1966 and 1992 only ever received one measles vaccine as children. One dose is not enough for full protection and with measles activity increasing in Victoria this year, this top-up is strongly recommended.

What's available

The Gippsland Region Public Health Unit (GRPHU) is providing the opportunity to get free MMR vaccination to ensure that adults and their loved ones are protected.

Every poster will have a QR code that links to:

- local council immunisation bookings
- participating pharmacies
- providers offering the vaccine at no cost

GPs can also provide the MMR vaccine, although some may charge a consultation fee.

Why this matters

Victoria has recorded 35 measles cases this year, the highest in a decade, many linked to overseas travel. Measles spreads very easily and can cause serious illness.

Getting an MMR top-up protects:

- you
- your family
- babies too young to be vaccinated
- your workplace
- the community

More information

Book your free MMR vaccine:

lrh.com.au/gippsland-region-public-health-unit/free-measles-vaccines/

Learn more about measles:

health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases/measles

SAVE THE DATE

WEIGH IN EVENTS

25
OCTOBER

22
NOVEMBER

31
JANUARY

Bendoc Fishing Club

more info to come soon!



MEETING 7.00 PM
MONDAY 29TH DECEMBER
 at the Bendoc CFA shed

Are you interested in becoming a
 CFA member?
 or just looking for information?
 Ring Secretary Lyn Button - 0488719233

Emergency (000)

Vic Emergency Hotline 1800 226 226

CFA Headquarters (03) 9262 8444

Register a Burn Off 1800668511

Firewood can be collected from:

1 March to 30 June (Autumn season)
 1 September to 30 November (Spring season)

Victorians who use fire to conduct work or an activity need to apply for a fire permit through the [Fire Permits Victoria](https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/fire-permits) website.

The Fire Permits Victoria website allows Victorians to:

Check if they need a fire permit.

Apply for a fire permit.

Notify authorities that they are using a permit

Register a burn-off when fire restrictions are not in place.

<https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood/find-a-firewood-collection-area>

Forest Fire Management Services Vic

<https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/permits-and-regulations/fire-permits>

BENDOC NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE IS PLANNING AN AFTERNOON OF FIRE PREP DISCUSSION, RECORDED WEBINARS, RESOURCES, EMERGENCY WORKERS REP. (HOPEFULLY) & SNACKS. MORE INFORMATION NEXT YEAR. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING OR HAVE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE PLEASE CONTACT US.

BENDOCPA@BIGPOND.COM

Delegate Multi-Purpose Service

11 Craigie St, Delegate
 (02) 64598000

The Delegate MPS Assessment and Treatment Care Centre (ATCC)

ATCC

The Delegate MPS Assessment and Treatment Care Centre (ATCC) is not an Emergency Department, for all Emergency type presentations please proceed to the nearest Emergency Department at the Bombala MPS, or phone 000 for an Ambulance. The ATCC is open Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4pm, please call Delegate MPS (02) 64598000 to make an appointment. Outside of these hours, please consider if your presentation is an Emergency and therefore not for Delegate MPS.

Our nurse-led ATCC is offering:

- Wound Care
- Nursing Assessments
- Blood Pressure readings
- Blood Sugar readings
- Suture or Clip removal
- Injections with Doctors written order
- Other procedures that do not require a doctor

Pathology

Wednesday 9:30am-10:30am. No appointment necessary. Not available on public holidays

Other Community Health Services Available – Please Phone Delegate MPS for further information

- Dietician
- Diabetes Educator
- Immunisations
- Podiatry
- Child and Family Health Nurse
- Generalist Community Health Nurse

Women's Health Nurse

To refer to any of the above please ring Community Health Central Intake Team on 1800 999 880



Please Note– Victorian visits are no longer taking place, this may recommence according to need.

Webinar -Taking stock of feed quality**2 December****When: 2 December****Where: Online****Time: 12:30 to 1:30 pm**

.For more information, contact Greg Ferrier on 0438 738 634
or greg.ferrier@agriculture.vic.gov.au

TPP Webinar Update for fruit industries and nursery**2 & 3 December**

In October 2025, Tomato Potato Psyllid (TPP) was detected outside the current
Restricted Area in Victoria.

Restrictions will come into effect from Monday 8 December 2025 and growers and
businesses will need to comply with these restrictions if they are sending plants and
produce interstate.

For further information please contact [publicinfor-
mation.STPTEPP@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:publicinfor-mation.STPTEPP@agriculture.vic.gov.au)

Soil Health Expert & Angus Leader Simon Falkiner**2 & 3 December****Beef Cattle Workshop – Know your numbers BAIRNSDALE Yard Walk.**When: Tuesday 2nd December 5:00pm to 8:00pm

Where: Gippsland Ag Centre – Bairnsdale Airport

Register: Click link <https://bit.ly/3Jx0pKj> or text Nat 0436462559**What to do when it hasn't worked? Ute Drive – Giffard West Hall**

When: Wednesday 3rd December 8:00am to 10:00am

Where: 3917 South Gippsland Highway

Register: Click link <https://bit.ly/4qVsrzF> or text Nat 0436462559**Dry Seasons Support Extension****. Drought support | Farm management | Agriculture Victoria****Farm Drought Support Grants – Expense Claim**

What's available

Grants up to \$5,000 (ex-GST) are available for on-farm improvements and other busi-
ness activities to help manage drought.

Household Financial Relief payments up to \$1,000 to eligible farming families and
those working on farms affected by drought conditions in south west Victoria to assist
with household expenses.

Farm management advice and planning help Farm debt mediation support,
and a **duties and fees relief package**.

On-farm Kangaroo Control Rebate Program.

Mental health and wellbeing events are being funded statewide through the Look
Over the Farm Gate program to help bring communities together and support farmers
under stress.

Water Efficiency Rebate Program

East Gippsland Water has introduced a new Water Efficiency Rebate Program to as-
sist residents and small business save water and costs.

The program helps customers reduce water consumption by providing incentives to
save water, and will run until 30 June 2028.

The Water Efficiency Rebate Program assists eligible customers to maximise their
water savings by installing more water efficient products to replace inefficient ones and
receive up to a maximum of \$1,500 in rebates for agreed/eligible products, such as
mulch, showerheads, water tanks and more.

For more information on which products are eligible and for an application form, visit
East Gippsland Water **Rebates | East Gippsland Water**.

If a friend or a neighbour would like to receive a copy of this newsletter, please email Kaylene Wickham
Agribusiness Development Officer East Gippsland Shire Council at kaylenewi@egipps.vic.gov.au or call
5153 9450 or register online at Agrinews Newsletter.

*The Forge Theatre presents***Sunday 12th April 2026 - 4.00pm****Ross Wilson & The Peaceniks present****Now Listen! We're Steppin' Out! 50 Years of
Hits Tour**

Ross Wilson is hitting the road with his all-star
band The Peaceniks to celebrate over **"50 Years
of Hits"** including all the **Daddy Cool** and **Mon-
do Rock** favourites you'd expect along with the
latest offering from an almost 6-decade career,
tracks from his latest EP on Bloodlines Records,
"She's Stuck On Facebook All The Time", and
everything in between.

AKMAL**Saturday 28th February 2026**

Stand-up, movies, sketch, TV appearances,
radio DJ, talk show host and a published au-
thor, Akmal is one of Australia's most respect-
ed, successful and accomplished comics.
Lightning quick and a master of unscripted
comedy gold, Akmal has an incredible ability to
deal with hot topics in an hilarious and slightly
offensive way.

www.alist.com.auwww.akmal.com.au

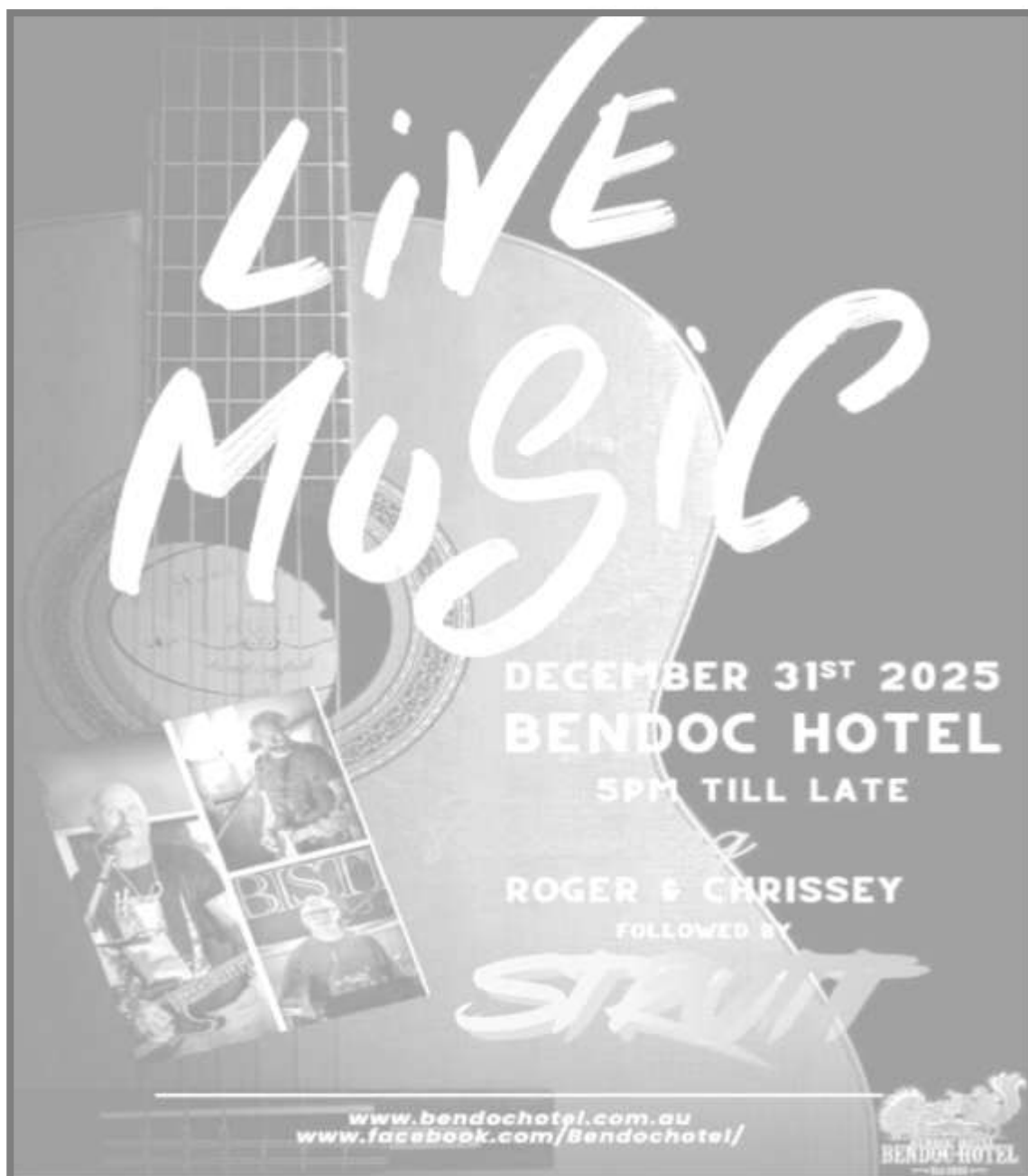
Restricted 15+, no babes in arms permitted

Ireland the Voyage**Tuesday 10th February - 7.30pm**

From the producers of Celtic Illusion comes a powerful new
theatrical experience in Ireland: The Voyage, an epic celebration
of Ireland's history, heart, and heritage brought to life through
authentic voices, live music, and world-class Irish dance.
Emotional, exhilarating, and deeply immersive, Ireland: The
Voyage invites audiences to feel the pulse of a nation - its tri-
umphs, its tragedies, its music, and its unbreakable spirit, in a live
experience they will never forget.

80 McKean St Bairnsdale

Book Now!**Contact us!****Phone:** 03 5152 1482**Our mailing address**is: boxoffice@egipps.vic.gov.au



HOLIDAY

Opening Hours

CHRISTMAS
 December 24th 25th 26th **Closed**

December 27th 28th 29th 30th **Open**
 (12pm - Late)

Kitchen - OPEN EVERYDAY
 Lunch: 12pm - 2pm
 Dinner: 6pm - 8pm

NEW YEAR
 December 31st - 11am to Late
 January 1st - 10am to 3pm

We wish you a Merry Christmas!

BENDOC HOTEL

Delegate Bus

Pick up from
 RTC Delegate
 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the
 month @ 10.30

Bookings essential

leaving Bombala around
 12.30 - 1.00

please Phone
 6458 8388

The Forge Theatre presents

THE BIG CHILLOUT

Celebrating the soundtrack that saved Motown

Saturday 14th February 2026 - 7:30 pm

Get ready to relive the music that defined a generation in **The Big Chillout**, a joyous, soul-stirring celebration of the legendary [Big Chill soundtrack](#) and the Motown revival it sparked.

This powerful live show brings to life the timeless classics of Marvin Gaye, The Temptations, The Rolling Stones, Aretha Franklin, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Smokey Robinson, Spencer Davis Group, The Band, Procol Harum, and many more — performed by a world-class band and presented as an entertaining narrated show fronted by two powerhouse vocalists.

Judah Kelly – Winner of The Voice Australia 2017 **Asabi Goodman** – Acclaimed star of Chicago and Hairspray **10 piece** – world-class live band

The first act features the smash-hit original Big Chill soundtrack, followed by a second act packed with the Deluxe Edition highlights and Motown's biggest hits.

The Big Chillout is a heartwarming celebration of soul, connection, and the classic songs that continue to unite generations.

Whether you're a lifelong fan or discovering these iconic tracks for the first time, this show is an invitation to sing, dance, and **chillout** like never before!

SING-A-LONG-ABBA!

FRIDAY 12th December - 7.30PM

It's time to...

SING-A-LONG ABBA!

SING-A-LONG to all the hits of **ABBA** with all the words to all the songs on the **BIG** screen, backed by a 5 piece band on stage! The only ABBA tribute where the show is not only **ON** stage but **OFF** stage in the audience!

SING-A-LONG to your favourite ABBA hit songs:

Mamma Mia - Dancing Queen

Fernando - Ring, Ring

Waterloo - S.O.S.

Take A Chance On Me

Honey, Honey

Knowing Me, Knowing You

The Winner Takes It All...

and so, so many more!!

Over 25 hit songs!!

Most theatre shows make you stay in your seats, this show gets you 'UP on your feet!'

-Australian BOS Music-
Josef Kiss.

All costumes worn by the cast of **SING-A-LONG ABBA** are direct from the **"OFFICIAL ABBA MUSEUM!"**
-Stockholm, Sweden-

Every audience member receives **FREE GLOW STICKS** on entry to get the party started!!

WALK IN. DANCE OUT!

Book Now!

Contact us!

Phone: 03 5152 482

Our mailing address

is: boxoffice@egipps.vic.gov.au

Just a glance at some of the topics in Agrinews

AGRINEWS—EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

Agritourism in Australia - learnings from statistics webinar 28 November

Tourism Research Australia will present the latest agritourism research, diving into the agritourism growth and opportunity, and wider tourism sector insights, to understand the tourism market in 2025 and beyond.

To attend register at Meeting Registration - Zoom.

Webinar – Taking stock of feed quality 2 December

Where: online

Time: 12:30 to 1:30 pm There are a limited number of free feed tests available to Victorian farmers attending, so register early. For more information, contact Greg Ferrier on 0438 738 634 or greg.ferrier@agriculture.vic.gov.au

Dry Seasons Supports Farm Drought Support Grants- to apply visit **Rural Finance**

1:1 Advisory Service <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/drought-support/help-with-farm-decisions>

Drought support – duties and fees relief <https://go.vic.gov.au/48FF4bG>

Group technical events

A series of free webinars will be held over November and December <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/about/media-centre/media-releases/2025-releases/water-planning-over-morning-tea>

Rebates - Kangaroo management

<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/drought-support/managing-kangaroos-on-your-farm>

• For further drought support visit: agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought or call 136 186.

There are multiple drought supports that are always available

What's in your fire preparedness plan this season?

Fire Preparedness webinar on Vimeo

Business Skills Mentoring program Available Now

Expressions of interest close 5 pm Friday 27 March 2026, or earlier if places are filled. [Business Skills Mentoring program - Business Victoria](#)

COUNCIL INFORMATION

ASAC Meeting 6 November 2025 Summary

On the 6 November Council met with the Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee which comprises of ten farming enterprises, Food & Fibre Gippsland, EG Catchment Management Authority, Gippsland Agriculture Group and Agriculture Victoria.

Your Say on Projects Check out **Your Say, East Gippsland**,

a council online platform that lets you share what you think about the projects, services and places that matter to you. Your experience is important to help us understand community needs and interests.

If a friend or a neighbour would like to receive a copy of this newsletter, please email Kaylene Wickham Agribusiness Development Officer East Gippsland Shire Council at kaylenewi@egipps.vic.gov.au or call 5153 9450 or register online at [Agrinews Newsletter](#).

Community Matters Newsletter

The monthly **Community Matters** newsletter shares updates on projects, services, decisions, open consultations and more. The previous community e-newsletter can be downloaded

The latest news from your Council.

As Victorians start ticking off their Christmas shopping lists, fire and safety authorities are urging everyone to think safety first when buying lithium-ion battery products, such as e-bikes, e-scooters, toys and portable devices.

The reminder comes as fire agencies across Victoria continue to respond to a growing number of fires linked to lithium-ion batteries, with incidents occurring roughly once a week across the state. Recent callouts, including a blaze in a Narre Warren North family bedroom sparked by a charging e-scooter and an e-bike found smoking in a Hastings backyard, have highlighted how quickly these incidents can escalate. As the state's energy safety regulator, Energy Safe Victoria warns it is crucial for people to choose reputable products that meet Australian safety standards, rather than cheap online items that could pose serious fire risks.

"We know tech and battery-powered devices are popular Christmas gifts, but unsafe or poor-quality products can be extremely dangerous," Energy Safe CEO Leanne Hughson said.

"It only takes one faulty or damaged lithium-ion battery to cause a devastating fire. So, before you buy, make sure you're choosing quality products from reputable suppliers."

Lithium-ion batteries are found in an increasing range of household devices, but when incorrectly or over-charged, damaged or exposed to heat, they can go into 'thermal runaway' - a reaction that causes fires that are fast-spreading, toxic and difficult to extinguish.

Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) and the Country Fire Authority (CFA) have joined Energy Safe in reminding the community to use and charge these devices safely.

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan said Victorians should avoid charging batteries overnight or while unattended and to only use the charger supplied with the device.

"We are really urging Victorians to keep an eye on their e-bikes and e-scooters this summer, and to check their batteries and chargers regularly for signs of damage," Mr Heffernan said.

"The incident in Hastings last month shows how quickly these batteries can fail, and by choosing to keep his e-bike outside and in sight, the resident prevented more serious damage."

FRV Deputy Commissioner Josh Fischer said that by paying close attention to where devices are charged and the condition of batteries, Victorians can help reduce the number of incidents firefighters are responding to.

"Lithium-ion batteries should never be charged in sleeping or living areas or on flammable surfaces, and households should stop using the battery immediately if you notice strong odours, a change in colour or shape, extreme heat or unusual sounds such as popping or hissing," Mr Fischer said

As the festive season approaches, it's an ideal time to remind the community to shop smart and charge carefully, highlighting the lessons from Energy Safe's *Before You Know It* campaign about the risks of unsafe battery use.

Checklist for safe gifting of lithium-ion battery products:

Buy: Choose trusted brands and verified retailers. Check power supply for the Regulatory Compliance Mark (RCM) and ensure they are listed on the [Electrical Equipment Safety System \(EESS\) database](#) to ensure they meet Australian safety standards. Avoid impulse buys from cheap, unknown online sources.

- **Unwrap:** Check for visible damage, bulging and dents before use. Read and follow manufacturer's instructions carefully.
- **Use:** Charge batteries only with the manufacturer-recommended charger in well-ventilated areas, on non-flammable surfaces and away from bedrooms and exits. Never leave devices unattended while charging.

Emergency: In event of fire, call Triple Zero (000) and evacuate immediately.

For more information on lithium-ion battery safety, visit:

Energy Safe - www.energysafe.vic.gov.au/before-you-know-it

CFA - www.cfa.vic.gov.au/batterysafety

FRV - www.frv.vic.gov.au/battery-safety

<https://news.cfa.vic.gov.au/news/don-t-let-your-christmas-catch-fire>

Did you know? -

if you are a SES or CFA volunteer you can claim an **Emergency Services rebate from your Rates**
You can claim for your Principal place of residence, Farmland or Single Farm Enterprise (SFE)

You will need

- | | |
|--|--|
| ◆ Your member number | Secretary Lyn has your CFA member number |
| ◆ Bank details | Your CFA email is (member number).@cfa.vic.gov.au |
| ◆ Rates notice | Your SES email is SES (member number) @members.ses.vic.gov.au |
| ◆ Identification | |
| ◆ Access to CFA or SES portal or 'Members Online' site | |
| | BNH can assist with computer access |
| | CFA - members.cfa.vic.gov.au |
| | SES - VICSES volunteer porthole sso.ses.vic.gov.au |

Please read the guidelines before applying - you may need to provide more info depending on your circumstances
Department of Government Services [1300 778 931](tel:1300778931)

<https://service.vic.gov.au/find-services/housing-and-property/eligible-volunteers-rebate-scheme>



FOR CARE OVER HOT PERIODS, THE PRIMARY FOCUS SHOULD BE ON WATERING, MULCHING, AND MAINTENANCE.

Watering and Hydration

Water Deeply: Provide thorough, deep waterings in the weeks leading up to and during Christmas. This encourages plants to develop deeper roots and helps the soil retain moisture longer.

Water Early or Late: Water early in the morning or late in the evening to reduce evaporation.

Use Soil Wetters: Apply a soil wetter (like a hose-on product) to help water penetrate the soil more effectively, especially in areas where the soil has become water repellent due to heat and dryness.

Automate: If you're going away, set up an automatic watering system (drip irrigation for beds, sprinklers for lawns) to ensure plants stay hydrated without constant monitoring.

Check Pots: Container plants dry out faster. Dig into the top few centimetres of potting mix to check moisture levels, and use water-storing crystals.

Garden Maintenance

Mulch Heavily: A thick layer of organic mulch around all garden beds and pots is crucial. It locks in moisture, suppresses weeds, and protects roots from the intense summer heat.

Raise Mower Height: Keep your lawn slightly longer (around 5-6 cm). Taller grass blades shade the soil, retain more moisture, and make the lawn more resilient to summer heat and foot traffic from gatherings.

Prune Strategically: Deadhead spent blooms from roses and annuals to encourage new flowers. Give hedges a light trim for a tidy appearance, focusing on removing any untidy or dead stems.

Manage Pests: Keep an eye out for common summer pests like lawn grubs, beetles, caterpillars, and aphids. Treat them quickly to prevent damage.

Prioritise: If time is limited, focus your efforts on key areas where guests will gather or that are most visible.

Harvesting and Planting

Harvest Produce: Summer vegetables like tomatoes, cucumbers, and zucchinis should be thriving. Harvest regularly to encourage continued production. Citrus fruits will also be ready for picking.

Add Instant Colour: For a festive splash, plant "potted colour" (pre-grown annuals) like red geraniums or white petunias around entertaining areas. Poinsettias are led from yates, Bunnings, simpletonalso a classic Christmas decoration that can thrive outdoors in warm, sheltered spots.

Eco-Friendly Tips

Compost Leftovers: Compost your Christmas meal leftovers and put a separate bin for recyclables during entertaining to manage waste effectively.

Support Wildlife: Ensure you provide sources of clean water for birds and other wildlife, which can struggle in the summer heat.

Compiled from Yates, Bunnings, Simplelawns.com.au

Recipe ideas

DECADENT STICKY DATE PUDDING



INGREDIENTS

Butter for greasing
150g (1 cup) pitted dates, chopped
2 tbsp finely grated fresh ginger
1/2 tsp mixed spice
125ml (1/2 cup) water
300g (1 cup) plain self-raising flour
300g (1 cup) wholemeal self-raising flour
140g (2/3 cup, firmly packed) brown sugar
3 eggs, lightly whisked
80g butter, melted
80ml (1/3 cup) milk

CARAMEL SAUCE

140g (2/3 cup) dark brown sugar
170ml (2/3 cup) thickened cream
40g butter
1 tbsp golden syrup

Preheat oven to 180C. Brush six muffin pans with melted butter to grease. Boil dates, ginger and water in a small saucepan for 1 minute to soften dates.

Sift flour and mixed spice, add sugar and mix, form a well in the centre. Add the date mixture, egg, butter and milk, and stir until well combined. Spoon in prepared pans. Bake for 20-25 minutes, check with a skewer inserted into the centres to check if comes out clean. Set aside for 5 minutes to cool slightly.

Caramel sauce

Mix together sugar, cream, butter and golden syrup & place over low heat. Stir for about 2 minutes. Increase heat slightly & simmer for a couple of minutes until sauce thickens. Eat.



WHITE FRUITY ROCKY ROAD



Create your own look - try marbling with white & dark chocolate

Add different flavours & colours- cherries & dried pawpaw

INGREDIENTS

- 600g (3 cups) white chocolate, broken into pieces
- 150g (2 1/4 cups) large marshmallows, halved (or use mini marshmallows)
- 75g (1/2 cup) pistachios, plus extra for decorating (macadamia nuts are also an excellent choice)
- 60g (1/2 cup) dried cranberries, plus extra for decorating (dried cherries or mixed berries work well too)
- 45g (1/4 cup) Turkish delight, chopped (optional, for extra chewiness)
- Chopped mint leave lollies

DIRECTIONS

Prepare an 8-inch (20cm) square pan by greasing and lining it with baking or parchment paper, ensuring there is an overhang.

Melt the white chocolate in a heatproof bowl in the microwave, stirring at 30-second intervals until smooth. Alternatively, use a double boiler.

In a separate bowl, mix together the marshmallows, pistachios, dried cranberries, and any optional dried fruit or lollies.

Pour the melted chocolate over the dry ingredients and stir until everything is coated.

Transfer the mixture to the prepared pan, spreading it evenly. Decorate the top with extra pistachios and cranberries if desired.

Refrigerate for at least 2 hours to set.

Once set, lift the rocky road out of the pan using the paper and cut it into squares with a warm, sharp knife.

Store the rocky road in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to two weeks

Dexter Beef sides & partial sides available.

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dpaoffice@bigpond.com

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Place an Ad in this spot
Free for community Ads Fees for businesses pg 13

Looking for interested people to join the friendly group making up the Bendoc Progress Association..
The BPA auspices Bendoc Neighbourhood House.& holds meetings around 4-5 times a year. Drop in or contact us at BNH

I'm pleased to share that I am relocating my offices and will be establishing new partnerships in the ACT, Cooma, and Bega regions, while continuing to service the broader East Gippsland area. Although I will no longer be based in Bendoc, I remain very happy to accept new clients from the local community, including Bendoc, Delegate, and Bombala. I am fully committed to completing all existing matters for my current local clients—many of whom I have been privileged to assist at deeply discounted rates or on a pro bono basis. I have always aimed to provide the same level of professionalism, personal care, and genuine investment that larger firms often cannot offer, particularly in sensitive cases involving family safety and exploitation. Throughout my career, I have been dedicated to holding powerful people and organisations to account—not for personal gain, but because justice matters. As I prepare to complete my work here, I wish the Bendoc community continued prosperity and all the strength that comes from the merit, mateship, and independence that define rural Australia. I wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a peaceful moment to reflect on the true meaning of the season, as well as on what we have gained and what we hold dear.

STEVEN BAILEY

Founding Director | WEST FIGHT
AM 31 04 14 53

WF

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WHERE THE FLICK IS BENDOC



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THURSDAY - DINNER (6PM - 8PM)
Meat Raffles
FRIDAY - DINNER (6PM - 8PM)
Pat & Pats - \$30
SATURDAY - LUNCH (12PM - 2PM)
- DINNER (6PM - 8PM)
Happy Hours - 4:30 to 5:30
Joker Game - Drawn @ 7:30pm
Multiple Raffles - Local Vouchers
HOURS
Mon - Thu (12pm to Late)
Fri - Sat (12pm to Late)
Sundays CLOSED

Bushbubs Wildlife Shelter

Looking after sick and or injured Australian Wildlife

Lyn Button
Gap Rd
Bendoc Vic 3888
0488719233
Bushbubs01@gmail.com



Office space for hire at Bendoc Neighbourhood House.
Free for Community Services, Suitable for study, admin work, medical & welfare services



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Funnies



My partner asked me where I hid the photos. I said "In the clouds". She replied "Don't be silly, it's clear today, where did you really hide them?"

The perfect password - "incorrect". Every time you forget, the computer will tell you what it is.



A city fella stops & asks the farmer "if I take a short cut across your paddock will I make the 4.30 train?" the farmer replied, "You'll make it at 3.30 if my bull sees you"

An old farmer was asked "Why are you always talking to yourself?" He said "Because I like to hear a smart man talk & I like to know the person I'm talking to is listening".

BNH invites suggestions, input, points of interest, photos, news & community notices. Contributions are free

**bendocpa@bigpond.com Ph 0264581531
18 Dowling St Bendoc PO Box 50 Bendoc 3888
Website – bendoc.org.au**

THE WHEEL IS DISTRIBUTED MID MONTHLY THE FINAL DATE FOR ARTICLES IS AROUND THE 15TH

If you would like the 'Wheel' emailed or are local & don't receive it in the post, please let us know & we'll update your details.

Contributions are readers own input, BNH does not necessarily share all opinions published.

PRICES for Ads are for business ads community notices free

Small spot AD \$5.00	1 issue	6 issues	11 issues
¼ Page	\$17.50	\$87.50	\$157.50
½ Page	\$35.00	\$175.00	\$315.00
Full Page	\$70.00	\$350.00	\$630.00

B & W photocopies free up to 20 A4 copies.. 20c a copy thereafter..
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Laminating \$2.50 A4 \$5.00 A3



A business man stopped a farmer & said "Why has that pig got a wooden leg?" "That pig is special" he said "He pulled me out of a burning tractor & dragged the hose over to me". "That's amazing" said the other guy, "but why the wooden leg?" "Well, a pig that special you don't eat him all at once!"

How to tell an optimistic—When there's only 2 inches of dust at the bottom of the rain water tank & they still check the rain gauge.



Community Notices

WANTED -
More jolly people to join the friendly mob volunteering to keep our services going

Bendoc Hall Committee ph Jim 0403196528

Bendoc Progress Association ph Lyn 0488719233

Does your septic needs emptying or attending to? Please let us know at BNH ~ if we can gather a few households needing the service we may keep the cost down for all

DROP OFF YOUR dead household batteries and **MOBILE PHONES** at BNH. We cannot take large batteries e.g. Car batteries

If you have any spare vegetable or flower seeds from your own garden & you'd like to add to a collection for sharing or as a small BNH fundraiser — call in.

10c return plastic, cans & glass bottles can be dropped off in our recycling bin outside BNH. These items are collected voluntarily & funds are donated back to
Bendoc Neighbourhood House

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Emergency —————000
Bendoc Police—————0264581523
Delegate Police—————0264503360
Bombala Police—————0264583444

Report road issues Regional Roads Vic 133778

Bendoc/Tubbut/Goongerah

Wellness Nurse—————0456167011
Health Direct—————1800 02 2222
Delegate MPS—————0264598000
Bombala MPS—————0264585777
Orbost Regional Health———0351546777
Bombala Medical Practice—0264583022
Register your burn off———1800668511
Monaro Family support ——026458 4888
Delegate Pre School:———026458 8196
Delegate Public school:——026458 8183

Tubbut Neighbourhood House—0482855670

Bendoc Neighbourhood House—0264581531

Wellbeing Local **1300 000 352**

MensLine Australia **1300 789 978**

Kids Help Line **1800 55 1800**

Beyond blue **1300 224 636**

Domestic/family violence **1800RESPECT
1800 737 732**

S M T W TH F S

21	22 NSW & Vic. School Holidays begin	23 BNH 9-2	24 CLOSED	25 XMAS DAY XMAS AT BENDOC HALL	26 BOXING DAY CLOSED	27
28	29 CFA MEETING 7.00	30 CLOSED	31 NEW YEARS EVE BNH CLOSED New Years Party Bendoc Hotel	1st JAN 2026 NEW YEARS DAY	2 BNH OPEN FOR 2026 9-2	3 GREEN SHED OPEN 9-12
4	5	6 BNH 9-2 NURSE GOONGERAH GREEN SHED 9-12	7 BNH 9-2 Craft Morning NURSE TUBBUT	8 NURSE BENDOC GREEN SHED 9-12	9 BNH 9-2	10 GREEN SHED 9-12
11	12	13 BNH 9-2 GREEN SHED 9-12	14 BNH 9-2 Craft Morning	15 GREEN SHED 9-12	16 BNH 9-2	17 GREEN SHED 9-12
18	19	20 BNH 9-2 NURSE GOONGERAH GREEN SHED 9-12	21 BNH 9-2 Craft Morning NURSE TUBBUT	22 NURSE BENDOC GREEN SHED 9-12	23 BNH 9-2	24 GREEN SHED 9-12
25	26 AUST DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY	27 BNH 9-2 GREEN SHED 9-12	28 BNH 9-2 Craft Morning SCHOOL STARTS VIC.	29 GREEN SHED 9-12	30 BNH 9-2	31 GREEN SHED 9-12 FISHING COMP WEIGH IN
1 FEB	2 SCHOOL STARTS NSW	3 BNH 9-2 NURSE GOONGERAH GREEN SHED 9-12	4 BNH 9-2 Craft Morning NURSE TUBBUT	5 NURSE BENDOC GREEN SHED 9-12	6 BNH 9-2	7 GREEN SHED 9-12
8	9	10 BNH 9-2 GREEN SHED 9-12	11 BNH 9-2 Craft Morning	12 GREEN SHED 9-12	13 BNH 9-2	14 GREEN SHED 9-12

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