

*From our Mayor  
Cr Tom Sullivan, Councillors  
and staff at Moorabool Shire Council,  
we would like to wish all our residents  
a Happy Christmas and a  
Safe and Healthy 2022.*





# Old Bank Building to Become Library and Community Hub

Council’s plans of creating a library and community hub in Ballan are a step closer, with Council purchasing the Commonwealth Bank building in Inglis St, with plans to redevelop it.

Council has plans to turn the site into an amazing library and community hub for the residents of Ballan and surrounds.

Moorabool Mayor Cr Tom Sullivan said Ballan had outgrown its current library site.

“We have plans to redevelop the bank building to boast a larger, contemporary library space, along with community meeting rooms, art exhibition space, maternal and child health services and an extended community courtyard,” Cr Sullivan said.

“Ballan’s population is set to grow to 7000 by 2041, making now the perfect time to create this community space for the growing population and turn the hub into a centrepiece of the town.

“We are looking forward to funding commitments from other levels of government to turn our vision into a reality. Securing the sale of the right building, in the centre of town, is the first step,” Cr Sullivan said.



## Mayor Looking Forward to a Busy 2022

Council has re-elected Cr Tom Sullivan to be Mayor for the next 12 months, with Cr Tonia Dudzik elected as deputy.

Cr Sullivan said he was honoured to represent the Shire for another year, and hoped next year would be a better year than this one, with much to celebrate.

“We have so many exciting projects in the Shire underway or about to start, so there will be plenty of activity and notable milestones along the way.”



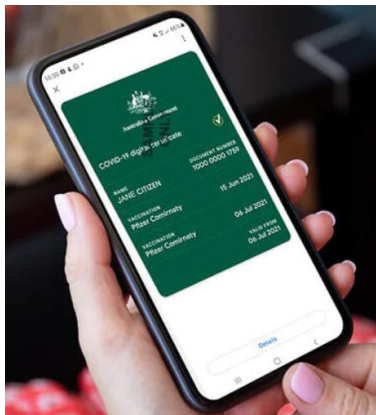
## Help with Certificate

Do you or a family member need assistance to access/link your COVID-19 vaccine certificate?

Our friendly staff at Lerderderg Library are offering in person appointments to assist with linking MyGov/vaccination certificates. This service will be available between 9am-4pm Monday through to Friday. To book an appointment call the library on 5366 7100 and press #5.

When an appointment is made staff will ask a few questions to ensure they can meet your needs, and to let you know what you will need to bring to your appointment.

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaxproof>



### COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

- Principal Office: 15 Stead Street, Ballan
- Bacchus Marsh Service Centre: 182 Halletts Way, Darley
- Lerderderg Library: 215 Main Street, Bacchus Marsh
- Postal Address: PO Box 18, Ballan VIC 3342
- (03) 5366 7100
- [info@moorabool.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@moorabool.vic.gov.au)
- [www.moorabool.vic.gov.au](http://www.moorabool.vic.gov.au)

### Keep in touch with us through our digital channels!



As well as our Website, LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts, you can subscribe to our e-newsletter at this link <http://eepurl.com/gZL9fz> or use the QR code below, to have all the latest Council news delivered straight to your inbox.







# Yule Love Christmas in Moorabool 2021

[www.moorabool.vic.gov.au/christmas](http://www.moorabool.vic.gov.au/christmas)



## Moorabool's Mega Christmas Trees!

In December visit our Christmas trees in the main streets of Bacchus Marsh, Ballan, Gordon and Blackwood, and new location – Greendale! Take a photo and post it to social media using **#ChristmasinMoorabool**

- Village Green, Bacchus Marsh
- McLeans Reserve, Ballan
- Outside Gordon Public Hall
- Blackwood Reserve (opposite the Blackwood Pub)
- Egans Reserve (opposite the Greendale Pub)



## Meet Santa and Santa's Elf in Moorabool

Santa's making a list, and with the help of his elf, he's checking it twice! Say hi to Santa, and make sure he knows how good you've been this year and what's on your list.

- Ballan – Saturday 11 December, 10.00am-1.00pm
- Ballan – Friday 17 December, 10.30am – 1.30pm
- Bacchus Marsh – Saturday 18 December, 10.30am-1.30pm
- Bacchus Marsh – Friday 24 December, 10.30am – 1.30pm

## Discover Moments of Joy in Our Towns

Come together and celebrate! Commencing mid-December, and through summer you're in for an artistic treat. Take a stroll and rediscover our vibrant townships and prepare to be surprised with colourful art and entertainment.

## Saturday Rotunda Sessions

Grab a coffee, a picnic and a couple of friends! Come on down to Ballan and Bacchus Marsh this December and be entertained by some great tunes brought to you by talented local musicians.

Ballan Rotunda – Inglis Street

11 December 10.00am-11.00am: Brekin, solo artist from Ballan  
 11 December 11.00am-1.00pm: The Honeyfields, folk trio from Blackwood  
 18 December 10.30am- 1.30pm: The Nelson family, local musicians from Gordon  
Bacchus Marsh Rotunda – Main Street, Eddie Toole Park  
 18 December 10.30am-11.45am: Jen Hawley & Nicolas Lyon from Myrniong  
 18 December 12.00pm-1.15pm: Little Wigtown, local band from Ballan  
 24 December 10.30am- 1.30pm: The Claritudes, woodwind quartet

## Spend Local this Christmas

Moorabool Localised features over 200 local businesses, covering an amazing range of local goods and services, helping you get ready for Christmas. And if you discover your favourite local businesses aren't on there yet, feel free to help spread the word! <https://moorabool.localised.com.au/>

## CHRISTMAS 2021 - LOCAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES



## Free Business Marketing Campaign

Tis the season for your business to be discovered. List your Shire business free on Moorabool Localised, and you can be part of our Christmas spend local marketing campaign: <https://moorabool.localised.com.au/>

## Give the Gift of a Local Job this Christmas

Is your Shire business already registered with Moorabool Localised? Great news- once your business listing is live, you'll be able to advertise your local jobs on the site too. <https://moorabool.localised.com.au/jobs/>

## Enter the Best Shop Window (or equivalent) Competition!

Share in the spirit of Christmas by dressing your business shop window (or equivalent) to impress and take out the title for Christmas 2021 in two categories! Category 1: Best Shop Window. Category 2: Best New Entrant.

Competition information

- To enter, email a photo of your decorated shop window to [business@moorabool.vic.gov.au](mailto:business@moorabool.vic.gov.au) Include your contact name, business name and business address. And tell us if this is your first time dressing your shop window for Christmas, which qualifies you for consideration as a new entrant. Entries must be received by Friday 10 December.
- Judging will take place on Tuesday 14 December.
- Two prizes are available. The winner of each category will receive a \$150 local dining voucher.
- Judge's decision is final.
- The winners will be notified on Wednesday 15 December, including an announcement on facebook via Business Growth & Innovation - Moorabool Shire.



# Moorabool Progress Across the Shire

## Unsealed Road Maintenance

Council's unsealed road grading program consists of four grading teams which operate in four zones across the Shire, and are responsible for the maintenance of approximately 550 kilometres of unsealed roads.

Each grading team consists of a Grader, Roller and a Water Truck, and are supported by Trucks which supply gravel as required.

In accordance with Council's Road Management Plan 2021-25, unsealed roads are assigned two hierarchies; Unsealed Level 1 (U1) and Unsealed Level 2 (U2), dependent upon typical traffic volumes. U1 roads are inspected every 6 months in urban locations, and every 3 months in rural locations, and U2 roads are inspected every 6 months in urban and rural locations, to ensure any defects are identified and logged for maintenance action. U1 roads are also given a proactive maintenance grade every 6 months, and U2 roads are given a proactive maintenance grade every 12 months, however wherever possible, we strive to grade these roads sooner.

Any defects identified during inspections that meet an intervention level i.e. potholes, corrugations etc. are assigned a target timeframe to rectify. As of the end of November 2021, all unsealed road defects at intervention level have been completed representing 100% compliance, however Council is aware that there are many other defects not at intervention level across the network and attend to them as soon as possible as resources allow.

Due to the variable nature of unsealed roads, particularly during this years' wet weather, please drive to the conditions and exercise caution.

If you have questions or concerns relating to Council's roadside slashing or unsealed road grading program, please contact customer service on 5366 7100 or lodge a request on Council's website: [www.moorabool.vic.gov.au](http://www.moorabool.vic.gov.au)

## Grader Operations

Council's annual unsealed road grading schedule is in line with our Road Management Plan, which to date is being maintained at 100% compliance. The schedule has our crews operating in four zones within the shire boundaries throughout the year.

Each Grader crew consists of a Grader, Roller and a water truck for maintenance work, these crews are backed up by our small crew of truck operators, who supply road materials to site when and where required.

With approximately over 700 kms of unsealed roads in Moorabool Shire, there are occasions where residents will request their road to be re-graded sooner in the schedule than planned. We will carry out inspections and determine what level of work is required, which normally can be addressed by our rapid response crew to fill in potholes and correct other defects.

Maintenance outside of the grading schedule occurs when potholes crop up and require some level of intervention. Potholes are generally created during the wetter months of the year, due to water sitting on the road surface. Due to the wet spring we've had in 2021, we know some of our roads have deteriorated and we are working as quickly as we can to attend to them.



## Longs Hill Road, Glen Park

We've recently completed upgrades on Longs Hill Road, Glen Park. The works included pavement widening and rehabilitation from Hillview Rd to Clarks Rd, including reconstruction of Ralstons Rd, Clarks Rd and Hillview Rd intersections.

Works also included minor drainage works, installation of guardrail to protect trees on Longs Hill Rd, and reconstruction of Glen Park Primary School Carpark.





## Dunnstown Township Improvement Plans

Following community consultation in early 2020, civil and landscaping upgrade works have been undertaken at Dunnstown Township.

Stage 1 included civil works to improve walking and cycling connections including construction of concrete footpath, kerb ramps, pedestrian refuges within the splitter islands, and roundabout upgrade works. Stage 2 included infill planting and landscaping works in the roundabout as well as street tree planting.



## The Bacchus Marsh 1000+ Steps at Bald Hill

Council is undertaking a reconstruction of the existing Lerderderg Track via funding from Regional Development Victoria.

Earthworks and construction have begun at Bald Hill! So far, more than 100 of the 1000+ steps have been installed.

The steps are anticipated to be completed by April 2022. Stage 2 of the project is currently being designed and includes the construction of an accessible path and sculpture around Telford Park.



## Aqualink Cycling and Walking Corridor

Council has partnered with Southern Rural Water to deliver the Aqualink Cycling and Walking Corridor. Aqualink provides a tree lined connection with solar lighting along the reserve, through to the Bacchus Marsh township and its main attractions and services.

Milestones completed:

- Nelson Street, Albert Street, Suttonleigh Way road crossings
- Shared use pathway from Nelson Street to Grey Street
- Shared use pathway Jonathan Drive to Holts Lane

Under construction:

- Shared use pathway from Lerderderg River to Nelson Street
- Shared use pathway from Grey Street to Jonathan Drive
- Shared use pathway Holts Lane to Freeway
- Grey Street, Jonathan Drive, Taylor Drive road crossings

Council is thrilled to be using 100% recycled material eMesh on the Aqualink concrete footpath as well as in our latest upgrades at Bradys Lane, Greendale. eMesh is an Australian invention that recycles plastic to deliver innovative reinforced concrete. Small, recycled macro synthetic fibres are added to the concrete to replace steel fibres and steel reinforcing mesh.

The environmental benefits are enormous and include:

- 100% made of recycled plastic
- 93% less CO2 emissions using eMesh than steel
- 99% less water used using eMesh than steel
- 90% less fossil fuels consumed using eMesh compared to steel
- For every 10km of path we will save 150 tons of CO2

We look forward to utilising more sustainable materials in our capital works projects going forward.



## Mill Park, Ballan

Work has commenced at Mill Park, Ballan. Our crews have been busy constructing a carpark, asphalt road, footpath and drainage works.

Community engagement will also be undertaken in December to inform the design of a skate park at the site that will commence construction in February 2022.





# Storm Recovery Update

Council’s Storm Recovery Team is continuing to work hard to support residents who were impacted by the June 2021 Storm Event, particularly following the second major storm event for our Shire that occurred in October 2021. Thank you to the resilience of our entire community as clean up continues.

The Storm Team held two roving community BBQs in November, with representatives from Council, The Salvation Army Australia, Australian Red Cross, Central Highlands Rural Health, Child and Family Services, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, Bushfire Recovery Victoria, VCC Emergencies Ministry and Telstra in attendance. We visited communities in Blackwood, Dales Creek, Blakeville, Korweinguboorra, Bolwarrah/Barkstead and Gordon. Thank you to everyone who attended – it was very beneficial for our Storm Team to hear directly from you as a community. Please join us for a live event with clinical psychologist Dr Rob Gordon, on Thursday 9 December, at 6pm, at Blackwood Hall. This event will mark exactly six months since the June major storm event. Rob has worked to assist communities to recover following almost every major disaster in Australia and New Zealand for the past 30 years, including the 2015/16 Scotsburn Fires in Moorabool. He will bring a wealth of knowledge to our Shire’s storm recovery.

If your property was impacted by the June storm, you may be visited by volunteers from the Australian Red Cross or the VCC Emergencies Ministry. These volunteers will listen to your storm experience and stories and leave you with an information pack and survey to complete. This survey will inform the Storm Recovery Team’s future planning on how to work alongside the community as they continue the recovery journey over the next 6 months.

We will be hosting further community events in the coming months. For further information regarding Council’s Community Pop Up Hubs for the storm impacted community, visit our Facebook page.

You can contact the Council’s Storm Team on: 5366 1323.

## Slow and Steady in the Resilient Community of Barkstead

Council officers met with and chatted to Barkstead resident Darryl Slater who told his story following the storm event in June:

Darryl Slater has lived at his property in Barkstead for 65 years. His cosy dwelling sits in a clearing, surrounded by reminders of the June storm by way of broken trees and strewn branches.

It’s the worst storm the area has had in well over 50 years and the damage across the Barkstead portion of the VPC Plantation at State Forest need to be seen to be believed.

“I’ve never seen nothing like this,” Mr Slater said.

“You couldn’t hear much, there are all these trees down but the wind was so strong you couldn’t hear the trees falling down.”

Ask Mr Slater if he’s worried about the huge clean-up that still needs to occur after a trailer and one of his utes was crushed by those fallen trees, and he simply shrugs his shoulders.

“Nah, I’ll just dig away at it and cut myself a bit of firewood I guess,” he said.

Mr Slater worked at the local sawmill before retirement, so he knows a thing or two about wood.

“There’s some bloody good mill logs over there, pity there’s no sawmills now,” Mr Slater said.

“I reckon I’ll have firewood for a while,” he chuckled.

Ever prepared after a life in the country, Mr Slater had a small generator to keep his television and lights working, despite five days with no power.

“That was handy. We lost a bit of meat out of the freezer though, couldn’t run the fridge or anything off it.”

Luckily his house is insured, after a tree took out a powerline at the front of the home he shares with his wife.

“Trees went across the power lines, the wires broke and one of them whiplashed back and took my veranda post out. Lucky it didn’t come through my lounge room window.”

The biggest trees fell behind the property.

“One of them blew over and just squished the trailer there.”

Nearly every tree in a nearby gully has been flattened. Although it takes a lot to faze him, Mr Slater calls the site “absolutely unbelievable.”

His next steps are to get an arborist to cut down a tree that is on a worrying lean over his shed.

“At least there’s not much to blow over now,” Mr Slater said.

Mr Slater is echoing a sentiment felt all over the Shire, as residents try to find a bright side to the lingering scenes of destruction:

“You see at this time of the year, we’re usually in shade all the time, but now we’re going to get some sun in, so that’s good.”



Darryl Slater

## Be Pool Safe this Summer

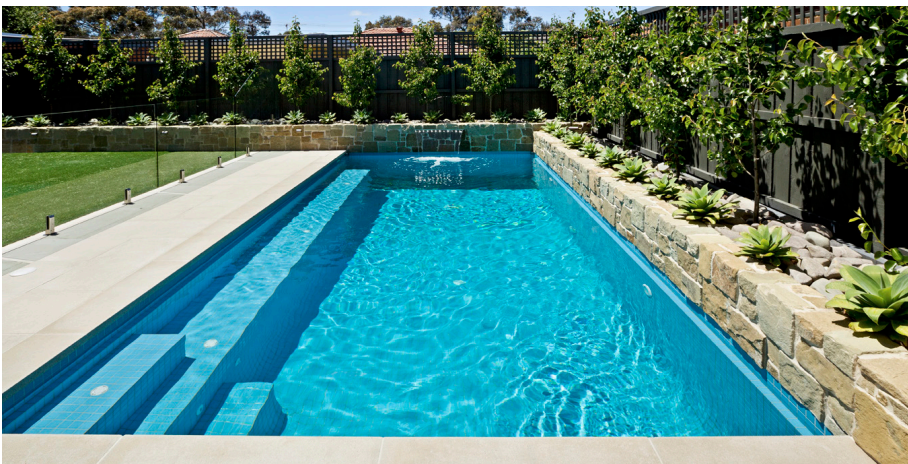
It may have been a slower start to summer but there are definitely lazy pool days ahead.

Do you have a pool at your property?

Hopefully you have now registered it, in line with Victorian Government legislation.

The Government also requires that residents have their pool and spa safety barriers inspected and certified. The Government has extended the deadline for owners to lodge their certificates of pool and spa barrier compliance.

Residents now have until 1 June 2022. Our website has more information on registration and barrier compliance: <https://www.moorabool.vic.gov.au/Building-and-planning/Building/Register-a-pool-or-spa>







# Dreaming of a Green Christmas

**Using what you already have saves natural resources, saves money and by upcycling materials, you create unique gifts and decorations found nowhere else!**

As the silly season approaches, it can be tempting to go out and buy lots of new, shiny, low quality plastic things! Now is the time to take a look around your home, your garden and think of how you can get crafty so that Christmas doesn't cost the earth.



## Decorate with nature!

Natural decorations are plastic-free and biodegradable. The more local the better!

Forage for interesting seedpods, feathers, pine cones and dried flowers. Attach to your Christmas tree or hang where you gather with loved ones.

Make a wreath from native plants for your front door

## Buy less, buy local

Vouchers for local restaurants or experience gifts are a great way to avoid waste in the first place and support local businesses.

## Christmas tree alternatives

- Branches can be collected and arranged into a tree-shaped wall hanging and decorated with lights
- Bring a beloved potted plant inside for the holiday season and perk it up with decorations



## Reuse wrapping, gift bags and cards

If you saved last years' gift bags and paper- it's time to pull them out of the craft cupboard before buying anything new. You'd be surprised at what you already have!

Cut off the front cover of old Christmas cards and use as gift tags

## Present wrapping

Wrapping paper is one of the most wasted materials at Christmas. Steer clear of anything shiny, plastic-lined or decorated with glitter as these are not recyclable.

- Use newspaper, old wall calendars, brown craft paper or tea towels to wrap gifts
- Ribbons and string are reusable alternatives to avoid plastic-y sticky tape
- Sprigs of rosemary or cinnamon sticks smell delicious and look beautiful on presents



## Waste collections over Christmas / New Year

Moorabool Shire waste contractors will collect bins as per the usual schedule over the Christmas and New Year period.







**WEST MOORABOOL WARD**  
Cr Tom Sullivan  
Mayor  
Phone: 0418 323 221  
Email: [tsullivan@moorabool.vic.gov.au](mailto:tsullivan@moorabool.vic.gov.au)



**EAST MOORABOOL WARD**  
Cr Tonia Dudzik  
Deputy Mayor  
Phone: 0407 014 489  
Email: [tdudzik@moorabool.vic.gov.au](mailto:tdudzik@moorabool.vic.gov.au)



**CENTRAL WARD**  
Cr Paul Tatchell  
Phone: 0407 108 025  
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**EAST MOORABOOL WARD**  
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**WOODLANDS WARD**  
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Email: [amunari@moorabool.vic.gov.au](mailto:amunari@moorabool.vic.gov.au)

Refer to Council’s website for a full list of 2022 Council meeting dates and times:  
[www.moorabool.vic.gov.au](http://www.moorabool.vic.gov.au)

Ordinary Meetings of Council to be held at Ballan Council Chambers: (commencing at 6.00 pm)

DATE	
2 February 2022	3 August 2022
2 March 2022	7 September 2022
6 April 2022	5 October 2022
4 May 2022	2 November 2022
1 June 2022	7 December 2022
6 July 2022	

Important emergency contact information

Police / CFA / Ambulance	000
SES	132500
Flood and Storm Info Line	1300 842 737
Victorian Bushfire Information Line	1800 240 667
Bacchus Marsh Hospital	5367 2000
Ballan Hospital	5368 1100
Moorabool Shire Council	5366 7100
Emergency after hours animal control	0400 501 696
Aged and Disability Services	0409 138 201
For all other emergencies	0419 887 065



IMPORTANT NOTES TO READERS

Moorabool Matters is Moorabool Shire Council’s official community newsletter, promoting events, activities, projects and issues in our Shire. This publication is part of Council’s ongoing commitment to improve communication and consultation with residents. It is published four times a year and delivered to residents through The Moorabool News newspaper. Every effort is made to ensure information included in Moorabool Matters is accurate at the time of publishing but may be subject to change. Readers are encouraged to contact Council or organisations listed in the newsletter for specific information. If you have any questions or comments about Moorabool Matters, please contact the Media and Marketing Officer at Moorabool Shire Council on **5366 7100** or email [info@moorabool.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@moorabool.vic.gov.au)