

Snowy River Mail

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INSIDE THIS EDITION

Paws, Claws, Feathers & Fur - Pets Feature

Flood meeting

East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (CMA) will release the East Gippsland Draft Floodplain Management Strategy (EGDFMS) for public consultation on Monday and will be holding a community briefing in Orbost next Wednesday, May 24, where the strategy will be explained and the community will have the opportunity to ask questions and raise concerns.

CMA chief executive officer, Graeme Dear, said the CMA was working with SES and East Gippsland and Wellington shires to produce the draft.

"We are now asking community members to provide input, before the EGCA board considers the final document," he said.

In 2016, the Victorian Government released the Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy (VFMS).

"The CMA is now charged with completing a regional strategy, working closely with local government, Victorian SES and other organisations and community," Mr Dear said.

The meeting will also be an opportunity to learn about the outcomes of the Snowy River Flood Study, with draft flood mapping presented on the night. The study, funded by the Victorian Government, focuses on the Snowy River between the confluence with Wibenduck Creek (upstream of Bete Bolong) and the Snowy River estuary.

Project outputs will be used to improve land use planning, emergency planning and community preparation for floods.

Floods are commonplace in East Gippsland and communities are very aware of their impacts, such as potential to disrupt essential services like transport, water supply, sewerage, electricity and communications.

Without effective management of land use on floodplains and emergency response during flood events, damage costs and the community's exposure to flood risk can increase.

"The EGDFMS considers areas in East Gippsland that are subject to flooding from time to time and prioritises actions that are designed to reduce flooding impacts, either by better forward planning or improved local response planning," Mr Dear said.

"We are very keen to gain community input to these draft proposals and also hear any new ideas we may not have considered yet. The draft will be available for public viewing at the CMA website."

The community briefing will take place at the Orbost Snowy Rovers Club rooms, from 5 to 7pm on May 24. Light refreshments will be provided.



Arguably the funniest night of entertainment ever had at the Orbost Snowy Rovers Football Netball Club was had on Saturday when comedy hypnotist Gerard Verschuren put on a show that won't be soon forgotten. A packed house participated in, and watched on, as players, supporters and club officials were hypnotised in a family friendly, and very amusing show. Among the antics locals, adults and youth alike, were getting up to while under hypnosis were singing football club theme songs and nursery rhymes, terrible acting, falling to the ground, sleeping (of course), and much more. The show was rated as one of the best many had seen, adding to a great vibe around the club in season 2017. 5174-6728

Caravan park in limbo

The power has been turned off and the hot water has stopped running at one of Cann River's most important assets - the caravan park.

Important because it is an advertisement to travellers the town is open for business and the gateway to the wilderness coast for campers and caravanners alike.

The park has been operating as unpowered sites with no hot water since May 5, and East Gippsland Shire Council - the operator of the park - could not provide a definite timeline as to when the park would be again fully functioning.

Shire director development, Paul

Holton, confirmed with the Snowy the Cann River Rainforest Caravan Park had been operating as a free caravan park for "a few months".

"With the peak and shoulder seasons wrapping up, facilities supplied at the park were reduced on May 5 to reflect its free camping status," he said.

But this is a decision based on an inability to have a new agreement in place, rather than a choice to operate as a free park.

"This status is temporary. Council staff are working to put in place all the administrative aspects of the park's operation that

will allow the reestablishment of a fee structure," Mr Holton said.

"Once council has an agreement in place with the Cann River Community Centre, council can then proceed with finalisation of registration and re-open as a paying park.

"Council is working to put a service agreement in place with the Cann River Community Centre for its role in the oversight of the park. Management of the overall facility - repairs, maintenance etc., will continue to be the role of council."

However, Cann River Community Centre said it signed a service

agreement with the shire, effective May 1. The ball is squarely in the shire's court as to when the centre's involvement becomes active.

The Snowy understands the shire is working on the park becoming compliant with regulations, including water pressure and emergency management.

The community centre's involvement will be limited to accepting fees and bookings during its opening hours, but it is working with the shire to further developing the business model for the park.

Continued page 6

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