

FALLS CREEK & MOUNT BEAUTY THIS WEEK

PRICELESS

SUMMER EDITION NINE

FRIDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2021

How Good is This?



Top: Falls Creek is very happy to welcome around 250 competitors for this weekend's Gravity Enduro. Pic – Courtesy FCRM
Left: A great weekend was enjoyed by all who attended the Dragon Boat Festival on Australia Day weekend. Pic – Charlie Brown
Right: Local Achiever of the Kiewa Valley and Citizen of the Year, Barbara Talbot with Cr Tony Keeble. Pic – Ken Bell

GRAVITY ENDURO

At Falls Creek

After a delayed start in 2020, MTB Enduro Racing makes a return to Victoria with Falls Creek hosting the inaugural round of the Victorian Gravity Enduro Tour this weekend. This successful state wide series makes a comeback to the hills of the high country and will see a sold out field of 250 riders tackle two days of riding, practice and racing on the trails of the Falls Creek MTB Park.

For the uninitiated, MTB Enduro racing is a true test of all round bike skills. Racers pit themselves against the clock on multiple downhill ‘special stages.’ These high speed, technical sections are timed with the fastest time across all stages deciding the winner. However, with riders required to pedal the lengthy uphill liaisons between each stage, it’s also a test of fitness as much as it’s a test of skill.

Racing kicks off this Saturday evening (February 6th) from 4pm with an exciting and challenging ‘urban’ stage bringing riders across closed roads in the Alpine Village. Racers will take on a high speed track from the Summit Gate at Falls Creek down to a spectacular finish in Slalom Plaza traversing a course which includes stairs, rocks and jumps.

Falls Creek Marketing Officer Lucy McEwan said spectators are encouraged “With 250 riders signed up to the Falls Creek Enduro and an all new Urban Stage taking place in the heart of the Village we’d love to see people head up the hill to cheer the competitors on. With these crazy riders



Top left: Georgina von Marburg. Bottom left: Kathryn McInerny. Right: Ayla Armitage.
All Pics – Courtesy FCRM

finishing flat out into Slalom Plaza, this is a great opportunity to get outside and enjoy the spectacle as well as visit some of our on mountain eateries.”

The action continues on Sunday with the field departing from the Village Bowl to tackle a 22km course across the mountain featuring the final five stages. With this opening round taking place on local terrain Ben McIlroy is a likely contender to take the win in the men’s Elite category. However, international racer Connor

Fearon is registered to race and is likely to push Ben hard on his local trails. In the women’s Elite podium regular Julia ‘Indi’ Boer will be looking to get an early lead in the series, though Mount Beauty local Ayla Armitage is rumoured to have made the leap to Elite and will also be looking for a victory.

After the year we’ve all experienced, it became pretty obvious that riders were keen to get back out and compete because it only took about a week from entries open to entries full with a considerable waiting list.

And for the social rider, many of Falls Creek’s mountain bike trails will still be open over the weekend. So you have the option of riding a bit or spectating for a bit. Enjoy the weekend. •

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INAUGURAL GATHER FESTIVAL

Named Event of the Year

The inaugural Gather Festival held in February last year has been named the Community Event of the Year at the Alpine Shire Australia Day Awards.

Run by a volunteer committee, with the support of the Champagne Club Kiewa Valley, the organisers were thrilled to receive the recognition after only their first event, which helped raise much needed funds for the local CFA.

Champagne Club President, Jodi Mann, said with the event held in the short period of time between bushfires and the spread of COVID-19, Gather Festival brought a much-needed ray of sunshine in what was otherwise a dark year for the community.

"Early January 2020, our little committee met and had to decide if we pushed forward with the event or cancel; at the time the valley was filled with smoke, the heat was unbearable and we'd been evacuated twice," Mrs Mann said.

"With hearts in our throats we decided to push forward and we were richly rewarded with a perfect day, a sell-out festival and some epic mountain biking."

"At the time we didn't know what 2020 had in store for us, so much pain, loss and isolation for us all, I'm so proud our little festival was a highlight in an otherwise horrible year."

Over \$3,000 was raised at the Festival held the Big Hill Mountain Bike Park in Mount Beauty in February 2020, with over 600 people enjoying a day of live music, local food and drinks, and market stalls.

The committee decided to donate profits to local emergency services following the threat of bushfires to the Upper Kiewa Valley in December 2019 and January 2020.

Combined with a generous donation from the Champagne Club, \$5,000 was donated to five local CFA brigades, with Mount Beauty, Tawonga, Falls Creek, Dederang and Gundowring brigades receiving \$1,000 each.



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Shire Councillor, Tony Keeble with Gather Festival Reps, Jodi Mann and Jasmin Panozzo with daughter Elke holding the award. Pic – Ken Bell

Event Coordinator, Xena Pahina, said money was raised through both ticket sales and students from Mount Beauty Secondary College selling raffle tickets and collecting donations throughout the day.

"Our local CFA volunteers worked tirelessly over the peak of the bushfires protecting not only our community, but a number of communities in our region, being able to donate the profits from our very first event is the least we can do," Ms Pahina said.

While planning for the 2021 Gather Festival had begun, the committee made the difficult decision late last year to delay the second event due to the pandemic.

"After such a fantastic support from our local businesses and response to our first event, we were really excited to bring Gather back to Mount Beauty in 2021," Ms Pahina said.

"We've decided, however, that it's in the best interest of our community to delay this year's festival and instead focus on the following year."

Ms Pahina said the committee was still running a virtual event in 2021, with a popular musician from last year's event jumping on board to get the community singing together from a safe distance.

"We're looking forward to running a virtual choir, led by one of our 2020 performers, Tanya George, in the first half of 2021, and an even bigger and better festival for both locals and visitors to enjoy in February 2022 - so watch this space!"

For more information on joining the virtual choir, visit www.gatherfestival.com.au. • Simone Dowel

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FALL LINES

Longest Lunch

Falls Creek is proud to host a luxurious long lunch on Friday 12th of March 2021.

Join your fellow diners and experience an Asian-inspired gourmet menu curated by legendary local Barry Iddles, matched wines and beers. The event takes place at Wallace's Hut where you'll be surrounded by High Country history amongst the snowgums; the food is sure to be as beautiful as the surrounds.

Guests will depart Falls Creek on the complimentary shuttle bus at 11:15am. A short walk from the drop off point will bring guests to the iconic Wallace's Hut. Nestled in a magical grove of snowgums this is perfect setting for a decadent feast hidden in the Victorian High Plains.

When: Friday 12th March 2021.
Where: Wallace's Hut. Cost: \$140 pp



The Longest Lunch is a fabulous day but early bookings are a must. Pic – Courtesy FCRM



Congratulations to Virginie & Ben Derrick on their recent nuptials. Pic – Kylie @ Big Bright Photos



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Limited tickets are available. Get in quick as this event sells out each year. There is every chance that by the time this paper hits the streets, tickets may be sold out –but give it a try. Visit: <https://www.fallscreek.com.au/listing/longest-lunch-falls-creek/> or phone 03 5758 1202. •

Congratulations

Virginie Bernard and Ben Derrick were happily married at Annapurna Estate on 5th December, 2020. Virginie is the daughter of Nicole Sellafranke and Claude Bernard and Ben is the son of Bob and Jane Derrick from Boweya near Wangaratta. Unfortunately, due to travel restrictions, Virginie's parents and older sister Celine and younger brother Benoit, were unable to attend the ceremony as they live in France and Spain. However, they will celebrate the occasion again when the newly-weds are able to travel to Europe.

The small wedding group enjoyed a fine morning ceremony while being looked after by their wonderful hosts Ezio and Daniel from Annapurna. A wonderful mountain cake

was created by Elene from Studio E Cakes in Tawonga and the colourful native flower arrangements were crafted by Jodi Mann. The couple were married by Ben's mother, Jane, who just happens to be a wedding celebrant. After marrying so many couples in north east Victoria Jane was finally able to marry one of her own children and declared that she is now officially retired! Virginie and Ben and their daughter Olivia are expecting an addition to their family in April and are well settled in Tawonga South. •

The CFA Raffles

Meet Ajay who is a volunteer of the Falls Creek CFA. Like all CFA teams, our members work year round to ensure that we are all safe in both winter and summer. Each Thursday, the Frying Pan Inn gladly hosts the Falls Creek CFA Raffle - raising funds to be distributed via the CFA to local community groups. The Raffle prizes are generously donated by local businesses including: Tawonga South Butchery; Vegetation; Bilsons1865 and the Frying Pan Inn.

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AJ, or Ajay, who, with the rest of the crew, do a great job of fundraising for the community at the regular CFA Raffles on Thursday nights at Friers. Pic – Courtesy the Friers

Frying Pan Inn is open Thursdays and Mondays from 4pm and over the weekend from 12.30pm. •

Opportunities Abound

Traverse Alpine Group are hiring for Winter 2021!

It's time to get excited for the 2021 Snow Season. In the lead up to the 2021 Winter Season Traverse Alpine Group (TAG) are on the lookout for superstars to help deliver exceptional food and beverage experiences to everyone who comes to Falls Creek.

Traverse Alpine Group are the largest hospitality employer at Falls Creek and these roles come with great opportunities to help you live the Alpine Lifestyle this winter as well as the tools and experiences to enhance your career. If you are interested in a lifestyle change, or are ready to love going to work every day, then look no further. TAG's venues at Falls Creek include: Astra, Cloud 9, Huski Kitchen, Murmeli and the Frying Pan Inn. Off the mountain, they can also provide opportunities at The Boat Shed, Lake Hume and Elm Dining in Bright.

A variety of roles available including: Front Office Supervisor; Bar Manager; Restaurant Manager; Chef; Sous Chef.

For more information on these roles, please check out our Facebook page or via LinkedIn.

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/70477338>

<https://www.facebook.com/TraverseAlpineGroupAustralia>. •



Opportunities abound to join a great team for the coming winter. Check the FB site. Pic – Courtesy TAG

Early Bird Resort Entry

After the year that's perhaps best forgotten and the snow season that never was, Falls Creek Resort Management are excited announce that the 2021 Early Bird Resort Entry Pass is coming soon.

Offering season long vehicle access to the resort, this is a deal not to be missed. Dates of the sale have not been revealed but FCRM Marketing and Communications Manager, Sarah Watt, has hinted the release of the Early Bird Pass is not far away. "Make sure you are on the mailing list (via www.fallscreek.com.au) to be the first to know when the pass goes on sale this month" said Watt, "With a revised policy for 2021 we hope to offer peace of mind to passholders when purchasing a vehicle season's pass for the upcoming snow season."

You can also stay in the loop via Facebook (@fallcreekalpineresort), Instagram @fallscreek and fallscreek.com.au.

The 2020 Early Bird sales will only be on sale for a short period of time. Don't miss out. •

Tennis

The year of delays and cancellation of events nearly over and the Mount Beauty Tennis Club is pleased to announce that mixed social tennis is now back on Wednesday evenings. At the moment the tennis is not a competition, but more of a social hit and get together and everyone is welcome. If you are new to town and would like to enjoy a game of tennis, come down to the courts at 7pm on Wednesday evening. The contact at the moment is Michelle Forrer, Ph: 0417 206 672. •



Valentine's Day

SUNDAY 14TH FEBRUARY, 2021

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MONDAY 4PM - LATE
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AUSTRALIA DAY

Celebrating Local Achievement

There are times when we should all stand back and think – and thank those that came before us – in this particular case – for building a wonderful community centre for the town.

Australia Day has traditionally been celebrated in Hydro Park under the shade of those beautiful trees in the gardens – but this year we were able to move indoors and enjoy a very good presentation and recognition of achievement in this community.

First on the list was the Local Young Achiever – and this went to Mitchell Cook. Mitch blew the socks off the community with an excellent effort of ‘Everesting’ on

the Tawonga Gap.

Mt Everest is 8848 metres above sea level. To achieve that same elevation, Mitch chose to ride up the Tawonga Gap 19 times to achieve that elevation – with the added incentive of an extra donation if you reached the 10,000 metre mark – which meant an extra two laps.

In doing this, Mitch raised \$11,500 for Movember.

Other achievements Mitch has been noted for include Best All Rounder for academic leadership, sport and community service at the Mount Beauty Secondary College.

He was also chosen to attend the National Youth Science Forum, supported by the Rotary Club of Mount Beauty and has participated in the CFA Junior Volunteer Development program. Congratulations Mitch.

The Community Organisation of the Year went to The Mount Beauty Scouts. Our scouts were first formed in the sixties and the group has provided many opportunities for children in the area. The Mount Beauty Scout Group has been involved or assisted with: The Good Friday Appeal; The Australia Day Ceremony; Clean Up Australia Day as well as being involved with and helping at ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day services. Well done to the Scouts and their leaders.

The Community Event of the Year was well deserved, going to the inaugural Gather Festival. See report Page Three.

The Mount Beauty Car Club has been operating pretty well continually since 1972, and as such was this year awarded the Lifetime Achievement award.

Over the years, the club has raised funds to purchase much needed equipment for track maintenance, has improved the facilities around the track.

The club has a good junior mentor program and several juniors have competed

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2021 SUMMER PUBLICATION SCHEDULE & RATES

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:
Ed 10 * 19.02.21 * Interschools XC Championships and XCO State MTB Championships. (C)
Ed 11 * 05.03.21 * Peaks Challenge Falls Creek. Falls Creek Longest Lunch. (C)
Ed 12 * 19.03.21 * Wrap of Longest Lunch. Lead up to Easter Activities Autumn Activities. (C)
Ed 13 * 01.04.21 * Easter Celebrations in Mount Beauty and Falls Creek – Fun for the family! (C)
DISTRIBUTION: • All accommodation houses, restaurants, businesses, club lodges & apartments in Falls Creek, Bogong Village, Mount Beauty, Tawonga South, Tawonga & Dederang, plus the RMB's between Dederang & Tawonga & selected venues in Bright & Myrtleford.
ONLINE: • Available in PDF form at: www.fallscreek.com.au/whatson/
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AUSTRALIA DAY

successfully around the state. One particular junior, Cooper Capellari raced with the club for many years and is now apprenticed to Brad Jones Racing in Albury.

Local Achiever Kiewa Valley went to Barbara Talbot. Barb is a long term resident of the Kiewa Valley and has been involved in local business and community organisations where she has made a significant contribution towards strengthening the community fabric and building community resilience.

Granny Barb's latest efforts have related to the Mount Beauty Hospital and Kiewa Valley House Op Shop – which, since May 2014, has raised over \$250,000 for the hospital and Kiewa Valley House.

The even better news is that Barb was then honoured with the Citizen of the Year award – something that is totally deserved and proved to be a popular announcement – as shown by the fantastic number of FB congratulations!

Congratulations to all recipients and to all who were nominated. And thankyou to all for the great efforts and achievements – which sets a high standard in our community. Australia Day is about achievement – nothing else! •



Local Young Achiever of the Year for the Kiewa Valley is Mitch Cook for his fabulous effort in raising \$11,500 for Movember. Pic – Ken Bell

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Celebrate VALENTINE'S DAY



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HEY DAD

What's the difference between a hippo and a zippo... ones really heavy and the other is a little lighter!

HEY DAD 2

How many apples grow on a tree.... All of them.

MISSING BOOK

A copy of Dr Ruth Lawrence's Thesis titled 'The Interaction between the Environment, Land Use and Hydrology of the Bogong High Plains between 1850 and 1985' was left for this community in the care of Mr Bill Sutton. Bill was happy to lend the book and until now it was always returned – until this last 18 months. This is a valuable piece of the area's history and we hope this notice may prompt someone's memory. Please contact your Ed on 0400 350 488.

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ALPINE BETTER PLACES

Information Sessions for Local Communities

Harrietteville and Tawonga communities are invited to an information session to learn more about the Alpine Better Places projects for their respective townships.

Alpine Better Places aims to revitalise and connect central township and recreation spaces.

Alpine Shire Council Manager Asset Development Alan Rees said the project has reached the detailed concept design stage, and Council is keen to hear what the community thinks.

"Draft detailed concept plans have been prepared for Alpine Better Places Tawonga and Harrietteville, based on feedback received from the communities last year," he said.

"Residents can choose from a lunch or evening session to see the draft plans explained by the project architects, ask questions and provide feedback.

"If you can't make it on the day, the sessions will be recorded and available on our Facebook page and website in the days following, and plans will be available to view on our website."

A two-week public consultation phase will follow the sessions to ensure everyone has the chance to have their say on the draft plans.



ALPINE
SHIRE COUNCIL

Tawonga:

Date: Wednesday, 10 February

Venue: Tawonga Community Hall

Lunch session: 12.30 - 1.30pm

Evening session: 7pm - 8pm

Harrietteville:

Date: Thursday, 11 February

Venue: Harrietteville Hall

Lunch session: 12.30pm - 1.30pm

Evening session: 7pm - 8pm



To learn more about these particular projects go to the websites listed:

For Harrietteville, go to: <https://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/council/major-projects/current-projects/alpine-better-places-harrietteville>

For Tawonga, go to: <https://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/council/major-projects/current-projects/alpine-better-places-tawonga>

For further information, contact Ebony Buckley at ebonyb@alpineshire.vic.gov.au, or ph: 03 5755 0555. •

Mt Beauty Hardware & Drapery Store

✓ Home ✓ Garden
✓ River ✓ Camping

Gift Vouchers Available!

Mon - Fri: 9am - 5:30pm

Sat: 9am - 4pm

Sun & Public Hols: 9am - 2pm

Haymes
PAINT WITH PASSION

12 - 14 Hollonds Street,
Mt. Beauty
Ph: 03 5754 1999

Jaycar
ELECTRONICS
AGENT



Visit the
**Bogong Power Station
Information Centre**
For historical & geological exhibits.

Now open Sundays

10:30am - 2:30pm Bogong Alpine Village
Group Bookings - Phone 03 5754 3318

MEDICAL SERVICES - Upper Kiewa Valley

MOUNT BEAUTY MEDICAL CENTRE

WHERE 2D Tawonga Crescent.

WHEN 8:30am - 5pm Mon - Friday
10am - 12noon Saturdays.

HOW Ph: 03 5754 3400
for appointments

WHO Doctors: Mark Zagorski OAM,
Jeff Robinson, Libby Garoni,
Skye Delaney, Laura Zagorski,
Angela Stratton, Lauren Cussen,
Matthew McAlpine, Brett Goodsall
& Damian Heman

WHAT Fully accredited General Practice
with 41 years of service to the
Upper Kiewa Valley.

CONTACT Ph: 03 5754 3400
Em: enquiries@mbmc.com.au
Wb: <https://www.mbmc.com.au/>

Falls Creek Medical Centre is currently closed!

To make an appointment, please phone 03 5754 3400.
You will be directed to a doctor for a Tele-Health
appointment. Our Doctors are on call 24 hours a day,
Seven days a week from Mount Beauty!

Your local practice - supporting the community!

WHAT'S ON

~ FUTURE 2021 EVENTS ~

FEB 6-7 Round One - Victorian Enduro Tour.
A multi-stage Enduro event over the
high plains with lots of great riding.
www.vicendurotour.wordpress.com. Em: events@falls creek.com.au. Ph: 03 5758 1202.

FEB 15 I Am Woman Movie, 5:30pm Sun
Cinema Bright. Raising money
for Rotary International End Polio
program. Tickets \$20. Bookings:
Ph: Maria: 0402 821 319.

FEB 26 Falls Creek MTB Interschools -
hosted by Falls Creek and Mount
Beauty Secondary College. Further
details at Ph: 03 5758 1200.

FEB 27 Falls Creek hosts the State XCO
Championship Series. XCO or
Cross country Olympic Format
is one of the most well know and
exciting disciplines of mountain
biking and the guns will be here.
Wb: vicchampsseries.com.au.
Em: info@entryzone.com.au.
Ph: 03 5758 1200.

MAR 7 Peaks Challenge Falls Creek.
Almost 2000 cyclists will visit Falls
Creek for one of the greatest and
challenging rides in the Southern
Hemisphere. <https://www.bicyclenet.com.au/>

MAR 7 Mt Bogong Conquestathon -
CANCELLED

MAR 13 Dederang Picnic Race Day - A Fun
family day out! Further enquiries to:
Ph: 0499 357 688
Em: dederangraceclub@gmail.com

APR 2-5 Easter Celebrations at Falls Creek.
Ph: 03 5758 1200.

APR 17-18 Alpine Challenge has been post-
poned to this weekend in April 2021.
Refer: <https://www.runningwild.net.au/>

What's On!

@ WEST PEAK HOTEL - FEBRUARY

WEEKDAYS HAPPY HOUR 5-6PM

THURS TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER
7.30PM

FRI COMMUNITY RAFFLES
FROM 5.30PM

SAT FREE LIVE MUSIC FROM 3PM
6/2 CAN'T FIND MY KEYS. 13/2 ADAM LINDSAY.
20/2 MARK HOGG. 27/2 RED BRICK RADIO.

SUN BRING YOUR OWN DARTS
FOR A SOCIAL THROW
FROM 3PM

www.westpeakhotel.com.au
www.facebook.com/WestPeakHotel/



1 Lakeside Avenue,
Mount Beauty

03 5754 4985

www.westpeakhotel.com.au