

*And the natural world delivers again. Recently, there was a solar storm which resulted in a magical aurora display visible here at Cape Paterson as captured in this photo taken by a member of the Victorian Aurora Hunters group.*



# Our cape life: *in August*

What's been happening and what is about to happen...

**Welcome** it feels like spring is just around the corner and there's a lot of building activity going on. ...both the human and the animal variety.

This year's whale migration season has been incredible with recent displays of breaching and pods feeding quite close to F Break - with some activity being easily visible without binoculars. You do have to be at the right place at the right time, but whether you're lucky enough to see a blow, a breach or even a seal - it will make your day!



## Of special interest...

**EVees for Newbees** *How do I know where I can charge?*

Currently very few 'Service Stations' have EV chargers (this will definitely change over the next few years!) For now, EV owners need to plan ahead and rely on technology to tell us where to charge. Luckily, there are some handy Apps that help identify Charge Points on an interactive map:

**PlugShare:**

Probably the best app for trip planning - Shows a lot of charging options; defaults to your current location; allows you to customise the App so it only shows chargers your car can use; and allows for comments and ratings to identify issues at specific locations.

**ChargeFox:**

Includes both free and paid chargers; requires an account to be setup; some charging sites identify how many chargers are currently available.

**Evee:**

Focussed on fast charging – not free; identifies how many chargers are currently available.

*What about driving between The Cape and Melbourne*

Once you're on the Bass highway, there are currently relatively few options for fast charging.

The last Fast Charging option when you're heading back to The Cape is at Dandenong (see Eevee)

If you get stuck, there are slower charging options shown on PlugShare (EG KooWeeRup)

This will change soon, as the Bass Coast council announced funding to put fast chargers at Grantville, Wonthaggi, Inverloch and Newhaven

*What are these 'Fast' Chargers you speak of?*

Without getting too technical, a Fast charger provides DC electricity that is fed straight into the battery.

Depending on the charger & the car, a Fast charger can typically add 100km of range in 5-20 minutes.

In contrast, you can plug into an AC electricity supply which then needs to be converted to DC to charge the Battery. Again, depending on the type of charger & the car, adding 100km of range can typically take between an Hour (eg at a Shopping centre) and 8 hours (using a standard household power point).



### ...from the Farmer

Early August is a great time for clearing out last season's crops, if the crop debris are soft stemmed, they can be cut finely and reincorporated back into the garden or else chopped and loaded into a compost bay. Add a load of fresh compost, enriched with a couple of large handfuls of dynamic lifter. This will reset the nutrient balance getting the garden primed and ready for the next planting.

It's a good time now for an early season planting of staples such as leafy greens (lettuce, silver beat, asian greens, celery, leeks) and sowing the seed of root crops such as carrots, beetroot, parsnip.

If you have a north facing window ledge you could even try sowing zucchini, tomatoes, pumpkin and cucumber seed in trays or else

wait till late September or October for brought seedlings.

For Fruit Trees finish pruning apples, pears, quince, weed and then feed with slow-release organic fertiliser such as Rooster Booster then re-mulch base with thick layers of wood chip. Use a copper spray (non-toxic) to control leaf curl on peaches and nectarines.



## Events

**Farm working bee followed by a potluck lunch**

**When: 10am-12pm, Saturday 20 August**

**Where: Community Farm**

You're invited to join us at the next Community Farm for a working bee. Have a chat, do a bit of work and learn some stuff. Bring along a plate for sharing afterwards at the **pot luck lunch from 12pm-1pm**.

There will be a variety of tasks to cater for all skill and strength levels. Some tools will be provided but any extras you can bring are welcome and BYO gloves.

Many thanks and we look forward to seeing you there!