

The New Woodend Star

First published 1997 – by the community, for the community

Proudly published by Rotary



Club of Woodend

March 2022
Volume 26 | Issue 2

Celebrating 25 years
of community news

Design works to progress on Woodend Community Centre

A bigger and better Woodend Community Centre is one step closer, thanks to government funding to fast-track detailed design works.

Minister for Regional Development Mary-Anne Thomas visited Woodend last month and announced \$260,000 from the Investment Fast Track Fund will be put towards the design stage of the planned redevelopment.

The redevelopment was a key recommendation from the Woodend Community Centre Master Plan, completed in 2021, thanks to a grant through the Regional Infrastructure Fund.

The local community has been engaged with through the development of the master plan and will also have the opportunity to share their thoughts on the design process.

A new library, performance space, foyer and gallery, café, visitor information hub, and an outdoor events space are all part of the plans to update the community centre to meet the needs of the growing community.

The new spaces will be designed to take advantage of natural light and create a more vibrant and welcoming place to visit.

The redevelopment will support up to 25 full-time construction jobs and ongoing roles including seven customer service positions and 14 library staff.

"I look forward to seeing the design process get underway with the revamped centre set to improve social and employment prospects in Woodend," said Ms Thomas.

The Investment Fast Track Fund is taking projects from the ideas phase to be investment and development-ready, with grants of up to \$500,000 available to local councils, community organisations and the private sector for planning, design and business case works.

The Fund is part of the \$156 million Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund, which helps businesses create more jobs in regional Victoria and supports councils to build the infrastructure locals and visitors need.

Information on the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund can be found at rdv.vic.gov.au/rjif.

SUBMITTED BY KATE LEE, OFFICE OF MARY-ANNE THOMAS MP



(L to R): Cr Janet Pearce; Mayor Jennifer Anderson; Minister for Regional Development and Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas MP; Jane Walduck, Woodend Community Centre Project Group; Deputy Mayor Rob Guthrie; Danni Finlay, Business Development Officer MRSC; CEO MRSC Bernie O'Sullivan

PUBLISHER

The Rotary Club of Woodend
ABN 32 685 225 No. A0021518E
PO Box 333 Woodend 3442
Published monthly (except January).
Distributing 4,100 free copies across
Woodend 3442 postal district.

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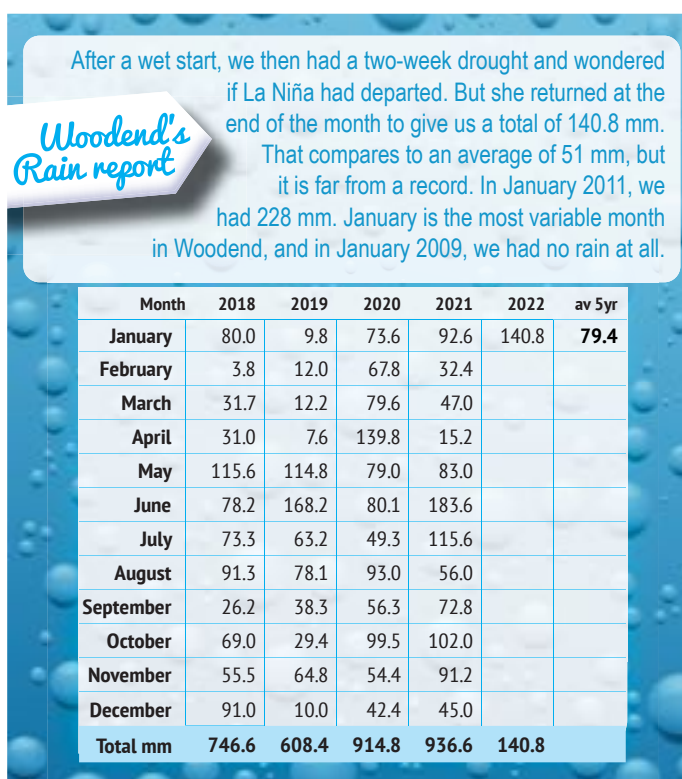


Supported by Macedon Ranges Shire Council



Thank you ... and welcome

The New Woodend Star Management Committee would like to thank Tim Webber for his wise counsel and dedication to *The New Woodend Star* during his time as a member and secretary of the Committee. Also, we welcome Dr Elaine Saunders and Kelly Griffiths to the Committee and look forward to their input and enthusiasm.



Highly-anticipated events on the way

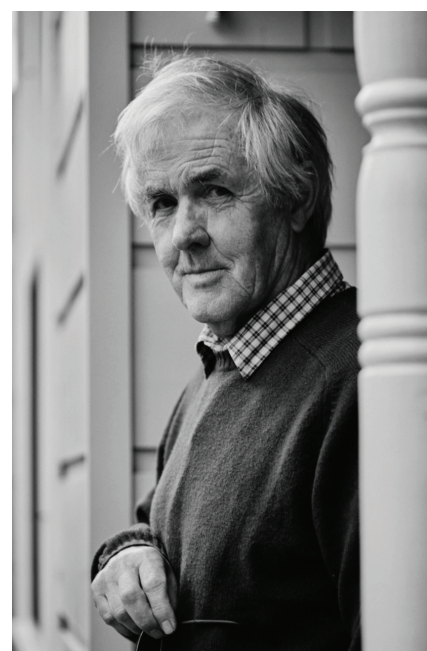
Macedon Ranges Rural Australians for Refugees are pleased to announce that two of their long-awaited events, cancelled in 2021 as a result of the pandemic, have been rescheduled for the early part of this year.

Christine Cummins has worked with NGOs in Sri Lanka and Iran, as well as indigenous communities in the Kimberley region of WA. She spent five years on Christmas Island supporting asylum seekers as a torture and trauma counsellor.

Christine will appear at an information session at 2pm on Saturday 12 March at the Norma Richardson Hall, 15 Buckland Street Woodend. She will discuss her experiences working with refugees and sign copies of her book, *Dignity in a teacup* – true stories of courage and sacrifice on Christmas Island. Attendees should register their interest at trybooking.com/BXHDW. Admission is free of charge, but any donations offered at the door for the support of refugees in Australia will be gratefully accepted.

Another highly-anticipated event will be an appearance by celebrated speechwriter, screenwriter, satirist and traveller, Don Watson. Don has been an adviser to leaders of both state and federal governments and is the author of 13 books. His latest offering, *Watsonia: A Writing Life*, features musings on subjects as diverse as travel and terrorism, language and leadership, football and faith and, most intriguingly, the question of Australia: Who are we? Where are we? And where do we go from here? This event will also be held at the Norma Richardson Hall Woodend, where Don will share his thoughts in conversation and sign copies of his books on Saturday 2 April at 4pm. Tickets can be purchased online at trybooking.com/BVEOJ. All proceeds from admission will be donated for the support of refugees in Australia.

Macedon Ranges Rural Australians for Refugees asks that all attendees adhere to government COVID-19 guidelines as required on those dates.



Don Watson, photo by Louis Terrese



Christine Cummins

SUBMITTED BY ANDREW GRIMES

Reflect, Respect, Celebrate

Woodend Rotary would like to thank everyone who attended the wonderful Community Australia Day on the Lawn event. The special day was made possible with the support of the National Australia Day Council, whose funding supported the RSL venue hire, the band, the food trucks, face painting and the marquees.

The fantastic turnout of 160 people enjoyed the warm weather (under cover of course), great Indian food from Dhaba and Mexican from OneVoice, as well as the terrific band Yeah Nah back for the second year.

We were also well supported by local representatives, including federal member for McEwen, Rob Mitchell MP, state member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas, Macedon Ranges Shire Council mayor, Cr Jennifer Anderson and MRSC Cr Janet Pearce.

The theme for Australia Day this year was Reflect, Respect, Celebrate, and the day commenced with an Acknowledgement of Country by Mary-Anne Thomas MP.

Rotarian Grant Hocking explained that the day is challenging for many, especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Grant went on to say that Woodend Rotary had respectfully invited the Traditional Owners of the land, the Djarra, to attend; and had received a very kind and thoughtful response that explained while they would not attend, the Dja Dja Wurrung vision is to build a better understanding of the shared history of Australia and to one day lead the celebration of this land as our home.

This was a wonderful event and one of many local and international projects that Woodend Rotary coordinates to support the community. Anyone interested in being part of a great community group is encouraged to attend a Woodend Rotary meeting at the Victoria Hotel on Thursdays at 6.30pm or contact membership chair Tony Waters on 0418 528 509.

woodendrotary.org.au or facebook.com/rotarywoodend

SUBMITTED BY GRANT HOCKING



L-R Grant Hocking; Mary-Anne Thomas MP; Howard Burvill, Josephine Falzarano; Rob Mitchell federal member for McEwen; Cr Jennifer Anderson, Mayor MRSC and Cr Janet Pearce



Musicians – Yeah Nah



Arnold Morrison and Gabriella Morrison

more Rotary news on page 7 ...

The New Woodend Star and the Rotary Club of Woodend acknowledge the Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Peoples and their Ancestors as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands of the Macedon Ranges on which we meet, work and live. We recognise their living culture and continuous connection to the land and waters in our area and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

An awesome summer!

Young members at local Macedon–Woodend Scout Group have totally had the shackles of the past two years' lockdowns shaken off them, with a series of fantastic, outdoor adventures this summer. VicJam in January proved to be the experience of a lifetime, with rafting, scuba, caving, flying, sailing, robotics and rock climbing at Elmore enjoyed by Scouts in the 11–14 age group. Meanwhile, Venturers navigated the Nadgee Wilderness Hike in NSW, a Grade 5 level experience along pristine coastline, sleeping in dunes and drinking from clear water inlets over the course of five days. Taking advantage of the warm weather, the Venturers then proceeded to undertake the week-long Overland Hike in Cradle Mountain and St Clair National Park Tasmania in January; truly a memorable experience, enjoyed by our Venturer Group each year.

Three of our Venturers have completed their Queen Scout Award recently – the highest level of Scouting – and we applaud Thomas Shaddock, Henry Wilcox and Noah Camilleri-Seeber for achieving this prestigious honour. Our Cubs, not to be outdone, have hiked the Goat Track to the Cross at twilight, and rafted on Macedon Reservoir – earning their Canoe Handling badge.

Overall, the Macedon–Woodend Group looks forward this year to more incredible adventures and we thank our leaders for donating their time and expertise to ensure members have made the most of this summer. For any enquiries for the group:

macedonwoodendscouts.com

SUBMITTED BY JANE WALDUCK

Macedon–Woodend Scout Group



VicJam fireworks (Credit: Macedon–Woodend Scout Leader Simon Walliss)

Lions Club Art Show

The momentum grows

The 47th Woodend Lions Annual Art show is drawing closer and gaining serious momentum. It is held on March 12–14 at St Ambrose Hall, Templeton Street, Woodend. The long months of pandemic restrictions have been unleashed in a flood of creative entries. The entry forms are on the website and there is time left, though not much, to be part of this signature annual show.

In an exciting development, the ever-generous Helen Cottle has donated a beautiful impression of the Woodend village as a raffle prize. It will be keenly sought after.

There are works in the show in oil, acrylic, watercolour, photography and a wide range of other media. There are generous prizes for each category; and the judges this year are Llael McDonald, a well-respected artist and Jill Rivers, a significant contributor to the art scene. In recent years, the show has held its established exhibitors as well as attracting vibrant new artists. The range of works on display will have something for everyone; the show will be well worth a visit sometime over the long weekend. It's worth saying that many works are sold in the initial hours of the show, as many are original, stunning, attractively priced, and all the artists' original work. After last year's video of the judges' commentary on the prize-winners, many works were keenly sought after. The funds raised at this show will support the range of social and environmental projects undertaken by Woodend Lions in the local community.

SUBMITTED BY BARRY MCDONALD



Helen Cottle's impression of Woodend to be offered as a raffle prize

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The New Woodend Star's 25th Anniversary

Thanks to the foresight of a group of Rotarians in 1997, Woodend's recent history is now preserved in the pages of *The New Woodend Star*.

The very first edition, published in June 1997, got straight into the issues on the minds of those living in Woodend at that time.

Woodend businesses were very concerned about the impact that the construction of the Calder bypass would have on visitor numbers to the town. One wrote that the town needed an icon to put 'Woodend on the map', to give travellers using the Calder a reason to leave the freeway and visit Woodend. "Some bypassed towns have already paid the price for not putting into place a plan for the future, prior to the opening of their bypass," one business owner said.

The first edition of TNWS carried a double page invitation from Ivor and Pauline Johnson to the unveiling of '19th Hole Art Collection: Woodend' in June 1997, a series of larger-than-life outdoor paintings of historical scenes of Woodend by local artists Shane Bartley and Robert Watson that were erected around the outside of the then-IGA supermarket, which belonged to Rotarian and former TNWS Management Committee member, Ivor Johnson.

The second edition of TNWS recorded that 500 people came the art collection's

opening by the Minister for Rural Development, Hon Tom Reynolds. The artwork was attracting attention from the press and television, as well as Tourism Victoria. According to the Mayor of the Shire of Macedon Ranges Cr Rod Hardy, the paintings were 'fast becoming a major talking point in the region.'

In 1998, the NWS reported that as further preparation for the bypass, the Woodend Business and Tourism Association had presented a proposal to the Council requesting development of facilities for travellers stopping off in Woodend, including a Caroline Chisholm shelter shed, a bus terminal pick up/drop off facility and picnic facilities.

Another major issue at that time was the construction of the new sports stadium, and more particularly, the fundraising required to support its construction.

The first edition of TNWS reported that the Save our Stadium Committee and later the Buffalo Sports Stadium Woodend Inc Fund Raising Committee had worked for more than two years to have the state-of-the-art multipurpose facility built in Woodend.

The total cost of the project was \$1 million. The Council was contributing \$760,000 and was requiring the fundraising committee to raise \$120,000, of which only \$62,300

had been raised. Russell Mowatt of the committee issued a public appeal for people who had supported the project to now support it financially. Other fundraising initiatives included a casino night.

The November edition of TNWS reported that the Rotary Club of Woodend, in celebration of its 10th anniversary, had presented a \$15,000 cheque to the Buffalo Sports Stadium building fund.

This was raised through the sale of the Club's stockpile of grass hay, and with the support of the Johnson family and past president Peter Sturrock. Further funds had been raised at a Stadium fundraising night attended by Rotary Club members and other members of the community.

The stadium was opened by Hon Tom Reynolds in December 1998 and, in recognition of the contribution of Rotary and the Johnson family, a room was designated The Rotary Room, a multi-purpose space available for hire.

Other interesting stories in the early editions included an invitation to a forum hosted by the Kyneton Reconciliation study group to hear John Tally speak about pre-contact history of the Dja Dja Wurrung peoples and the launch of an initiative called Greenfleet, seeking donations of \$25 to plant seven trees per car per year, to offset the carbon dioxide produced by the car and reduce the threat of global warming.

According to the "Woodend Top 10 CD's" list compiled by local business Straycatz, the number 1 CD in June 1997 was Savage Garden by Savage Garden.

In August 1997, for no apparent reason, the following item appeared:

"Strange but True:

On 16th July 1439, an act was passed in England that banned kissing. It was an attempt to stop the plague that was sweeping the continent."

Probably lucky no one told our health officials in 2020!

SUBMITTED BY DEIDRE WILLMOTT



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Rotary District 9800 has designed a targeted post-graduate scholarship to focus on overseas study for a Masters degree, to a value of up to USD60,000. The Post Graduate Global Grant Scholarship is designed to enhance the profiles of our best graduates of recent years and acknowledges the underlying strength of Victorian university graduates.

Applications are invited from persons normally resident in Victoria and must be made through a Victorian Rotary Club. Applications close 31 March 2022.

For further details, contact: David Gorman, 0411 806 140, davidcgorman53@gmail.com or Bob Fels 03 9417 6550, robertmfels@gmail.com

For further information go to www.rotarydistrict9800.org.au/sitepage/foundation/scholarships.

If you wish to apply, please contact Deidre Willmott, Foundation Chair, Rotary Club of Woodend deidre@dwillmott.com



SUBMITTED BY DEIDRE WILLMOTT

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A message from your West Ward Councillors



WE KNOW many young people and families have been looking forward to returning to school, and we hope that everyone is settling in well. Well done to all of our young people who have been vaccinated. With sport and activities recommencing, it is a positive start to the year.

Councillors are pleased to have commenced our regular Tuesday Briefing sessions with the Executive and staff and also Council meetings again. We look forward to being able to attend many more community events and celebrations in person. We really enjoy being invited. Speaking of this ... congratulations to Henry, Noah and Thomas for achieving your Queens Scouts award last month. We appreciated the opportunity to celebrate this with you.

There were other people to celebrate at the Macedon Ranges Australia Day Awards and citizenship ceremony that were held in person at the Kyneton Town Hall.

We know what a wonderful community of caring people we have here in our shire, who volunteer their time year after year to improve the lives of others. This year we had some new categories to link to our new Council themes and community vision. We celebrated their outstanding talent, commitment and achievements and congratulated:

- Citizen of the Year – David Gormley O’Brien
- Connecting Communities – Luke Spielvogel
- Healthy People and Environment – Kyneton District Soccer Club
- Business and Tourism – Andrew Towner

The day started with a community breakfast in Tylden, organised by the CFA. Then a lovely community lunch event, hosted by Woodend Rotary at the Woodend RSL. Well done to all involved.

You may have heard about the other celebration regarding the funding announced to progress the Woodend Community and Cultural Centre. Thanks to the state government for allocating \$260,000 via their Infrastructure Fast Track Funding Scheme, together with Council’s \$65,000 so we can move forward making this a step closer to being shovel-ready and a reality. A lot of hard work over many, many years by members of the Woodend community and a huge thank you to you all.

The annual satisfaction survey, which is conducted on behalf of Council, commenced in February and continues until March. It involves some confidential interviews by phone, and it is an important way of assessing Council’s performance across a range of areas to assist us to identify ways to improve services and efficiency. We appreciate your time to help us.

Speaking of feedback, every month there are many strategies, plans and other documents where we ask for your thoughts, feedback and opinions. An important one to many will be the Open Space Strategy. Submissions are open until 8 April. Council owns over 900 hectares of open space, including public parks, waterways, recreation reserves and

bushland conservation reserves, and we need to look at how we provide high quality open spaces and manage them equitably in our growing communities. We would love for you to contribute.

mrsc.vic.gov.au/About-Council/News/Have-Your-Say

As you know, Council has recently announced a restructure, with the reintroduction of the Community directorate, and we are welcoming many new people into roles. If you are not sure who is the most appropriate person to contact with any queries, request for information or to report any issues, please call customer service on 5422 0333, who will direct you to the appropriate Council Officer. You can also contact Council via email on: mrsc@mrsc.vic.gov.au

*Best wishes,
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Janet, Jennifer and Mark.*

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BACK FROM THE ASHES - BRINGING LIVE MUSIC TO THE RANGES!



Live Music is coming back to regional VIC in a big way, and our neighbours at the Macedon Railway Hotel are leading the charge!

This passionate team of local music lovers are quickly filling their 2022 gig guide with some of Australia's most legendary live artists (think Tex Perkins, Ross Wilson, Kate Ceberano, Russell Morris) whilst also supporting new and emerging local artists.



What makes this venue great isn't just the talent that hits the stage each week, the intimate "Annie's Hall" band room offers a chance to experience your favourite musicians in a relaxed atmosphere from mere feet away... oh, and did we mention the sound in the room is second to none! Fun fact: resident MRH sound engineer (and local legend) Lance, sports a resume of work with the likes of Michael Jackson, Stevie Nicks, Madonna, Art Garfunkel, Lionel Ritchie - to name just a few!



After a fire in mid-2021 almost destroyed the front bar (thanks to local residents and the CFA/ emergency services the iconic pub was saved!) the team are raring to welcome back punters to the band room.

If you're all about supporting live music while supporting local Macedon Ranges venues, we highly recommend you check out their list of upcoming gigs, book in ya faves and get ready to boogie!

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Have your say on open space priorities

Macedon Ranges Shire Council is developing a new Open Space Strategy to provide strategic direction for the planning, management and delivery of more than 900 hectares of public open space in the shire.

As townships within the shire grow, the demand for quality open spaces for formal and informal recreation, conservation, environmental connectivity and social gatherings increases.

The new strategy will provide clear direction for planning, management and delivery of public open space in the shire, including conservation uses and developer contributions from new residential growth.

Phase 1 of the Open Space Strategy consultation runs from 14 February to 8 April 2022, and Council is looking to understand community preferences, perceptions and values related to open space.

Ongoing community feedback is essential to confirm Council's vision for the future of public open spaces, as it is one of the most significant service areas provided by Council.

The Open Space Strategy will determine how Council invests in infrastructure and manages day-to-day operation of open space. These issues directly affect many local community members, park users, recreation, sporting and environmental groups and volunteers.

The new strategy will help determine how Council responds to the priorities, needs and expectations of the Macedon Ranges community. There are a number of ways for residents, community groups, visitors to the shire and other stakeholders to get involved.

The Macedon Ranges Open Space: Present and Future consultation paper explores some of the core challenges for the strategy and considers how they may be addressed. The consultation paper and a community survey are also available online at Council's website, mrsc.vic.gov.au/yoursay, or in hard copy at Council's customer service centres in Gisborne, Kyneton, Romsey and Woodend. Consultation closes on Friday 8 April 2022.

Council is also calling for expressions of interest from residents to get involved in our Open Space Community Assembly. To submit an application to join the Assembly visit Council's website or email strategicplanning@mrsc.vic.gov.au

To receive project updates, please register at mrsc.vic.gov.au/open-space



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Music in the Sticks wants you

Macedon Ranges Youth Services are now recruiting for young people aged 12 to 25 years to join the Music in the Sticks program. The program has been running for over 15 years, providing valuable skills and experience to young people aged 12 to 25 and is an amazing entry point into the exciting world of event management, performance and live and recorded music.

The program is free to join and offers invaluable and hands-on experience in areas such as: event management, sound and lighting, photography and film, publicity and management, live and studio recording, sound production and hospitality. The group is responsible for facilitating live music and cultural events around the Macedon Ranges. Meetings are held once a fortnight, and food is provided.

Music in the Sticks can be a great pathway into the music industry, and many of our past participants have used their experience in the program to find employment in the sector.

Youth Music Event

Music in the Sticks is hosting a live music event at the Romsey Skate Park on Saturday, 19 March. The event will feature food trucks and live performances from five young local artists and bands. Gates will open at 12:00pm. The event will be fully supervised, COVID-Safe and drug, alcohol and smoke free. Tickets go on sale at 5pm on 16 February.

If you are interested in joining Music in the Sticks, or you would like to find out more, please contact Macedon Ranges Youth Services at youth@mrsc.vic.gov.au or call 5422 0333.



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The Mount Players Celebrate Their 50th Anniversary in 2022

The Mount Players are proud to announce that 2022 will mark their 50th anniversary. Throughout those years, the theatre has never missed

a season of performance (albeit a short one after their original theatre was burnt down in 1983). With a diverse season of four productions, play readings, the return of their One Act Play Festival and a dinner dance in October, which will include the launch of their book ... it's going to be a busy time all round!

The year kicked off with Love Song, which opened on 18 Feb and will complete its season on 6 March. A very successful, social evening was enjoyed at the AGM in February, where two Life Membership Awards were presented. Roger Farley and Kath Addicoat were acknowledged for their years of service to the theatre. Kath being awarded for her incredible work on designing, creating and organising costumes over many years, and Roger for his commitment to overseeing the technical aspects of shows, since learning the ropes when he was just 17!

Our second show is now in rehearsal and is sure to be a crowd pleaser. The Odd Couple, which everyone will be familiar with, will open in May. For all things theatre, go to themountplayers.com. Chookas!

SUBMITTED BY KAREN HUNT

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'There's nothing like shopfront,' says Jim Bradley. In the early 1970s, he was looking to set up business with good street frontage somewhere between Melbourne and the Macedon Ranges.

A block in Sunbury (opposite where Coles is now) was up for sale for \$25,000. The price was the equivalent of two houses! So, Jim and his cousin, Len Garner, kept looking. They needed to get it right, because Jim and his wife Rhonda were selling their home in Morris Road, Woodend, to finance the venture.

In 1972, a much younger John Keating sold them the 72 High Street block, at that time owned by Peter Kalenis. This site was perfect, being not only street frontage, but also highway frontage. And it's stood the test of time. Bradley's Curtains and Blinds is still there nearly 50 years later.

Jim became the owner-builder, and plans were soon passed by Council via Shire Secretary Mrs Smith, a part-time engineer and Charlie Marriage, the man in charge of water for the then Shire of Newham and Woodend. Rhonda Bradley's friend's husband

was a bricklayer, and they got to work, with the Melbourne-based brickies staying at the hotel next door. The build went smoothly, with all of the work—construction, roofing, plumbing, electricity—completed by people the Bradleys knew. By this time, Rhonda and Jim's families had lived in Woodend for five generations, so they had plenty of contacts to draw on.

But was there a local market eager to buy what Bradley's had to offer? Tune in next month to read about Bradley's first day in business...



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Labor  **FOR McEWEN**

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 robmitchell.com.au

Authorised by R Mitchell ALP, 57-59 High Street, Wallan VIC 3756



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Authorised by Sam McGonaglin, Liberal Party of Australia (Victorian Division), 130, 157 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

Neil Barker – Greens Candidate

As The Greens candidate for McEwen in 2022, I am proud to offer the residents of Woodend and the Macedon Ranges an opportunity to bring about a number of fundamental changes to the way in which our future governments operate.

Action on climate change is my highest priority. Recent droughts, fires, extreme temperatures and violent storms have shown us that the costs of severe weather events can be massive. It is not the time to increase exploration of methane gas, to employ expensive and unreliable carbon sequestration techniques to bury coal emissions, and to burn fossil fuels to make hydrogen in response to our climate emergency. This will actually add CO₂ to the atmosphere. As your member in Federal parliament, I will strenuously promote a faster renewable energy transition to protect our current way of life, and to preserve the pristine environment now enjoyed by all Macedon Ranges residents.

A more progressive tax system is also on the list of Greens objectives, so that all Australians can benefit from this country's wealth and prosperity, and not just a privileged few. The tens of billions of dollars raised each year from the adoption of such a system can then be used to fully fund essential services like medical and dental care, educational institutions, and the NDIS, so that they become available to all Australians. It is simply not sustainable to rely more heavily on extending the user pays systems now favoured by current governments.

I am married with four children, was raised on a family farm on the Mornington Peninsula and have lived in Romsey in the Macedon Ranges for 28 years. I am an honours graduate in Agricultural Science and have extensive domestic and international work experience in senior management roles in the Australian grains industry. I am more than ready to represent the interests of Woodend residents in pursuing the above objectives.

*Authorised by Neil Barker,
Greens Candidate for McEwen,
1/45 William Street Melbourne 3001*

*At the next federal election, due to be held in the first half of this year, Woodend and surrounding districts will move back to the seat of McEwen for the first time since 2013. To highlight this to everyone, including the candidates, TNWS invited the sitting Member for McEwen Rob Mitchell MP and other candidates already campaigning to provide us short statements introducing themselves to our readers. **Candidate statements are in alphabetical order of surname.***

Rob Mitchell – Federal Member for McEwen

I hope you have had a safe and happy start to 2022, despite the many challenges we all now face.

I know the best way to advocate for you is to fully understand your thoughts and concerns, and I want to thank the many people who continue to raise local issues in the Woodend district with me.

Beyond significant concerns about the pandemic, vaccines and rapid antigen tests, there are day-to-day problems that continue to come up locally.

Among the biggest issues in and around Woodend are mobile phone coverage and access to reliable internet.

I want to reassure you that if elected, a Labor government will invest to expand NBN access for more than 1.5 million premises. Boosting full-fibre access in towns like Woodend, Gisborne, Romsey and Riddells Creek is absolutely vital.

We know all too well that technology is a vital tool for social and economic growth and an essential asset in times of emergencies. The Woodend community deserves better.

Environment is very high on the local agenda. Labor's Powering Australia Plan will reduce Australia's emissions by 43% by 2030.

Our \$200 million Power to the People plan will see more than 400 community batteries installed across the nation, allowing the one in five households that have joined the solar revolution to access this storage, to cut their power bills, cut emissions and reduce pressure on the grid.

Sadly, Australia still doesn't have a credible plan to address climate change.

The Macedon Ranges is one of the most beautiful and scenic landscapes in Victoria, but we can also experience some of the most devastating natural disasters. They are coming all too frequently, and we know firsthand the tragic impact of fires and storms in our region.

If elected, a Labor government will invest up to \$200 million every single year on disaster prevention and resilience.

By investing in disaster prevention projects such as evacuation shelters, fire breaks and telecommunications improvements, this Disaster Ready Fund will curb the impacts of natural disasters and literally save lives.

At a time when trust in what governments say and what they do is a major concern, I commit that I will continue my record of delivering on every promise I make to our community.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with your concerns on 5716 3000, at rob.mitchell.mp@aph.gov.au or just say g'day when you see me around town.

*Authorised by R Mitchell, ALP,
57-59 High Street Wallan*

Richard Welch – Liberal Party Candidate

Every time I am at Woodend Farmers' Market or similar events elsewhere in McEwen, I always come away reflecting on what it is to be a community: What unites us in goals, brings happiness, stability and a sense of belonging? It's community. I think it's particularly tangible at places like markets.

Any community also needs representatives who are focused, and ambitious for it. Someone who is hungry for its success and willing to work hard for it. After all, that's the basic contract between community and your parliamentary representative.

I've chosen to run for McEwen for that reason, and there is so much that can and should be done right here, as soon as possible. I'm here to get things moving.

Now 'getting things moving' can mean different things in different contexts. As someone from a business background, I truly believe that ensuring our local businesses are successful, supported and able to take risks is a most effective way to drive progress, supporting families and the social goods that flow from it. I believe that if we want to be an innovative nation, we must also be a nation that restores our manufacturing base and improves our national self-sufficiency. We must invest in education to provide our children with the skills that they will need to succeed in both those things.

But in other circumstances, when we're dealing with government or community, the environment or groups with very different interests, there is a wholly different approach: where bringing people together by facilitating, partnering, advocating, negotiating, supporting, and simply persisting is the key to getting things done. And that takes energy and commitment. It requires a willingness to engage and be accessible and communicate not just at election time, but as an ongoing journey.

And, that, very simply is the basis my contract with you. I want to bring fresh ideas, energy, innovation and commitment to McEwen. It's a commitment I can make because that's how I've conducted my career, my family life and my community life. McEwen is a place of potential – in addressing the environment, family violence and youth mental health issues – in regional economic development, jobs and innovation in sport and key social infrastructure. This potential, the possibilities, the shared goals are all in place – but what we need is someone to act as a champion for these things. And there's ample items on the list. Let's improve our NBN connections, let's get sports facilities built, let's build jobs for our communities. I'm here to do the work.

*Authorised by G. Mirabella, Level 14/90
Collins Street, Melbourne Vic 3000*

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Ashbourne Landcare Group's successful project grants

During 2021, the Biolink Work Group from Ashbourne Landcare didn't waste COVID lockdown time. We prepared two submissions for government grants from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and the North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA). Happily, both applications were successful.

These projects focus on developing our ALG Biolink Masterplanning process, through on-ground biodiversity work and community engagement. Since the devastating June storm damage and initial clearing up, these projects are now well under way.

2021 DELWP Community and Volunteer Action Grant - On ground Action and Stewardship

The Jocks Gully Restoration project creates a 2km Biolink running upstream along Jocks Gully, from its confluence with the Campaspe River to connect to the Wombat Forest. Three participating property owners will contribute to a matrix of restored habitat and connectivity for wildlife and flora across Ashbourne district.

Victorian Landcare Grants, North Central CMA

Ashbourne Natural Connections will involve the ALG community with our Biolink Masterplanning objectives, including publication of a brochure describing the Masterplan; development of a living document to record all Biolink projects and activities; production of a video to demonstrate to ALG members and the wider community the benefits and examples of biodiversity projects; and ecological surveys and assessments of 12 landholders' properties to highlight their natural attributes.

We are greatly appreciative of the financial support from DELWP and NCCMA, and MRSC, particularly Krista Patterson-Majoor, then Biodiversity Projects Officer, for her support and guidance.

SUBMITTED BY LIBBY PECK



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Funding for communities to cut emissions and reduce waste

Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas announced the local community organisations who will share \$1.3 million in funding to deliver projects that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 1,695 tonnes annually, while slashing energy bills.

Organisations can apply for up to \$50,000 through the Community Climate Change and Energy Action program to upgrade heating and cooling, install shading, insulation, double glazing and lighting and renewable energy installations like rooftop solar panels and battery storage.

The program helps organisations reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy efficiency, making community facilities cheaper to run and more comfortable year-round.

The successful recipients include the Daylesford Dharma School, Trentham Golf Club and the Riddells Creek Neighbourhood House.

A further \$1.8 million in grants is available in the next round of funding, which opens this week.

Meanwhile, social enterprises, not-for-profits, and community groups can develop smarter ways to use resources, with grants of up to \$250,000 available through the Recycling Victoria Communities Fund.

The program supports local projects like repair cafes, community worm farms and compost hubs, helping groups to repurpose, re-use and recycle everyday items. More than 800 tonnes of waste will be diverted from landfill thanks to projects already funded through the program.

"Congratulations to the Daylesford Dharma School, Trentham Golf Club and the Riddells Creek Neighbourhood House, by helping reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy efficiency they are ensuring a more sustainable future for our community and our kids."

For more information, and to apply, visit sustainability.vic.gov.au/grants.

SUBMITTED BY KATE LEE, OFFICE OF MARY-ANNE THOMAS MP

ADVERTISEMENT

Mary-Anne Thomas MP LABOR MEMBER FOR MACEDON

As your local Member of Parliament I am keen to hear from the community and assist with any State Government matter.

Mary-Anne Thomas



A: Shop 14, Nexus Centre, 9 Goode Street, Gisborne, VIC 3437

P: 5428 2138 **E:** maryanne.thomas@parliament.vic.gov.au

W: www.mary-annethomas.com.au

f MaryAnneMacedon **@** maryannethomasmp

Woodend Library

Autumn Program 2022

Keep an eye out for our autumn program – there will be loads of events to choose from! Brochures will be available in the library and all of the events can be booked online through our website goldfieldslibraries.com or by calling 5427 2074.

Edible Gardens – Craig Castree

As part of the Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival, Woodend Library will be host to Craig Castree on Thursday, March 31 from 6pm, on the topic of edible gardens. Craig is a wonderful presenter, who will share his incredible knowledge with us. Look out for Craig's other sessions too in Gisborne, Romsey and Kyneton. Bookings essential.

Displays

We are always changing and updating the library displays to promote events, book awards or authors. Did you know we have a permanent First Nations author display in both the adults and children's areas? These displays are topped up regularly, and you can reserve any of these items or come in and have a browse!



You can also read more information on supporting our First Nations communities on the library website, with book recommendations and some great resources to look at, visit ncgrl.vic.gov.au/firstnations

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www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au/elibraryfamilyhistory

See you at the library! 5427 2074 woodend@ncgrl.vic.gov.au

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Macedon Ranges Audio Makers Network

Do you love audio, want to make a podcast, want to share stories?

Do you play with sound, geek out on recording equipment, adore your DAW?

Do you want to learn and grow, share and connect through a love of audio?

Do you want to collaborate locally to create great content that can make a difference in the world?

Do you want to support and be supported by others in your local community who also make audio?

Then come along to the new 'Macedon Ranges Audio Makers Network', an initiative of Highlands FM, your local community radio station. This invitation is for anyone and everyone with an interest in making audio – from seasoned professionals who'd like to make connections locally, to those with a twinkling of an idea but in need of a little support and connection to get going.

Mondays 7, 21 March and 4 April from 7.30–9.00 pm at Woodend Community Centre.

Bookings essential: events.humanitix.com/mramn
Any questions please email or call Kate Lawrence: kate@storyground.com.au Ph: 0402 080 445.

SUBMITTED BY KATE LAWRENCE

Polly Christie to be Artistic Director of Young Voices of Macedon

Young Voices of Macedon was proud to welcome Polly Christie as its new Artistic Director at its first rehearsal last month at the Norma Richardson Hall, Woodend.

Polly replaces Juliarna Clark, whose work with the choir in 2021 was exemplary, but who has sadly resigned, having accepted a post-graduate scholarship at Melbourne



Photo: Polly Christie

University to undertake a Master's degree in research leading to a PhD, in the topic Vocal tone differences: an in-depth comparison of a female singer's tone in classical and jazz singing.

Polly has an honours degree in Music (choral conducting) from Australian Catholic University and has had many years of experience in conducting community choirs. Throughout the Macedon Ranges, Polly is well known for her very successful adult choir Pollyphonics. She is currently the music teacher at Kyneton Primary School, where she has established a fine children's choir.

This month, the young choristers have enjoyed catching up with friends and singing "Ancient City" by Paul Jarmen and "Pigs could Fly" by Howard Skempton. Young Voices of Macedon looks forward to another great year of singing and friendship and, as soon as regulations permit, the resumption of genuine afternoon teas!

Children from the age of five and parents are welcome to come to the rehearsal at 4:15pm at the Norma Richardson Hall, Woodend to see and hear the choir in action, and to join in the activities and fun. yvymacedon.org.au

SUBMITTED BY JESSICA DEMARE

Youth Mental Health First Aid

Macedon Ranges Shire Council is offering subsidised Youth Mental Health First Aid courses for adults wanting to increase their knowledge about mental health issues impacting on young people and to gain confidence in supporting young people to seek help and stay well.

This interactive course uses films, case studies and group activities to support the learning. To complete this course, participants will need to work through a series of e-learning modules and complete them before the face-to-face component begins.

The face-to-face sessions will be held at the Kyneton Town Hall on Wednesday evenings March 16, 23 & 30. A light supper will be provided. For more information and to register, please contact Vishal Tandon at Youth Services on youth@mrsc.vic.gov.au or call 5422 0333.

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Hello fellow gardeners!

So it's that season again ... the bare root season! (i.e. trees that you can purchase for up to 40% off what would be standard retail prices). We will shortly be listing all of our bare root trees on the website, so you can order and pay securely, guaranteeing that you get your trees.

In the meantime, feel free to contact us at cassius@woodendnursery.com.au, or call the nursery and place your order directly. Whetheryou want weeping cherries, weeping ornamentals, fruit trees or simply a mass of colour, bare root prices start from \$18.50, and there are lots of fruit trees for less than \$39! Of course, If you have ever seen the magnificent colours of autumn trees but needed to know what they are, or if you would like advice on tree selections, tree colours or companion fruiting varieties, contact the nursery today to book your garden consult.

First in, best bare rooted!

Strengthening community and wellbeing connections for those 55 years and older

If you are 55 years or over, now is your chance to tell us what would make a difference to your mental and physical health, with online, in person and local community focus groups and interviews currently underway for the Macedon Ranges Village Connect Project.



Our consultation is looking for individual perspectives from residents 55 years and older, on the current services and activities being used to support individual wellbeing and any barriers that may prevent participation in local activities and events.

Outcomes of the consultation will be shared with community and stakeholders to drive a range of activities and initiatives aimed at alleviating loneliness and social isolation experienced by older people in the Macedon Ranges community.

To participate, complete our online survey mrsc.vic.gov.au/yoursay or share your thoughts by attending an in person one-on-one information session with the Village Connect Project Officer at Romsey, Kyneton and Woodend library during February and March. For information contact Abbey on 5422 0262 or email: abbrown@mrsc.vic.gov.au.



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Macedon Ranges Shire News

Annual Community Satisfaction Survey

Macedon Ranges Shire Council's annual Community Satisfaction Survey is



Macedon Ranges
Shire Council

being undertaken from late January through to March 2022. Residents should note that some households may receive a call from an independent market research agency, National Field Services, commissioned to conduct the survey on behalf of Council.

The Community Satisfaction Survey will involve approximately 400 interviews conducted by phone among a representative sample of residents and is an important method of assessing Council's performance across a range of measures and to identify ways to provide improvement or more effective service delivery to residents.

All details and individual responses are confidential, and only the overall results are shared with Council. Residents with questions regarding the Community Satisfaction Survey can contact 5422 0333.

Funding available to businesses for outdoor activations

Local businesses are encouraged to apply to Macedon Ranges Shire Council for funding through the state government COVIDSafe Outdoor Activation Program.

There are two streams of funding:

- extending the life of existing outdoor eating and entertainment facilities and to provide new facilities for other businesses, including hair and beauty, art and entertainment, and health and fitness, to operate outdoors.
- to establish semi-permanent and permanent outdoor precincts that will be of lasting benefit to local communities.

Businesses can apply for funding support to improve the amenity of outdoor spaces associated with their premises which can include, but is not limited to, extra seating, shade, heating and parklet installations.

If you have an idea on how to activate a public space by establishing a semi-permanent or permanent precinct to support businesses in your town, we'd love to hear from you.

Applications close 5pm Thursday 31 March 2022, and assessment will occur during April.

Visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/outdoor-activation or contact the Economic Development Team on ecodevadmin@mrsc.vic.gov.au or Mani Heck on 0400 406 157 for more information.



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Your community diary

— MARCH —

- 2..... Art Bomb Launch
- 5..... Lancefield/Macedon Ranges Relay for Life
- 5..... Woodend Farmer's Market
- 7..... Macedon Ranges Audio Makers Network
- 9..... Zonta 29th International Women's Day Dinner
- 9..... MRSPAG Community Conversation @ Vic Hotel
- 12..... Information Session MRRFR
- 12-14..... Woodend Lions Annual Art Show
- 14..... Labour Day (Vic) Public Holiday
- 16..... St Mary's Craft Guild
- 20..... Woodend Lion's Club Market
- 21..... Macedon Ranges Audio Makers Network
- 26..... Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival commences
- 26..... Mountain Writers' Festival literary lunch
- 31..... Edible Gardens talk at Library

— APRIL —

- 2..... Woodend Farmers' Market
- 2..... Whole town garage sale
- 2-3..... Phoenix Macedon Ranges Art exhibition
- 3..... End of Daylight Saving Time
- 4..... Macedon Ranges Audio Makers Network
- 4-30..... Portraits on the Mount Exhibition
- 6..... Mental Health community forum
- 15..... Good Friday
- 17..... Woodend Lion's Club Market
- 18..... Easter Monday
- 20..... St Mary's Craft Guild
- 25..... ANZAC Day
- 30..... Run the Rock event

— MAY —

- 8..... Mother's Day
- 15..... Woodend Lion's Club Market

— JUNE —

- 13..... Queen's Birthday

Always check with organisers about any events listed. To have your event listed on our calendar just send the details to:

content@newwoodendstar.org.au

The Phoenix Macedon Ranges Art and Craft Group

Come and see exquisite art and craft work and speak to the artists who created them. The Phoenix Macedon Ranges Art & Craft group has members working within a wide range of creative activities, including painting, glass art, ceramics, jewellery, paper craft, woodwork, textile art and knitted crafts.

All items are handcrafted and made locally by artists. Original works are on display and for sale, and entry is free.

The Phoenix Macedon Ranges Art & Craft group was formed after the 1983 Ash Wednesday bushfires, which decimated the Macedon Ranges area of Victoria and affected many local artists and craftspeople.

The group promotes friendship, learning and interest in arts and crafts in general and helps to produce the motivation to work towards a goal, namely exhibitions and sales.

Art and Craft exhibition and sale:

Saturday 2 April – 10.00am to 4.00pm

Sunday 3 April – 9.00am to 4.00pm.

Old Gisborne Court House, 4 Hamilton St, Gisborne.

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Contact contact@phoenixmrac.com

SUBMITTED BY CARMEL BUCHANAN

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Mountain Writers' Festival kicks off with a cracking literary lunch!

A new Macedon Ranges arts festival has just been announced. The Mountain Writers' Festival will hold its first event, a lunch featuring a group of outstanding Victorian writers, in Macedon on Saturday 26 March 2022.

"We're thrilled to finally be able to stage our first event!" said Festival director, local author Sonia Orchard. "It's been a tough couple of years for everyone in the arts and especially those of us trying to hold events, so it's fantastic to be able to announce this lunch."

With its guiding theme of "Place, Story, Nature", the Mountain Writers' Festival is the only festival in Australia to focus entirely on writing that explores the relationship between people and the environment. The first full festival will be held in Macedon on the weekend of 5-6 November 2022.

Meanwhile, the inaugural event on 26 March will be a COVID-safe two-course lunch at the beautiful Macedon Wine Collective, an amazing venue with floor to ceiling views across the Macedon Ranges. Part of the Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival, the lunch brings four stellar and engaging writers together:

- Tony Birch, the author of three novels: the bestselling *The White Girl*; *Ghost River*, which won the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Indigenous Writing; and *Blood*, which was shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Award.
- Evelyn Araluen, the author of *Drop Bear*, is an award-winning poet, researcher, and co-editor of *Overland* literary journal. Born and raised on Dharug Country, she is a descendant of the Bundjalung Nation.
- Tom Griffiths is a historian whose books and essays have won prizes in literature, history, science, politics and journalism. He is Emeritus Professor of History at the Australian National University and has lived in the Macedon Ranges since 2018.
- Sophie Cunningham is the author of seven books including *City of Trees: Essays on Life, Death and the Need for a Forest*. Sophie is also a teacher, mentor, climate change activist and wildlife advocate, and every day, she posts an image of a tree on her Instagram @sophietreeofday.



Sophie Cunningham,
photo credit: Mathew Lynn

"We know this will be a really exciting and stimulating event, and we expect the luncheon to sell out fast," said Sonia Orchard.

Book your tickets at mountainwritersfestival.com.au

For more information, contact Michelle Scott-Tucker:
contact@michellescotttucker.com.

SUBMITTED BY MICHELLE SCOTT-TUCKER

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St Mary's Craft Guild

Come and join fellow craft makers and friends to chat and laugh and share some time together over a coffee or cup of tea. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 11 am until 1pm.

The Norma Richardson Hall is at 15 Buckland Street Woodend and is a part of Saint Mary's Anglican Church.

There is no fee and the coffee and tea are free. Bring your own lunch and any craft you wish to work on or just join in for a chat and a laugh.

We always have a little raffle and wool and knitting needles can be provided. Beginners welcome; we'll get you started!

Any enquiries or to check on COVID regulations regarding these get togethers, please phone Jane on 0417 640 746.

SUBMITTED BY JANE FRAZER

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Macedon Ranges Suicide Prevention Action Group in partnership with North Western Primary Health Network is dropping an ART BOMB on the Macedon Ranges Shire to instil the importance of mental health care and to educate the community about suicide prevention.

Four local artists have created public artworks inspired by their lived experience of mental illness. The artworks are accompanied by a QR code linked to the MRSPAG website with more information on the artists and also where to get support for mental health if you or someone you know needs it.

Artwork will be for sale after the installations are removed at the end of March.

PUBLIC INVITATION - ART BOMB LAUNCH

Wednesday March 2nd 11am

Macedon Ranges Shire Council - 129 Mollison Street, Kyneton

MRSPAG COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Wednesday March 9th 6pm (followed by AGM at 8pm)

The Vic Hotel, 67 High St Woodend

All welcome! RSVP essential - chairperson@mrspag.com.au





Mark Ingall (Credit: Sylvia Franzen)

Artist puts his heart on the Holgate wall

Mark Ingall likes to clear his head painting murals in city laneways and reinvigorating walls with graffiti art, a passion that has earned him respect within the Australian professional street art scene.

The Romsey father of two, 34, travels a lot and sometimes paints on location from late at night into the early hours of the next day. His involvement in the Art Bomb project being launched this month by Macedon Ranges Suicide Prevention Action Group has offered him an unusual opportunity to work from his studio and use his talent to connect with locals around the issues of mental health and suicide.

Mark's artwork, 'The Key', appears outside Holgate Brewhouse on a wall facing Anslow Street.

It is one of four Art Bombs installed around the shire to raise community awareness and challenge stigma in relation to mental health and suicide. The project, which acknowledges the positive impact of creative pursuits on mental health, encourages people to talk and seek help when they need it.

A QR code will link the artwork to information about the artist and their own lived experience of mental health, as well as information on local services, resources and training.

The other three Art Bombs – funded by the North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network – are installed in Gisborne, Kyneton and Romsey.

'Stay While I Swing' by Fiona Farrugia – The Corner Coffee Bar, cnr Brantome and Hamilton streets, Gisborne.

'Audacity of Hope' by Aimee Timpson – video display adjacent Macedon Ranges Shire Council office at 129 Mollison Street, Kyneton.

'A Path Upward' by Lachlan McKenzie – Romsey Hub, 96 Main Street Romsey.

All the artwork will be available for viewing on location until the end of March. The art will be sold via the MRSPAG website: mrspag.com.au

The Art Bomb public launch is on Wednesday, March 2 at 11am outside the Macedon Ranges Shire Council office at 129 Mollison Street, Kyneton. All welcome.

SUBMITTED BY NADINE HARTNETT



Two examples of the artist's former works

News from the House

Here at the Woodend Neighbourhood House, we're super excited about the upcoming activities planned for autumn.

Community Lunch

The Woodend Neighbourhood House's regular community lunches are a fantastic way to meet new people or catch up with old friends whilst enjoying a delicious meal. The next community lunch is planned for Tuesday 22 March at the Woodend RSL, and we hope you can join us. Bookings can be made by dropping by the house, visiting the House's website www.woodendnh.org.au or calling 5427 1845. A donation on the day of \$5 (if it's affordable) or \$10 (if you want to pay it forward) is appreciated, but by no means necessary.

Woodend Whole Town Garage Sale

Our Whole Town Garage Sale is back with a bang on Saturday 2 April. We've scheduled the event for the same day as the Woodend Farmers' Market, and we're looking forward to a fun-filled community event for bargain hunters to buy pre-loved treasures.

Local residents are encouraged to register their address via the Neighbourhood House website to secure their listing on the Whole Town Garage Sale map. Registrations close on 26 March.

Maps showing the addresses, opening times and brief details of the garage sales will go on sale from 8am to 12.30pm on the day directly from the House.

Community Showcase

To coincide with Whole Town Garage Sale and Woodend Farmers' Market, we'll be hosting a Community Showcase in the Woodend Neighbourhood House gardens on Saturday 2 April between 8am and 1pm.

Local community groups will have the opportunity to link directly with local people, so whether your group want to run a fundraiser, recruit new members, or promote your activities, we hope you will get on board and help us create a fabulous community event.

Community groups can book a table, free of charge by emailing manager@woodendnh.org.au.

Woodend Repair Café

And of course, it wouldn't be a Farmers' Market Day without the Woodend Repair Café opening its doors! Bring along your broken household items to the Undercroft at the Woodend Neighbourhood House on Saturday 2 April between 9am to 1pm and volunteer repairers will have a go at fixing them. Woodend Repair Café services are free, but donations are welcomed.

Woodend Community Food Pantry and Library

The Community pantry is available in the garden, to the side of the house. Take what you need, share if you can. It's a great way of reducing waste whilst supporting the community. Staple food items, fresh produce, plants and seeds all welcome.

For more information about any of upcoming activities, workshops, courses, or events, drop by the house, visit our website www.woodendnh.org.au or call 5427 1845.

SUBMITTED BY MELISSA BAKER

Woodend Probus Club news

Woodend Combined Probus Club is an association that promotes fun, friendship and fellowship for retired and semi-retired people. Its program includes meetings on the first Thursday of each month at the Scout Hall, 41 Forest St (behind the Log Cabin). A speaker is usually invited to the meeting to give a presentation on an interesting topic. Visitors are welcome to attend at no cost, but remember, you must be double vaccinated.

The second Thursday is an outing for lunch or for the day. We endeavour to go on longer trips twice a year. Last year in November/December, we went to Wedderburn and Swan Hill for two nights each. It was fantastic to get out and about again. The trip was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

This March 3 will be our AGM, so we won't be having any speakers. While we know these meetings aren't popular, there will be an extra special long morning tea where you can get to meet and chat with members.

The Club is seeking new members! You are welcome to come to three meetings to see if this club is for you. Contact Rosalie 0438 892 315 or Diane 0438 585 664, or email woodendprobus@hotmail.com or visit our website probussouthpacific.org/microsites/woodendanddistricts.

SUBMITTED BY DIANE DOBSON

Woodend General



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University of the Third Age (U3A) Men Cook Up a Storm

U3AKyneton, in collaboration with U3ADaylesford, have been conducting a Men's Kitchen course for five years – 2022 will make it six!

The course runs twice a year, one morning a week, for five consecutive weeks and is held in the Glenlyon Hall. Participants have achieved great delights and expertise after attending.

Stifado with Greek Salad, Baklava, Vegetable Tagine and Fattoush Salad, Cherry Clafoutis to name a few dishes. Is your mouth watering yet?

Robert Wooller, chef extraordinaire, demonstrates a different two-course menu every week. Participants assist in food preparation, and Robert demonstrates not only cooking techniques, but also the exceptional ability to time everything to perfection.

At the end of each session, ideas are formulated for the next week's menu. The cost of the five sessions is \$50, plus an attendance fee of \$10 per week. This covers food and a glass of locally sourced wine.

Not only will you be fine tuning your culinary skills, but you'll participate in a wonderful forum for discussion and socialisation.

So put on your aprons, surprise your partners and friends and look out for the next course in the second half of the year.

For further information regarding all courses offered by U3AKyneton, visit our website: u3akyneton.org.au or email: info@u3akyneton.org.au. You can also call Roni or John on 0439 360 763.

SUBMITTED BY RONI TAUBMAN



Men's kitchen, at the refurbished Glenlyon Hall, where the sessions are held, with Alan Moor as the chief convenor

Red Cross Woodend

Greetings to everyone for 2022!

It has been so very long since our last communication, but behind the scenes, Red Cross Australia has been in the thick of the miseries of Covid, fires and flooding, here and in many countries around the world.

At last, we are able to get together as a team. We all missed our meetings and activities so much. Right now, the call has gone out for our Trauma Teddies, especially for the Indigenous and Tiwi Islands colours.



Our ever-faithful knitting heroes haven't stopped, but now we're asking for these two in particular; so many requests have come to our Head Office.

So, needles at the ready, we are asking for help (which is never ignored) in producing comfort and cuddles for the children affected by That Awful Virus.

Patterns are available on the Red Cross website, or we can help with hard copies should they be needed. Remember to use the right colours in 8 ply, and we are all just making the flat bodies to be labelled, stuffed and sewn up for distribution.

As always, so much heartfelt gratitude, from all at Red Cross Woodend.

SUBMITTED BY ROBYN GRANT

Woodend

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How to recognise, understand and successfully work with your horse's personality

If you have been fortunate to have relationships with dogs or cats through your life, you will already have recognised that these animals have their own individual personalities. Horses are no different, but there is a certain amount of knowledge required to be able to determine the characteristics of each horse.

Just like people, horses have individual "personalities", and what makes one horse tick may be very different from that of another horse. Awareness of your horse's individual character and personality helps you to avoid mistakes that trigger negative behaviours and reactions.

Learning what to look for and understanding how to interpret your horse's behaviours will open up a whole new world of horsemanship to you with your horse.

Knowing how your personality works with that of your horse is also valuable information to determine the best approaches and strategies to build the partnership you dream of having with your horse. Working in harmony with our horse's nature can bring out the best in our horses and ourselves.

As the decision-maker in these partnerships, it is up to us to be able to convey our ideas as clearly as possible so that our horses have the best chance at feeling successful and happy with each interaction. When it comes to horse training, it is important to take responsibility for what our thoughts are doing to our horses and their mental, emotional and physical states. If things are not going the way we planned, a horse is not giving us a hard time, they are having a hard time.

There are identifiable profiles valuable in guiding the best approach for horses of different character and in different situations, because things change in both familiar and different environments, in training, with the weather, when other horses show up, and so on.

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Horsemanship Coaching for Horses as Happy, Willing Partners

When you know what to look for, you can quickly identify a horse's innate personality and what best to do to bring out the willing, happy partner. This can be achieved by looking at the whole horse and asking a simple set of questions such as "Is my horse more a mover or a stopper? Does my horse have a tendency to be more pushy or tense?"

Fiona Darling is a Master Instructor with mentor Linda Parelli in the Happy Horse Happy Life program, having 25 years of horsemanship coaching experience, supporting all manner of horse owners around Australia who love and want to build an ever-stronger partnership with their horses.

By studying with Fiona, you will learn:

- To better understand why your horse behaves the way he/she does.
- To develop your personal awareness and how your thoughts and actions affect your horse.
- To expand your skill set of effective training strategies.
- To support you in achieving successful outcomes in training situations.
- How to have more harmony with your horse in both ground handling and riding.
- How to improve your horse's impulsion and acceptance of novel situations.
- How to more effectively prepare your horse for real-world situations.
- How to develop a training plan to achieve your horsemanship goals.

Available for coaching support both live at your property or hers, Seven Keys in Carlsruhe (just 10 mins from Woodend) or remotely, Fiona invites you to contact her personally and visit her website sevenkeyshorsemanship.com.au for information on the types of face to face and remote private and group lessons, workshop days, weekend clinics and multi-day intensive study module learning options, dates for upcoming events, perspectives, stories and much more.

SUBMITTED BY FIONA DARLING

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Sold \$1.77M

66 Trio Road, Kyneton

Interest in the Macedon Ranges and surrounding areas is currently at an all-time high. Surpassing all expectations, we have sold numerous properties in record time, well over anticipated prices and still have excellent buyers from around the country looking to buy immediately.

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Introduction

The reviews this week come from an icon of the region that has made its name with Riesling, but over recent years has been making a new mark with other aromatic whites, Pinot Blanc and Gruner Veltliner. The second is part of an exciting new guard of winemakers who are sourcing grapes from some of the best vineyards in the region and producing floral, textural and, above all, age-worthy wines.

2021 Granite Hills Pinot Blanc

A very light yellow in colour, the nose is floral with white flowers that sit amongst meyer lemon and dry honey. The palate has a lovely purity and liveness of citrus acidity; the mid palate has a mineral aspect that comes in part from underripe pear and a lemon-like edge. The floral tones return to finish, are precise and there is very good length. Excellent value for money.

Rating: 93 | Price: \$30 | When to Drink: 2022—2025

2019 Dilworth & Allain Doug's Vineyard Pinot Noir

There is something old world about this wine, with its savoury nuances and mineral backbone reminiscent of Burgundy; there is an earthen flare to dark cherry and plum that combines with bramble and lifted spice on the nose. The palate has a game and beetroot aspect with darker cherry and plum fruit. Oak gives a sheath of richness and spice before a finish that is savoury, with just enough fruit to give dimension and contrast.

Rating: 93 | Price: \$50 | When to Drink: 2022—2032

Macedon Ranges Obedience Dog Club starts 2022 training

Our first day of training for the year kicked off with 11 new puppies and the weather was perfect to welcome the newest members.

It was also great to see returning members. In total, we had 60 dogs and handlers to start the new training year.

Macedon Ranges Obedience Dog Club (MRODC) is run by volunteers, including our instructors, and without them we could not operate each Sunday morning from February to November. Each week, these people give up a good part of their Sunday to provide a safe and friendly environment for each member and their dog/puppy to learn and socialise.

So, if you have a new addition to the family, or are getting one in the future, we look forward to seeing you. Details can be found on the website www.macedonrangesdogclub.org.au. Or contact us

via Facebook or email info@macedonrangesdogclub.org.au, and a representative from the club will contact you.

Take care, stay safe and remember a dog is for life ... not just for Christmas ... or COVID.

SUBMITTED BY CAROL BAILEY,
INSTRUCTOR/TREASURER
MRODC



Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival lineup is turning heads

With a fantastic lineup of events at the Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival (Sunday 26 March to Monday 25 April), it is time to check out the fantastic program and plan your autumn adventure. Ticketed events will sell quickly, so book ahead to ensure you don't miss these festival highlights:

- Cidersong Autumn Picnic at DV Cider
- Macedon Ranges Music Festival at iconic Hanging Rock
- A series of Gin Afternoon Teas at Big Tree Distillery
- The Celebration of Harvest, Macedon Ranges winemakers
- Gardens at Duneira Estate on Mount Macedon
- Mountain Writers Festival Author Lunch
- Harpist at Dromkeen Homestead's historic gardens

For wine and food lovers, there is a bevy of events to tantalise the tastebuds, and for the creative at heart, several autumn workshops and classes available. There are plenty of free experiences and events on offer too, such as immersive art displays, interactive light shows, guided nature walks, open art studios, outdoor sound bowl meditations, chalk art and New Orleans style street bands.

To see the full festival program and purchase tickets, visit www.visitmacedonranges.com/autumn-festival

Australia Post: pandemic, local delivery and online shopping volumes

Our local postal service has seen a significant increase in activity during recent months. Postal Manager at Woodend Post Office, Hao, reports:

"Since the start of the pandemic, we've seen significantly more parcels come through the Woodend Post Office." According to Hao, December 2021 was the busiest month. "As people continue to shop more online, we expect this to continue in the months to come, he said. He says that while our community continues to face challenges brought about by the pandemic, the Woodend Post Office continues to support local businesses, not only with their sending needs, but also providing access to important services like banking, passports and Working with Children checks.

- According to Australia Post data, in 2021, Woodend saw 81% growth compared to pre-pandemic levels (2019), above the national figure of 73.1%. Purchase growth in online shopping was higher than Victoria's average (both year-on-year and when compared to 2019).
- Purchases from marketplaces and online discount stores and women's fashion were most popular in Woodend for 2021, and all grew above 15% YOY.
- In the cyber sales of November 2021, Woodend online shoppers contributed to a spike in online purchases of 13% when compared to October, which saw sporting and outdoor goods, women's fashion and wine and liquor increase over 35% compared month-on-month.

SUBMITTED BY BRETT SIMON

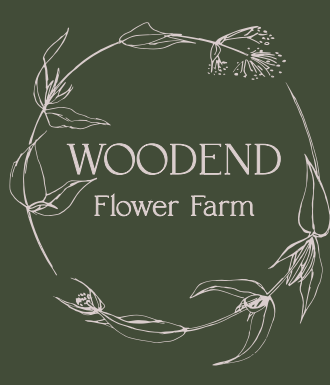
It's time to get into the Autumn Festival spirit

Fantastic Autumn Festival competitions kick off in March, with prizes generously provided by local businesses.

Council are encouraging local residents to enter the 'My Macedon Ranges' Instagram giveaway by sharing their special memories and favourite things to do during autumn, with one lucky winner to receive a fantastic \$600 prize.

There are also incentives for residents and businesses to decorate their front doors or windows with an autumn wreath during the festival, for the chance to win \$200 gift certificates from award-winning Macedon Ranges Produce. Entries for these promotions are due by 31 March for a chance to go in the draw.

More exciting giveaways will be promoted for the duration of the festival, so to find out more about the exclusive competitions for businesses and residents, go to www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/autumn-fest



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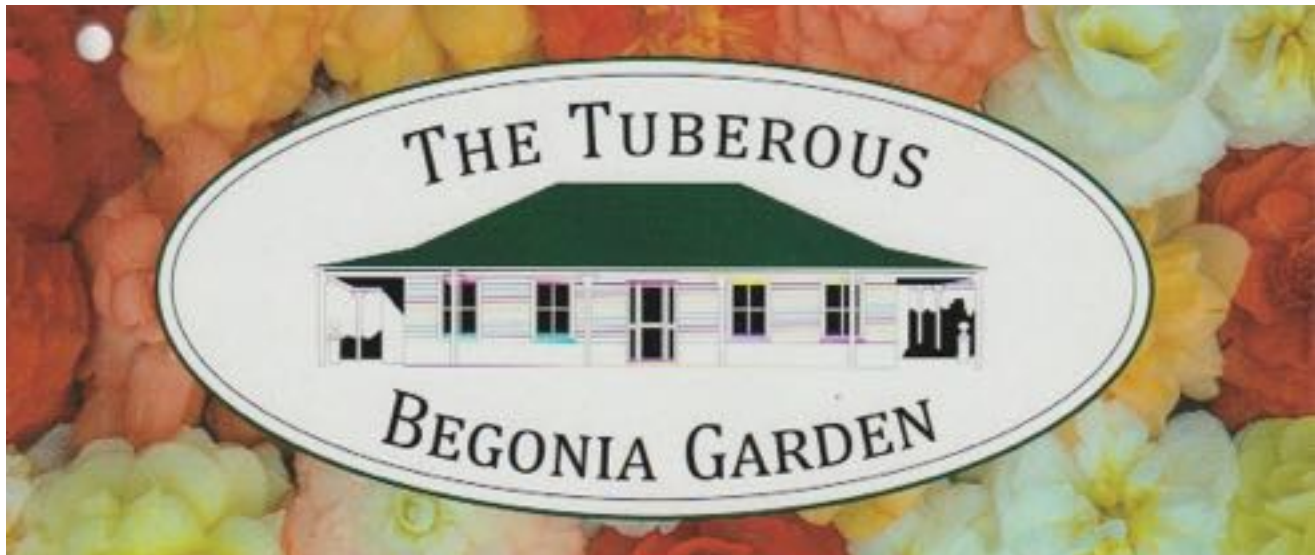
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PS My Family Matters

What to do in a mental health emergency?

PS My Family Matters and Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health are hosting a community forum to address the issue: *What to do in a mental health emergency?* The forum will be held on 6 April from 6.30–7.30pm at the Hume Global Learning Centre, 40 Macedon Street, Sunbury.

“For people calling 000 in a mental health emergency, it can be a real step into the unknown,” said Tamara Yeend, president of PS My Family Matters. “People often ask us, what will happen when emergency services come to my house? Who will come to the house? Should I ask for a CATT [Crisis assessment and Treatment] team? What is a CATT team? These issues can add a high level of stress to an already difficult situation,” Tamara said.

There will be short presentations by speakers from Victoria Police, Ambulance Victoria, Emergency Mental Health and Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health, followed by a facilitated Q and A.

The forum will also focus on strategies for developing a mental health safety plan, and a simple template will be available on the evening.

Light refreshments will be available after the event.

The event is free. Bookings are essential – please call 0475 269 965 to reserve a place or visit: trybooking.com/BXCNO



For further details/information, contact Mike Hamer on 0411 549 432.

SUBMITTED BY MIKE HAMER

Rainbow Coffee Club

Most of us love the distinctive aroma and flavour of a great coffee. Couple that with a bit of chit chat with other friendly folk, and you have the recipe for a great morning out.

A social group run by Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health, who meet monthly at the Social Foundry in Kyneton, connects local LGBTIQ+ people of all ages. The Rainbow Coffee Club is one of the initiatives of the Country LGBTIQ+ Inclusion Program known as CLIP, and the organisers are really pleased that this year is shaping up to be much more successful than the previous couple of years.

"Being part of a community and feeling socially connected can really have a positive impact on a person's mental and physical health," says facilitator Belinda Brain. "These coffee catch-ups are a great way to meet new people and create meaningful social connections and a sense of belonging to the community."

The Social Foundry are great supporters of the Rainbow Coffee Club and completed a workshop last year, run by Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health, on how to create a safe, welcoming and inclusive space for those who identify as LGBTIQ+.

The group meets on the last Friday of the month from 11am to 12pm, with the next one taking place on Friday 25 March. If it's your first time popping by, just look out for Belinda who will be wearing a rainbow lanyard and will more often than not be sitting in the back room. If you are uncertain or a bit shy, simply ask one of the friendly staff, and they will introduce you to Belinda directly.

Sunbury and Cobaw
Community Health's CLIP



program and the youth-specific WayOut program both work to increase LGBTIQ+ visibility across the region, and to ensure a more inclusive community. For more information about the various programs, groups and training offered, call Belinda on 5421 1666 or email healthpromotion@scchc.org.au.

SUBMITTED BY SARAH TURNER

Listening to tomorrow's leaders today

Macedon Ranges Shire Council is looking for young people aged 15–25 who live, work or study in the Macedon Ranges to get involved in the recently revamped "Youth Ambassador Program".

The new look program includes two innovative initiatives: 'Green Means Go' and 'Leaders in the Loop'.

Green Means Go gives funding and project support to young people who have a passion project they want to get started, or one they want to keep going by offering:

- financial support of up to \$1,000 for selected projects
- worker time and skills support through a series of project 'cluster' workshops
- Leaders in the Loop gives young people a seat and a say by:
 - bringing young leaders into consultation and decision-making loops
 - enabling young leaders to feedback directly to decision makers in the community
 - offering payment to young leaders for their time and input into consultations

To find out more, register or to pitch your project, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/youth/leadership or call 5422 0333.

RAISING TEENAGE BOYS IN THE MACEDON RANGES

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Beyond Gender Expectations



Cricket club fights for its life

Hanging Rock Cricket Club is devastated that the state government is planning to remove them from their home ground. In the newly-released draft master plan for Hanging Rock, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning plans to replace the club's oval with 'ephemeral wetlands', a new road, and 'picnic and conservation area'.

DELWP's long-awaited Master Plan has shocked many in the community with its plans to remove local sports clubs, such as cricket, tennis and petanque, while ensuring the continued existence of horse racing and developing large parts of the East Paddock to accommodate "an increase in visitor numbers".

Club Vice-President Stephen Mitchell says, "DELWP have given us five years, maximum to relocate outside of the Hanging Rock Reserve.

Areas in the East Paddock that could accommodate a sports oval have been prioritised for a concert area (including a permanent stage), a large tourist 'information centre' and a substantial increase in carparking space.



"There is actually sufficient open land by the new entrance to fit an oval if they wanted to," says Stephen Mitchell. "And they're keeping the second cricket oval next to the cafe, but they won't let even our juniors play there."

Horse racing is protected in the new plan on 'heritage' grounds. The 2018 Strategic Plan, which "sets the vision and direction for the Hanging Rock Precinct for the next 50 years" states that "the heritage and historical associations of long-established activities (i.e. over 100 years) are supported." However, according to Stephen Mitchell, the history of cricket as an established activity at Hanging Rock goes back to the mid-1800s, with documented evidence of the Newham Cricket Club having its home ground inside the racetrack at Hanging Rock in 1903.

"Community has long had an important role in the custodianship of Hanging Rock. The cricket club is very much in support of environmental values and recognition of indigenous cultural heritage."

"What's more," he adds, "the kids who play cricket at Hanging Rock today are developing a relationship with the place that will continue long after they are adults. They care for it because it's not just their home ground, it's their home."

Hanging Rock Cricket Club currently fields three senior teams and five junior, both boys and girls. If readers would like to support the club, they can sign a petition at bit.ly/3BhsrRt or use a smart phone to scan the QR code accompanying this article.



SUBMITTED BY STEPHEN MITCHELL



Figure 599. 1904 Cricket Match between Newham Bacon Factory and Glen Iris. (L-R)

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Autism Awareness Training

With nearly 1 in 100 Australians being autistic, the chances are that most of us interact with people with autism on a regular basis, whether that's at work or through our involvement in community groups. Volunteer support service, Volunteer Central Vic is presenting a two-hour training session next month for community group volunteers in autism awareness.



"Gaining a better understanding of autism is a simple way to become more inclusive and open your doors to new volunteers," says Lisa Richards, Volunteer Central Vic Coordinator. "We want to make our community spaces and activities as inclusive and welcoming as possible, and to do that, we need to develop better awareness around how to include people with autism."

The training is led by Amaze, the peak body for autistic people and their carers in Victoria. The training is led by a subject expert, as well as a person with lived experience, so participants can expect to gain a good understanding of the autistic experience. All volunteer managers, coordinators and group leaders are welcome, as are volunteers with local organisations.

"Many autistic people feel they are treated harshly and judged unfairly by the community, particularly in the way they are described and how people react to them," says Fiona Sharkie, CEO of Amaze. "As a community, we need to be aware of, understand, and accept autistic people and demonstrate that acceptance through our actions and reactions. Our aim is for a better understanding and acceptance of how autistic people experience autism, so others are less judgemental. It's about being curious, not critical."

The training is taking place on Tuesday 8 March, 10am – 12pm at the Kyneton Mechanics Institute.

To obtain information about tickets or to book your place, email Lisa Richards at info@volunteercentralvic.com.au or call 0419 362 374.

Volunteer Central Vic will be delivering more training in diversity and inclusion as part of its 2022 program, which focuses on breaking down barriers to community participation and volunteering. Keep an eye out for future training events or visit: volunteercentralvic.com.au

SUBMITTED BY SARAH TURNER

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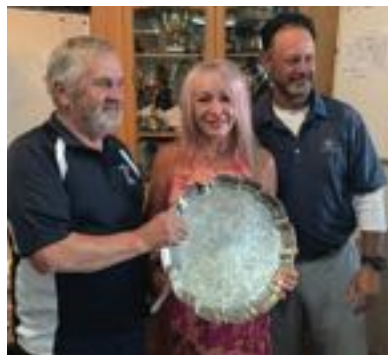
www.newwoodendstar.com/view

Woodend Golf Club celebrates the opening of new 1st tee

On Saturday February 12, the Woodend Golf Club had 72 competitors in the field for the 42nd running of the Maurie Armstrong Memorial. The day was a terrific success, and marked the opening of the new first tee, which the club constructed to reduce the risk of errant balls damaging property along Brewster Street.

The club would like to thank Trentham and Districts Community Bank for their very generous donation of \$2,000 towards the works required to construct the first tee, as well as their ongoing sponsorship and signage. Three representatives of the bank were present to help celebrate, including two directors, Paul Podbury, who is both a director of the bank and a member of Woodend Golf Club had the ceremonial first tee-off and nearly drove the green.

Annie Mann from Anne Maurie Salon in Gisborne is the tournament's major sponsor, and the club is very grateful to Annie for supporting this tournament for the past 42 years. Annie was on hand to present the trophy to the winners, Chris Holliday and Laurie Deakin, who won with a par score of +10 on a countback from Glenn Wright /Jade Nolan and Gary Delaney/ Alan McInnes.



Maurie Armstrong memorial Trophy presentation. L-R: Laurie Deakin, Annie Mann, Chris Holliday

The next major event to be contested is the Bob Mason, scheduled for March 20. The club is hopeful that we will be able to give an update on the work Council is doing to improve the entrance, safety and accessibility of the club house.

SUBMITTED BY B. HEARNDEN



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Rainbow Active teams up!



There is no doubt that participating in regular sport, exercise and active recreation works wonders for long term physical health, and it is also great for our mental wellbeing. That is why Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health's Country LGBTI Inclusion Program (CLIP) is teaming up with community ambassadors and sport inclusion advocates, Proud2Play, to encourage LGBTIQA+ people, as well as their allies, friends and families, to get more active.

On Saturday 19 March, Proud2Play's CEO Christine Granger will be delivering a talk on how clubs, community organisations and businesses can host an LGBTIQA+ inclusive come and try session. A survey carried out last year revealed that LGBTIQA+ people often stay away from physical activity due to safety concerns and not feeling like they fit in either traditional men's or women's spaces.

"We want to see rainbow geared activity for everybody," says Belinda Brain, from CLIP and leader of the Rainbow Active project. "We are excited to be collaborating with Proud2Play who work with all levels of the sporting community, from individual participants and grassroots communities to state and national sporting organisations."

Proud2Play encourages increased LGBTIQA+ participation and engagement in sport by providing structured opportunities and pathways. Engagement is not limited to just actively participating physically, and importance is placed on the mental and social benefits of sport.

The Rainbow Active team are also on the lookout for a couple of LGBTIQA+ community ambassadors who would be keen to get behind the project publicly and support delivery of both the training and the forthcoming free come and try sessions that will be scheduled between March and May across the Macedon Ranges. People who identify as LGBTIQA+ will be able to register their interest in the sessions, and have the opportunity of ongoing support to encourage regular participation in physical activity soon.

Rainbow Active: LGBTIQA+ inclusion and how to host an inclusive come and try session is on Saturday 19 March 2.30pm to 4pm at 1 Caroline Chisholm Drive, Kyneton. To RSVP, or if you are interested in being a community ambassador, please contact Belinda Brain on 5421 1666 or email belinda.brain@scchc.org.au.

SUBMITTED BY SARAH TURNER



L-R: James O'Brien (Woodend Golf Club Secretary), Barney Hearnden (Club President), Helen van der Werff and Paul Podbury (Directors of Trentham and District Community Bank)

Have you ever thought about joining a choir?

A 'Wobbly Woodend Warbler' shares her thoughts on becoming a first-time chorister.

What! Me? Sing?

When my daughter, newly arrived in Woodend with her family this year, suggested I join her to give Woodend Warblers a try, all I could think of were obstacles. I hadn't sung in a choir since school, over half a century ago. I don't read music. I don't play an instrument. I am rather deaf and wear hearing aids.

But we summoned our limited courage and turned up at Norma Richardson Hall at 7.30pm on a Wednesday evening in February. We checked in and were welcomed by conductor Andrew Price, who asked what section we sing. I have a deep voice, certainly not soprano, so I guessed alto. No audition, no try out, we were just directed to the far side of the hall!

This is a most friendly group, with some experienced choristers who are very happy to stand behind you and help you out with tricky bits. Andrew keeps it fun. He hands out duplicated sheet music, but as this is a very modern choir, he also puts up the music and audio of the separate sung parts on the Warblers' website, so you can practise at home. The music covers a range of popular songs, spirituals and carols for Christmas.

During the year, we have had tedious pandemic times, when we could not meet. Then silly times, hyperventilating when



The Woodend Warblers performing at the town Carols event in December 2021, outside the Norma Richardson Hall

trying to sing through duck-bill masks. But now, unmasked, double vaxxed, and with more singers returning, we are in great voice. We've even performed in public again.

And by the end of the year? Buzzing confusion for me has given way to greater confidence. I have new friends. Singing in this choir is therapeutic. I love it!

If you would like more information about joining, contact Andrew Price on 0419 604 444, or just come along and try it out! The first session is always free (\$12 per week after that). Woodend Warblers meet every Wednesday at 7.30pm. We are currently rehearsing outdoors at Black Forest Timber Mill, 988 Black Forest Drive, Woodend.

SUBMITTED BY ANNELIES NORLAND



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39 years since Ash Wednesday

On February 16, it was 39 years since the devastating Ash Wednesday bushfires destroyed over 425 houses and claimed seven lives in the Macedon and Mt Macedon areas. And we also passed 13 years since Black Saturday on February 7. We should therefore not become complacent; even though summer is officially over. There is still some warm weather ahead, and forests and grasslands are now well and truly baked from the recent dry spell.

This month remains a very dangerous part of the fire season, with history showing that most grass and bushfires in the Macedon Ranges occur in February and March.

Clean up around your house

Wherever you live, you need to reduce the amount of fuel on and around your house or property.

Clearing volatile fuels such as grass, undergrowth, fallen leaves, bark, and dead branches and twigs will lower the intensity of a fire. The most volatile fire fuel is dry material that is smaller in diameter than a pencil.

Remove over-hanging branches and clear leaves and twigs from roof gutters. Isolate potential fire sources such as incinerators or rubbish pits. Move wood piles and other flammable materials away from the house.

Walk around your house now, and now and see where leaves and twigs gather. There will be places where the wind will push falling leaves. These are exactly the same places where embers are likely to gather as well.



Everyone needs a fire plan

One of the most important things we all need to do is prepare and practice a clear bushfire safety plan, particularly whether you are going to stay or go.

Will you have time to leave the area safely? When will you go? Where will you go? What will you take? Who will you tell? What about your pets? Will you know in which direction the fire is travelling?

If you can see the fire, it's probably too late to leave. You should not attempt to leave your home at the last minute, when radiant heat is at its peak. The vast majority of deaths in bushfire involve people caught in cars or on foot. Once the fire is close, visibility will be very poor and travel will be hazardous. Fallen trees, power lines, abandoned cars or even firefighting vehicles may block roads.

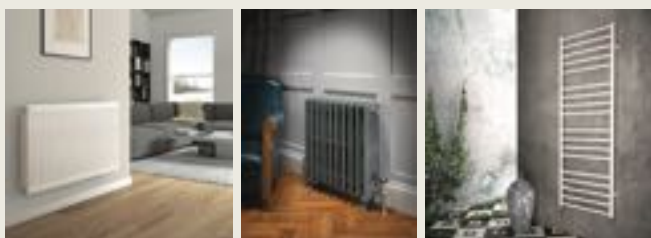
Neighbours, everybody needs good neighbours!

One of the valuable lessons we learn from difficult times is the importance of being aware of those who live in our neighbourhood, so that we can all work together. One of the great lessons to come out of the recent fires, and especially Ash Wednesday and Black Saturday, is the amazing sense of community that exists. As well as the importance of developing a strong neighbourhood network. Now is the time you should work with your neighbours, before another fire or event threatens our area. Here are a few helpful ideas:

- Get to know your own neighbours and share your fire plans
- See if there are any elderly or disabled people in your area, so that you can help them
- Start a Phone Tree so that people know who is home and who has gone
- Start a Community Fireguard Group with the help of the CFA

For further information, contact the Woodend CFA on 5427 2356, or visit the station in Urquhart Street. Email office@woodendcfa.org, follow us on Facebook, or you can visit our website: www.woodendcfa.org.

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, CAPTAIN WOODEND CFA



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Bold new strategy to end polio by 2027

Members of the Rotary Club of Woodend welcomed special guest Rotary International End Polio Ambassador Dr Katherine (Kitty) O'Connor, on Thursday 3 February 2022, to brief them on the new global polio eradication strategy launched at the beginning of this year. Since 1978, Rotary has been working to end polio, a highly infectious disease which can lead to temporary or permanent paralysis or even death. In 1988, Rotary became a founding member of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI).

The GPEI has seen huge success, with polio being certified eradicated in Australia and most regions of the world. But it has not yet achieved the goal of total eradication. In 2021, five new wild cases were detected in the last two endemic countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

According to Kitty, as the world adjusted to the COVID-19 pandemic, the GPEI Alliance – Rotary International, CDC, WHO, UNICEF, GAVI and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation – decided they needed to take stock. Following extensive consultation with more than 300 stakeholders, they realised the GPEI had to be re-imagined and there had to be new ways of doing things.

In January 2022, the new Polio Eradication Strategy 2022–26 was launched. The new strategy sets a goal to achieve eradication by 2027 and recognises that this will require the parties to operate at an emergency tempo in engaging governments and communities in support of immunization and surveillance efforts.

Kitty explained that there can be no transmission for three consecutive years before eradication will be certified. It is therefore crucial to end transmission in the last two endemic countries by 2024 and to keep other countries polio free. Even at the current level of cases, if all eradication efforts stopped today, within 10 years, polio could paralyze as many as 200,000 children each year.

The message is clear: we are almost there, but we can't afford to stop. Kitty thanked Rotary members and the Woodend community for supporting Rotary's ongoing fundraising efforts, including the October Walk with Us to End Polio, which will be run again this year.

If you would like to know more about the campaign to end polio, please call Josephine on 0407 271 628 or visit www.rotary.org/en/our-causes/ending-polio or polioeradication.org. If you would like to know more about Woodend Rotary Club or how to join or volunteer, please contact Tony on 0418 528 509.

SUBMITTED BY DEIDRE WILLMOTT





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'The Woodend Discovery Day' Sunday 13th March

Woodend Hanging Rock Petanque Club and Woodend Pony Club are running a day for the family at the old Woodend Racecourse in Forest Street, showcasing some lesser-known features of Woodend.

Petanque, a sport with French origins is unfamiliar to many in our community, and the activities run by the Pony Club are not widely known. Many residents have not discovered some of the wonderful smaller vineyards, boutique distilleries and cideries operating close to Woodend.

The Discovery Day will show everybody just how wonderful these features are.

The Club invites everyone to 'Give it a Toss' and try petanque for themselves, helped by our skilled players. It's enormous fun for all ages and fitness levels!

The Pony Club will show their riding skills - interesting for all ages. There's great stuff for the children – they can 'Ride a Pony' and 'Play with the Animals' at the Mobile Farm. Come on parents, we bet you can still remember the excitement of all this, bring your Kids and re-discover your childhood!

In addition to the area's best small vineyard wines, there are gins, craft beers and ciders from local producers to sample, and some quite inexpensive; wonderful food to enjoy; we've even secured the region's best coffee van!

The Woodend Men's Shed will be there too, showing off their activities and offering some great stuff to buy!

Whilst all this is happening you can listen to fabulous music from 'Big Horn & the 6 String Bandits' one of the area's best bands!

Come on, join the Fun! Get along to the Old Racecourse on Sunday 13 March from 11am till 4pm. It's not expensive at only \$5 a person or \$10 for families, and there's plenty of free parking – you'll have a great day discovering more about Woodend!

<< Rotary International End Polio Ambassador Dr Kitty O'Connor (centre) with Rotary Club of Woodend President Josephine Falzarano (left) and Foundation Director Deidre Willmott (right)



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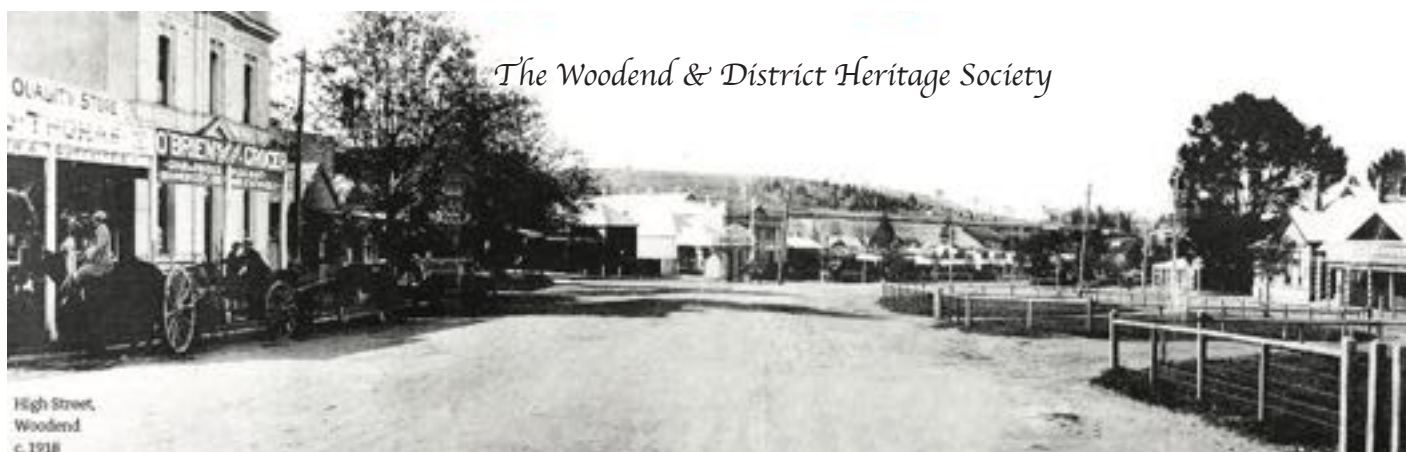
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The Lure of Hanging Rock

'The Hanging Rock Racecourse possesses a magnetism all its own' said a journalist from Melbourne after attending the New Year's Day Races in January 1916. *The Woodend Star* included his quote in its lengthy and glowing report of the event.

Even during World War I, thousands travelled to the racecourse and picnic ground – 'a verdant valley in the midst of mountain scenery'. Revellers arrived on horses or in buggies, jinkers, delivery carts, caravans, bicycles and hay wagons pulled by draught horses and even some cars. His Excellency, the State Governor, Sir Arthur Stanley and Lady Stanley, arrived from Mt Macedon and were welcomed by John Harley, President of the Club, who said that, despite the war, attendance was not much less than the previous year. The Cup was won by Lucky Bean, which Lady Stanley had the luck to back.



Photo 589 "Inhaling pure mountain ozone. Hanging Rock Races, New Year's Day, 1912."

From Left: Sam Christie, Sarah Arthurs (nee Adams), Alice Christie (young girl). Man in bowler hat with cup ... boy in front of wheel, Richard (Dick) Christie is the man in boater hat with bottle. The two small girls in front facing away from camera are not known. Group from R of wheel: Jane Harwood (nee Adams), Hilda Christie, Bill Harwood, Mary Christie (nee Adams), Arthur Christie (boy sitting on tin trunk).

In 1915, the *Star* commented on the variety of people enjoying the event, not all interested in races, but many just having a picnic and a 'frolic' in the country. The entry fee was sixpence, and the Shire provided free hot water to spare picnickers the task of boiling the billy. The Woodend Band, conducted by Mr W. F. Heap, played 'a pleasing programme in a capable manner'. Despite cool weather, visitors lingered until sunset, and the slowest vehicles were not back in Woodend until nearly dark.

Bridie Rahall, nee Dullard, of Ashbourne, born in 1892, vividly remembered the family picnics on New Year's Day at the races. The younger children loved the roundabouts and sideshows, and the older girls met their boyfriends. Families took baskets of food, such as cooked chooks, cakes, jellies and milk, carefully packed in billies. New Year's Day at Hanging Rock was a favourite Dullard outing.

SUBMITTED BY JANE HOLTH



Photo 132: Hanging Rock Races

Community Engagement Policy review

Council adopted a Community Engagement Policy in January 2021, as required by the Victoria Local Government Act 2020, with the aim to:

- achieve compliance with relevant legislative requirements;
- facilitate public awareness of Council commitment to meaningful community engagement;
- ensure achievements of appropriate standards of integrity, transparency and accountability in Council's community engagement processes;
- lead, promote and advocate public participation in Council's decision-making processes;
- lead and support a culture of continuous improvement in the way that Council increases openness and transparency with the community and the public at large.

The Policy is now due for review. A community engagement process is now being undertaken to seek community input to inform the review, including survey, face-to-face information sessions and afterhours online webinar. For details on the current Policy and how you can participate in the review visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/yoursay

SUBMITTED BY NOEL MCMAHON

Woodend Bowling Club – an important part of our community



Recent statistics show that, beside the regular use of the club for bowling, it is also often used by the broader community.

Over the last 12 months, the Woodend Bowling Club was used for more than 600 different events, with 30% of those for a community use. The Club was used by more than 2,000 different people, with more than 75% of those for community use.

The Clubhouse was used for nearly 450 different events and was used by more than 9,000 person visits, over 40% for community use.

Lawn bowls, probably the world's most inclusive sport!

One of the key findings of a recent and detailed research study into the broad range of sports available today, was that Lawn Bowls was one of the most, if not 'the most', inclusive sports in the world.

There are few sports that are as available, as a competitive or social sport. Few sports that are open to and encourage more people.

Lawn bowls welcomes people of all ages, all genders, and especially people with a disability playing against each other.

It's played competitively by people aged from 10 to 100. It is amazing to play a pennant match where a 10 year old or a teenager is matching it against a veteran of the sport, and all in a spirit of fun and harmony.

Lawn bowls is played by people of all genders. Up until 2001, pennant competition was divided into Mens and Ladies, but since then, open competition is embraced. And the sport is all the better for it.

Lawn bowls can be played by people of all abilities

If you are interested in coming down for a fun, free trial ... just give the club a call.

Check out the Woodend Bowls Club website and Facebook page, or for more information, please visit www.woodendbowlsclub.weebly.com.

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, PRESIDENT WOODEND BOWLING CLUB INC.

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Macedon Ranges Suicide Prevention Action Group COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Weds March 9th from 6pm The Vic Hotel 67 High Street Woodend

Do you live or work in the Macedon Ranges?

Come along and share your ideas on what we focus on in 2022.

We are on the lookout for new members, so if you are passionate about working together to prevent suicide in our community come and join us!

Everyone is also welcome to attend the Annual General Meeting (8pm).

RSVP essential for catering and COVID safety planning.

Please email chairperson@mrspag.com.au



*Guest Speaker for the evening is
Jeremy Forbes, Co-founder and CEO
of HALT - Hope Assistance Local
Tradies.*

*HALT's vision is that every tradie in
Australia knows how to look after their
mental health and wellbeing.*





Matt Quinn defending under the ring

Macedon Ranges Basketball Association – Summer Season

Michael Ryan speaks about his appointment to the Macedon Ranges' newest basketball team, the Woodend Rockies, as Head Coach

It was such an honour and privilege to have been named Head Coach in the Rockies' first season. I am tremendously grateful for the opportunity and the effort by everyone involved with the team for the season. There are so many people to thank for their work in establishing the team. This includes the MRBA committee and CBL sub-committee for getting the team on the floor; our home court match day officials; the crowds of local people who attended the games; our sponsors; Rotary Woodend; family and friends.

At each home, we experienced a great atmosphere at Buffalo Stadium. This home court advantage lifted our players.

Last but not least, I want to congratulate the 16 men that committed and sacrificed time and energy to be part of our inaugural season. To say I am proud of each of every one of them is an understatement. What an incredible group, and what a season we had!

To make the finals with only nine games together is such an achievement, and to come so close to a grand final is something to be celebrated.

I am very excited about the next season, as I know we will continue to get better and better with the more time we spend together. Hopefully COVID interruptions are well and truly behind us and we get a full season next year.

Now we have a pathway in the Macedon Ranges for our junior players to follow, as they reach the end of the under-age competition.

There will be tryouts in late August, so please follow our Facebook page for announcements later this year. Thank you for all the support from our community in the last few months, as we have really appreciated it. Go Rockies!

SUBMITTED BY HEAD COACH MICHAEL RYAN



Matt Merrett in action

Woodend's Masters still getting a kick out of footy

They are grey, they are bald, and they say that they're too old, but Woodend-Hesket Masters still get a kick out of footy ... so says their club song.

Masters football is for men aged from 35 years old, with an emphasis on 'footy for fun' with games in the Victorian AFL Masters League more social than serious.

After a disrupted two seasons because of Covid-19, the Woodend-Hesket Masters is calling on new players to join the club for a much-anticipated return to playing games this season. "Footy is more than a game for us, it's about connection and socialising while getting fit playing a game we love," said President Jason Koliba. "Throughout Covid, we trained whenever we could, as it was a chance for us to get together and shake off the isolation blues." Koliba said the club is set for a big year, with games locked in and sponsors on board. "Despite a tough few years for local businesses, our sponsors have jumped on board again to support the best club in town," Koliba said. "With many new families moving to the Macedon Ranges after so many months in lockdown in the city, we'd love to welcome any men wanting to make a heap of new mates, while improving their physical and mental health. "You don't need to be good, you don't need to have even played Aussie rules before, it's about having fun. We've got players from Ireland, England, and even had an American playing with us, and we play against blokes from all walks of life. There's no barriers, just a willingness to have fun while getting fit."

The club is recruiting new players for the 2022 season and are inviting anyone interested to join them at training every Friday from 6.30pm at the Racecourse Oval at Buffalo Stadium on Forest St. Nights may change to Thursday during cricket season, with junior teams playing on Friday nights. For more details, go to the club's Facebook page [facebook.com/groups/WoodendHesketMastersFC](https://www.facebook.com/groups/WoodendHesketMastersFC)

SUBMITTED BY DARON JACKS

See photos >>>

(Photos © Swagger Photography, used with permission.)

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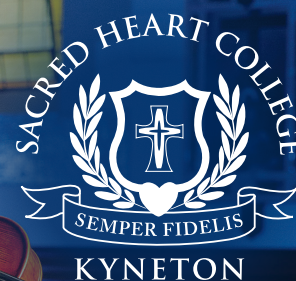
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