

# The New Woodend Star

- By the community, for the community -

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Rotary Club of Woodend

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Photos by Hubert Weisrock – A galah makes the most of this snug space to beat the cold!



Sustainable homes from all over Australia can be viewed

## Virtual Sustainable House Day

**Sustainable House Day**

This year, Sustainable House Day has moved to an online format. The familiar peer-to-peer learning, information and resources will still be available, to help you learn and take action to make your home and community more sustainable, more comfortable to live in, and cheaper to run.

Virtual Sustainable House Day 2020, on 20 September, will encompass video tours from over 100 Australian sustainable homeowners, launched a week before the event, plus a live streamed line-up of events on the day, with Q&A discussions and presentations from homeowners, architects, designers, builders and other sustainability experts.

The fortnight after the event will feature webinars, with deep dives into practical information about sustainability housing topics.

Three homes in the Macedon Ranges are included in this year's program: 'Tiny House' at Riddells Creek, 'Lancefield Country Life' at Lancefield and 'Ram Rock House' at Bennoch.

Take advantage of the event's location in virtual space to establish a program you couldn't normally achieve in a weekend. Check out the Macedon Ranges Sustainable Living Festival website at [mrsrg.org.au/sl](http://mrsrg.org.au/sl), pick up some tips on locating homes in the same climate zone as the Ranges (Climate Zone 7), and establish your own 'virtual itinerary' for Sustainable House Day.

MRSRG's Sustainable Homes Action Group will be publishing a guide to making a sustainable home in the Macedon Ranges. You can use this to direct your focus as you explore the Sustainable Homes on display, and afterwards, as you seek or plan your ideal home.

Find houses to visit, and register to attend, on the Sustainable House Day website: [sustainablehouseday.com](http://sustainablehouseday.com).

SUBMITTED BY SUE BARKER, MACEDON RANGES SUSTAINABILITY GROUP  
[SUSTHOMES@MRSRG.ORG.AU](mailto:SUSTHOMES@MRSRG.ORG.AU)



## Important Note

The New Woodend Star hopes its readers are keeping well in these unusual times, and we will continue to publish during the pandemic as long as we are able. We hold the safety of our readers at the forefront of our minds. Consequently, we would like to impress on our readers, community members and advertisers how important it is to be aware of, and adhere to, any current restrictions that may be in force, when advertising, or attending activities.

Restriction and other COVID-19 information is available on the Department of Health and Human Services website: [www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorias-restriction-levels-covid-19](http://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorias-restriction-levels-covid-19).

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# Your community diary

## GET YOUR EVENT LISTED ON OUR CALENDAR

Just send the details to  
[content@newwoodendstar.org.au](mailto:content@newwoodendstar.org.au)

### — September —

- 3.....Be Connected intro session
- 3.....Rotary Club online meeting
- 5.....Woodend Farmers' Market
- 8.....Be Connected iPhones
- 14.....Online Dementia Education
- 17.....Be Connected Android
- 20....Virtual Sustainable Home Day
- 23.....Be Connected Internet
- 25.....AFL Grand Final Holiday
- 29.....Be Connected My Gov

### — October —

- 3.....Woodend Farmers' Market
- 4.....Day light saving starts
- 23.....Postal votes due

### — November —

- 7.....Woodend Farmers' Market
- 16.....Online Dementia Education

### — December —

- 5.....Woodend Farmers' Market

Please note: due  
to the COVID-19  
pandemic you  
should check with  
organisers about  
any events listed  
here

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delivery

## Woodend comes through for the homeless



Club of Woodend

The Rotary Club of Woodend sends heartfelt thanks to our community for their generous donations of towels and care packs for Cobaw. During these difficult times, many people in the Macedon Ranges area find themselves sleeping in cars or sofa surfing. Being able to have a shower with a clean towel, soap and shampoo is a small pleasure in a disrupted life.

The items were delivered to Cobaw recently by Rotarians Melissa Hocking and Pen Longton, who are members of Rotary's Homelessness and Affordable Housing committee.

Larry Sutcliffe, housing support worker said, "Cobaw is pleased to receive items for our clients. One set of towels and toiletries has already been given to a man who is just moving into his own flat, after he lost his entire family in a car crash. and then suffered a stroke. He was very appreciative."

If you would like to know more about Rotary's Homelessness and Affordable Housing project, call Josephine on 0407 271 628.

SUBMITTED BY JOSEPHINE FALZARANO



Photo by Larry Sutcliffe

**Woodend's Rain report**  
Well, after a wet start to the year, July was the driest since 1997! Rainfall (or should I say precipitation, as a bit of it was frost and dew) was 49.3 mm, compared to the average of 93 mm. Year to date stands at 569.2 mm, so only another 230 mm to reach the long term average of about 800 mm.

Month	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	av 5yr
January	35.3	27.8	80.0	9.8	73.6	45.3
February	14.3	26.5	3.8	12.0	67.8	24.9
March	47.0	23.7	31.7	12.2	79.6	38.8
April	36.2	165.0	31.0	7.6	139.8	75.9
May	101.2	38.6	115.6	114.8	79.0	89.8
June	98.8	10.6	78.2	168.2	80.1	87.2
July	186.6	60.0	73.3	63.2	49.3	86.5
August	107.0	119.6	91.3	78.1		
September	163.6	55.2	26.2	38.3		
October	91.8	45.8	69.0	29.4		
November	63.2	77.4	55.5	64.8		
December	92.8	77.2	91.0	10.0		
Total mm	1037.8	727.4	746.6	608.4	569.2	

SUBMITTED BY PETER YATES



## Major milestone passed

### Kyneton Health extends thanks to the Macedon Ranges community for 10,000 COVID-19 tests

Kyneton Health's Respiratory Assessment Clinic has passed a major milestone, with more than 10,000 COVID-19 tests taken since the end of February.

Central Highlands Rural Health CEO Maree Cuddihy praised the Macedon Ranges community for their commitment in helping track the spread of the virus.

"10,000 COVID-19 tests is a major achievement, not for our hospital, but for every single person in the Macedon Ranges who has come forward. With every test we carry out, we are helping contain the spread of the virus in our community."

"We want to reiterate that getting a test isn't something to be ashamed of. By encouraging one another to get tested, and supporting those who test positive throughout the recovery process, we are looking after our friends, our family and our wider community," Ms Cuddihy said.

In August, six members of the Australian Defence Force were deployed to Kyneton Health to assist at the health service's COVID-19 screening clinic. The ADF personnel have



*Image Credit: Sandy Scheltema*

been swabbing patients and triaging those calling to make an appointment for testing.

"We are extremely grateful to the ADF for their support as our staff have been going above and beyond to support our community."

"Every member of our team has been working extremely hard – from our acute and theatre nurses taking on new and different roles, to our environmental service staff who have adapted to increased infection control measures. Our administration team have processed a huge number of patient records and our community nurses are seeing more patients in the community. It really is a whole team effort," Ms Cuddihy said.

Kyneton Health's Respiratory Assessment Clinic continues to test patients with symptoms related to coronavirus or as directed by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Patients are asked to call ahead between 8.30am and 4.30pm on 5422 9900 to book in and secure an appointment time.

SUBMITTED BY HELEN EDWARDS



## "Think about who you love, then think about them in ICU."

For Sarah, who's been battling coronavirus for nearly 8 weeks, being separated from her two little boys, has been heartwrenching. On top of coronavirus attacking every one of her body systems, intense pain and acute breathing difficulty, she still has no idea when she will be well enough to see her boys. Sarah's hope is that by us all doing the right thing, no one else will have to experience the heartache her family has.

Please, play your part and help stop the spread of the virus. If you have symptoms - please get tested. Payments of \$450 are available to help you stay home and wait for your test result.

To learn more of Sarah's story go to [vic.gov.au/CORONAVIRUS](http://vic.gov.au/CORONAVIRUS)

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magazine. Huge thanks to all who have  
supported us through these crazy times.



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# Support urged for Go Local First campaign

Council is encouraging residents of the shire to show their support for small businesses in their local communities, in line with a nationwide campaign.

The Go Local First campaign, an initiative of the Council of Small Business Organisations Australia (COSBOA), will highlight the vital role small businesses play in the nation's economic recovery from COVID-19 and in keeping local communities thriving.

The campaign will encourage Australians to choose local small businesses when they are purchasing products and services to help get the economy back on its feet.

Director Planning and Environment, Angela Hughes, said small businesses accounted for just over one-third of Australia's gross domestic product (GDP), and an economic recovery would not be possible without small businesses trading and hiring people.

Research commissioned by COSBOA shows Australians are spending more at local businesses since the COVID-19 lockdowns began earlier this year, but temporary and permanent closures are preventing them from doing more to support them.

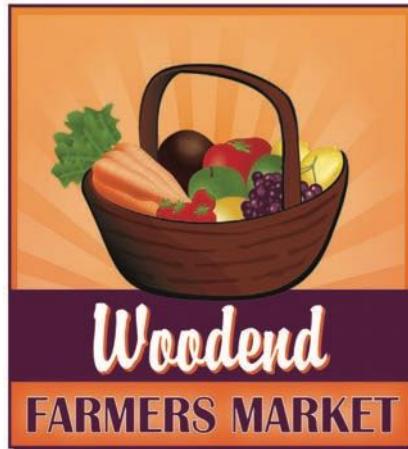
The research reveals that Australians see broad economic improvements as the most important issue for the country, after managing the spread of the coronavirus.

The Go Local First campaign will be rolled out over the next six months through outdoor, print and digital advertising, with residents being urged to spend locally first.

To find out how your business can be involved, call Danni Findlay on (03) 5422 0333 or email [dfindlay@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:dfindlay@mrsc.vic.gov.au).

For more information, visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au).

SUBMITTED BY LEANNE YOUNES



## Woodend Farmers Market

1st Saturday of the month

9.00am - 1.00pm

Corner High Street & Forest Street

[mrs.org.au/farmers-markets](http://mrs.org.au/farmers-markets)



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\*Charter (Demographics) Insight Report - August 2020

Rob Burgess, National Director Research & Strategy - Charter Keck Cramer.

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## Introducing BioIQ

A unique biological garden and grass feed developed in Woodend is set to improve soil health and plant productivity.

The developers of BioIQ, Robert and Kathie Rushford from Cobaw, have mixed science and biology to formulate a range of cost-effective sand and soil products, all powered by live bacteria.

The range includes BioIQ+ Premium Compost, BioIQ+ Garden & Grass Feed, and BioIQ+ Fertiliser.



The Rushfords say the BioIQ products are unbelievable in the garden, particularly with the renewed interest in sustainable products and soil health; they have succeeded in delivering nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium to soil, without using synthetic products on plants and soils, they have said.

BioIQ is the only product worldwide with live biology supporting soil, plant, and grass health in a domestic fertiliser, organic compost, and garden and grass feed."

The BioIQ ingredients are a combination of organic manures and composts from household green waste sourced from Victorian homes. And with the addition of *Bacillus* bacteria, microbes deliver nitrogen and elements without synthetic chemicals.

In commercial tests, plants yield more and are healthier with increased disease resistance. Commercial fruit, vegetable, grape production and pasture growth have been dramatically boosted after the application of BioIQ products.

"BioIQ products are inexpensive and have such a strong applicability to home gardening," said Mr Rushford. BioIQ is set to revolutionise garden and grass management, as the first clean alternative to synthetic chemical fertilisers.

BioIQ products are available from sand and soil outlets in Sunbury, Macedon and Kyneton, and during the Covid-19 restrictions, delivery can be arranged on 1300 090 261.

Remember, September is a great time to restart your gardening!

For pricing and delivery information please call BioIQ – 1300 090 261 or visit [www.bioiq.com.au](http://www.bioiq.com.au).

SUBMITTED BY ROBERT RUSHFORD



## Preparing your property for the fire season

Spring is here, so it is time to shake off the winter cobwebs and start preparing your property for the summer bushfire season.

You can reduce the risk to your home and property by cleaning up around your dwelling and clearing potential fire hazards, before the fire danger period begins.

These jobs include:

- Removing any overhanging tree branches and shrubs (over one metre high) next to, or below windows
- Keeping grass short, and clearing other combustible debris near your home
- Clearing roof gutters of any leaf litter
- Maintaining any defendable space around your home
- Ensuring any rainwater tanks are accessible and full
- Ensuring you have a bushfire survival plan in place and review it regularly
- Attending local CFA community meetings around fire preparedness

Remember, being fire ready is everyone's responsibility. For more information, call (03) 5422 0333 or visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au)

SUBMITTED BY LEANNE YOUNES

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## Central Highlands Rural Health – helping you to live well as you grow older

In December 2019, Kyneton District Health amalgamated with Hepburn Health Service under the umbrella Central Highlands Rural Health. The new organisation aims to meet the future health care needs of a growing population, deliver more and new services locally and provide greater access to high quality for locals in our community.

Home Care Packages are one of the first new services to be made available to Macedon Ranges residents through the newly formed Central Highlands Rural Health.

Lisa Martin is a Case Manager for Community Aged Care, and she knows that if it wasn't for carers and the day-to-day services provided through Home Care Packages, many older people would be unable to stay at home safely.

"Finding ways to supporting our community to live well as they grow older is very satisfying (and often humbling) work. It's really important that Macedon Ranges locals have the support to stay at home for as long as they want," said Lisa.

Home Care Packages are funded by the federal government and allow older people to access a variety of services, including cleaning, meal preparation, gardening, home maintenance, companionship, personal care and nursing.

Hazel is a local resident who accesses a Home Care Package through Central Highlands Rural Health:

"The people take great care of me and it allows me to stay at home where I want to be and maintain my independence. My family don't worry about me as much and I always have someone to ring if something goes wrong. I have developed wonderful relationships and friendships with the carers and case managers and I 100% recommend anyone who wants to stay safe at home to access the services."

Hazel is eligible for a Level 4 package that is managed through Central Highlands Rural Health's Community Aged Care team. She gets assistance with meals, podiatry, transport and medical products such as walking frames, special chairs and "even a microwave" when hers broke down.

Home Care Packages are tailored to meet individual needs, and each package allows choice and flexibility in the way that care and support are provided. Once your eligibility for funding is determined, a Case Manager such as Lisa will assist you with accessing the services and equipment that are right for you. Packages offer services and items including:

- Personal care or nursing
  - In-home respite care, social activities and transport
  - Small items of equipment to assist your mobility
  - Domestic assistance and household tasks
  - Home and garden maintenance
  - Meal delivery and preparation
  - Podiatry, physiotherapy, massage and other therapies
- Central Highlands Rural Health provides Home Care in the Macedon Ranges and Hepburn Shires.

For more information and to find out if you are eligible for a Home Care Package, please contact Central Highlands Rural Health Community Aged Care on 5321 6595.

SUBMITTED BY HELEN EDWARDS, KYNETON HEALTH



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## Birthday thanks

Aubrey and his mother and father give heartfelt thanks to Reverend Melissa Clark and the extraordinary Woodend community for bringing so much kindness and joy to Aubrey's 5th birthday in isolation, and to make it such a wonderfully memorable occasion.

SUBMITTED BY AUBREY'S FAMILY,  
PHOTO CREDIT AUBREY'S FAMILY



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APART | KEEPS  
US | TOGETHER

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## Online Dementia Education Sessions

Dementia Australia, in conjunction with The Treehouse at Kyneton Health, presents two online education sessions for carers and family members of people living with dementia.

### Coping with changes in behaviours – Monday 14th September

This session deals with some of the changes in behaviour caused by dementia. It will look at the impact on the brain, the effects on behaviour and the impacts of changed behaviour.

It will introduce problem-solving models, including strategies to minimise and respond to changed behaviour.

### Grief, Loss and Dementia – Monday 16th November

This session provides an overview of dementia, and of caring for someone who has dementia. It focuses on practical tools to manage the emotions associated with change, including loss and grief.

Both sessions are presented by Dementia Australia's facilitators, who have specialist dementia knowledge, skills and experience. These sessions are delivered interactively, and you will be encouraged to share your experiences alongside other participants, giving you an opportunity to develop new support networks.

Each session will run for 2.5 hours between 10.30am – 1pm online via Zoom, a popular video conferencing platform. Once you have booked into the session, you will be sent an email with details on how to log on to the session via Zoom.

To make a booking for either session, or for more information, please call Lisa on 9815 7822. Lisa can provide training prior to the session if you are not familiar with Zoom. There is no cost associated with attending these sessions.

SUBMITTED BY HELEN EDWARDS



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## October local council elections to proceed under COVIDSafe election plan

The safety and wellbeing of voters, candidates and election staff is at the centre of the Victorian Electoral Commission's (VEC's) COVIDSafe election plan released last month. The plan has been released following confirmation from the Minister for Local Government that local council elections will proceed in October as originally scheduled.

The VEC has closely monitored Government advice in developing the COVIDSafe election plan. The Plan puts additional measures in place to safely manage the Victorian local council elections being held by post this October.

Electoral Commissioner Warwick Gately has reassured Victorians that postal voting is safe and of high integrity, and that the VEC is ready to respond to the changing environment: 'The situation remains dynamic and the VEC continues to actively monitor conditions and restrictions.'

Additional measures in place include increased distancing in election offices, limiting face-to-face contact, enforcing mask wearing where mandated by the Victorian Government, and moving operational activity online whenever possible.

Measures to further safeguard voters and VEC staff include the removal of counter service for replacement ballot packs and unenrolled votes for these elections; requests can be made over the phone and replacement packs will be sent by mail.

Voters will still be able to hand deliver completed ballot papers to the election office if they miss the mail collection times with strict social distancing measures in place.

Information sessions for candidates will be moved online. It's also expected that additional social distancing during vote counting activities will delay the declaration of results for some elections by at least one week to Friday 13 November.

Mr Gately reminded voters that the situation is fluid and may require the VEC to adapt to the evolving environment. 'The election program is complex, and all participants are asked to be patient during the various stages of the elections and respectful of all involved. Short notice changes to processes may be required.'

The COVIDSafe election plan can be found online at [vec.vic.gov.au/voting/2020-local-council-election/providing-safe-elections](http://vec.vic.gov.au/voting/2020-local-council-election/providing-safe-elections).

SUBMITTED BY RUTH MURPHY, VICTORIAN ELECTORAL OFFICE

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## ZOOM IS FANTASTIC! I LOVE IT!!!

I never thought I would say that, but we are now running most all of our classes on Zoom, with the difference that we have our students coming to class from all over the planet.

This could never have happened pre-covid. I would not have had the motivation to change, and neither would my students. Now they have time and opportunity as do I. It is not easy to start with, but great fun. We are even having coffee mornings with our students, and we never know who will turn up, or from where.



For Details and to book go to [www.yogabeautiful.com.au](http://www.yogabeautiful.com.au). Click on "CLASSES" or "TAROT" To enquire, email me on [yogafirst@netcon.net.au](mailto:yogafirst@netcon.net.au)

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## Helping others to be digitally connected

A major contributor to good mental health is keeping in touch with other people, and in these Covid times, real face to face connection is often difficult, or even impossible. Most of us naturally reach for our electronic devices as a substitute. In the last twenty-four hours, how many times have you used your phone or tablet to call someone, connected via video, checked your Facebook page, watched something on YouTube, or searched the internet for news or amusement? How different your day would be without those devices.

Just for a moment, think about your family, friends and neighbours. Do any of these acquaintances struggle with their phone or tablet, or maybe don't even have such a device? They're missing out on what you're getting.

If you can't help them yourself, perhaps we can.

Loan devices and support available!

Call Macedon Ranges Shire Council on (03) 5422 0237 for further information and to register your interest.

This Digital Connection Project for Seniors is a joint initiative of Central Victorian Primary Care Partnership, Cobaw Community Health, Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Goldfields Libraries, Kyneton Community House, Gisborne Men's Shed, Macedon Ranges Health and Lancefield Neighbourhood House.

SUBMITTED BY LAUREN TYRRELL, COBAW COMMUNITY HEALTH

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## Message from your Councillor

### Janet Pearce



We appreciate that everyone is conscious of the need to comply with Stage 3 restrictions, and it is so important that this continues. We are fortunate to see so much support for each other in the community and a reminder that Council's Recovery Operations Centre (ROC) still continues connecting community health services, local community support services and other agencies to also provide assistance, connect people, hear your ideas and challenges, and look for a solution to any issues you are experiencing. It is available on 5422 0237. Council reviews information and plans daily and follows directions from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in our decision making.

The Virtual Ordinary Council Meetings and Submitters Committee Meetings continue to be live streamed and made available on Council's website for viewing. We held our first Online Councillor and Community Forum recently and appreciated the opportunity to listen and talk to residents about their experiences in the shire.

Council continues to work on strategies and policies as well and we would appreciate hearing your thoughts by providing feedback on the [mrsc.vic.gov.au/yoursay](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/yoursay)

We understand that some people continue to experience challenges with telecommunications and digital connectivity in our shire, and we continue to advocate to all levels of government.

Council appreciates those of you who joined the online community workshops for Cool Changes 3442. This is a project to develop local meaningful climate action plans and it is great to see such a mix of knowledgeable and passionate people interested and participating. The Goldfields Libraries have also been hosting a range of online events and a recent session featuring photos from communities life during Covid, "Life in Lockdown", was wonderful. Council has started some podcasts featuring native flora and fauna in the shire as well. The Veg Action group have been live streaming and I am looking forward to being a judge for the Winter Veg Recipe Challenge, so lots of opportunities online and our thanks to everyone for making this effort to stay connected.

Stay safe.

Best wishes, Janet

SUBMITTED BY CR JANET PEARCE, 0437 282 096

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## The Mount Players reminisce

**with Richard Whitley**

Part 1: With our theatre quiet and dark I thought you might like to hear from past members who played such a huge role in our Theatre's history. This month, Richard Whitley shares his memories. Richard resides in Gisborne and of course still enjoys coming to see the wonderful productions at our unique Mountview Theatre.

"I was a member of the Mount Players' Committee for the first 12 years of its independent life from 1976," he says, "having first become involved when I auditioned for the lead role of Todd in "The Golden Legion of Cleaning Women". This was when the group was being managed by its founder, Neville Thurgood. "Then followed playing the vicar in "Don't Utter a Note", "Who Says Murder?" "A Murder is Arranged", and Ernst Ludwig in "Cabaret." My favourite performance was as Colonel Pickering in the first production of "My Fair Lady." I also remember playing a soldier in "Oh! What a Lovely War!" directed by Margaret Cameron.

"We were at the time a small group of just 20 thespians, and all of our shows were performed in the original little theatre. It was tiny and held only 50 seats and was well-known to us for its possum community! However, it was our home, and we loved it, so imagine our thoughts when we inspected what the Ash Wednesday bushfires did to our home in 1983. The theatre and everything in it was burnt to the ground.

"I remember it as if it was yesterday, and over 700 homes were lost in the Macedon/Mount Macedon area. I was appointed, from the Committee, to oversee all theatre planning and construction. Were we in for a few surprises! The original little theatre was only insured for \$50,000, and the only other cash we had was petty cash. After the appointment of architects, the plans were offered to four well-known builders in the area, and the quotes came in – all between \$475,000 and \$550,000. What were we to do?"

You'll have to wait for the October edition to find out!

SUBMITTED BY RICHARD WHITLEY & KAREN HUNT



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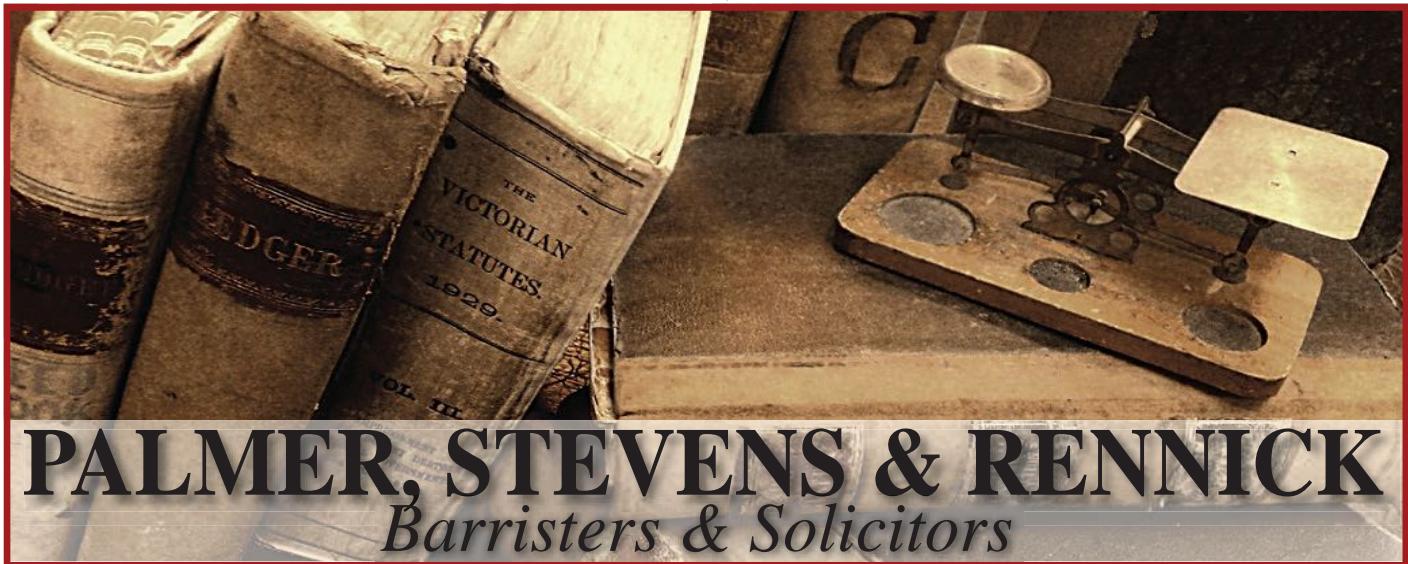
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## *Reducing the footprint of your annual property 'clean up'*

Spring is the time of year that most of us start thinking ahead to summer and preparing our properties for fire. Fuel reduction is an important part of life in bushfire prone areas, but it does not exclusively mean burning off. Consider minimising burning off and its costly carbon loss, and using a combination of techniques to reduce the fuel load at your place. You'll be reducing the environmental footprint of your pre-summer clean up and boosting biodiversity. Here are five ideas from Woodend Landcare:

- Limit your raking and debris removal to your house protection zone. Focus your tidying up efforts to your house protection zone, and leave some of the leaf litter and debris further afield for the bugs, reptiles, birds and animals who need it for food and habitat. Leaf litter helps your trees and plants by retaining moisture, providing nutrients and reducing erosion.
- Put your leaf litter in your greenwaste bin or take it to the tip. It is free to drop off loads of weed-free green waste at the Woodend Transfer Station. Even better, your leaf litter and debris is recycled and ends up as useful compost, putting carbon back into the soil.

- Leave big logs and branches for animal homes. A decaying log provides much needed habitat and food to a huge range of organisms, fungi, frogs, lizards, birds and animals.
- Give your leaf litter to your chickens instead. A thick bed of leaf litter at the bottom of their cage will keep your chickens' feet dry, and give them endless scratching pleasure!
- Allow the leaf litter to compost. A pile of leaves left to break down overtime will create a wonderful natural compost for your garden. Be careful when moving these though – old mulch piles are often home to local fauna, like echidnas, who create little tunnels to nest and raise their young.

Woodend Landcare has some useful resources on our website to help improve biodiversity on your property. Check out our mowing guidelines to protect native grasses, and our recommended plant list for the Woodend area at [www.woodendlandcare.org](http://www.woodendlandcare.org).



SUBMITTED BY KRISTA PATTERSON-MAJOOR

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## Styling Up

Not sure of your own style when it comes to decorating your home?

Googling it won't help! On page one alone: 'The Seven Elements of Interior Design', 'Five Ways of Feng Shui', 'The 60-30-10 Rule', even 'How do I make my living room look expensive?...'

Styles range through French Country, Mid-century, Modern, Contemporary, Bohemian, Shabby Chic, Industrial, Minimalist, while most of us are just aiming for Clean and Tidy during stage-3 covid-19 conditions with everyone home all the time.

Perchance to dream, it can be fun to peruse pictures and articles and, ahem, OFIs to inspire, inform and integrate ideas that resonate for you.

Then what? How do you apply these to your own home?

Try considering: Light – Where are the bright and dark sections of the room? Want a dark cosy corner or all parts lit up?

Space – What's the shape of the room? The size? Will you get away with one enormous couch and a couple of feature chairs? Or won't your family fit?

Furniture – Start your design with the largest piece in the room – the couch, the bed, the dining table, then spin off from there.

Colour – Are your favourite colours going to feature? Or would they clash like crazy? Indeed, would you like them to clash like crazy?

Texture – Does 'feel' matter to you? Soft, smooth, solid? Is timber too

warm? Metal too cold? Wool too hot? Patterns – You like bold, bolshy prints, fabulous florals or a plain palette with a dash of colour?

Pondering now prepares you well for shopping for the big things, like curtains, blinds and soft furnishings.

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## Woodend Library news

### September Be Connected Workshops

Do you want to improve your digital skills and have a computer, tablet or phone connected to the internet?

Join one of our online workshops to increase online skills and confidence for people aged over 50. All workshop groups will be done via Zoom and will be small, with follow up help provided.

Email [BeConnected@ncgsl.vic.gov.au](mailto:BeConnected@ncgsl.vic.gov.au) if you would like some information before you book in.

### Introduction to Be Connected Thu 3 Sep 10am

Join our guided tour of the Be Connected portal and discover life online. A treasure trove of interactive learning activities, training, web apps and how-to videos aimed at increasing online skills and confidence for people aged over 50.



### Be Connected - All about Apple iPhones Tues 8 Sep 2pm

Whether you are brand new to an Apple iPhone or have used them for a while, we have a great course for you. This topic is for anyone with a new or pre-owned iPhone. We show you how to set up your phone safely and customise it to suit your needs.

### Be Connected - All about Android phones Thu 17 Sep 10am

Whether you are brand new to an android smartphone or have used them for a while, we have a great course for you. This topic is for anyone with a new or pre-owned android phone. We show you how to set up your phone safely and customise it to suit your needs.

### Be Connected - Exploring the internet Wed 23 Sep 10am

Navigating the online world can be a little tricky at first, but this course will teach you some essential skills to getting started



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# Young Voices continue to Zoom into song

Having operated via Zoom throughout Term 2, it was planned for Young Voices of Macedon to return to live rehearsals at the Norma Richardson Hall in Woodend at the beginning of Term 3. However it was necessary to extend the Zoom arrangement for the whole of this term.

Disappointing as this is, the teaching staff (Emma West of Sunbury, Jess Demare of Woodend and Dianne Gome of Macedon) have become remarkably proficient in the development of alternative teaching strategies to accommodate the drawbacks of Zoom rehearsals. And our children have adapted magnificently, taking increased responsibility for learning choir songs at home. At the end of Term 2, which was entirely Zoom-based, the choir had mastered several songs including some very challenging material from the jazz cantata Captain Noah and His Floating Zoo. We are confident that this momentum will continue throughout Term 3.

We are well on the way to making a CD of our 'iso' efforts, a project of which our singers will be very proud, and which will remain a life-long memento of a very strange period of choral singing. To this end, we have recently completed a very successful audio recording of the Beatles' song Octopus's Garden in three parts and involving children across the entire age range (6-14).

New members are very welcome. Our experience this year has confirmed that singing in a group (even if virtually) is really good for children's wellbeing, particularly during challenging times.

For further information, visit [yvmacedon.org.au](http://yvmacedon.org.au), or phone 0437 941 690.

SUBMITTED BY JESSICA DEMARE



*... continued from page 16*

online. Join us for a workshop on how to search for things on the internet using search engines such as Google. The course covers how to search for websites, using bookmarks, and saving images and other files. We will finish with a fun quiz to put all you have learnt into practice.

## Be Connected - Introducing MyGov Tue 29 Sep 2pm

Find out how MyGov can make managing your online government services easy and convenient. We show you, step-by-step, how to set up and use your own MyGov account safely, including claiming medical expenses and controlling who sees your My Health Record information.

SUBMITTED BY LULU COCKRAM



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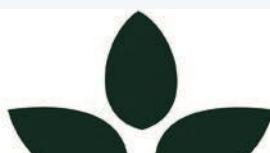
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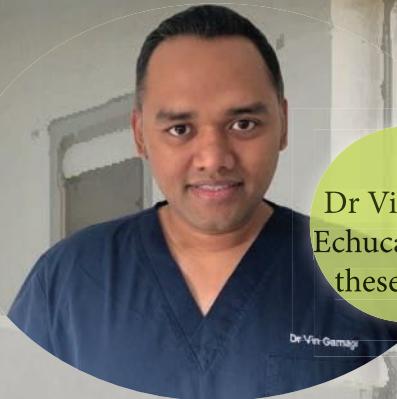
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### New GP

Dr Vin Gamage has commenced working within the centre. Previously working in Echuca Medical Practice, as well as hospital placements, he is a welcome addition in these busy times. He will be working 4 days a week.



### Simple ask, please wear a mask

Whilst we are currently in stage 3 restrictions, masks must now be worn when you leave your house. Continue to follow government guidelines and advice or visit [www.bsmc.net.au](http://www.bsmc.net.au) for details.

### Thank you

Brooke Street would like to thank our patients and the Macedon Ranges community for their sustained cooperation during these evolving times. We would especially like to extend our thanks to our hardworking team who continue to provide an exceptional service as they adapt to the changing restrictions.

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# Helping our Macedon Ranges sport competitions survive and thrive

Community sport in the Macedon Ranges has been given a boost, thanks to a grant from the Victorian government, aimed at helping local leagues and associations ride out the coronavirus pandemic and come back ready to play.

Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas, announced three grants last month that have been approved in the region from the Government's Community Sport Sector COVID-19 Short-term Survival Package.

These grants will enable Riddell District Football & Netball League, Kyneton Basketball Association and Macedon Ranges Netball Association to help them meet fixed costs to ensure they can remain operationally viable and provide a valuable boost for their clubs and membership.

It will also help them safely operate and reactivate at the other side of the coronavirus pandemic.

Since the start of the coronavirus shutdown, the community sport and active recreation sector has suffered significant revenue losses, putting sporting associations, leagues and clubs at financial risk.

The Community Sport Sector COVID-19 Short-term Survival Package is rolling out grants in four categories: grants of up to \$350,000 for large state sporting associations; grants of up to \$200,000 to smaller state sporting associations, regional sports assemblies and academies and other state sport and recreational bodies; grants of up to \$15,000 for associations and leagues; and grants of \$1,000 for individual clubs.

"Ensuring community sport and active recreation organisations survive this crisis and come back better than ever is critical to our economic and social recovery, and to our community's physical and mental wellbeing," said Ms Thomas.

The Victorian government is also investing \$68 million in shovel-ready community sport and active recreation infrastructure projects across the state, to stimulate jobs and economic activity, and deliver fantastic new projects to local communities, as part of the new \$2.7 billion Building Works package.

SUBMITTED BY BELLA MANSON

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## **Life in Lockdown project**

### **What's life been like for you in lockdown again?**

Have you caught yourself in recent times talking about when life goes back to normal? Have you stopped and wondered if there could be a 'new normal' which might be even better than the 'old normal'? We've been asking ourselves these questions during lockdown at Goldfields Libraries and we want to hear from you too.

In times to come, historians and others will look back at this time with interest. They will want to know how we lived, what we did and how we felt. The team at Goldfields Libraries have created the "Life in Lockdown" project to record this moment of history in the making, and to offer an opportunity for the community to reflect on and share their experiences of this moment in time.

Let us know if you'd like a Life in Lockdown postcard to send back to us, we'll send you one! Here are some other ways you can get involved and contribute to our online blog and exhibition, which will then become a physical exhibition and book.

Email your photos, poetry, journaling, art or stories of your experiences of this time to [woodend@ncgrl.vic.gov.au](mailto:woodend@ncgrl.vic.gov.au)

Photographs might include signs in shop fronts, empty streets and landmarks, children's pavement art or nature craft, cooking efforts, gardening efforts, street offerings, neighbourly offerings, your workspace at home, scenes of family life in lockdown, scenes of seeking to connect with elders and other loved ones who we can't be with physically.

Art does not need to be particularly 'artistic' (although it can be) – you may be a doodler, a visual journal keeper, a collector of the beauty of nature.

Writing might include: What gives me hope? How am I spending my time? What are the silver linings of this time? What don't I want to forget about this time? A day in my life in lockdown. My neighbourhood and community during lockdown.

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SUBMITTED BY LULU COCKRAM

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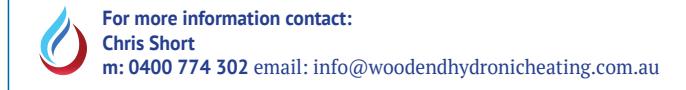
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## Wine review

The wines this month are both from the Woodend Wine Store; they have a beautifully curated selection of wines that includes a constantly evolving list from the Macedon Ranges. If you are looking to support the region through what are tough times, order directly from your favourite winery or retailers like Woodend Wine Store. The first wine reviewed is the closest to Burgundy in an Australian wine that I have tried for a long time, and the second is a textural and moreish Fiano that makes you look forward to the warmer weather that is just around the corner!

### 2016 Macedon Ridge Hunter Pinot Noir

The wine is produced from an exceptionally cool site that is perched at 750m above sea level on the northern slope of Mount Macedon. It is Burgundian in its stylings, with savoury, whole bunch influence, whilst maintaining purity of fruit and subtle impact of oak. The nose has undergrowth and earthen tones that are lifted by floral red cherry and fine spice. The palate is refined yet expansive, with a subtle build of texture and the impact of fruit and winemaker-derived artefact making itself known. The finish is a beautiful meld of vanillin spice, pristine cherry fruit and damp earth. Only 100 cases made, find it if you can; somewhat of a revelation in my mind.

Rating: 97 | Price: \$45 | When to Drink: 2020 - 2030

### 2019 Mount Towrong Fiano

The grapes for this wine are sourced from upper Heathcote, a site that has become renowned for producing exceptional expressions of Italian and other less commonly planted varieties in Australia. The nose gives lemon curd, green apple and nashi pear, alongside faint aniseed. The palate is medium bodied with citrus at its core, with apple having some toffee tones, and generous impact of new season pear; tart grapefruit-like grip along with pickled ginger gives texture and length to finish. A very well-made example of the variety that will enjoy a few years in bottle.

Rating: 92 | Price: \$30 | When to Drink: 2020 - 2023

SUBMITTED BY PATRICK ECKEL

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## Let's stick together in an underwater world

Kyneton Town Hall's school holiday program KTH Kids has gone online, offering a fun, creative and crafty workshop for kids, during the upcoming school holidays.

The KTH program will feature an underwater world collage-making workshop.

Working with local artist Joanne Mott, kids can create a mural using recycled sticker materials that explores the colourful oceanic underwater world of corals, sponges and wonderful sea creatures.

Children can join the workshop at any time during the school holiday period.

They can sign up to receive their materials pack and then tune into the online workshop to learn how to create a mural.

For information about how to participate in the workshop, visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/arts-workshops](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/arts-workshops)

SUBMITTED BY LEANNE YOUNES



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## Application to change a registered political party's name

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) has received an application to change the name of a registered political party in accordance with the Electoral Act 2002 (the Act).

- Current name of party: Sustainable Australia – Stop overdevelopment. Stop corruption.
  - Current abbreviation: Sustainable Australia
  - Proposed name: Sustainable Australia Party – Stop Overdevelopment / Corruption
  - Proposed abbreviation: Sustainable Australia Party
- The application is signed by the Secretary of the party.
- Objections to the proposed change must be submitted to the VEC in writing no later than the close of business on Monday 14 September 2020.

Written objections should consider whether the proposed name is allowable under section 47 of the Act.

Objections can be emailed or posted to the VEC, Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC, 3000.

Details of any objections will be made available to the applicant.

SUBMITTED BY RUTH MURPHY, VICTORIAN ELECTORAL OFFICE

## RSL President's Report

All is noticeably quiet at the RSL. The RSL hall is again shut. This is due to our strong stance on reducing infection risk from COVID 19.

We are all feeling the impact of COVID-19 lockdown and the daily updates can be depressing to even the most stoic. Media stories encourage us to follow the Chief Health Officer's guidance and yet we see people who rebel against the constraints. Unprecedented in our lives, what can we learn from those who went through similar situations?

The RSL has a direct connection with the spirit and memories of service men and women and their families from previous wars. These memories are a good source for us to look to and learn about how people coped with hardship.

Previous generations lived through war, pandemics, and extreme hardships that contemporary Australians had never had to contemplate. Now I think we are starting to understand.

Seems like we now have a little in common with those times, but thankfully without the horror of military aggression, atomic bombs, or the Final Solution.

Let us acknowledge our ability to dig deep and get through tough times, out of respect for those who served before. Let us hope people learn, as one WWII veteran put it "to be tolerant, honest and kind to their fellow man". We have seen signs of stronger societal connections, and we need to build on them with the advantages of smart phones, internet, and greater health and wealth than our predecessors.

We should ask people how they are coping, listen to their concerns, and talk if they want to.

SUBMITTED BY HOWARD BURVILL  
WOODEND RSL SUB-BRANCH SECRETARY



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## Time to start your pre-summer clean up!

Now that the weather is starting to improve, people are beginning to venture outdoors more often, especially into the garden and other areas on larger properties. So, now is the time to start preparing to reduce the risks of fire danger to you, your family and your property.



### Why you should clean up

The ferocity of a fire depends on a number of factors, including the weather, ground slope and especially the amount of 'fuel' on and around your house or property.

Fuel is the only factor that you can alter before an unplanned fire starts. Fuel reduction is therefore one of the most important preventions you can undertake, with the most effective methods including mowing, raking, slashing and burning.

Clearing volatile fuels such as grass, undergrowth, fallen leaves, bark, dead branches and twigs will lower the intensity of a fire.

### Reduce green and you won't see red!

In grasslands, the intensity of grassfires increases with the height and weight of the grass. Cut the long grass within 30 metres of the house, and then keep it under control. If grass cannot be kept short by grazing animals, it should be slashed well before the fire danger period so that cut grass has time to rot prior to summer.

A well-maintained garden will reduce the fire intensity around your house and make it safer for you to stay and defend your home, and put out spot fires started by embers from the main fire.

Make sure all vegetation around the house is pruned, especially any overhanging branches, clear ground around trees from dead undergrowth and fallen branches. If you live on a slope, greater ground clearance is desirable, especially under established trees.

Clear leaves and twigs from roof gutters— something you should do on a regular basis.

Move wood piles and other flammable materials away from the house. Isolate potential fire sources such as incinerators or rubbish pits.

For further information contact Captain Mike Dornau on 0409 093 935. On Sundays, call the Woodend CFA on 5427 2356 or visit the station in Urquhart Street. Follow us on Facebook, or you can visit our website: [www.woodendcfa.org](http://www.woodendcfa.org).

The Woodend CFA is a 100% volunteer emergency service, committed to Creating a Safer Community. If you are interested in joining the other great CFA volunteers in the Woodend community, please get in touch.

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, CAPTAIN WOODEND CFA

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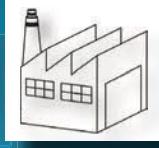
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## A modern game with a long history

In last month's New Woodend Star, we gave some of the interesting history of the Woodend Bowling Club, which this year celebrates its 130th anniversary.

This month, we have decided to go back a few more years and look at the history of the game of bowls itself.

In the summer of 1588, the legend goes, Sir Francis Drake started the game that we now call 'lawn bowls' with a game for his crew on the deck of his ship using cannon balls. The game did not last long, as the Spanish Armada had sailed up as they were playing.

Rounded stones found in Egyptian tombs are thought by some to prove that 'bowls' was played around the same time the wheel was invented, in about 5000 BC.

The Southampton Old Bowling Green, established in 1299, is thought to be the oldest green in the world, and is still played on today, over 800 years later. So, Woodend has 670 more years to match that!

In Shakespeare's King Richard II, the Queen asks her retinue what sport they can play to lighten the mood ... "Madam, we'll play at bowls," one her ladies replied.

The modern game grew rapidly in the late 20th century, especially in Australia, where it was one of the country's largest participant sports. In fact, in recent years, there have been more than 500,000 people of all ages, playing lawn bowls, including pennant, social, corporate and schools participants.

### The modern game of lawn bowls is more colourful and competitive

Lawn bowling in the 21st century is both colourful and competitive and in fact, most of the leading male and female players in the Australian 'Jackaroos' teams are in their 20s, 30s and 40s, with some players, like Kyneton's Chloe Stewart, being chosen for the national team as a teenager.

There are also more 'fun' versions of the game, such as barefoot bowls and Jack Attack, which is the bowling version of cricket's T20. The Woodend Bowling Club is always looking for new members, young and not-so-young.

### Come on down for a free trial

If you would like to try your hand, we are happy to help you out. Just give us a call to make a time ... we will provide everything you need, including the bowls and some instruction.

Check out our website and Facebook page

For more information please visit our website at [www.woodendbowlsclub.weebly.com](http://www.woodendbowlsclub.weebly.com). You can also follow us on Facebook.

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, PRESIDENT WOODEND BOWLING CLUB INC.



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### Cool Changes – A community plan for climate action is on its way

Cool Changes is Macedon Ranges Shire Council's program to work with local communities across the shire to facilitate the development of local climate action plans.

Cool Changes 3442 is approaching its final stages. Since June, more than 50 people have contributed ideas and explored actions via an online project platform, to guide future action on sustainability for the wider district of Woodend.

Two online workshops were also held in August to help shape the local climate change action plan. A draft plan will be available for comment in mid-September, and will be promoted to the wider community.

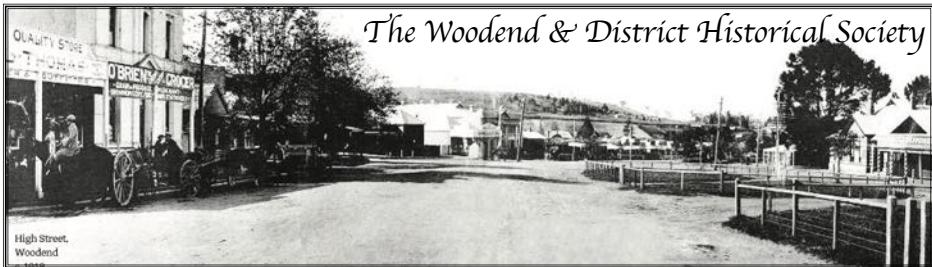
With additional support from Sustainability Victoria, as part of the state wide Zero Carbon Communities Transition Program, Cool Changes will demonstrate how communities across the state can plan for climate action into the future.

For more information, visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/climate-change](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/climate-change)

SUBMITTED BY LEANNE YOUNES

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## Accidents sometimes bizarre and newsworthy

In early times in the Macedon Ranges, many accidents occurred, mostly to do with horses, and most were thought interesting enough to be described in the local papers.

In 1911, the *Woodend Star* reported that Mr J. T. Christian, a well-known farmer of North Woodend, was lucky to escape death when he was driving his jinker and leading a thoroughbred stallion. Suddenly the stallion dropped behind the jinker, seized Mr Christian in his teeth, lifted him and shook him ferociously. He then dropped Mr Christian and jumped onto the jinker, damaging it badly with his front legs. Mr Christian managed to escape, battered and bruised. Presumably the horse pulling the jinker was a mare!

In 1911, the danger of unsecured horses was discussed at a Shire meeting. It was suggested that the most dangerous habit of tying horses to the wheels or axles of vehicles should be strictly prohibited. On 2 January that year at Hanging Rock races, a free-ranging stallion had subjected many citizens to 'a dangerous and revolting spectacle.'

Blacksmiths sometimes suffered bruises, burns and cuts from their tools or fractious horses. In 1894 Mr Pimblett and his assistants were 'charging anvils', preparing to celebrate a local marriage, a custom brought from England. To do this, they would put a small amount of gunpowder into a hole or depression on the anvil and discharge it with a red-hot rod of iron. As they rammed home the charge into the last of three anvils it exploded. Splinters pierced the eyelid, leg, face and body of James Fischer, an employee, and the blast blew off the buttons of his pants and shirt. Mr Pimblett's face was also pierced with splinters. A doctor was quickly called and successfully de-splintered the men. This was a very dangerous custom, and blacksmiths were actually killed doing it.

In 1907, the *Woodend Star* reported that Alex Davey, while loading hay onto a cart, fell off and landed on a potato fork which pierced his right leg. Dr Lines stitched up a nasty gash and expected him to make a full recovery.



SUBMITTED BY JANE HOLTH



*Building a haystack. Note that one section has been thatched to protect the hay from rain. Thought to have been taken at the property of Frank Bowyer, North Woodend, c 1919.*

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## The Woodend Salvos are staying open subject to future government restrictions

With almost one million Australians facing unemployment due to COVID-19, people from all walks of life are turning to the Salvation Army, as it braces itself for a dramatic increase in the number of people seeking help for financial hardship, homelessness and domestic violence. Our Salvos Stores are a vital part of providing resources for people who need it most.

Our ongoing support for our bushfire victims continues, with an initiative by the Salvation Army and the New South Wales Government to provide Pod Homes to fire affected areas.

The Salvation Army has contributed \$1.5 million to the program, which enables families to live on their property while they rebuild. For more info on what the Salvos are doing, visit [www.salvationarmy.org.au](http://www.salvationarmy.org.au)

We want to say thank you to the Macedon Ranges community for their amazing generosity and kindness.

We look forward to seeing you in your brilliantly creative masks as we dance the 1.5 distance dance in our stores and continue to support each other and those who are struggling to find hope.

SUBMITTED BY DENISE HARGREAVES



*The Salvation Army has provided financial aid to this bushfire assistance program*

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## VET Hospitality Course – bringing out the best in students

Sacred Heart College offers a VET (Vocational Education & Training) Hospitality course, which provides students with an opportunity to complete a Certificate II in Kitchen Operations. This is a great course offering students the chance to express themselves creatively, but also allowing them to develop a wide range of life skills that can be transferred to many other industries. It could also be a step to prepare and teach them for life at university.

The course runs for two years. The students will complete 13 Units of Competency. Eight of these will be covered in the first year, followed by five in the second year. After a satisfactory completion of each unit, the students will receive competency and will receive their Certificate II in Kitchen Operations.

There is a diverse range of reasons why students choose to study this subject. It could be they are interested in a career in the hospitality industry. This covers a very broad range of employment opportunities. This could include food and beverage services, event planning, tourism and many more. The students understand this course will offer pathways to other industries as they study OHS/WHS, working and communicating with team members, service skills and cooking methods and techniques.

Although there is a theory component to the course, the students really enjoy cooking. They have the opportunity to help create menus to serve at various functions within the college, as well as weekly practical sessions where the students learn about selecting quality ingredients, what equipment is used, how to store ingredients correctly and minimise waste, whilst maintaining safety and hygiene in both individual and team environments.

It is very rewarding for the students to plan, prepare and produce a wide variety range of dishes, from stocks, soups and sauces, vegetable, fruits, eggs, farinaceous, poultry, salads and appetisers. They cover a variety of service styles, and the feedback they receive from the guests they serve really encourages the students to keep challenging themselves.

The College has an industry standard kitchen where the students conduct their pracs with a range of equipment and serviceware for them to produce the vast variety of dishes they prepare throughout the course. A dining room adjacent to the kitchen allows the students to serve guests.

Whether the student has a shy and quiet or big and bold personality, this course brings out the best in them. The teamwork in the kitchen is amazing to see and they really look after each other.

SUBMITTED BY JENNIFER BALDWIN



Second year Hospitality students with their lasagne dishes.



A serving of fish and chips shows the importance of planned presentation.

## Sacred Heart College Kyneton

### Year 7, 2022 Enrolments Closing Soon



#### Enrolments for current Grade 5 students (Year 7 2022) close Monday 5 October

Interested in learning more about life at Sacred Heart College and the learning pathways on offer?

Our Principal, Dr Darren Egberts, invites prospective parents and students to participate in one of our Virtual Conversations via Zoom.

**When:** 26 August & 8 September commencing at 9:30am

**How:** Register using the online booking form on the Tours page of the College website. A Zoom link will be sent by email.

Visit our website for bookings or contact our Registrar for enrolment enquiries:

T: 5421 1200 E: [dlawrence@shckyneton.catholic.edu.au](mailto:dlawrence@shckyneton.catholic.edu.au)

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