

The New Woodend Star

Rotary  Club of Woodend

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April 19th 9:30am-12:30pm.
 Norma Richardson Hall

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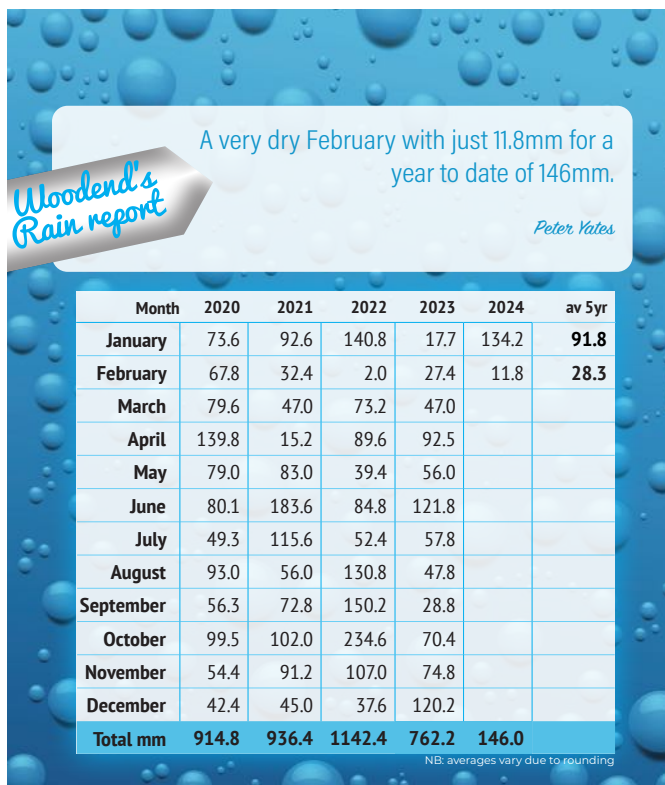
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The New Woodend Star and the Rotary Club of Woodend acknowledge the Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Peoples and their Ancestors as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands of the Macedon Ranges on which we meet, work 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.

Woodend Community & Cultural Centre update

Members of Woodend Community & Cultural Centre's team were inspired this month by a visit to the recently opened Berninnet community centre in Cowes, along with representatives of Macedon Ranges Shire Council. With a population



Image: Berninnet's inspiring Library interior.

similar in size to Woodend's, but extending to 40,000 over the tourism season, the centre has replaced Cowes' aged tourism information centre and library with one that also offers a multitude of gathering spaces, cinema and kiosk. This venue has also been certified with Passivhaus status. Funded pre-Covid, the centre is sympathetic with timber and glass features similar to Woodend's own Concept Plan ideals.

The Woodend project is refining its concept offering and is identifying the activities that it can provide to the shire and beyond that are not currently provided in other Council venues, recognising the performances currently held in the Kyneton Town Hall and the arts-based activities that will be enhanced by the development of the former Kyneton Primary School precinct. The future Woodend venue will instead offer the Woodend and broader shire community a sensitively designed, flexible, contemporary and relevant space to host

essential attractions for both locals and those travelling to Woodend. While the town already draws visitors for a range of activities from the Woodend Winter Arts Festival to a scout meeting, the current Woodend centre is aging and there is a shire-wide need for an open, affordable and modern central facility that is positioned centrally, with immediate access to rail, shops, and parking, to host local dance, lectures, festivals, school concerts, yoga and all ability presentations and events. Woodend has the potential to fulfil this unmet need, with its proposal for a new centre, which will ensure grassroots events have a place to grow and develop and be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

For further information regarding Woodend's project and progress: woodendccc.com

SUBMITTED BY THE WOODEND CULTURAL CENTRE COMMITTEE

Islay House restored

Sitting just north of Five Mile Creek opposite the primary school, Islay House has a colourful history and is well known to locals. First catering to the hopeful miners heading to the Bendigo goldfields it has recently been renovated and opened for luxury colonial-style accommodation.

New owners Clive Warner and Tarni James moved to Woodend irresistibly drawn by the charm of the building. "It was love at first sight. We adored Islay House from the moment we laid eyes on it and have enjoyed the hard work bringing it to our taste. We wanted to respect the history of the property and blend that with modern expectations," said Tarni.

Clive, trained as a boat builder with a long career as an international motorcycle racer and Tarni, a television producer and journalist, have been 'on the tools' for the past sixteen months, with the help of long term renovation collaborator Andrew Wiffen and great support from the Woodend

hardware store!

"People have been really interested in our progress, stopping for a chat, taking photos, giving advice – we always invite them in to see what we're doing."

"It's named after the Scottish Isle of Islay (pronounced eye-luh) the Celtic heritage of the house's name would have certainly pleased my mum and the fact that Isle of Islay is synonymous with fine, smoky Scotch whisky would certainly have pleased my dad! We felt an instant connection to the house and love the town."

The owners opened the property for a viewing on Saturday 17 February. "The day was a huge success, and we were really happy that so many local people came to view what we have done. We are very conscious that Islay House belongs not only to us, but to the whole town and everyone has an interest in the property! We hope to do right by the house and the community!"

Though the proprietors had anticipated a very small crowd of maybe 20, their

neighbours knew better, warning them to "get ready!"

"With their help, we had a volunteer steward in each room equipped with a cheat sheet of information about the renovations and the origins of the furniture and antique fittings and art works," said Tarni. "To our delight, 255 people came through. It was like a Bourke Street tram at peak hour! 100% positive comments flowed in, and we were very grateful for the feedback," she said.

A 'lucky dip' for a free night's accommodation was held – Mike Garnett was the winner. "His son and daughter-in-law will be enjoying a night with us."

Another open day will be held down the track, and Islay House is taking bookings through Visit Macedon Ranges website or Airbnb.

SUBMITTED BY TARNI JAMES

Photos: Left, Islay House, right, exhausted neighbours sitting out under the oak trees enjoying a 'thank you' lunch.





MOUNT MACEDON ANZAC DAY

DAWN SERVICE

THURSDAY 25 APRIL AT 6AM

AT THE MOUNT MACEDON MEMORIAL CROSS

ACCESS TO THE SERVICE IS VIA BUS ONLY (CAMERON DRIVE CLOSED)

Gisborne to Dawn Service:

DEPART:	LOCATION:	ARRIVE:
4:15am	Gisborne Train Station	4:45am
5:10am	Gisborne Train Station	5:40am

Kyneton to Dawn Service:

DEPART:	LOCATION:	ARRIVE:
4:45am	Post Office	5:15am

Riddells Creek to Dawn Service:

DEPART:	LOCATION:	ARRIVE:
4:15am	Riddells Creek Primary	4:45am

Sunbury to Dawn Service:

DEPART:	LOCATION:	ARRIVE:
4:50am	Sunbury Train Station	5:30am

Woodend to Dawn Service:

DEPART:	LOCATION:	ARRIVE:
4:30am	Woodend Train Station	4:50am
5:15am	Woodend Train Station	5:35am

Lancefield & Romsey to Dawn Service:

DEPART:	LOCATION:	ARRIVE:
4:45am	Lancefield Mechanics Hall	5:20am
5:00am	Romsey Community Hub	5:20am

Tony Clarke Recreation Reserve (Waterfalls Road, Macedon) to Dawn Service:

FIRST BUS: 4.15am
LAST BUS: 5.20am

+ On-Site
Coffee Van!

Buses from Tony Clarke Recreation Reserve in Macedon will operate as a continuous shuttle service.

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OR GOLD COIN ON DAY



For further information visit www.mtmacedondawnservice.org

Honouring Every Role, Every Sacrifice: 2024 Mount Macedon Anzac Day Dawn Service

The 2024 Mount Macedon Anzac Day Dawn Service will take place on April 25 at the Mount Macedon Memorial Cross.

The local community are invited to attend and help acknowledge this year's theme, 'Honouring Every Role, Every Sacrifice', showcasing the different ways that Australians have served, and continue to serve, in wartime, conflict or peacekeeping.

As part of the service, students from local schools will read excerpts from the accounts of local veterans, including 99-year-old Joy Daymon from Woodend North who served as a Flight Mechanic in the Women's Auxiliary Australian Airforce (WAAAF) from 1943-1946 and 102-year old Joyce Strawhorn from Kyneton, who served as a cook, cleaner and ambulance driver during her period of service, which included the Women's Air Training Corps (WATC), the WAAAF and the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS).

There will also be a special tribute to late Gisborne-based veteran Robin Funston, who had served as a Chief Petty Officer mechanic for the Royal Australian Navy during Vietnam and was a life member of the RSL, serving as president and secretary of the Gisborne sub-branch.

This year's service is expected to be a special one, according to President of the Mount Macedon Anzac Day Dawn Service (MMADDS) Committee, Leona Latcham.

"We have found some wonderful stories that show the diverse ways that our local veterans have contributed to protecting our country, and we really look forward to sharing them with the community on Anzac Day. There's something so special about the dawn service at the Cross – it's an iconic location that sets a very moving scene for the morning's proceedings."

The service commences at 6am and runs for approximately an hour. Free shuttle buses run from Tony Clarke Reserve in Macedon from 4.15am as roads to the Cross are shut to public traffic for the morning for the safety of attendees.

Plenty of parking is available at Tony Clarke Reserve and a free bus service will also run from Gisborne, Woodend, Sunbury, Kyneton, Riddells Creek, Lancefield and Romsey. The timetables for the town buses will be available closer to the date.

Attendees are encouraged to dress for the weather and bring a water bottle, torch and cash to purchase a snack or drink on the day, with any donations also appreciated.

MMADDS thanks its sponsors, including the Victorian Government through the Victorian Veterans Council, Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Bendigo Community Bank Gisborne and Region, Public Transport Victoria, Gisborne Region Events Activities & Tourism and KGMG Creative. Thanks also go to the organisations that help the service come together and run smoothly on the day, including the CFA, SES, Victoria Police, Parks Victoria, Woodend Scouts and the Mount Macedon Memorial Cross Reserve Committee of Management.

For more information, visit: <https://www.mtmacedondawnservice.org> and follow updates at <https://www.facebook.com/MountMacedonAnzacDayDawnService>.

SUBMITTED BY SARAH O'BRIEN

RSL Woodend Anzac Service



All Woodend community groups and residents are invited to join the members of the Woodend RSL in celebrating Anzac Day on 25 April again this year.

Those wishing to join veterans and community groups in the Anzac March, please assemble on the High Street slip road outside Bradleys by

11.15am. The March will end at the RSL premises, after pausing at the Vietnam and clock tower memorials.

Those wishing to attend the Anzac Service, please assemble at the front of the RSL at 32 Anslow St before **12noon**.

Attendees are welcome to remain for refreshments at the conclusion of the ceremony.

SUBMITTED BY JOHN MCCAUSLAND, WOODEND RSL

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The History of the Vanuatu School Project

As regular travellers to Vanuatu to support local business training, Allan Cann OAM and Shirley Cann OAM became concerned about the number of children they saw out and about during school hours.

“In 2017 in Port Vila, we noticed that many children were not in class. We went to see the Ministry of Education and Training to ask why this was and were told that many parents could not afford to send their children to school, and the schools were so overcrowded new students were often turned away,” explains Allan.

Allan and Shirley proposed to the Woodend Rotary Club that we construct new classrooms at a Vanuatu school. The Club agreed to build a new cyclone rated building and set a budget of around \$80,000. The project was made possible in part by a grant from The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International, as well as support from the Rotary Clubs of Wendouree, Werribee, Yarra Bend, Kardinia and Swan Hill Sunrise and the community of Woodend through events and generous donations via the collection tin at Bourkies.

Originally the project was planned for Ambae Island, but following a volcanic eruption, the residents were evacuated, with many going to Mwast; so the focus shifted to that remote village, about 25km from Luganville, the capital of Espiritu Santo.

In 2019, the Club signed an MOU with the Vanuatu Ministry of Education and Training for the design, supervision and construction of the new building. Rotary paid for the materials and the community agreed to undertake the construction of the new building.

Construction commenced the same year, but faced a number of lengthy delays following Cyclone Harold in 2020 and then the pandemic. It commenced again in 2022.

An important partner in the project has been the Rotary Club of Santo, whose members built a wash stand and tank to support the increased numbers of students and who helped us source the solar panels and battery from a local Vanuatuan supplier.



“It was a welcome none of us will ever forget.”



Last month, a group of sixteen Woodend Rotarians, including family and friends, travelled to Vanuatu for the official opening of the new school building at Mwast Primary and Junior Secondary School on the island of Espiritu Santo.

We were greeted by villagers and students in traditional dress performing songs and dance in a ceremony that they had designed and planned especially for the occasion. School students then took the hands of each guest and led us into the grounds where the whole school was waiting. After we took our seats, the children sang a special song welcoming us from Woodend, Australia to Vanuatu.



During the opening ceremony, school principal Diallo Wabak spoke about the importance of the new school building to the surrounding villages. The school has grown from 120 to over 300 students, with some walking over an hour each way every day. The solar panels and battery we installed late last year mean the school now has lights and can be used for meetings and study after hours. Electricity also means the students can start learning to use computers and, with a new communications tower nearby, they can even use the internet.

Diallo Wabak is especially proud that last year, for the first time ever, 21 students from the school sat the national year 10 exams with a pass rate of 95 per cent.

He also took the opportunity to share his vision and future plans for the school with us. The club is now working with him to look at the feasibility of a new outdoor covered area for the school.

It was indeed a day to remember. Before we could enter the new school building we were handed a machete and each of us had to cut down a tree in a “jungle” planted in front of the door. We were then shown around the classrooms by the students and treated to a feast prepared by the teachers using traditional local ingredients.



On behalf of Woodend Rotary Club, President Deidre Willmott thanked the Mwast community for their support for the project and told the students how proud we are of their achievements and their desire to learn new knowledge and skills.

All Rotarians and friends travelled from Australia at their own expense. The attendees express their gratitude to Macedon Ranges Travel Service for their dedicated assistance.

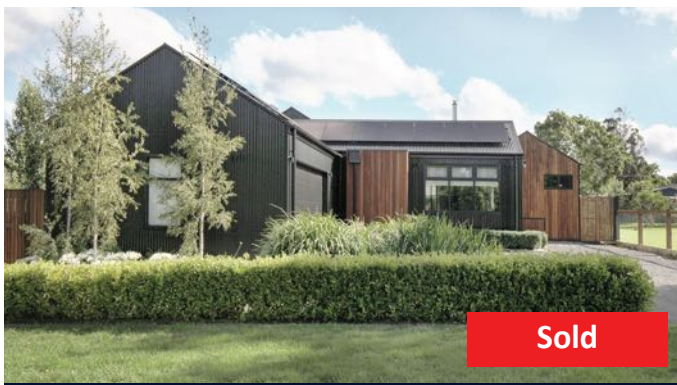
We also thank Ed Irons and the Woodend Bookshop for generously donating children’s books for us to take to Mwast School.”

SUBMITTED BY DEIDRE WILLMOTT, PRESIDENT ROTARY CLUB OF



Photo: Deidre Willmott, President of the Rotary Club of Woodend ready with the machete to clear the way to the front door of the classrooms..

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Would you like a flying scholarship?

The Kyneton Aero Club (KAC) flying scholarship will continue this year, 2024.

The scholarship is a support program for young people with a demonstrated interest in aviation. It is open to new students and to people who have already commenced flight training.

It is open to persons aged between 16 and 22 years of age until 30 of April 2024.

The scholarship will pay 50% of the cost of each instructional or flying hour, to a maximum total value of \$5,000. This value will be provided progressively as the training is undertaken.

Former Scholarship applicants are encouraged to re-apply.

Selection Criteria

Applicants must:

- undertake a trial introductory flight with KAC at the applicant's expense
- in a letter of less than 500 words, demonstrate to the assessors their passion for aviation.
- provide a reference of fewer than 300 words from a member of the community (not a family member), such as a school teacher or community leader who has known the applicant for at least two years
- be no younger than 16 and no older than 22 years of age
- if under the age of 18 years, provide written consent from a parent or guardian to allow them to undergo Recreational Aviation Australia (RAAus) flying training



- meet the medical requirement for the issue of a motor vehicle driver's licence
- live within a practical distance of the Kyneton airfield with suitable transportation.

Expectations

KAC expects that scholarship recipients will:

- possess the necessary English language skills and general aptitude.
- agree to participate in ongoing surveys and evaluation activities after completion of the scholarship.
- consent to KAC promotional and reporting publicity in full.
- inform KAC of extenuating circumstances that will delay or prevent their training progression.
- actively participate in Kyneton Aero Club activities and fundraising events.

How to apply

Please refer to <http://www.kynetonaeroclub.org> for full scholarship and application details.

SUBMITTED BY KIM YOANNIDIS

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The Royal Childrens Hospital Good Friday Appeal collection - It's not too late to donate

The Woodend CFA once again collected on behalf of the Royal Children's Hospital on Good Friday, March 29. Woodend CFA volunteers covered as much of the Woodend area as they possibly could during the day, as did the Heskett-Kerrie and Newham CFA brigades. However, if you were not at home on Good Friday, or we missed you, you can still donate online by visiting the Woodend CFA Virtual Tin Shake at: <https://fundraise.goodfridayappeal.com.au/fundraisers/woodendnewham>

We will let you know the grand total that was collected in next month's The New Woodend Star.

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Woodend Scouts compete at Stradbroke Cup

Woodend Scouts aged 10–14 recently joined their peers from across the Lerderderg region for Stradbroke Cup, a competition camp focused on camping skills.

Held over the Labour Day weekend, fifteen Woodend Scouts camped at Treetops Scout Camp in Riddells Creek, and worked in patrols to set up and run their own campsite for the weekend.

The Scouts were supported by advisors and sub-camp teams, who were there to help the Scouts be their best. Each patrol was assessed on key camping skills including menu planning, campsite setup including tent pitching, camp cooking and hygiene. Both Woodend patrols achieved a Silver Award for their camping skills, which is a huge achievement.

In the free time, Scouts were able to participate in lots of fun activities including a waterslide, nerf wars, foam sword fighting, crate stacking, archery, tie-dying and remote-control cars. They also enjoyed evening activities including a disco, movie and a carnival where they could 'dunk' their leaders (and each other!) in a dunking machine!

Congratulations to all the Scouts across the District who participated in Stradbroke Cup.

If you're interested in learning more about Scouting with Woodend Scout Group, contact our Group Leader on gl.1stwoodend@scoutsvictoria.com.au

SUBMITTED BY HELEN EDWARDS



2024
MACEDON
RANGES

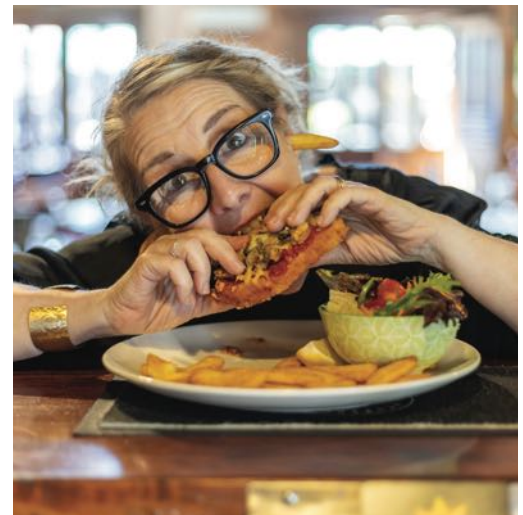
**EDGY
VEG**
AWARDS

These seven local venues are pulling out all stops to create a winning plant based dish for the Edgy Veg Awards.

Get down and vote on these dishes between 5 – 28 April to support local business, and for your chance to win a \$100 voucher at Mort & Pestle or an Eat More Veg workshop at Big Bowl of Happy. Or checkout the website to see the other 10 participating venues edgyvegawards.com.au. The Edgy Veg Awards are sponsored by Macedon Ranges Shire Council and Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group.

1. (Milko) You'd be crazy not to try the Roast Pumpkin and Veg toastie at Milko
2. (600 Above) Get excited with 600 Above's Tom and his 'Make Me Smile' Veg Platter board
3. (Sizzler Restobar) Let Satnam and Sami at Sizzler Restobar wow you with their Veg Biryani
4. (The Vic Hotel) A Vegan Parma at The Vic Hotel to go crazy for
5. (Holgates) Crispy Caramelized Eggplant at Holgates – could this be a contender for the winning dish?
6. (Hanging Rock Café) Recreate hanging rock out of spicy tofu bites in the Peach and Quinoa salad at Hanging Rock Cafe
7. (Newham General Store) Don't go past Newham General Store's Zucchini and Corn Fritters for a tasty meal

SUBMITTED BY LUCY CAMPBELL



Photos: Tiffany Warner Photography



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Message from your local sergeant



Hello again - time for my regular update! Crime has been relatively stable; there have been a number of thefts from motor cars - mainly after people have left valuable items within view, plus there have also been a few tradies' vehicles targeted. So, as I always say, don't leave anything in your cars like phones or wallets, and tradies, it's always advisable to have your vehicles in garages, or parked in the backyard, behind gates and not on the street.

I see that there has been a tentative start on the Black Forest Drive roadworks. It will be interesting to see how this pans out. I will remain neutral on this subject and just watch with interest on how this affects driver behaviour, traffic flow and access to the southern end of the town. What I will say about this is: please be respectful of the workers and drive to the speed limits, especially around the work zones. Road work is a dangerous job and I certainly don't wish to be called there about abuse, or even worse, for a collision/injured worker.

Finally, Woodend Police Station has been undergoing some renovations to enable the rollout of new officer safety equipment, which hopefully will give us further capacity and safer outcomes for all Victorians. But as a result of this, plus our commitment to backfilling Gisborne, annual leave and public order obligations in Melbourne, we have been greatly affected in our presence and availability. I hope this will soon change and we'll have greater capacity in the near future.

SUBMITTED BY DAVID ARNOLD, OIC WOODEND POLICE STATION.

Woodend Senior Citizens update.

I'll start this month's article with a report on the March bus trip to Ballarat Botanical Gardens for the Begonia Festival. It was a perfect day for gardens with the display of begonias in the shade house and outside garden offering a mass of colour. So many different shades of delphiniums and other flowering plants.

Please note: Over the Easter period there will no be Senior activities for the Easter long weekend and for the following week. We reopen on Tuesday 9 April in the Undercroft of the Woodend Neighbourhood House with a meeting, 57th Birthday Cake and Button Bingo.

Come join us on Tuesdays 1pm to 3pm for Button Bingo and Fridays 1pm to 4pm for a game of cards, once we settle back to our normal times again.

The April bus trip is to the Ballarat Tramway Museum, which includes a 3.2 km ride on a historic tram. This trip is on Thursday 11 April, which is only two days after we reopen. Please watch dates for booking, and payment is due by Friday 5 April. Contact Margaret on 0458 272 767 to make arrangements. Keep your bus sheet handy to remind you.

New members are always welcome.

If you are interested in joining, please call: Margaret 0458 272 767, Irene 0417 676 843 or Alma 0400 134 478

SUBMITTED BY ALMA, PRESIDENT OF WOODEND SENIOR CITIZENS



U3A Kynetron provides a stimulating environment for Macedon Ranges residents who have retired from full time work, enjoy meeting people and want to keep active. There are no entry conditions or exams. U3A Kynetron is a voluntary not for profit organisation and a member of U3A Network Victoria. Programs include a wide range of activities e.g. weekly guest speakers; table tennis; choir; movies; poetry; social activities; cycling; games and much more.

The Table Tennis group meets weekly at the Kynetron Toyota Sports and Aquatic Centre 4-5.30pm. U3A Kynetron extends sincere thanks to the Kynetron RSL for their recent support by providing funds to purchase an additional table tennis table. Recreational table tennis is a great activity for older people and has many benefits. It is easy on the joints, improves eye-hand coordination and improves balance. Table tennis stimulates various parts of the brain and sharpens reaction times. And best of all, it is fun.

Further information about membership, activities and costs is available via email from our Membership Coordinator u3ak.membership@gmail.com and on the website <https://u3akynetron.org.au/> or by phoning 0439 360 763.

SUBMITTED BY RONI TAUBMAN



This month at the Woodend Neighbourhood House

School Holiday Program

To help keep the kids busy these school holidays, we have two workshops on offer:

By popular demand, Storyboard Drama is back with two fun and energetic drama workshops for students in Prep to Grade 6. Storyboard Drama is all about building confidence and resilience in children through drama, and the workshops cover a variety of skills including performance technique, stage craft, script writing and voice/vocal control. Choose between 9.30am - 12.30pm or 1pm - 4pm on Wednesday 3 April.

New to the School Holiday program is a Papermaking workshop. School-aged children in Prep to Grade 6 are invited to make handmade paper from scraps in this fun, eco-friendly workshop. The workshop will run on Wednesday 10 April between 10am and 12noon.

Woodend April Community Lunch

Bring the whole family and enjoy a delicious two-course meal amongst friends, old and new. The April Community Lunch falls during the school holidays, so it's the perfect opportunity to gather some friends and join this regular local community gathering. Everyone is welcome at the Woodend RSL on Wednesday 9 April at 12 noon - bookings essential in advance and a \$5 donation is welcome to cover costs, but by no means necessary.

Chatty Cafe

Another event for your diary is our regular chatty café. Pop in for a cuppa, sweet treat and good conversation on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Our next Chatty Café is on Tuesday 23 April at 10am. No bookings required - just turn up!

Energy Assistance Workshop

Are you struggling with your energy bills? The Victorian Government's Energy Assistance Program is a free service to help Victorians who are having trouble paying their energy bills.

Anglicare Victoria are hosting a free workshop, where you will learn about how you can take control of your energy bills and start saving money straight away! Hear how to self-advocate with energy retailers, understand the energy market and find a competitive energy deal.

The workshop will take place on Tuesday 23 April between 11am and 1pm. Bookings essential.

Term 2

April will bring the start of Term 2 and our term program will be available for pickup from the House at the beginning of the month. Expect to see details of our new and returning classes, or check out our website to see what's on!

For more information about any of our 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

Refugee resettlement possible after successful Open Garden

An estimated 1400 visitors flocked from afar to see the beautiful garden of Stone Hill on February 17. People came on a perfect sunny day to see the garden in full colour and magnificence. Thank you to all those that came and especially to Sue and Gerry Moriarty for generously opening their garden for this cause.

Designer Michael McCoy was on hand to answer design and planting questions. A local coffee and gelato van provided adults and children with the sustenance required to wander the meandering pathways.

The money raised was above expectations. This has enabled the Woodend Refugee Resettlement (WRR) group to initiate the next step. CRISP – Community Refugee Integration and Settlement Pilot, a federal government initiative has now matched WRR with a refugee family of five. Originally from Syria, the family has been displaced in Lebanon since 2014. They will arrive here within the coming months and are beyond excited to live here in Woodend. Like all of us, refugees just want a safe place to live where their kids can get an education and a brighter future.

The members of the WRR group will help the family to adjust to life in Australia by assisting to find accommodation, employment, translation/language services, to navigate the health and education system, and to connect directly with the local community and culture upon arrival. The group provides very hands-on support as the family get established, with the view to helping them be completely independent after 12 months.

The priority now is to find a suitable home for this family. We will be looking for short/med/long term accommodation with at least two bedrooms. Do you have a place to let or know someone who might? We'd like to talk with you as soon as possible! Please email us at WRR at 3442wrr@gmail.com

SUBMITTED BY EMMA GOODSIR



French Cultural Study Tour



Over the next month a group of 16 students and three staff from Sacred Heart College, Kyneton will be participating in a study tour of France. The group will visit the College's Sister School, Lycée Notre Dame du Roc, for a week of school experience and homestay, and will also spend time touring key tourist attractions in France. This is the College's first post Covid trip to France and follows a highly successful visit of a study group from the Sister School in May last year, where many friendships were formed. The tour offers a fantastic opportunity for students to develop their language skills, as well as strengthen the connection between the two schools. We wish them a safe trip.

SUBMITTED BY JENNY BALDWIN

Community Bank - Trentham & Districts

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ph 5424 1608

Community Banking Trentham and Districts — supporting the Woodend Community

We proudly support many Woodend Community Groups through grants and sponsorships including the Woodend Lions Club, Woodend Heskett Football Netball Club and both Woodend Golf and Woodend Cricket Clubs. Come along to support your local community events in autumn and enjoy the most beautiful time of the year in the Macedon Ranges.

Our Woodend sponsored events for April

Free Skin Check Bus – Lions Club

We are very pleased to be funding the Woodend Lions Club's excellent free skin cancer check initiative. Running over two weekends in April, look out for the Skin Check buses visiting our local towns and get your free skin check.

12–14 April weekend

19–21 April weekend

Start of Season – Woodend Heskett Football Netball Club

We are proud Round 2 sponsors at the Clubs' first seniors home games.

Round 2 Hawks 1st Home Games

Round 2 Woodend vs Macedon with the Hawks' first home game is fast approaching. Come down to cheer the Hawks on, and see our A Grade netball premiership team unveil their very first premiership flag.

Saturday 13 April, Gilbert Gordon Oval, 1 Davy Street, Woodend

Footy games – 2pm, 4pm, 6pm

Netball games – 1.55pm, 2.55pm, 4pm, 5.20pm

Volunteer Base

If you can contribute a two-hour volunteer shift at one of our events during the season, please keep a check of our socials and sign up. We usually need two people on a shift, so sign up with a friend and make it a fun day.

Stay tuned as we build on the fantastic year we had in 2023.

Board Director required

Do you have some time to invest into our board? We are seeking a community-minded professional who can lend their business strengths to the team. Please forward Expressions of Interest to Board Support Anjee Anderson at aanderson@tcce.com.au or phone Brian Hood Director and Chair on 0411 139 004.

Community Banking with Trentham & Districts

Did you know you can book an appointment in Woodend?

Our Branch Manager Edyta Wyatt can come to you – your time, your place, your convenience, we bring the expertise to you.

Edyta is an experienced Mobile Lender and Banking Specialist who can assist you with home loans, term deposits, insurance and other banking products.

To make an appointment, Ph: 5424 1608 or Email: trenthammailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au

SUBMITTED BY ANJEE ANDERSON

Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival 2024

Choose your own adventure and experience the vibrant Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival from 5–28 April.

Nine charming villages are set to come alive and flourish with iconic autumnal delights. Enjoy local culinary treats, artisanal workshops, live music in rustic country halls, and unique events.

Explore genuine farmers' markets and indulge in tippie trails featuring fabulous local gins, craft beers, cool climate wines and ciders.

Follow the Autumn Festival Treasure Trail, taking you to the best autumn picnic spots around the region, all featuring beautiful leafy locations. Solve the Treasure Trail puzzle as you meander across the Macedon Ranges to be in the running for a fabulous festival prize.

Remember to pick up your Festival Food and Drink Passport and collect your stamps as you eat and drink your way around the region for another entry into the festival prize draw. Discover more at visitmacedonranges.com/autumn-festival

SUBMITTED BY MRSC COMMUNICATION UNIT

This page is proudly sponsored by Community Bank - Trentham & Districts



CWA Creative Arts Exhibition returns to the Lancefield Mechanics Institute

Mark your calendars for a celebration of creativity and community at the Lancefield Mechanics Institute! CWA Central Highlands Group is proud to present its annual two-day Creative Arts Exhibition on April 20 and 21. CWA members from Woodend are working hard on their entries and are excited to show them off to you.

Marvel at our members' skill: The hall will be filled with a showcase of crafts and preserves competing in more categories than we've ever had.

Indulge in delights: Treat yourself to a delicious lunch while enjoying the vibrant atmosphere and connecting with fellow craft enthusiasts.

Stock up: Need to replenish your craft stash? We'll have lots of bits and bobs for you to take home at bargain prices on our de-stash table.

Don't forget the preserves: Add some homemade goodies to your pantry, made with love by our members.

Event Details:

Dates: April 20 and 21

Time: Sat 20: 10am-4pm, Sun 21: 10am-3pm.

Location: Lancefield Mechanics Institute, 4 The Crescent, Lancefield

Award Ceremony: Sat 20, 11am

Join us for a weekend filled with creativity, community, and cherished traditions. Spread the word and invite your friends and family to share in this special event!

For more information, contact Mel Pritchard, 0423 672 719.

See you there!



SUBMITTED BY MEL PRITCHARD, CWA WOODEND EVES



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Showcasing our shire and supporting residents during autumn

The award-winning Autumn Festival returns this April, showcasing towns across the Macedon Ranges through a range of new and returning trails, events, activities and participating business specials.

Joining the popular suite of tailored trails and regular markets this year from 5 to 28 April are the Live & Local in Community Halls series, celebrating locally-based artists and community venues, and the Treasure Trail highlighting some of the region's top leafy picnic spots.

Returning are the Autumn Pie and Tart Trail, the Food and Drink Passport, Tipple Trails and the Edgy Veg Trail, with the Woodend Visitor Information Centre the go-to festival hub.

Mayor Annette Death said the festival, now in its fourth year, was a growing celebration of the region's natural beauty mixed with some of the best local seasonal produce and performers.

"I'm unashamedly biased but proud in saying that the Macedon Ranges has so much to offer all year round, but there's definitely something extra special in the air during autumn," she said.

"Whether you're a first-time visitor to our shire, a regular visitor or a resident, we encourage you to plan your trip in advance and enjoy all of what our beautiful towns have to offer."

To specifically support Macedon and Mount Macedon residents and visitors during the busy autumn period, limited temporary measures will be reinstated along Honour Avenue and surrounds, following a comprehensive review that has prompted Council to refocus on its core responsibilities.

To help manage the influx of visitors, from late March through to 12 May (Mother's Day weekend), temporary signage will be installed along Honour Avenue in neighbouring Macedon and other

Council-managed roads, to clearly highlight – and enable Council officers to enforce – no parking zones.

Then from 29 March (Good Friday) through to Sunday 28 April, on weekends and public holidays, traffic management personnel will enforce a full road closure along the same section of road from 8am to 6pm, to support public safety and in anticipation of higher visitation on these days.

Extra toilet and waste facilities will also be provided in the immediate area, while residents/guests within the road closure area will be provided with exemption passes in addition to multilingual signage to display on their properties.

"The Autumn Festival helps to disperse visitors and economic benefits across the shire, but we acknowledge that people continue to be drawn to Honour Avenue, and Council is working to proactively communicate expectations with visitors before they arrive," Mayor Death said.

"We are committed to supporting residents, and this year's core safety measures reflect that, but it became clear that pursuing extended measures over the longer term would not be financially sustainable or responsible without external support.

"We are however working closely with our partner agencies, such as the Department of Transport and Planning and Victoria Police on areas they are responsible for, such as Mount Macedon Road and the Calder Highway, and providing advice to our local community groups and businesses who may wish to explore further temporary measures to improve amenity of the area on busy days. I'd like to thank all those local residents and businesses who took the time to provide valuable feedback during our review, and we will continue to manage this peak period as best we can."

Visit the dedicated Autumn Festival website for all the details, or follow Macedon Ranges Naturally Cool on Facebook and Instagram for updates. Live & Local has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Festivals Australia program.

For more information on the measures in the shire during autumn, and to sign up for direct email updates on these measures, visit the autumn leaves and visitors page on Council's website.

SUBMITTED BY BODEY DITTLIFF, MACEDON RANGES SHIRE COUNCIL



Change Your Clock, Change Your Smoke Alarm Battery

Sunday 7 April is the end of daylight saving, and at 3am you need to move your clock back one hour. Along with changing your clock, why not also change your smoke alarm batteries?

All smoke alarms, whether hard-wired or wireless, require a battery. Hard-wired alarms use a battery as a back-up and that battery needs to be changed as well.

House fires occur more frequently in the cooler months, and in autumn and winter, we tend to stay indoors more, turn on the heating and do more cooking indoors. Only the sound of a smoke alarm, not the smell of smoke, will wake you in a fire, so it's essential that smoke alarms are operational.

Smoke alarms usually have a lifespan of about 10 years – alarms older than this should be replaced. Some smoke alarms have a printed use-by date, but if an alarm is still 'beeping' after its battery has been changed, it should be replaced.

Only a working smoke alarm saves lives

If there's no sound from your smoke alarm, there's no warning.

Remember, it is normally smoke, not flame or heat, that harms the majority of fire victims. When asleep, our sense of smell is largely diminished, and we're unlikely to smell smoke.

The smoke may also put occupants into a deeper sleep, so a smoke alarm actually helps wake you. And, with all of the plastics, materials, electronics and chemicals around – house smoke can be extremely toxic.

To ensure you have a working smoke alarm:

- Test it weekly by pushing the test button with a broom handle to make sure it beeps.
- Dust the alarm with a vacuum cleaner brush.
- Change the battery at least once a year.

For further information, contact 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.

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, FORMER CAPTAIN WOODEND CFA



Your community diary

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

— APRIL —

- 5-28..... Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival
- 6..... Woodend Farmers' Market
- 6..... Portraits on the Mount
- 7..... Daylight saving time ends
- 9..... Senior Citizens WNH
- 9..... Neighbourhood House community Lunch
- 11..... Probus public meeting
- 12..... MRFS: The Forgiven @ Norma Richardson Hall
- 12-14..... Woodend Lions Club Skin Check
- 13..... Concert series Christ Church Daylesford
- 13..... Round 2 Hawks 1st home Game, Gilbert Gordon
- 13-28..... Artanica - A botanic art exhibition
- 19..... Probus club meeting, Norma Richardson Hall
- 19-20..... Woodend Lions Club Skin Check
- 19-11..... Warrabah Western Desert Aboriginal Art Show
- 20-12..... CWA Creative Art Exhibition
- 21..... Woodend Lions Market
- 23..... Chatty Cafe, WNH
- 23..... Energy Assistant Workshop WNH
- 25..... Mount Macedone Memorial Cross Dawn Service
- 25..... RSL Woodend Anzac service
- 27-28..... Cadella Park Open Garden
- 28..... Woodend Landcare Working Bee
- 28..... Classical Celebration Gisborne Singers

— MAY —

- 4..... Woodend Farmers' Market
- 4-5..... The Great Trentham Supdfest
- 5..... Classical Celebration Gisborne Singers
- 10..... MRFS: Dirty Rotten Scoundrels @ Norma Richardson Hall
- 12..... Mother's Day
- 20-26..... Looped the mount theatre
- 26..... Woodend Landcare Working Bee

— JUNE —

- 1..... Woodend Farmers' Market
- 7-10..... Woodend Winter Arts Festival
- 14..... MRFS: Queen of the North @ Norma Richardson Hall

Knit, Chat and Cuppa

Third Wednesday of the month from 11am, Norma Richardson Hall next to the Woodend Primary School.

Come along to knit your own garment or squares, which we make into knee blankets to be donated to various charities.

Yarn and needles provided if needed.

See you there, Sylvia Mathews

A Classical Celebration

The Gisborne Singers are proud to present their first concerts of the 2024 season. Featuring soprano soloist, Merlyn Quaife and the Macedon Ranges Chamber Orchestra, the unique program includes Mozart (Exsultate Jubilate, Laudate Dominum, Regina Coeli), Haydn (Te Deum), Handel (Zadok the Priest).

Sunday 28 April at 2.30pm, Our Lady of the Rosary, Kyneton – www.trybooking.com/COHHD

Sunday 5 May at 2.30pm, St Mary's, Sunbury – www.trybooking.com/COHNN

Further information at www.gisborne.harmonysite.com.

Fingers and Toes Festival

Following a very successful first Fingers and Toes Festival last September, we are gearing up for the second Festival this September.

Now is the time to get the new and expanded competition class list, giving all wanting to enter plenty of time to peruse, choose a project and start knitting and crocheting during those cold winter months (they will come eventually).

The Fingers and Toes Festival will be held in the Red Brick Hall 23 Yaldwyn Street West, Kyneton – on 7 September. Entries close on 6 August, and items are to be delivered by 2 September.

Visitors to the Festival can enter by gold coin donation, with free admission for children, from 10 am-4.00 pm. All details available from fingersandtoesfestival@gmail.com.



SUBMITTED BY ANNABELLE MACDONALD



**Warrabah Western Desert Aboriginal Art
in conjunction with Gundooee Art**

Invite you to the

2024 Autumn Showing & Sale

**19th, 20th, 21st April
10-5pm**

15 Dianella Crt, Woodend (Off Goldies Lane)

Works by Gloria Petyarre, Barney Campbell Tjakamarra, Maisie Campbell, Judy Watson and many more established and emerging contemporary Western Desert Artists

 [woodend_aboriginal_art_sale](https://www.instagram.com/woodend_aboriginal_art_sale)

For all enquiries contact
Sophie 0478 313 191



7-10 JUNE
KING'S BIRTHDAY
LONG WEEKEND



Peter Doherty
Gideon Haigh
Nat Bartsch
Elizabeth Finkel
Andrew Ford
Piers Lane
Paco Lara

Paul Grabowsky
Jenny Graves
George Megalogenis
John O'Donnell
Jacqueline Ogeil
Robyn Williams
...and much more

woodendwinterartsfestival.org.au



Music, words and more at the Woodend Winter Arts Festival

Woodend is gearing up for another feast of music, words and ideas this June as the 19th annual Woodend Winter Arts Festival takes place over the Kings Birthday long weekend (7-10 June).

Over four days, WWAFF will present a dynamic, entertaining and engaging program. World class performers will be joined by some of Australia's brightest literary minds for a series of incredible performances and discussions.

Over 100 artists will perform during the Festival. This is an event where you can witness the musical genius of artists who usually perform at major concert halls. Whether you are a classical music aficionado, or simply want to experience a different type of music, the program offers something for everyone.

The much-loved annual fireworks display will kick off the event at Buffalo Stadium. Following its success last year, the fireworks will once again be synchronised to classical music hits.

Highlights of the music program include a lively performance by Southern Spanish guitarist Paco Lara, accompanied by flamenco dancer Deya Giner. Jazz great Paul Grabowsky will showcase the piano across centuries, twice ARIA-nominated Nat Bartsch will

transport the audience into the realm of new jazz, while London-based pianist Piers Lane will perform Chopin, Smetana & Mozart.

WWAF will feature some amazing local talent too. Jacqueline Ogeil (Woodend local and WWAFF Artistic Director) will lead Academia Arcadia's performance of the Early Solo Concertos. Australian tenor Daniel Thomson (who grew up in Kyneton), will fly in from Europe to perform Schubert Lieder with John O'Donnell (also from Woodend).

The Words & Ideas program will deliver engaging debates and discussions on challenging contemporary issues. Hear from literary greats such as Nobel Prize winner Peter Doherty and journalists Gideon Haigh, Elizabeth Finkel, George Megalogenis, and Don Watson. Andy Ford will reveal his latest book, while ABC Radio presenter Robyn Williams will lead a fun and insightful discussion on Sex, Science and Singing with geneticist Jenny Graves.

And much more! Head to WWAFF website to view the full program: woodendwinterartsfestival.org.au

SUBMITTED BY MADELEINE BLAKE

Upcoming events & dates to remember



Cadella Park Open Garden

Cadello (Woodend North)

Sat 27 - Sun 28 April 2024

Open 10.00am - 4.30pm

109 James Road, Cadello Vic 3442

This property dates back to 1844 and the mature trees are a standout feature. Witness the autumn glory of the deciduous trees in full colour.

Entry \$10 Students \$6 U18 free via Trybooking
<https://www.trybooking.com/COSOE>

opengardensvictoria.org.au

Cadella Park Open Garden

Situated in one of the oldest settled areas in the Macedon Ranges, Cadella Park is a working farm with a rich pioneering past filled with original buildings and landscape where agricultural and pastoral activities have flourished since the late 1830s. Until renamed in the 1950s, Cadella Park was called 'Oatlands' - a 650-acre property originally known for its oat crops. The Woodend Star reported on 20 May 1911 that Oatlands was the scene of a damaging fire, when some 50 tons of oat and wheat straw were destroyed, and quick thinking neighbours prevented the destruction of a further 600 bags of grain and 100 tons of hay.

In other phases of history, Cadella Park housed prestigious horse racing stables - credited with a 1933 Melbourne Cup winner (Hall Mark) and the establishment of a 1963 Murray Grey stud, which pioneered breeding and the export of cattle to America, winning many awards.

Today Cadella Park is a family home, a working farm and a venue for private events by Prunella. It covers 120 acres, with the garden and building occupying eight acres, and has not previously been open to the public.

You enter the property through a long-gravelled driveway framed by towering elms, some 180 years old, flanked with tapestry hedging. Well-maintained mature evergreen and deciduous trees feature throughout the garden, with recent garden bed additions designed by Simon Rickard.

For our Open Garden on 27/28 April 2024, the original bluestone homestead, circa 1845, will showcase Dubarry footwear and fabulous apparel by The Woodshed in Kyneton. Prunella has created a Champagne Bar from the old dairy and will be offering champagne, cocktails, cheese boards and chicken sandwiches. The old hay shed, which has been completely renovated into a spectacular events space and courtyard, will be transformed into a Prunella pop-up cafe with delectable cakes, tea and coffee. Numerous stalls, gazebos and music will fill the garden, selling plants, unique garden tools, sculptures and more, to create a whimsical garden fair for young and old. So please bring yourself, your family, your friends and a picnic rug, and enjoy our first Open Garden at Cadella Park.

www.cadellaparkevents.com

SUBMITTED BY JO-ANN BECK

Woodend General



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Artanica – A botanic art exhibition

13-28 April, 2024

Mt Macedon Horticultural Hall Mt Macedon Golf Club

The biennial botanic art exhibition ARTANICA, showcasing the remarkable talent of the Mt Macedon & District Horticultural Society's botanic artists, will be held on 13 to 28 April, at the Mt Macedon Horticultural Hall at Mt Macedon Golf Club.

For over a decade, the Society has been supporting an active group of talented artists, many of whom exhibit both nationally and internationally.

This is an opportunity to view and purchase original works and admire the diversity of approaches that the artists employ in this highly demanding artform.

All works are exquisitely executed in fine detail using the highest quality materials and a variety of mediums including watercolour works on paper and vellum, as well as works in graphite, and pen and ink.

The Macedon Ranges has a long history of botanic artists, many of whose botanic art work is in numerous national galleries and institutions, including: 19th century Mt Macedon resident Ellis Rowan, naturalist and illustrator; well respected gardener, botanic artist, writer and patron Joan Law-Smith, who created the



magnificent Macedon garden Bolobek in the 1980s; Jenny Phillips, Kyneton, founder of the Melbourne School of Botanic Art, and a highly regarded international botanic artist; and 21st century Anita Barley, Woodend, a Fellow of the Linnean Society London, winner of numerous awards internationally and within Australia, and a former botanic illustrator at the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne who is currently working and residing in Kew Gardens London.

These artists are continuing this tradition while adopting a contemporary approach and style, and a wish to capture the biodiversity of plants found in both the natural landscape and historic gardens.

The exhibition hours are 10am to 4.30pm Saturday to Tuesday during the period 13-28 April, plus Anzac Day.

All works are original and for sale. Join this fabulous event and have an opportunity to view works from established and emerging artists.

SUBMITTED BY CRAIG LIDGERWOOD

The Great Trentham Spudfest

Celebrating people, produce, and Central Victorian goodness across two fun-filled days in May

This year marks the 16th iteration of The Great Trentham Spudfest, a community festival bringing together local potato growers, artisans, music, food vendors, and local history to showcase the region's finest offerings and products across the weekend of 4-5 May 2024. The two – day festival is hosted throughout the historic town of Trentham and surrounding districts.

"Spudfest 2024 promises to be bigger and better than ever before, celebrating our region's potato culture and history, but most of all, our community," says festival coordinator Kye Theobald. "This year we are running across two days, and it's still a free event, thanks to the support of our sponsors and partners. We are also introducing curated events that will require a ticket."

On Saturday, Trentham comes alive with Spudfest's traditional carnival day, with four main precincts in town packed full of spud food, fresh regional produce, local artisan makers, live music, horse and cart rides, bus tours of the old Spud Huts, and loads of activities for kids and adults.

Saturday evening will see the inaugural Spudfest Cèilidh, a traditional celebration of Celtic music, food, and dancing, to mark the halfway point of the festival.

Sunday is dedicated to the discovery of food, produce, and region. Spudtastic dishes will be served at venues throughout the region. And a selection of local farms will conduct tours all day Sunday, inviting visitors behind the farm gate; the self-guided Farm Gate Trail will unearth local growers' fresh produce and hidden foodie secrets. Take part in The Great Spud Scavenger Hunt; join a historic tour of the Trentham Cemetery and town's historic sites; or take a behind-the-scenes tour of the Red Beard Historical Bakery.

For more information visit: <https://www.trenthamspudfest.org.au/>

SUBMITTED BY KATE ANDERSON

The Great Trentham
SPUDFEST
Celebrating our People, Produce & Region

— 4th & 5th May 2024 —

A Spudtastic festival of fun, food, wine, music, kids games & activities, history, spuds & much, much more!

trenthamspudfest | trenthamspudfest.org.au

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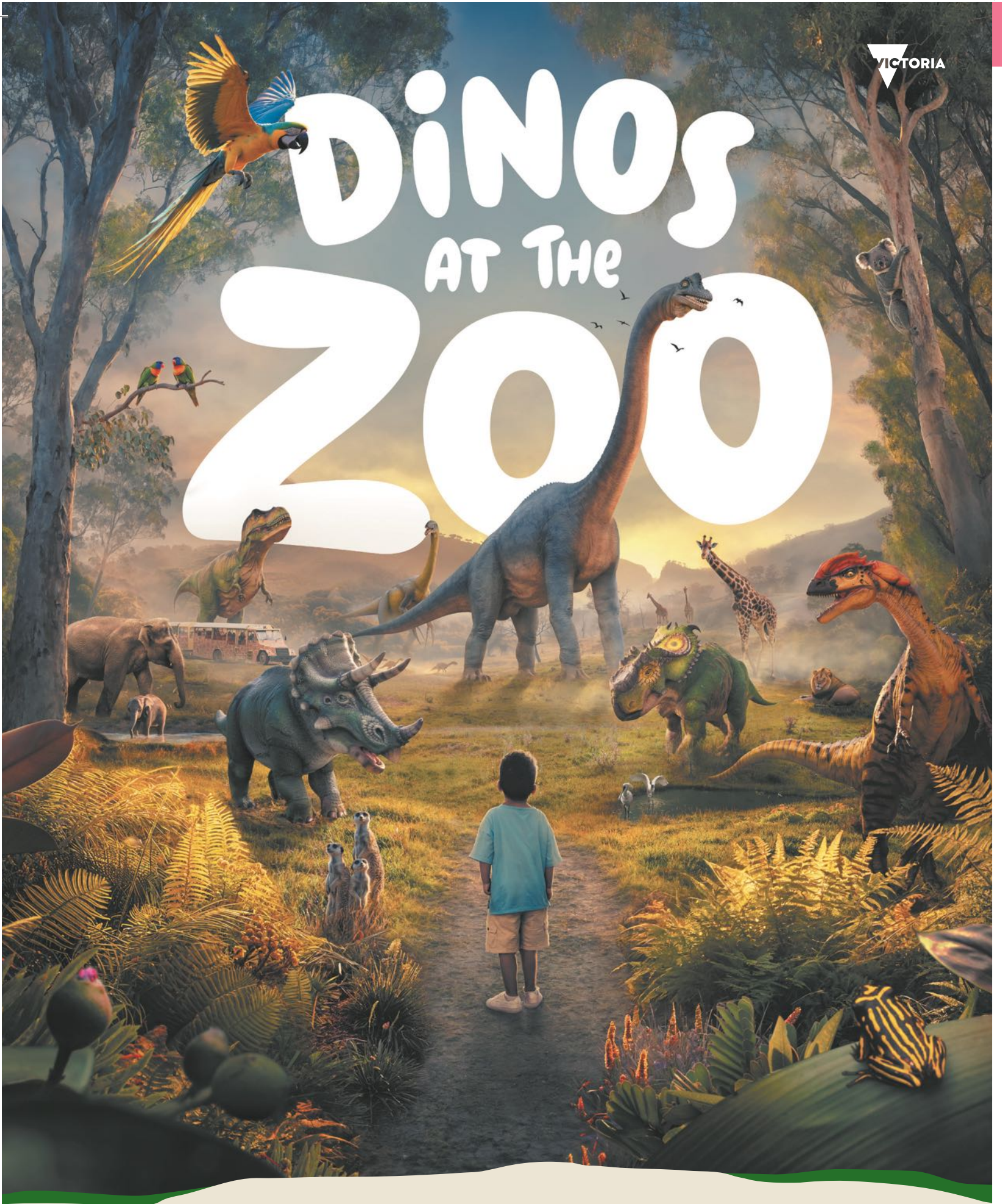
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The Mount Players April Happenings

The Mount Players are now in full rehearsal for their second production of the year, *Looped* which opens May 10, running until May 26.

A comedy, *Looped* is written by Matthew Lombardo and is being directed by Peter Newling. This is Peter's first directing gig with The Mount Players and he comes to us with bags of experience as a very successful director across the Melbourne community theatre scene.

Looped - During the summer of 1965, celebrated actress Tallulah Bankhead entered a Los Angeles recording studio to re-record (or "loop") just one line of dialogue from her final film *Die, Die My Darling*. What should have taken about 8 minutes ended up taking 8 hours.

The playwright uses a great deal of theatrical licence, offering us a hilarious yet sympathetic guesstimation as to what may have happened in that room on that day.


A combination of clever writing backed by a stellar cast of highly regarded, experienced actors, this play will appeal to many. Don't miss it!

We will be celebrating Mother's Day at the matinee on Sunday May 12 – there will be complimentary bubbles for all the mums and delicious treats at interval.

Book your tickets at www.themountplayers.com or call 5426 1892 for assistance.

See you at the theatre!

SUBMITTED BY KAREN HUNT




The Mount Players
presents

Looped


May 10 - 26 2024

Written by Matthew Lombardo
Directed by Peter Newling



The Mountview Theatre, 56 Smith Street, Macedon
Bookings: www.themountplayers.com or 5426 1892

By special arrangement with Broadway Play Publishing Inc



Autumn on The Mount - Portrait Competitions April and May



Photo: Wood Acorn Lidded container by Brian Falkenberg

April and May are extra busy at The Gallery. In April, members will be exploring autumn themes in their work. The stunning colours of autumn will be reflected in the art on display in our gallery.

Portraits on the Mount

We will host our Portraits on the Mount Portrait Prize and exhibition for artists across the Macedon Ranges. We held two competitions which are now closed. Non-photographic is to be judged and hung in April which will consist of a range of mediums. The works promise to be exciting and thought provoking, and most will be for sale. This is a great chance to pick up an original work by a local artist. We will be asking visitors to vote for their favourite work, and the most popular work will be awarded people's choice awards. In May, we will be exhibiting the photographic competition (our second competition for Macedon Ranges photographers) in our Focus Room. This also promises to be exciting, with works for sale and to be voted on for their popularity.

We thank the Gisborne Bendigo Bank for their generous donation of prize money.

The first exhibition will open at 2pm on Saturday 6 April, with the second opening on Saturday May 4 at 2pm. The Gallery is open Friday to Tuesday, 10am-4pm.

SUBMITTED BY SUE ANSON

LumberZach's – Landscape and Garden

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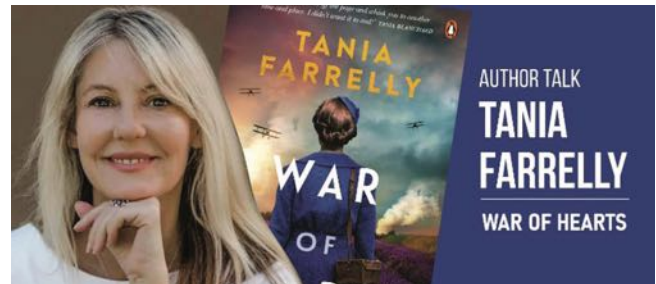
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Tania Farrelly Author Talk: War of Hearts



Thursday 18 April, 11am

Join us in conversation with writer Tania Farrelly, discussing her new book War of Hearts. Set against the backdrop of World War One, War of Hearts explores faith, love and redemption, through the eyes of a pioneering female journalist.

Book Club Social

Wednesday 17 April, 2pm

Are you interested in joining a book club or starting a new one? Or are you looking for new people to join your existing club? Then come along to this casual get together with fellow booklovers. Discuss all things books and book clubs, and maybe discover your next great read, or some great people to read with!

Craft and Chat

First Wednesday of the month, 2pm onwards

Bring along your current craft project and share ideas and skills with fellow craft lovers. Beginners welcome! Our next sessions are on Wednesday, April 3 and May 1, from 2pm.

New Releases – Order in the Library Now!

To reserve a loan of any of these titles, head to www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au or phone the library directly on 5427 2074.

For all event bookings, please head to our website or give us a call. See you in the Library!

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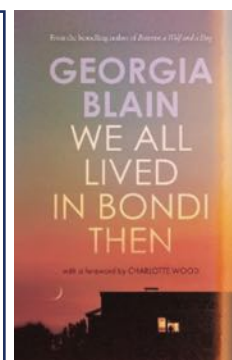
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Auction Saturday 6 April at 11:00am

Reserve Price \$695,000

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Mustangs in Woodend

On Saturday March 16, twenty-four Mustang cars, from classics to modern versions, gathered at the IGA carpark in Woodend. Members of the Mustang Owners Club of Australia, who had travelled from Bendigo, Geelong and Melbourne, had a chat and coffee before going for an hour-long tour around Mount Macedon. Back in Woodend, they gathered at the Victoria Hotel for lunch, before heading home. Reports from the local businesses suggest that many of the visitors browsed the High St shopping centre and made substantial contributions to the Woodend economy.

SUBMITTED BY PHIL BROWNE



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*Amount saved was annual payments reduction on an owner-occupier home loan when repayments dropped by \$481 a month from lower interest rate and loan restructure. Actual savings will depend on individual circumstances. All loans are subject to the bank's normal lending criteria. Fees, charges, terms and conditions apply and are subject to change. Credit provided by Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178 Australian Credit Licence 237879. A1963170 OUT_36126612, 20/03/2024

News and events from Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Coffee cups are recyclable!



Coffee cup recycling is a hot topic! Some websites say you can recycle the cups but not the lids and some say the opposite.

Thanks to new technology at our material recycling facility, Macedon Ranges residents can recycle coffee and soft drink takeaway cups in their kerbside recycling bin (yellow lid). Drink cartons, including milk, juice and stock can also be recycled.

Sadly, the lids and caps are considered too small to be recycled, you can pop these in your general waste bin (red lid) for now.

Want to do better? Check if your take-away coffee cup is compostable. If so, you can take it home and pop it in your FOGO bin. Or consider taking a reusable coffee cup with you to avoid waste altogether!

Reusable rebate

Time is running out to apply for the reusable nappy, sanitary and incontinence product rebate!

The rebate program aims to reduce waste sent to landfill and assist residents in accessing affordable reusable items.

Residents can claim up to 50 per cent of the purchase on selected reusable items (conditions apply). The rebate program closes 30 April 2024, unless the funds are exhausted prior.

To learn what items are eligible for the rebate and terms and conditions, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/reusables or contact 5422 0333.

Resource Recovery Secondary School Grant Program

The Macedon Ranges Shire Council's Resource Recovery Secondary School Grant Program is closing soon!

Secondary schools in the Macedon Ranges can apply for up to \$2,000 to tackle a waste problem at their school. The proposal must tackle a waste-specific problem and consider long-term solutions and sustainability.

Applications close 5pm on 30 April 2024. More information is available on Council's website: mrsc.vic.gov.au/school-grant-program

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Woodend Landcare volunteers Clean Up along Five Mile Creek

On 3 March, Woodend Landcare ran a Clean Up Australia Day event along Five Mile Creek between Wood Street and Bowen Street. Together with other community groups such as Woodend Girl Guides, Macedon-Woodend Scouts, 1st Woodend Scouts and Woodend Primary School, Woodend Landcare volunteers collected litter along Five Mile Creek and its tributaries within the Woodend township.

Woodend Landcare volunteers and Woodend Primary School students each collected two bags of rubbish, while the Scouts and Guides focused on the area from the Children's Park to Gilbert Gordon oval and the scout hall and found a lot more litter. By far the most common type of waste collected was soft plastics. These were predominantly food packets and wrappers. All collected rubbish was disposed of appropriately, including recycling items such as aluminium cans, bottles and green waste where possible.

Litter in Woodend gets blown and washed into Five Mile Creek, where it pollutes the ecosystem. This harms the habitat for frogs, fish, insects, birds and other animals that live in and on the waterway. From Five Mile Creek, the water and litter then flows into the Campaspe River, then into the Murray River and eventually out into the ocean in South Australia.

It is estimated that 80% of plastic that enters the oceans comes from rivers. Preventing rubbish from entering Five Mile Creek can therefore have a great impact, not just on our local environment, but also much further afield.

Next Working Bee: Sunday 28 April 2024, 9am-12 noon - Slatey Creek Blackgum Reserve, Ashbourne Road

SUBMITTED BY PETER YATES



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How to Choose the Right Size Solar System for Your Home

In sunny Woodend, harnessing solar energy isn't just smart—it's a savvy investment in our future. But picking a system that matches your home's energy appetite before you leap into solar is crucial. Here's how to ensure your solar setup is just the right fit.

1. Understand Your Energy Needs:

Start with your electricity bills. A year's worth gives the best picture, showing your family's usage through the seasons. Remember, it's not just about covering current needs; think ahead. Planning any home additions? Eyeing that electric vehicle? Planning to move off Gas. Or use more power in Winter? These all need to be considered.

2. Assess Your Roof Space:

Solar panels need elbow room but are not too picky. They can thrive on various roof types if there's enough space. North-facing roofs are gold, but east and west can provide the longest hours of power when you need it most. If you've got shade, getting a great design from a pro, matters more than ever. Shade isn't a deal breaker on solar, it simply means you might need more of it.

3. Sunlight and Location:

Our lovely Woodend weather does more than dictate our weekend plans; it affects your solar yield. It's important to design and size your system to suit your needs all year round, not just summer. Solar still works in winter while at a lower capacity, so the bigger your system, the more power you have to work with in winter when you need it most.

4. The Right Installer:

This bit's crucial. You have the best panels money can buy, but it will let you down in the long run if it's not installed well. A trusted local installer, like Bluegum, doesn't just set up your system; they're your guide. They'll consider your home's specifics, from roof angle to local weather, ensuring you get the right solar for your family and home.

Thinking about making the switch to solar? Consult a local expert at Bluegum to explore your options. Remember, the right size means the right savings – for your wallet and our planet.

Ready to shine a light on your solar possibilities? Contact us at Bluegum for a FREE consultation today.

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Electrify – Community Survey

Electrify 3442 exists to help local households transition to all-electric, powered by solar energy. In February we launched a Community Survey to help us understand what will help our community electrify their homes; the survey is accessible online at mrsg.org.au/electrify3442. If online access is difficult for you, drop in at Woodend Library. The team there can help you access the survey online or provide you with a paper copy to complete.

We want to hear from everyone, no matter where on the electrification pathway your household may be. Encourage your family, friends and neighbours to participate. The results of the survey will inform the tailored support we will provide later in the year. We look forward to sharing the results at a community forum in Woodend on Sunday 21 April.

Catch us at the Woodend Community Farmers' Market on Saturday 6 April. We're happy to talk about solar, batteries, electric heating, electric hot water, electric vehicles and electric cooking. We're even happy to talk about bills if you want some help wading through comparisons! The Community Survey is at mrsg.org.au/Electrify3442 and will run until Easter. We look forward to your input!

SUBMITTED BY SUE BARKER, ELECTRIFY 3442, MACEDON RANGES SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

If it's about flora, fauna and fungi ask the Macedon Ranges Field Naturalists.

The Macedon Ranges Field Naturalists are a recently incorporated community group looking to grow its membership.

Formed in 2020, the Macedon Ranges Field Naturalists aim to enhance knowledge and understanding of the flora, fauna and fungi of the Macedon Ranges shire. Through sharing this knowledge, the group aims to foster interest in the region's natural values and to help preserve its native species, communities and ecosystems.

If you love nature walks and participating in citizen science with like-minded people, we would love to have you as a member. For our inaugural membership drive, we also have a competition to create our logo. For full details, hop on over to our website to see what projects are happening and a link to membership.



www.macedonrangesfieldnaturalists.org

SUBMITTED BY LISA DOBSON

Thriving Communities grants



Applications are now open for this year's round of the Greater Western Water (GWW) Thriving Communities grants and sponsorship program. Thriving Communities has been running since 2022, offering funding to community-led groups and projects that are creating opportunities across our service region.

Greater Western Water General Manager Strategy and Partnerships Kessia Thomson said groups could apply for up to \$20,000 for projects that are locally led and that benefit our customers and community.

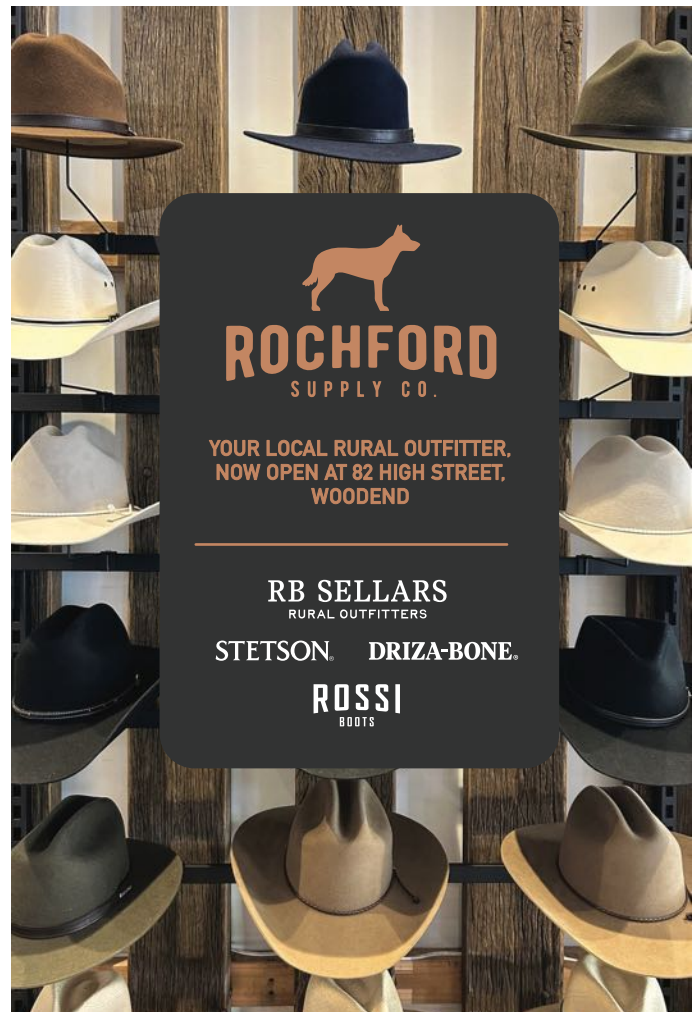
Please click on the below link to access the media release and learn more about the program.

<https://www.gww.com.au/about/news/thriving-communities-applications-open>

SUBMITTED BY ROSANNA BONACCURSO



Photo: Woodend Primary School's Community Children's Garden (2023 grant recipient).





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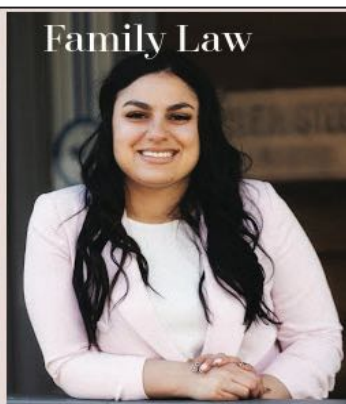


Discover the Woodend Community Farmers Market: where sustainability and great food meet to support a healthier planet!

1st Saturday of every month



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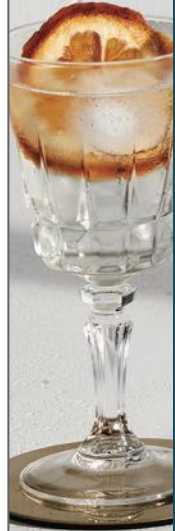


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Back by Popular Demand! Save the Date!

Join the Big Tree Distillery team this April for the highly anticipated Sunset Cocktails and Canapés event, held exclusively over two weekends as part of the 2024 Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival.

Indulge in the delicious flavours of award-winning gin with specially crafted cocktails and scrumptious canapés, all served from the tasting room deck and verandah against the breathtaking backdrop of the Cobaw Ranges at sunset. Accompanying the evening will be the soulful tunes of West African musician Aboubacar Djéliké Kouyaté.

Event Details:

Dates: Saturday, 13 April 2024, and Saturday, 20 April 2024

Time: 4.30 pm–6:30 pm

Check the Big Tree website for details on tickets.

The evening includes three select cocktails showcasing Big Tree Distillery's premium award-winning gin. Each cocktail will be expertly paired with delicious canapés to enhance the unique flavours of our gin.

Autumn is a lovely time of year to immerse yourself in the serene ambiance of Big Tree's beautiful farmland venue, offering panoramic views of the stunning Cobaw Ranges. If you can envision yourself with a cocktail in hand, enjoying the sunset to the soothing sounds of live music, then this is the event for you!

So save the date for an unforgettable evening of indulgence and entertainment at Big Tree Distillery.







SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CROTHERS





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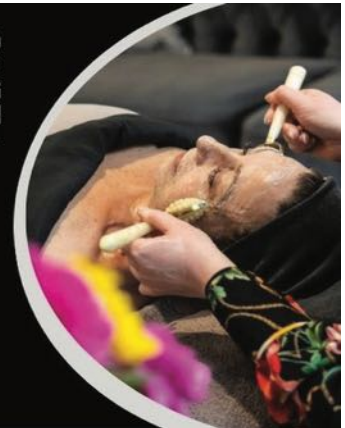
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Sunshiny days.

In our modern, busy lives, it's easy to become disconnected from the natural rhythms of the sun, which inadvertently impacts our health in significant ways. As we spend more time indoors, immersed in artificial lighting and technology, we miss out on the crucial metabolic signalling that sunrise and sunset provide.

Sunlight exposure plays a pivotal role in regulating our internal clocks and metabolic processes. For instance, sunlight triggers the synthesis of vitamin D in the skin, essential for bone health, immune function, and mood regulation. Yet, many of us fall short on this vital nutrient due to insufficient outdoor exposure.

The changing wavelengths of light during sunrise and sunset help regulate the production of hormones like cortisol and melatonin, affecting our sleep-wake cycles and overall well-being. Importantly, sunlight exposure also influences the production of leptin, a hormone responsible for signalling fullness and regulating metabolism. When our exposure to sunlight is limited, our leptin levels can become dysregulated, contributing to stubborn weight gain and metabolic imbalances.

Disrupted circadian rhythms and inadequate sunlight exposure have been linked to health issues including obesity, diabetes, depression, and cardiovascular disease. Additionally, insufficient sunlight has been associated with an increased risk of certain cancers, autoimmune disorders, and mental health conditions.

To counter these concerns, prioritising outdoor activities during daylight hours, without glasses, especially during sunrise and sunset, is essential. Engaging in activities such as walking, gardening, or simply basking in natural light, while also following general sun safe guidelines, can help ensure we receive the full spectrum of sunlight needed for optimal health.

For those seeking personalised guidance in improving metabolic outcomes, consulting with a naturopath can be highly beneficial. Amanda of Rude Health takes a holistic approach to health, assessing lifestyle factors, body systems and nutrition, and utilises natural therapies to support metabolic function and overall well-being. For more information or to book, go to www.rudehealth.com.au

SUBMITTED BY AMANDA JAMES, RUDE HEALTH



For the Love of Paws – Tips for paw-some pet owners

Everyone knows cats and dogs make great pets and owning one can be extremely rewarding. However, it also brings with it certain responsibilities.

Council launches its new responsible pet ownership campaign "For the Love of Paws" this month. The campaign is the result of community feedback requesting more support for Council initiatives to encourage responsible pet ownership. It will also deliver on Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) 2021-2025.

Piper the kelpie and Goldie the ginger cat are the main faces of the campaign. These two, along with their fellow friends – created by local artist Chris Roy Taylor – will be popping up around the shire to remind cat and dog owners what it takes to be a paw-some pet owner.

Look out for Piper and Goldie appearing in your local haunts, where they will deliver on some key topics for pets and their owners.

For more information visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/pets



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FOR THE LOVE OF PAWS



Introducing Piper and Goldie

These cute characters and their friends - created by local artist Chris Roy Taylor, will be popping up around the shire to remind cat and dog owners what it takes to be a pawsome pet owner.



To find out more mrsc.vic.gov.au/pets



Piper



Goldie

A responsible pet ownership campaign delivering on Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) 2021-2025






Did you know 3 and 4 year old kindergarten is free?

Register now for 2025 kindergarten and give your child the best start to their learning journey at one of Council's 8 kindergartens in the Macedon Ranges.

Our kindergartens have highly qualified and experienced early childhood Teachers and Educators and, with their beautiful natural features and outdoor play areas, are rich in nature-based and creative learning experiences.

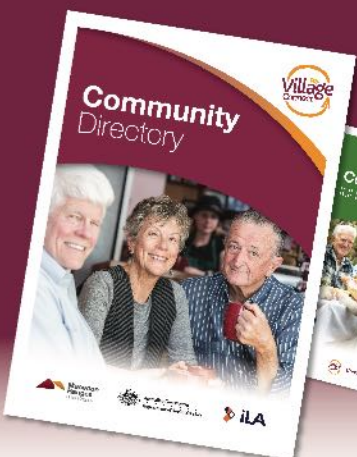


For more information on when your child is eligible to start kindergarten, and guidance on making an informed decision about when is best to start, go to mrsc.vic.gov.au/kindergarten

Register online by 31 May 2024
Visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/kinder-rego or call our Enrolment Officer on (03) 5422 0239







Age friendly Community Directory Out now!

A directory to connect you with local resources, groups and services

Free copies available at libraries, neighborhood houses and Macedon Ranges Shire Council customer service centres. Alternatively call (03) 5422 0333 or visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/VC-community-directory


Activities for young children

Active Kids Sports Program

Learn correct sporting techniques and skills to develop confidence and knowledge of sport.

Children use a range of equipment from soccer, netball, hockey, basketball and more. Children learn skills for catching, rolling and throwing in a relaxed, fun environment.

Sessions are held from 10–10:45am on Wednesday mornings at Buffalo Sports Stadium in Woodend for children aged 3–5 years. Parent/guardian participation is required.

Kindagym

Held in the stadium, this program is based on developing motor skills, confidence, balance and social skills. Kindagym is a structured class with free play options for children to explore the array of equipment on display. Parent/guardian participation is required.

Sessions are held on Fridays at Buffalo Sports Stadium in Woodend:

- 10–11am for 1–3-year-olds
- 11am–12pm for 4–5-year-olds

Both programs are casual, no need to book. For more class cost and information call 5427 3411 or email buffalo@mrsc.vic.gov.au

Dance classes

Dance classes are held on Tuesdays at the Gisborne Community Centre.

Tiny Tackers dance classes are for pre-schoolers aged 2-5 years and include ballet, tap and jazz (2-year-olds only ballet and jazz).

Students will learn dance through creative imaginative dance with experienced teacher Miss Anita.

- 9:15am-10:15am – Tiny Tackers dance 4-year-olds
- 10:20am-10:50am – Tiny Tackers dance 2-year-olds
- 11am-12pm – Tiny Tackers dance 3-year-olds

For more information, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/dance or email studio2tinytackers@mrsc.vic.gov.au

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Workshops for business

Are you looking for advice using online graphic design tools? Have you considered using an ecommerce platform or want help in how to build a website? Would you like to improve your website visibility using Search Engine Optimisation (SEO)?

Council is running three face-to-face workshops in May at Kyneton Community House, Mollison Street, Kyneton from 10am to 12pm to help unravel these mysteries.

- Canva for beginners – 9 May
- An introduction to Shopify and Wix – 23 May
- Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) for beginners – 30 May

Each workshop costs \$35. Places are limited and bookings are essential.

Find out more at mrsc.vic.gov.au/business-events

Protect your community: report dumped tyres

Tired of seeing tyres dumped in our parks and waterways? These illegal dumps aren't just eyesores – they pose serious fire risk, provide a breeding ground for vermin and cost a lot to clean up.

Remember you pay for the legal disposal of your waste tyres when you buy new ones. Don't let others destroy our shared spaces.

If you spot tyres where they shouldn't be, report it to council or EPA at epa.vic.gov.au/report-pollution

By working together, we can crack down on illegal dumping and keep our community and environment safe and healthy.

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A message from your West Ward Councillors

March was a busy month for Council, seeing many community events staged.

We hosted an International Women's Day event on 8 March. A panel of excellent women from diverse backgrounds gave us insight into their stories, as well as thoughts on how to empower women's economic development. Thank you to our panellists: Shamila Gopalan, Chief Commercial Officer of SisterWorks; our home-grown Miranda Johnson-Jones and Laura Crozier with their Growing Up Clueless podcast; Aunty Joanne Honeysett, Taungurung elder; and Mary Attard, Deputy Director of Her Place Women's Museum Australia.

Having a safe home and work environment assist in empowering women to do their best. Macedon Ranges Shire Council is proudly one of only 12 councils to be awarded a "Free from Violence" Victorian State Government grant. We will receive \$262,500 over three years to support primary prevention of gender-based violence and gender equality initiatives in our workplace and the community. We will be employing a Free from Violence/Gender Equity Officer, who will be able to enhance the great work we have already undertaken in this area.

Ensuring people from all backgrounds are included and treated equitably touches on what is known as intersectionality. If you are a woman from a different background, then it can often be harder to feel safe and be able to achieve to your maximum potential.

To learn more about this, on 22 March, we celebrated cultural diversity week, partnering with Regional Victorians of Colour, Kyneton Community House, and The Kindness Collective, where we were able to hear stories, from locals of diverse backgrounds on what it is like for them to live as part of our community. We also heard from the Multicultural Centre for Women's Health.

In March we also held our annual Youth Summit, following a few years' break. This event provided councillors and staff the opportunity to engage with representatives from all year levels of our local schools to see what really matters to them and how they see the future of the Macedon Ranges. Including everyone in our discussions is so important.

April will be equally as busy as March across the shire with Autumn Festival activities. Thank you to all businesses taking part. We encourage locals to look on the website to see what there is to explore: <https://www.visitmacedonranges.com/autumn-festival/> Maps are also available at the Woodend Visitor Information Centre and other locations around the shire. Don't forget to dine out and vote for your favourite Edgy Veg dish. Woodend restaurants are always up there on the leader board.

As always, please keep looking at our consultations out for community comment via our new platform <https://yoursay.mrsc.vic.gov.au/> and subscribe to our various e-newsletters to keep you up to date on what is happening and what you can be involved in.

Jennifer, Mark and Janet



The Marist Brothers Old Boys Annual Retreat

On the lead up to St Patrick's Day members of the Kyneton Marist Brothers Old Boys Association travelled to Torrumbarry Weir Holiday Park for their annual retreat. This was at least the twenty second time they had made the Park home for the weekend.

The attendance number was considerably less than in previous years, but all apologies received were genuine. In the spirit of our Irish heritage the lyrics of MacNamara's Band are appropriate "Although we're few in numbers, we're the finest in the land"

Since our last visit Peter and Leanne Taylor our hosts at the Holiday Park have made some significant changes to the accommodation and the surrounds.

Mick Plowman has become the catering manager and provided palatable meals. Michael Halley again was responsible for the desert menu also prepared on site.

Purists would say that an annual retreat is to identify the most critical priorities for the coming year and develop a plan to achieve them. Ours is to draw the voucher raffle valued at \$1000.00, conduct a race tipping competition, allocate a winner for the Possum Trophy and determine when the Annual General Meeting will be held and have a relaxing time with mates.

Jarrold Plowman won the raffle, John Wilson and Roly Sandilands battled all day but John eventually won the race tipping. This is John's second year in a row when he burst out of the barrier in the first race and set a basically unsurpassable lead.

The Possum Trophy is awarded to the attendee who makes an exceptional contribution to the amusement of all. Paul Plowman is the 2024 winner and asked to remain anonymous! Not a chance Paul!

At the conclusion of the retreat a short memorial is held to remember Old Boys whose names have been placed on the deceased Honour Roll. There were seven this year. Four previous Possum winners have also died and were remembered along with those deceased who did not achieve "greatness" at Torrumbarry

The planning for the 2025 retreat will commence soon along with the place and time for the Annual General meeting on Wednesday 12 June 2024.. Visit our web site for more information www.kynetonmaristbrothersoldboys.com.au

WRITTEN BY MICHAEL HALLEY, SECRETARY AND VICE PRESIDENT

Photo: Paul Plowman with Possum Trophy



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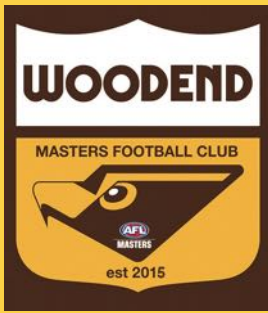
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Woodend to take on Ballarat in annual scratch match

Footy is well and truly back with the Woodend Masters kicking off our season with a friendly interclub match in early March that highlighted we are all about footy for fun.

Training returns to Gilbert Gordon Oval in April on Friday nights only from 6.30pm as we launch our ninth season in the Vic Country Masters AFL League.

Our popular annual practice match against Ballarat will be held on Gilbert Gordon Oval on Saturday April 6 at 3pm followed by a post-match function, including a band, at the Pig and Whistle Hotel in East Trentham.

This is a great opportunity for anyone interested in learning more about Masters football, as well as a chance for players' families to come down and laugh at dad living his dream.

Round 1 kicks off on the weekend of April 20 with a bus trip to Kerang to take on the Rams. This is one of our favourite trips, playing a great bunch of blokes and stopping at some refreshing watering holes on the way home.

On Friday April 19, our club sponsor Macedon Chiro, which has helped maintain our athletic physiques since the

club was formed in 2015, will be coming down to the social rooms to talk about injury prevention and management followed by food and drinks and AFL on the TV.

Woodend Masters is always keen and willing to help the community we live in, and we were thrilled to help at the recent St Ambrose Primary School Fair by running the obstacle course. Which is ironic because most of us would struggle to get around a bust shelter these days!

Well done to all the volunteers involved who made it such a great day for the Woodend community.

Our 2024 major raffle has been launched with the prize including \$2000 worth of equipment from our sponsor Hunters Motors and Mowers showroom floor, which has been kindly donated by Rod and Peta McDaniel.

Tickets are \$10 and with only 500 tickets up for grabs and drawn in October. Tickets can be purchased at the club or check out our Facebook page for more details.

Go Hawks!

For more information email woodendmasters@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/groups/WoodendHesketMastersFC



Woodend Hanging Rock Petanque Club



As the season marches on, we have many enthusiastic members who love to leave the quiet surrounds of Woodend and travel near and far to play in a Doubles (2 to a team) or Triples (3 to a team) tournament.

This month, they have been to Ballarat, Doveton (in Endeavour Hills), the Coonawarra in the wine district of South Australia just over the border, and Apollo Bay, with Ruth Giddings and Rod Gell and Claire Sampson from the Nagambie Petanque Club. All to join in the fun and festivities attached to playing in a competitive field with like-minded petanque players.

Ruth Giddings, Rod Gell, Shirley Marshall, Chantal Moritz and Shane Wellington are all keen members who are happy to spend their weekends travelling to play petanque.

On Saturday 27 April, we are holding our inaugural Doubles tournament at The Old Racecourse in Forest St, Woodend, where there will be snacks and tea and coffee available all day, with lunch available for purchase.

After play, we are planning an Italian-themed dinner and are encouraging all players and non-players to join in the fun and festivities of the night, with spot prizes, trivia, music and dancing!

We are still playing at 4pm on Thursdays at Hanging Rock Reserve and on Mondays at the Old Racecourse in Forest St, Woodend.

Come down and have a throw, all are welcome.

Any enquiries please ring Louise on 0438 302 218

SUBMITTED BY LOUISE POTTER

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Member for Macedon

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Woodend Are 2024 Midweek Champions

Woodend Bowling Club won its first Championship in several years after winning the CHBD Division 2 Midweek Final, played at Kyneton Bowling Club.

Having lost the quarter-final against Broadford, Woodend then won the Preliminary Final against Gisborne and then gained revenge against Broadford in the Grand Final with a solid victory from all players.

Geoff Symons' team won 19-14, Tony Lennie's team won 24-10 and Norm Bickerdyke's team 35-12.

Woodend's lead was so strong (at 42) that the game was called off with two ends still to play. Pictured from left to Right: Anne Dornau, Trevor Sturt, Ron Fitt, Derek Barber, Judy Condon, Geoff Symons, Tony Lennie, Dennis Priede, Norm Bickerdyke, Mike Dornau, Rob Smithies and, kneeling, Mark Paterson.

Thanks to the selectors for their hard work through the season and also to those players who represented the club in Div 2 through the season, especially Bev Muir and Rosalie Campbell.

Woodend Triples A Triumph!

The Annual Woodend 'Tilley's Triples' Tournament, in honour of club legend Bill Till, was played on Thursday March 14 with ten teams representing players from Diggers Rest, Romsey, Sunbury, Trentham and Woodend.

The winning team was from Trentham with Max, Irene and Bob the only three game winners. Runner-up was the Bickerdyke team of Norm, Brenda and Lee, with Kyneton Golf third represented by Wayne, Josie and John. Best Last Game went to the Diggers Rest Team, with Woodend's Rob Smithies getting the Resting Toucher and John from Kyneton Golf winning the Ditch-to-Ditch.

A huge thank you to sponsors Brad Teal-Woodards, the Brooke Street Medical Centre and Black Forest Meats. Also, thanks to all



teams who entered, as well as those who prepared the greens, and who catered and organised the event.

Club Championship Events nearly completed

The Club is still to finish the Mixed Pairs and Mens Pairs and 100 Up and 21 Up events, which should all be completed in the next month.

You could be ready for next pennant season

If you are thinking of taking up bowls and are interested in being part of one of our teams next season (starting in October) please get in touch and come on down for a free trial. We can provide everything to get you started ... the bowls and the coaching.

However, if you are not interested in the competitive side and just want to have a friendly social bowl – it's a great way to get out and about with a low impact activity – the same applies.

For more information, please call 5407 9220, visit our website at www.woodendbowlsclub.weebly.com. You can also follow us on Facebook.

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, PRESIDENT WOODEND BOWLS CLUB

Expression of Interest

For all interested retirees to come along and learn all the new Probus Club in Woodend.

Make new friends, listen to interesting guest speakers, learn a new skill, explore new interests and hobbies – there is so much to choose from when you become a member of your local Probus Club.

Membership is open to anyone who is retired or semi-retired.

The meeting will be held on April 19 at 9.30am–12.30pm at The Norma Richardson Hall, 15 Buckland St, Woodend VIC 3442.

Please RSVP to the interest meeting, and we'll see you there.

Questions?

Contact Elvis on 1300 630 488 or membership@probussouthpacific.org

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End of Season wrap-up

As the cricket season draws to a close, it's time to reflect on the triumphs and achievements of the Woodend Cricket Club. We're proud to announce that our Club Grade South team were named Premiers for Season 2023/24 (see photo).

We would have loved the opportunity to take on St Anthony's, but due to a tribunal hearing from an incident in the semi-final between St Anthony's and Eynesbury, the semi-final result was abandoned and no grand final played. We are incredibly proud of the way that Stewart Black and Dale Ranson have led the Club Grade teams this season. Not only have they encouraged everyone to get a fair go, but they both have been exceptional role models and mentors for our younger players. Special congratulations to James Gray for securing the league batting average for Club Grade South, scoring 248 runs at an average of 62.00, a testament to his outstanding performance and commitment to the game. Whilst we did not qualify for finals in our McIntyre First XI (5th) or Second XI (6th), we are buoyed by the contributions made across the whole team and some of the standout performances through the season. The First XI Captain Marcus Stewart led his team from the front, and will no doubt learn a lot from his first season as captain. The step up to McIntyre Second XI was noticeable, however the team was competitive in most games. Second XI Captain Brett Gardner is a fantastic mentor for our young cricketers aspiring to play First XI cricket, and the McIntyre Second XI is the perfect level for them to take the next step.

We've had a jam-packed season, including our Hall of Fame celebration, Community Christmas Party, Family Dinners, Hypnotist Night, Community Coaching Course, Mental Health Night, the club donation to the Woodend Food Bank and, more recently, our Girls Play Free initiative. We can't wait until next season, where we can build on the exciting season we've had!



As we look ahead to the off-season, we're gearing up for our Annual General Meeting in mid-July. This is a crucial opportunity for members to come together, share ideas, and shape the future of our club. If you're passionate about making a difference and want to contribute to the success of Woodend Cricket Club, we encourage you to attend and join the committee. Furthermore, we're still on the lookout for a senior coach to lead our team to even greater heights next season. If you have coaching experience or know someone who does, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Daniel Heaney on 0400 600 186 or email him at daniel@dh-steel.com.au. Together, we can continue to build on the momentum of this season and strive for excellence in the seasons to come.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of our journey this season, from players and coaches to sponsors and volunteers. Your dedication and enthusiasm have been instrumental in our success, and we look forward to another exciting season ahead.

SUBMITTED BY DANIEL HEANEY

Congratulations to all of our Senior Winners

Mick Barker Medal (First XI Champion):	Harry Lawson (33 votes)
Harold Richardson Senior:	James Fiford (23.69 votes)
McIntyre First XI Batting Average:	Harry Lawson (528 runs at 37.71)
McIntyre First XI Bowling Average:	Warren Else (18 wickets at 16.78)
McIntyre Second XI Batting Average:	David Robinson (454 runs at 34.92)
McIntyre Second XI Bowling Average:	Declan McDonald (16 wickets at 24.50)
Club Grade Combined Batting Average Winner:	Dale Ranson (303 runs at 75.75)
Club Grade Combined Batting Average Runner Up:	Peter Bosanko (276 runs at 55.20)
Club Grade Combined Bowling Average Winner:	Peter Bosanko (15 wickets at 19.47)
Club Grade Combined Bowling Average Runner Up:	Sean Hume (10 wickets at 16.30)

Junior Award Winners

U15 JS Batting Award:	Luke Cameron
U15 JS Bowling Award:	Luke Cameron
U15 AG Batting Award:	James Gray
U15 AG Bowling Award:	James Gray
U13 NL Batting Award:	Lucien Hoban
U13 NL Bowling Award:	Ryder Cairns
U13 BC Batting Award:	Alex Soppe
U13 BC Bowling Award:	Charlie McAllister
U13 CF Batting Award:	Ben Sumpter
U13 CF Bowling Award:	Hugh Franklin



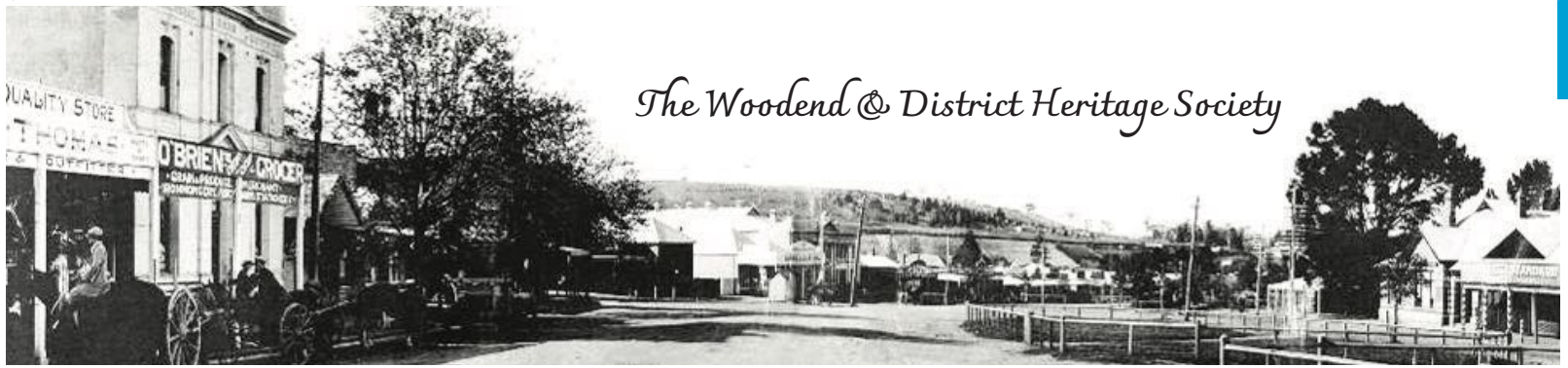
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The Woodend & District Heritage Society

Tribute to Tony Stidwell

The members and volunteers of the Woodend District Heritage Society were thrown into disbelief when the news came that Tony Stidwell had died after a short stint in Royal Perth Hospital while celebrating Christmas in Perth. Equally shocked were the other groups he worked with, including the Woodend Men's Shed and BOBS (bunch of blokes), as well as the many people who knew him.

Tony and his wife, Heather, joined the Woodend District Heritage Society some years ago as volunteers and both proved invaluable. Heather took over as our Treasurer and Tony took up the task of saving, improving and digitising a vast number of photographs dating from the late 1850s onwards. Their good humour and kindness ensured that the other volunteers soon became their good friends.

Tony and Heather loved to travel and in 2015 embarked on a worldwide cruise; they are pictured here about to go aboard.



After Heather's death, Tony threw himself even more into the work and became our go-to person for anything technical, keeping our ageing fleet of computers functioning, as well as constantly updating our database and ordering supplies. His common phrase was, "Oh I can do that." Tony was a big man, both in stature and heart and very down to earth; his training as an aircraft engineer and his practical nature combined with his knowledge of technology meant that he could deal with computer programming problems as well as solve hardware issues.

We are still expecting him to walk back in, as though he's just been away for a bit, but sadly that isn't the case. He was the best eye-roller in the business, loved to laugh and had a great sense of the ridiculous. Tony liked nothing better than making a 'cuppa' and sitting down to enjoy a large slab of Fran Healy's fruitcake every Wednesday morning before we opened the old Woodend Courthouse for business. We hope Heaven is well-supplied with 'Chardy' for Heather and good fruitcake for Tony. We miss you both.

SUBMITTED BY JANE HOLT



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A young woman with glasses, wearing a dark blue school uniform and a matching apron, is smiling and painting a portrait on a canvas. She is holding a red paintbrush and a palette. The portrait she is painting is of a man with a beard and a yellow shirt. The background is a blurred classroom or art studio.

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