

*The New*  
**Woodend Star**

**Rotary**  
Club of Woodend



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**Remembering Ash Wednesday  
40 years on**

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## Mary-Anne Thomas MP

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**Mary-Anne Thomas**



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## Rotary Club of Woodend

The Rotary Club of Woodend is pleased to announce the following recipients of the 2022 Graduating Students Scholarship.

- Annique Smith, St Ambrose Parish Primary School
- Max Siragusano, St Ambrose Parish Primary School
- Rose Doolan, Woodend Primary School
- Coen Poynton, Woodend Primary School

The students were also awarded a certificate of recognition from the Rotary Club of Woodend for the great work during their school year and for their positive attitude toward community involvement.

For more information on the good work Rotary Woodend and Rotary International do, go to [www.woodendrotary.org.au](http://www.woodendrotary.org.au)



## Remembering Ash Wednesday, forty years on

All the ingredients were there leading up to that fateful day in February 1983. After weeks of searing heat and over a year of scarce rain, the Macedon Ranges were dry and brittle, ready to ignite.

Long-time local, John Keating, who was First Lieutenant in the Woodend CFA at the time – under legendary Captain, Laurie Thomason – describes how desperate the situation was.

“It was a summer of severe drought and hot weather; we’d had about 20 Total Fire Ban days.

“Every household in Woodend was restricted to 60 litres of water per resident each day. Water had to be carted in milk tankers to fill the local reservoir and our water meters were being spot checked for usage.”

The first tragedy unfolded on 1 February – two weeks before the main event that later became known as Ash Wednesday.

Woodend Waterworks Trust workers were using an angle grinder on the slopes of Mount Macedon, below Braemar College, when a spark ignited the forest.

“It took nearly two days to put out, burnt 5500 hectares and destroyed 24 homes, reaching as far as Riddells Creek,” John said.

As the community rallied around those affected, many were unaware that the worst was yet to come.

Wednesday 16 February 1983 dawned as yet another Total Fire Ban day; hot and windy, with temperatures forecast in the low 40s.

The ominous weather events were already mounting for the month of February; the tragic fire on Mount Macedon, followed by a severe dust storm covering most of the state, had Victoria on high alert.



## Forty year commemorations planned

Mt Macedon Group of Fire Brigades is working with local church groups to arrange commemorative services for the 40th anniversary of Ash Wednesday this year.

The first will be a twilight service on Sunday 12 February at the Church of the Resurrection on the corner of Honour Avenue and Mt Macedon Rd, Macedon; the Church of the Resurrection is a significant venue to the event; it was built in the aftermath of the Ash Wednesday fires and features a large stained-glass window commemorating the disaster.

The twilight service will commence at 7pm and will be open to all denominations and interested parties. The church can accommodate around 200 people, plus another 100 if we open the doors to the function area at the back. External speakers can also be used if the numbers exceed capacity, or if attendees prefer to be outside.

At about 2.30pm the local CFA was advised that a grass fire – sparked by power lines clashing in extreme winds – had started at East Trentham and was moving south towards Bullengarook and Bacchus Marsh.

John recalls that at about 4.30pm, advice came through from the weather bureau.

“We were told that a strong south westerly wind change would hit the area at about 9 o’clock that night – likely turning the fire front towards Woodend and Macedon.”

Fearing the worst, the state authorities sprang into action, bolstering local brigades.

Right on schedule at 9pm, 80 kilometer an hour winds pushed the fire towards Woodend and then across the Calder Highway south of Woodend, towards the Macedon and Mount Macedon townships.

It wasn’t until it reached the areas burnt out on Mount Macedon two weeks earlier, that the fire was able to be contained.

Seven people died and over 420 houses in the Macedon Ranges were destroyed on Ash Wednesday.

Burning 29,500 hectares, the blaze was fought by around 1,000 personnel – including 500 volunteers from the CFA, 77 from the Forest Commission and 180 from the Army.

Forty years on, Ash Wednesday still stands as one of Australia’s worst bushfires, and darkest days; forever seared in the memories of many living in our community today.

WRITTEN BY TERRY LONGTON AND KATE O’CONNOR

Source: *The History of the Woodend Fire Brigade, 1896 to 1996.*

Photo front page: “War memorial at Mount Macedon after the 1983 Ash Wednesday bushfires”, by Sydney Oats is licenced under CC BY 2.0.

November rainfall was 107mm which was about 50% higher than average. December ended up being much drier than average at just 37.6mm. So with 1,142.6mm for the year, we fell well short of the wettest year on record which was about 1,200mm. 2022 was still one of the wettest years and was about 350mm wetter than our long term average.

*Woodend's Rain report*  
 Peter Yates

Month	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	av 5yr
January	80.0	9.8	73.6	92.6	140.8	79.4
February	3.8	12.0	67.8	32.4	2.0	23.6
March	31.7	12.2	79.6	47.0	73.2	48.7
April	31.0	7.6	139.8	15.2	89.6	56.6
May	115.6	114.8	79.0	83.0	39.4	86.4
June	78.2	168.2	80.1	183.6	84.8	118.9
July	73.3	63.2	49.3	115.6	52.4	60.2
August	91.3	78.1	93.0	56.0	130.8	89.8
September	26.2	38.3	56.3	72.8	150.2	68.7
October	69.0	29.4	99.5	102.0	234.6	106.9
November	55.5	64.8	54.4	91.2	107.0	74.6
December	91.0	10.0	42.4	45.0	37.6	45.2
<b>Total mm</b>	<b>756.6</b>	<b>608.4</b>	<b>914.8</b>	<b>936.4</b>	<b>1142.4</b>	<b>871.7</b>

contains minor rounding differences up to 0.2 mm

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.

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## 100 years on..News in the Woodend Star, February 1923

William George Beattie was charged by Constable Kierce with being in possession at Woodend South on 28th December, of a pair of fowls, suspected to have been stolen.

Constable Kierce stated that Mr. John P. Dwyer, farmer, Hanging Rock Road, missed a pair of bantams, which he had locked up on the 27th December. Accompanied by Mr. Dwyer, he visited accused's house at Woodend South. They there saw the bantams produced in court, which Mr. Dwyer identified as his property. Accused afterwards made a statement admitting that he had entered Mr. Dwyer's fowl house at about 11-45pm on 27th December, while returning from Heskett. He said he took the bantams from this roost and was sorry for having done so.

John P. Dwyer deposed the accused lived about 3½ miles from his place. After recovering the bantams, accused came to him and said he had been hiding as he had seen witness with Constable Kierce. He stated also that he was sorry he had taken the bantams, but he had done it only as a joke.

In answer to the Bench, witness said he had not been on such friendly terms with the accused as to see any joke in the taking of the fowls.

Accused stated that he went to Mr. Dwyer's place next morning intending to tell him that he had taken the bantams as a joke, but was informed he had gone to Woodend.

Constable Kierce informed the court that there was a conviction against accused for fowl stealing at Romsey in 1916 in which case a fine of 10/- was imposed.

Accused was fined £4 with an alternative of one month's imprisonment.

SUBMITTED BY ELAINE SAUNDERS



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After many years of dedicated service, our president Kate Daniel has decided to take a well-earned break. We all see the on-ground works, but the behind-the-scenes work is what makes the on-ground works possible. Kate got involved with both sides of the equation, and we all owe her a huge vote of thanks for what she has done for our local environment. As a small token of our appreciation, we recently endowed Kate with honorary life membership of the group. So, well done and thank you, Kate.

Woodend Landcare is a unique group in that we concentrate our work primarily on public land in the town area of Woodend. We are hoping to re-vitalize our group with some fresh new members, so if you enjoy the environment along the creek or in other areas such as Quarry Road, please consider getting involved. It is a rewarding thing to do!

Over the last twenty years, our main goal has been to eradicate some of the worst weedy species along Five Mile Creek and revegetate those areas with local indigenous species, including our endangered Black Gum (*Eucalyptus aggregata*). In that time, we have planted about 30,000 plants in Woodend, mainly along the creek between Romsey Road and High Street. We now see species such as Sugar Gliders and Sacred Kingfishers enjoying the enriched habitat.

We have been involved in many other projects, but our main focus has always been eliminating the worst weeds and returning the creekside environment to something like pre-European standards. We have no hope of eliminating all the weedy species such as pasture grasses and ivy, but with our limited resources and the help of the council, we are making an impact.

We hold monthly working bees on Sunday mornings, as well as Thursday morning bees every week, subject to suitable weather. The monthly bees will be advertised in each issue of the New Woodend Star. We would love to see more people at some of our working bees. You don't have to join Landcare, just come along and help us to make a difference. If you want more information, please contact us at woodendlandcare@gmail.com or contact our coordinators:

Sunday working bees - David Gossip on 0429 333 942

Thursday working bees - Dave Bower via email at dvbower65@gmail.com

If you are unable to help with weeding, we are also in need of people with IT skills to help with the necessary behind-the-scenes work, which would only take a few hours per month and is just as important as the on-ground works. We also require someone to assist with catering for our morning teas. If you think you can help in either of these roles, please make contact to discuss options.

Finally, we now have the final version of the Five Mile Creek master plan available on the MRSC website. This plan was a joint project between MRSC and Woodend Landcare and as well as expert guidance, involved listening to community views on how the areas along the creek should be developed. If you haven't done so, please visit the MRSC website and see what the future might hold for our creek.

Next Sunday's Working Bee – Sunday 5 February, 9am at the northern end of Jeffreys Street - cutting ivy to prevent it from spreading up tree trunks

SUBMITTED BY PETER YATES (PRESIDENT ON P-PLATES) 0407 339 856



## Environment and Healthy Landscapes events over summer

### Rabbit control workshops

Are you having problems with rabbits on your property? You are not alone. In this field activity, we will listen to a rabbit control expert where we explore potential control techniques.

- Bunnies in my backyard, Sunday 5 February, 9:30am-11:30am, Magnet Hill, New Gisborne
- Bunnies on the farm, Sunday 12 February, 9:30am-11:30am, Lancefield Closed Landfill (Approx. 500 metres along Baynton Rd, heading north from Three Chain Road).

### Grazing and Farming Discussion group

Friday 24 February, 6:30-8:30pm, Romsey

Jason McAinch, our Private Land Conservation Officer, will discuss how the Romsey property owner is grazing within their context as a trading cattle operation. You will learn from each other and discuss the current situations on your own property.

### Pollinators on your farm. Who, where and what do they do?

Tuesday, 28 February, 7:30pm-8:30pm, online webinar

We will discuss which insects (and some other animals) pollinate flowers and provide other ecosystem services that keep your farm healthy and productive. Find out who they are, where they live, what they like to feed on and what they need to survive. This event is partnered with a farm walk on 5 March in Sedgwick.

To find out more about all three events and to register, visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/environment-events](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/environment-events)

### Healthy Landscapes – Small Property Grazing course

Starting Friday 24 February, 2pm-6pm, first day in Malmsbury.

Council's Healthy Landscapes program offers a small property grazing course to local landholders. The course has been designed to assist land managers to improve their skills and knowledge about grazing livestock, resulting in an increase in soil carbon and perennial pasture species, including native species.

It is structured for small landholders (2-20Ha) with grazing livestock (including horses, sheep, cattle, alpacas etc.).

For more information and to register visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/healthy-landscapes](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/healthy-landscapes)

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN, MRSC



## Show off your sustainable home efforts in March 2023

Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group's Sustainable Homes Action Group is proud to announce the return of Sustainable House Day to the Macedon Ranges in March 2023. Sustainable House Day helps people make their homes more comfortable, more energy efficient and cheaper to run.

We're planning two exciting events:

- The popular open house event – on Sunday 19 March – allowing visitors to experience sustainable homes and 'learn how' from experienced householders
- A project showcase sharing individual home sustainability projects that could 'jump start' a sustainable remodel or inspire some 'next steps'.

The Project Showcase will be exhibited throughout March, including a display or displays concurrently with the Open Homes.

Have you completed a project you're proud to show off? Create a poster to explain what you did, why and how, the results and benefits and any 'insider tips' you can share with others. Include some photos and make it visually appealing. We're looking for projects:

- that reduced the need to travel for work, by creating or improving 'work from home' spaces

- that made homes more energy efficient, resulting in greater comfort and/ or lower energy bills

Deadline for submission of posters is Monday 20 February. Sample posters can be found on the MRSG website ([www.mrsg.org.au/news](http://www.mrsg.org.au/news)).

More information about our Sustainable House Day events is available on the MRSG website ([www.mrsg.org.au](http://www.mrsg.org.au)).

SUBMITTED BY SUE BARKER, MRSG SUSTAINABLE HOMES ACTION GROUP



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# Greater Western Water urges Woodend community to be prepared for fire season

With the fire danger period now declared across the Macedon Ranges, Greater Western Water (GWW) is encouraging customers to be prepared with alternative water sources, in the event that supply is impacted by fire.

In a bushfire, customers may experience low water pressure, loss of supply or reduced quality of water. This could be due to several factors, including heat and fire damage to equipment, or extreme demand for water from firefighters.

Jodie Hallam, General Manager, Operations and Delivery Solutions, said that while GWW is prepared for the fire season, water supply cannot be guaranteed during a bushfire. As a precaution, alternative supplies of water

should be on hand.

"The Fire Ready Kit available at the CFA website provides helpful advice on how to prepare for bushfires, including setting up alternative water supplies independent from the mains," she said.

If the water supply is affected, GWW will alert customers via text messages, web updates and social media.

"We urge all customers to check their personal details are up to date to make sure they receive all safety messages."

To update your details please call 13 44 99 or text 0480 015 200.

Visit [gww.com.au/bushfires](http://gww.com.au/bushfires) for more information.

SUBMITTED BY CATHY PRIOR

**Don't rely on your mains water supply in a bushfire.**

While we always prepare for the fire season, we can't guarantee water pressure, supply or quality in a bushfire. Always follow CFA advice and remember leaving early is the safest option.

[gww.com.au/bushfires](http://gww.com.au/bushfires) Phone 13 44 99 Translation & Interpreter Service 13 14 50

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## How to protect your property from spider infestation

As the temperature starts to rise, we thought it was a good time to remind you of two particular spiders around your home or commercial property - White Tails and the Red Back Spider.

Our expert technicians at VIP Pest Control have put together the following information for you, keep it handy, you never know when you may need it!

Let's first look at White Tail Spiders.

White tails are a garden spider, living in the mulch in your garden and garden beds in general around your property. They are quite a timid species and you will find them hiding, often in clothes and shoes.

A very timely reminder not to leave clothes or wet towels on the floor!

Red Back Spiders are an infamous Aussie icon, and all of us at some point have had to treat them to some degree in your home or commercial property.

Like White Tails, they too are a shy spider and they look for places to hide in dark spots, under flooring, roof voids, garden sheds, and even under lip of pots on pot plants (be careful when you lift your pots up!).

To help keep these spiders at bay, try to keep garden beds and gardens around your property maintained and also turn off extra lights at night as they attract bugs which spiders LOVE!

The best time to treat these spiders is just before Summer and our treatments are very safe to both people and pets.

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## A new direction for Macedon Lodge

Macedon Lodge is set to open up operations to become a full-service thoroughbred training operation from early 2023, says its recent purchaser, Victorian businessman Bruce Dixon.

The previous owner of the facility, which is located at the southern edge of Mount Macedon, was racing luminary Lloyd Williams, who, during his nearly 20-year tenure, trained many elite racehorses on a private basis there, including Melbourne Cup winners Zipping, Fawkner, Efficient and Green Moon.

The facility's team will include experienced racing industry operative Matt Tillett as new general manager, who says while many things are changing, much will remain the same. "We want to respect the history of the property as Australia's most successful private training centre and apply a new strategy that will welcome participation from the wider racing community."

Macedon Lodge will be a base for a select group of proven 'elite' trainers, he says, as well as offering pre training and rehab services. He also noted the facility's emphasis is on best practice horse care and welfare and on being a good neighbour that positively contributes to local initiatives.

New chairman, thoroughbred industry veteran Mark Player said that the objective was to make the facility a centre of equine excellence, with lifestyle benefits for those who work there. "There will be unparalleled care and attention to detail for each horse, as well as a better work-life balance for the trainers and staff".

Matt Tillett explained the new approach for the centre, which will have two to four "resident or satellite trainers," which will include former Macedon Lodge trainer Liam Howley returning to the fold, and New Zealander Andrew Forsman, who will use Macedon Lodge as his training operation's Australian base.

The new Macedon Lodge operation commences early this year.

SUBMITTED BY MATT TILLET, GENERAL MANAGER

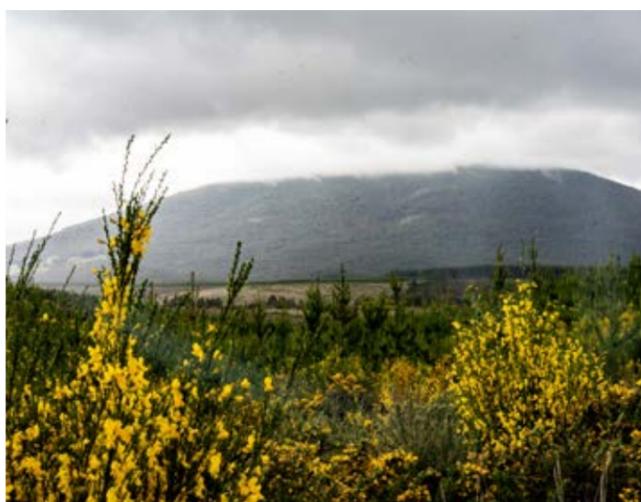


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**BOUND** Macedon Ranges



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### Holidays, dontcha love them?

Holidays are so important to good health and happiness. We recalibrate with self, reconnect with family and friends, re-establish priorities. But in small business, holidays are becoming more difficult to arrange because people don't expect us to shut down.

Back in the day, every business transaction occurred between 9am and 5pm on weekdays. You couldn't go to Coles on a weekend. Myer wasn't open on Sunday. Even the local Top Shop shut about 7pm. Run out of pasta? Need a gift for the birthday you're driving to? No milk? Too bad!

Now that everyone can shop for pretty much everything online, people expect all businesses—large, medium, small and micro, across all industries and countries—to be open 24 hours a day. Within this environment, we're grateful that our customers understand the significance of our three-week break over Christmas. It's the only clear window we get. (Pardon the pun.)

Over the years we've tackled interesting sightseeing onto business trips, such as when the family went to Expo88 in Brisbane. We've travelled to Germany, France and The Netherlands, gaining useful

insight into quality brands, such as Somfy, Markilux and Verosol. The personal connections established through visiting helped our relationships with world leaders in fabric and technology, which in turn means we can better inform our customers. We've installed curtains and blinds in every Australian state and various parts of New Zealand. It's been fun!

But there's nothing like kicking back on the beach in bare feet pondering whether or not to cast a line, is there?

*your place*

# Fight cancer by supporting the Lancefield Relay For Life.

Nearly 37,000 Victorians were diagnosed with cancer in 2021. That's an average of one new cancer diagnosis every 14 minutes. In 2021 in Victoria, 32 people died from cancer every day.

However, the five-year survival rate for Victorians diagnosed with cancer has increased 22% (to nearly 70%) over the past twenty years.

What do these statistics tell us? They tell us that there is a lot that needs to be done to prevent or limit the incidence of cancer and to improve the outcomes of those who are diagnosed with cancer.

These are not just tasks for researchers and clinicians, they are goals that need to be supported by the wider community by fundraising and by giving comfort and care to those who have cancer.

What these statistics do not measure

are the loss and pain suffered by the families and friends of those who have cancer and of those who have been lost to cancer.

Lancefield Relay For Life is a Macedon Ranges-based event run to support those who have cancer and to raise funds for the Cancer Council of Victoria (CCV).

The money raised is used by the CCV to fund research, to provide a range of services to those affected by cancer and to support the advocacy work of the CCV. It was CCV that gave us the enormously successful Quit and Slip Slap campaigns. CCV also runs a Cancer Support Hotline (131120) staffed by trained cancer nurses. The CCV website (cancervic.org.au) contains an amazing amount of information about cancer and the work that the CCV undertakes.

Nationally, the state and territory Cancer Councils are the largest non-government funder of cancer research in the country, investing almost \$250 million in Australian cancer research over the past five years.

In March 2002, a marvellous group of local people, most of them women who had lost friends or family to cancer,

formed a committee and rallied the local community to run and support the first Lancefield Relay For Life. In 2023, we will have our 20th Relay (COVID robbed us of one event). The Lancefield Relay For Life has raised about \$1,500,000 to date.

Covid greatly limited the ability of the CCV to run community-based fundraising events such as the Relays, Daffodil Day and Australia's Biggest Morning Tea. We want to do what we can to support CCV in its vital work.

Lancefield Relay For Life has been fortunate in having had dedicated participants over the years, many of whom have been with us since the early days. Having had to cancel one Relay during the pandemic means we have lost some of our supporter base, and we now need to rebuild and reenergise the Relay.

You can help CCV and those who have cancer by becoming a part of the 2023 Lancefield Relay For Life on Saturday 4 March from 11.00am to 9.00pm. For more information and to become a participant, see relayforlife.org.au.

SUBMITTED BY KATHY AND TONY LAKEY



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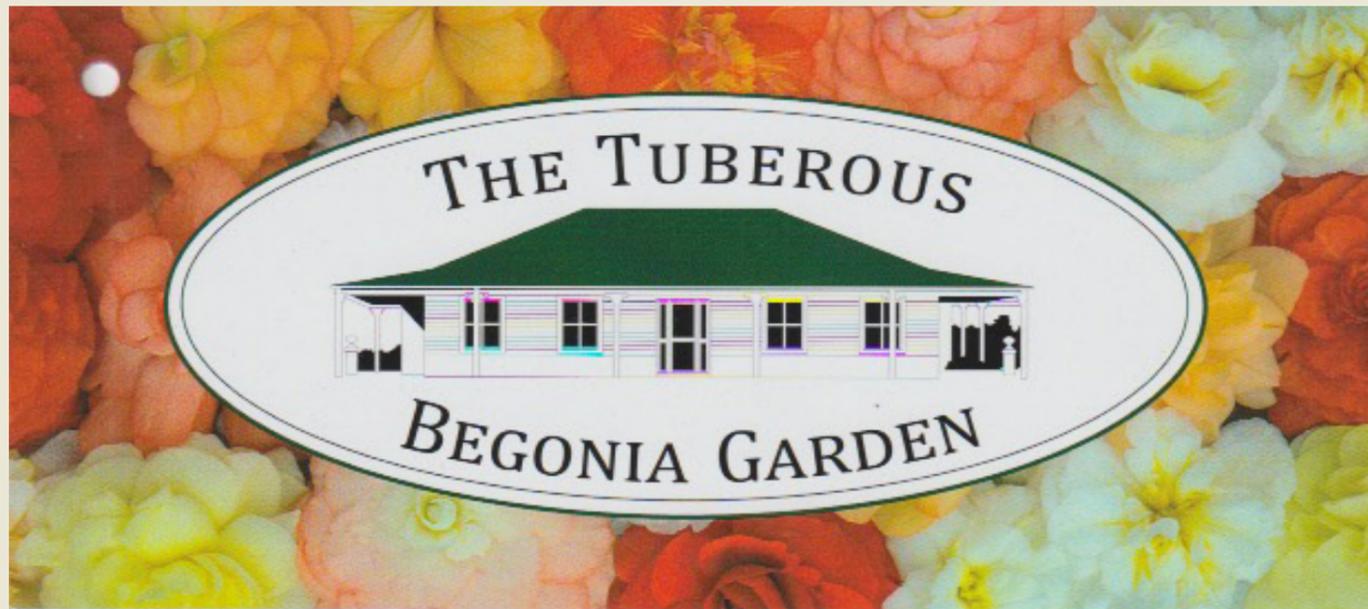
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## Graham Henry Thiele: 7 December 1939 – 19 November 2022, Ashbourne, Victoria

### Good friend ... and valued mentor

How does one explain the gift that kindness brings? The comfort of true friendship? The treasure of shared wisdom gleaned from decades of personal experience and from knowledge passed down from father to son and from long-time local farmers and friends?

Graham Thiele was a true friend to so many ... an invaluable local mentor to those who arrived over a period spanning decades, many optimistic and keen to embrace 'rural life' and to try their hand at 'farming' in the rural environs of townships in the Macedon Ranges, including the towns of Woodend, Tylden, Trentham and Kyneton, to name a few. Without Graham, many of us newcomers from the cities may not have survived the challenges and rigours which are inevitably part of farming life. He was a font of valued information and a tower of strength to local community members; his capabilities and wisdom were also highly regarded by farmers who lived locally and further afield.

Graham's practical assistance and advice were invaluable. He knew the history of the local townships, communities and farms, lent a hand when he could, and happily shared yarns and a cuppa with local farmers and their families. He knew old stuff, like knowing how to 'read' the clouds for weather change, and to tell the differences in the bleat of sheep, perhaps indicating a search for a lost lamb, or danger. He taught us how to move sheep through gates; to work with cattle in the yards or crush; to pull a calf; to recognise the 'signs' when a cow or ewe was preparing to give birth, or was 'in trouble'; to disentangle stuck twin lambs and to check for, and treat, flyblown sheep. He helped to plough the land and taught us how to work out which crops to plant, according to the feel of the seasons at the time. He helped to sow those crops and taught when to harvest the grains and to make hay. He helped us identify good cattle and sheep at market, helped us determine and buy

at the 'right price', and was always thrilled with our successes. Graham taught us to muster cattle, carted our animals and taught us to load a very resistant pony into the float. He worked hard and long hours on his tractor to ensure our hay was cut, raked and baled, whilst strongly advising to get it into the shed in case of rain. He responded to our distressed calls for help and advice, turning up to calmly assist in a range of situations, which might include disentangling stock from wire fencing, determining the cause of an animal 'going down', recognising and treating mastitis, guiding our nervous administering of injections and medicines, and caring for injured stock. He advised to crack the ice in water troughs following a big frost, to allow the stock access to water. He taught us how to wrap water pipes in rags to reduce the likelihood of pipes bursting due to frost, to build fences, hang gates, to locate and mend leaking pipes and to install or mend trough ball valves and fences. He taught how to 'mother up' orphaned or abandoned new lambs with ewes which had lost their own, by tying the skin of the dead lambs to the backs of the orphaned or abandoned lambs and to create hay bale cubicles to support their bonding, in the shearing shed.

It was Graham who taught the importance of crop rotation and dung beetles, of selecting grass and clovers to suit our own soils and climate, of frosts 'to freshen the soil' and how to tell when a dry summer or autumn break was on the way. He taught how quantities of berries on hawthorn hedges could indicate a 'cold winter ahead', how soil pores closed during dry spells and how the early and lighter rainfall 'opens' the pores of the soil (so when the break comes, the water wouldn't just shed off the hydrophobic land). He showed how the red soils responded to rain faster but dried out quicker than the grey loams, how one needed good clay for dam construction and how one could anticipate the end of a long dry spell or drought when the springs started running again.



Photo: Graham Thiele taken only weeks before his passing

And so much more ...

Graham had a keen memory for names, local history, dates, places and incidents spanning decades, along with a genuine interest in people. His astute observation and insights into the strengths and frailties of human nature and ability to spin a good yarn (related with great wit and humour), brought life, colour and shade to the history and tapestry of living in our local community.

Thank you, old friend. May you rest in peace. You will be sorely missed.

Susan and Geoffrey Probert (dec.) and children Nicholas, Jessica and Simon are honoured to have known Graham, his wife Helen, son Tom, and stepchildren Sky and Sunny, during the time the Probert family lived on the 300-acre farm Graham referred to as "Ripper's place", on the corner of Chanters and Rippers Lanes, Fernhill, during the 80's and early 90's. Graham's help, kindness, support, encouragement, and ongoing friendship will remain intricately woven into our treasured memories of life on our farm.

SUBMITTED BY SUSAN PROBERT

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# 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](mailto:content@newwoodendstar.org.au)

## — FEBRUARY —

- 3..... Hanging Rock Night Walk
- 5..... Woodend Landcare Working Bee
- 4..... Woodend Farmers' Market
- 15..... Knit and Natter, Norma Richardson Hall
- 12..... Commemorative twilight Service, Ash Wednesday
- 16..... 40th Anniversary, Ash Wednesday
- 16..... Commemorative Service, Ash Wednesday
- 18..... Inventi Ensemble, KTH
- 19..... Lions Sunday Market
- 25..... The Mount Players, The 39 Steps
- 25..... Nurse Georgie Carroll, Sista Flo, KTH

## — MARCH —

- 3..... Hanging Rock Night Walk
- 4..... Woodend Farmers' Market
- 4..... Relay for Life, Lancefield
- 8..... International Women's Day
- 11..... Daniel Champagne, KTH
- 9-13..... LGBTQIA+ Pride Festival, Daylesford
- 11-13..... 48th Annual Woodend Lions Art Show
- 13..... Labour Day Public Holiday
- 13..... MRSG, Sustainable Homes Open Day
- 15..... Knit and Natter, Norma Richardson Hall
- 19..... Lions Sunday Market

## — APRIL —

- 1..... Woodend Farmers' Market
- 7..... Good Friday
- 9..... Easter Sunday
- 10..... Easter Monday
- 16..... Lions Sunday Market
- 19..... Knit and Natter, Norma Richardson Hall
- 25..... Anzac Day



## Kyneton Town Hall Events

To purchase tickets visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/buytickets](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/buytickets) or call 1300 888 802 (10am-4pm, weekdays).

### Inventi Ensemble presents The Enchanted Forest

5pm, Saturday 18 February, Kyneton Town Hall

Winners of the Melbourne Recital Centre's Contemporary Masters Award and one of the most prolific chamber ensembles in Australia, Inventi will perform The Enchanted Forest, featuring a new arrangement of Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony and Debussy's Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun, along with a world premiere performance of a new Australian work by Melody Eötvös.



### Nurse Georgie Carroll: Sista Flo 2.0

8pm, Saturday 25 February, Kyneton Town Hall

Nurse Georgie is just what the doctor ordered! Winner of 'Best Comedy Show' at this year's Adelaide Fringe Festival and following a sell-out season at the Melbourne Comedy Festival, don't miss Nurse Georgie Carroll as she performs for one night only at Kyneton Town Hall.



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## Knit and Natter

Commencing February 15th, 2023, Knit and Natter meetings will be held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 11am in the Norma Richardson Hall, 15 Buckland St. Woodend.

Enquiries:  
 Sylvia 0488 776 645



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## The Mount Players kick off 2023 with a riotous, fast paced comedy classic

(Mount Players logo) Based on the 1935 Hitchcock thriller, The 39 Steps has been adapted as a BBC Radio Play, with six talented actors playing over 25 characters. Director John Rowland, who brought us Too Many Crooks in 2021 promises to take you, as the live audience in a BBC radio studio, on a thrilling, riotous and hilarious journey. The play contains every legendary scene from the award-winning movie, including the chase on the Flying Scotsman, the escape on the Forth Bridge, the biplane crash and the sensational death-defying finale in the London Palladium.

The play runs from Friday 24 February – Sunday 12 March.

50% of takings from our Thursday night performance will be donated to Gisborne Foodbank. We will also be accepting cash and food donations in the foyer at each performance, so please consider this when attending.

A play reading/information night for our second production, Buried Child by Sam Shepard, directed by Robert Wallace, will be held at the theatre on Friday 3 February with auditions running over the weekend of 11/12 February.

For full details on the plays and to book tickets go to [www.themountplayers.com](http://www.themountplayers.com) or call 5426 1892 for assistance.

See you at the theatre.

SUBMITTED BY KAREN HUNT

## Daniel Champagne

8pm, Saturday 11 March

With more than a million streams on Spotify for his song Indigo, Daniel Champagne has been praised for being naturally adept at some techniques that others can't master. He is now regarded as a leading light in acoustic music, with a firm reputation for jaw-dropping performances and making crowds buzz.

To purchase tickets visit [mrcs.vic.gov.au/buytickets](http://mrcs.vic.gov.au/buytickets) or call 1300 888 802 (10am-4pm, weekdays).



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## LGBTQIA+ pride will soar in regional Victoria

Victoria's longest-running regional LGBTQIA+ pride festival is returning to Daylesford over the Labour Day weekend from 9-13 March 2023.

Festival Director Emma Ireland said that the festival's program has grown again this year, but will retain its intimate, small-town feel. "The theme of 'find your wings' is not only about celebrating the local bright-eyed brown butterfly that was thought extinct, it's about re-emerging from the isolation of the last two years," she said.

In its 26th year – the longest running regional LGBTQIA+ pride event is still coming up with new events to complement the long-time favourites like Bush Dance and Carnivale, this year headlined by opera-pop star Kate-Miller-Heidke. New events to ChillOut include a Comedy Cabaret at

the Convent, an all-femme party Hey Hunny!, life drawing classes, and speed dating.

Comedy at the Convent will be hosted by cabaret comedian Aurora Kurth and boasts a hilarious line-up, including drag superstars Karen from Finance, Dolly Diamond, drag king Justin Teliquire, and comedy folk duo Tuck Shop Ladies.

The line-up of Hey Hunny!, a party curated for women, non-binary people and their friends, in a celebration of 'femme' performers, including 2022 Melbourne Fringe award-winner Jude Perl, comedy-folk duo Tuck Shop Ladies, singer songwriter Holly Kercheval, and high energy blues outfits This Way North and the Hussy Hicks.

The Radius Art Gallery in Hepburn Springs will show an exhibition of regional LGBTQIA+ artists' work curated around the festival's theme 'Find Your Wings' – as well as hosting life drawing classes throughout the

weekend.

Local French bistro Bistro Terroir will host a St Tropez themed, late afternoon cocktail hour, with the Sunday session raising money for ChillOut's local outreach initiative Raising Rainbows, an organisation that enables regional schools and towns to fly the rainbow flag to show support and acceptance for the LGBTQIA+ community across rural and regional Victoria.

A free, all-ages event at Hepburn Pavilion Café Amphitheatre will feature performances from MARZ, local hip rising talent Mz Burn, drag from Freddie Merkin, Elektra Lite and Miss First Nation 2021 Cerulean. The event will also feature market stalls from community groups including the Bendigo Trans Clothing Swap, and a fashion parade.

The full program can be found at [chilloutfestival.com.au](http://chilloutfestival.com.au).

SUBMITTED BY AMY FABRY-JENKINS

## Country Dancers at Buffalo Stadium

Macedon Ranges Scottish Country Dancers will begin another year of dancing at Buffalo Stadium in Woodend, on Thursday 9 February from

1pm to 3pm each week.

Beginners and experienced dancers are always welcome. This style of dancing is the social dancing style of Scotland that is danced all over the world. It's suitable for all ages, from the young to the young at heart.

Lessons start with a few warmup exercises, then sets of three or four couples are formed. Everyone is walked through the dance first, with the more experienced dancers helping others.

So what do you need to get started? Just a soft pair of flat shoes you can dance in, comfortable clothing and a small bottle of water as you do get thirsty.

Do you need a partner? You don't need a partner, but you're welcome to bring one.

If you would like to try Scottish country dancing, contact either Meg on 54271100 or Linda on 0408476317.

SUBMITTED BY MEG OSBORNE

## International Women's Day

### 2023 - Cracking the Code: Innovation for a gender equal future

International Women's Day is celebrated on 8 March and provides an opportunity to continue getting the message out that "women's rights are human rights!"

For over 100 years, women have been advocating for safe working conditions, equal rights, equal pay and an end to exploitation. #EmbraceEquity

Join Macedon Ranges Shire Council in celebrating International Women's Day at the Kyneton Town Hall on Wednesday 8 March at 10am.

The free event will bring together local leaders, artists and changemakers with keynote speaker Antoinette Braybrook, 2022 Melburnian of the Year.

Antoinette is a proud Wurundjeri and Kuku Yulanji woman, CEO of Djirra and Co-Chair of Change the Record. She is a strong advocate for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and has been recognised both locally and internationally for her leadership and contribution to gender equity.

Enjoy music from local artists and changemakers, Sage Roadknight, finalist in the world's first Environmental Music Prize 2022, and Rhi Winchester and her all-girl band.

Bookings are essential. Call 5422 0216 or email [comdevadmin@mrcs.vic.gov.au](mailto:comdevadmin@mrcs.vic.gov.au)

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN

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### Learn how to manage breathlessness

A free eight-week program for those living with a lung condition is being offered locally at Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health. The program helps people manage their symptoms of breathlessness and covers topics such as how the lungs work, how medications can alleviate symptoms and the importance of good nutrition. The program also includes a weekly exercise component.

The pulmonary rehabilitation program is suitable for those with lung complaints such as bronchitis, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) as well as lung cancer.

Those attending are welcome to bring a family member or friend along. For more details, including what is required for a referral, contact Wendy Hemphill on 5421 1666 or email wendy.hemphill@scchc.org.au.

You can also visit Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health at 1 Caroline Chisholm Drive, Kyneton.

SUBMITTED BY SARAH TURNER



Photo: Chloe Smith Photography

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- **Senior Ballet – 11:15am Tuesdays**  
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- **Chair Exercise to Music – 2:00pm Wednesdays.** It will also be live-streamed!  
Open to all adults and designed for those who have pain or standing balance issues.
- **Parkinson's Dance Club – 11:00am Thursdays**  
For those living with Parkinson's Disease but may also be suitable for those suffering from Multiple Sclerosis or post stroke.
- **Kids – 4:00pm Thursdays**  
Kids aged 5 to 8 designed to assist with balance and coordination.

For more information on each of the classes, please visit our website at [www.bsmc.net.au/what-we-offer/movement-studio-hub](http://www.bsmc.net.au/what-we-offer/movement-studio-hub)  
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### Understanding if you are eligible for a Home Care Package

Home Care Packages support older people with more complex needs to live independently in their own homes. This can include help with household tasks and personal care, equipment, minor home modifications, meals and clinical care such as nursing, allied health and physiotherapy services.

Council is holding free information sessions for older residents, their families and/or carers to help explain how Home Care Packages work; who is eligible to receive them; and where you can access the information and support you need to get the most out of a Home Care Package.

Sessions are as follows:

- Monday 13 February, 10am-12pm, Kyneton Mechanics Institute
- Friday 24 February, 10am-12pm, Riddells Creek Community Centre

Bookings are essential – contact a member of the Healthy Ageing Engagement Team on 5422 0333 or [HealthyAgeing@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:HealthyAgeing@mrsc.vic.gov.au)

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN, MRSC



### Diabetes Education

A new diabetes education service has started in the Macedon Ranges. Run by Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health, the service is for adults who have pre-diabetes, or type 1 or type 2 diabetes.

Diabetes education can help with blood glucose monitoring and with the use of glucose monitoring devices. A diabetes education nurse can also support the use of injectable insulin and discuss other medications and lifestyle changes that can be made to help manage diabetes.

Family members or other support people are welcome to come along to the appointments.

Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health also runs an eight-week education and exercise group program called 'Don't Sugar Coat Diabetes' featuring guest speakers covering topics such as podiatry, exercise physiology, diet and cardiac health.

To find out more, contact 5421 1666, email [admin@scchc.org.au](mailto:admin@scchc.org.au) or pop into their offices at 1 Caroline Chisholm Drive Kyneton or 12-28 Macedon Street Sunbury.

SUBMITTED BY SARAH TURNER



### CWA Woodend Eves – Bright Lights and New Year Goals

Christmas comes and goes so fast and it seems like a distant memory. Then come the sparklers and big bang of NYE. Before I move on to 2023, I want to just go back to the time, not so long ago, that the towns of Woodend, Newham, Carlsruhe and Tylden were lit up. Our Christmas lights competition was a huge success, but it doesn't happen without lots of background work. Special thanks to our superstar Secretary and VP for their hard work. A huge thanks to Matty Be, who drove around all evening and visited each Christmas light. Special thanks also to Nikki from Woodend Village for all her help with the maps this year and of course our sponsors who are businesses in our community and who are always putting up their hand to contribute to community causes.



The winners were:

- Best House – Sponsored by Black Forest Tyre and Auto - 3 Barbara Street, Woodend
- Judges' Favourite – Sponsored by Woodend Produce Store - 2 Gwendoline Avenue, Woodend
- Best Mailbox – Sponsored by Newham General Store - 84 Bryces Lane, Newham
- Best Street – Sponsored by Black Forest Meats - 34 Tree Change Way, Woodend.

So now to the current day, 2023. Our branch enjoyed our first meeting of the year chatting about what we wanted to achieve, participate in and contribute to. A few drinks and nibbles were also had as we enjoyed the nice weather and long evenings. Our Junior Eves' first meeting of the year involved the fun and yum of pasta making. They had a lovely day making and then eating the pasta. The girls kneaded, rolled, floured and lovingly hung their haul. There may have

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been flour in every nook and cranny of the kitchen, but that is half the fun, right?

If 2023 is your year to contribute to the community, to do more cooking or preserving or crafting in any form, or for you to connect with like-minded women, feel free to pop in to one of our meetings. We also have Junior Eves, so if you



have a young lady in your life that would like to learn life skills and connect with other young girls, please also get in touch. Connect with us for more information about when our meetings are via email [cwawoodendeves@gmail.com](mailto:cwawoodendeves@gmail.com), via facebook [@CWA Woodend Eves](https://www.facebook.com/CWA Woodend Eves) or via instagram [@cwa\\_woodend\\_eves](https://www.instagram.com/cwa_woodend_eves).

We are often asked where all the money we raise from homemade and handmade goods we make and sell goes. Back to our community is the answer!

Through community engagement in 2022, we created and launched a new initiative: The CWA Woodend Eves Community Scholarship Award. We are hoping to make this an annual award, given to a Year 6 student heading to high school, at each of the four schools in our area. The recipient is selected from a set of criteria mirroring CWA community values, as voted by the recipient's school community. It has been humbling to see this initiative launch with the aim to help contribute directly to young people's education from our fundraising efforts.

We are pleased to announce the first recipients of the CWA Woodend Eves Community Scholarship award:

- Tylden Primary School - Charlie Fidler
- St Ambrose Primary School - Isabelle Desira
- Woodend Primary School - Ellie Norman
- Newham Primary School - to participate in 2023

SUBMITTED BY ANITA LA FORGIA FOR THE CWA WOODEND EVES

### PS My Family Matters receives Tandem award



Local charity PS My Family Matters (PS) has been awarded the Service Community Award for 2022 at the recent Tandem awards. Tandem is the Victorian peak body representing family and friends supporting people living with mental health issues. The award recognises outstanding contribution to compassionate and family focused carer support.

PS provides practical and emotional support to carers of loved ones with a mental illness. Commenting on the award, president Tamara Wilson said "I mainly want to acknowledge the volunteers who give a whole lot of time to support families. The other people I wish to acknowledge are the courageous carers who put their hands up and ask for help."

PS is a volunteer organization offering peer support to local carers. Following a recent cut in funding, the organisation has a need for more peer support volunteers and committee members to maintain its level of community care. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Tamara on 0475 269 965. We offer Mental Health First Aid training to all volunteers.

PS continues to run Coffee for Carers at 10.30am on the first Tuesday of the month in Gisborne and the third Thursday of the month at the Social Foundry in Kyneton

SUBMITTED BY MIKE HAMER

**If you need immediate support or assistance, contact Lifeline on 131411.**



Photo: Tamara Wilson receives the award from the chair of Tandem Peter McKenzie and executives Katherine Whetton and Marie Piu (CEO).

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**Introduction**

The wines this month come from two of the older vineyards in the Macedon Ranges. The first is Zig Zag Rd that was planted all the way back in 1972 and the second Lord Malmsbury that was planted in 1989. Henry and Harriet Churchill took over Zig Zag in 2018 and have brought a new style and energy to one of the oldest vineyards in the area. The Rush brothers at Lord Malmsbury continue to cultivate one of the most consistently good vineyards in the region.

**2022 Zig Zag Cloudy Rose**

A wine that is adored by all those that helped to make it! The wine is cloudy by design and gives a copper-like hue in the glass.

A nose of sour-edged cherry with wild strawberry and a dusting of alpine herbs. The palate has a moreishness to it, with black cherry having a bramble edge but enough definition of fruit and silkiness of texture on the mid palate to provide contrast.

Wild strawberry meets cherry to finish, with flowing but balanced acidity that affords very good length.

Rating: 91 | Price: \$29 | When to Drink: 2023 - 2024

**2020 Lord Malmsbury Macedon Sparkling**

The wine is a blend of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir from grapes grown at Lord Malmsbury's meticulously kept Estate Vineyard.

The wine is a light to golden yellow in colour with heady aromatics of white peach and brioche; the palate has textured acidity that works well to contrast the baseline of brioche and blanched almond that comes from time on lees. To finish, there are some oyster shell and citrus zest to attractive stone fruits; very good length.

Rating: 94 | Price: \$35 | When to Drink: 2023 - 2030

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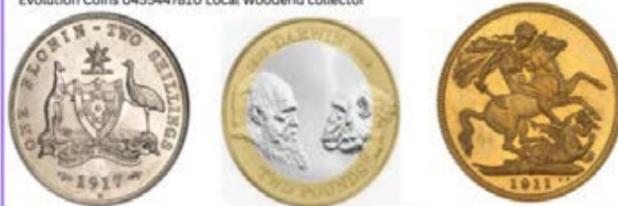
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FOR ENQUIRIES



#### Storytimes are back for 2023!

Our regular storytime sessions are back on Tuesday, 7 February at 10am. We have made a few changes for 2023:

Storytime Tuesday and Friday at 10am

Storytime sessions are now an all-inclusive age group with all 2-5+ year olds welcome. These sessions run for approximately 30mins and include lots of singing, dancing and of course, stories!

#### Baby Rhyme Time

Baby Rhyme Time has moved slightly earlier to 11am on Tuesdays to give us lots of time to make new friends. Rhyme Time sessions run for approximately 25 minutes. We start with a short story, then we sing some of our favourite old rhymes and some new ones too.

The first Saturday of the month (Market Day) we hold our Saturday Storytime at 10.30am in the library – everyone is always welcome!

#### Have you seen our Parenting collection?

Our Parenting collection is a curated selection of kids' picture books that can be of use to parents and carers when they need to have various 'life conversations' with their young children. Children are learning everything about their world, and helping them learn can be a big job:

What will my new sister be like? Why do I have to brush my teeth? How do I know if I am angry or sad?

We have selected books that can help with these questions and many more, and have divided them up into five sections, grouping them for easy use:

- Day to day and new experiences
- Wellbeing and emotional intelligence
- Diversity and diverse families
- Difficult feelings and emotions, and
- The big questions.

The parenting collection is clearly marked with stickers to identify them and are now located right next to the picture books to make browsing easier. Please feel free to ask our friendly team if you have any questions, or go to <https://www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au/parentingcollection> for more information.

#### Goldfields Libraries catalogue app – Spydus



Do you often forget your library card? Or misplace your library card? With the Spydus app, you never have to worry about it again! Simply log in to the app and you can have your own digital card handy on your phone. From the Spydus app you have fast access to the catalogue and your account. Browse for books, place reservations, store your digital card and keep up to date with your library account, all in one location.

To get started - download the free

Spydus mobile app from Google Play (Android) or iTunes (Apple). Select Goldfields Libraries as your library. Log in using your library card barcode and your pin.

#### What's on in February:



Monday 13 February, 10am-11am

Tea and Tech – get together with others and let us help solve your tech problems over a cuppa! Bring your phone, laptop or tablet and ask as many questions as you like in a relaxed and friendly session.

Monday 27 February, 10am-11am

#### Be Connected:



Researching and booking travel online – learn how to safely research and book travel online.

All sessions are free but bookings are required: <https://goldfieldslibraries.com/woodend-events/> or call 5427 2074. See you in the Library!

5427 2074 | [woodend@ncgrl.vic.gov.au](mailto:woodend@ncgrl.vic.gov.au)

SUBMITTED BY WOODEND LIBRARY

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The Community Bank model delivers quality products, exceptional customer service, and flexibility (we'll come to you) and comes with a real point of difference, where the profit goes back into supporting projects in our local communities.

Whatever your banking needs, Community Bank Trentham & Districts are here for you. For a better banking experience call us on 5424 1608.

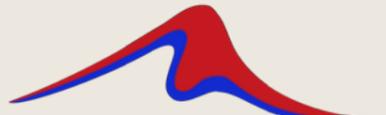
SUBMITTED BY CHARL PARRIS



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U3A (University of the Third Age) Kyneton is a not-for-profit organisation open to all Macedon Ranges residents who have retired from full-time employment. We offer a range of social and learning activities.

Our tutors are dedicated volunteers who live in the community and are keen to share their knowledge and

experience. No educational qualifications are required or given, and we aim to make our sessions entertaining and informative. We also have a wide range of social and physical activities such as exercise classes, cycling and table tennis.

Our 2023 term starts in February, but we are now open for enrolment. Some

of our courses include sessions on Apartheid, Poetry, Folk Dancing, French, American Politics, Film Club, History of Propaganda, Tai Chi and scheduled visits to the RM Begg Nursing Home. There are many and varied courses to choose from and something to suit everyone.

Have a look at the U3A Kyneton website, <https://u3akyneton.org.au/courses/> to see the full range of options offered. New members are always welcome and can join via <https://u3akyneton.org.au/memberships/>. If you need assistance Roni will be pleased to help you to become one of our valued members.

Further information about U3A Kyneton can be found via <https://u3akyneton.org.au>, by email [members@u3akyneton.org.au](mailto:members@u3akyneton.org.au) or call Roni on 0439 360 763.

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SUBMITTED BY RONI TAUBMAN

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## Kick off the year with kids activities!



### 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, Woodend for children aged 2–5 years. Parent/guardian participation is required.

#### KinderGym

Held in the stadium, this program is based on developing motor skills, confidence, balance and social skills. KinderGym 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, Woodend:

- 10–10:45am for 1–3-year-olds
- 11–11:45am for 4–5-year-olds

## Dance enrolments open for 2023

Dance classes are held at Buffalo Sports Stadium in Woodend and the Gisborne Community Centre.

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

Studio2 MIX dance classes are for school aged students from 6-12 years with a mix of ballet, tap and jazz in the 1-hour class.

Studio2 Hip Hop classes and Tap dance classes are held on Thursday afternoons for 8-12 years and 13-18 years.

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

## Women's netball at Buffalo Stadium - registrations for 2023

Women's netball is played on Monday mornings from 9:30am and Tuesday nights from 7.15pm at Buffalo Sports Stadium in Woodend.

You can enter the competition as an individual or a team. Game fees are \$70 per game. Registration per player is \$25 per season. For information call 5427 3411 visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/netball](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/netball)

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN, MRSC COMMUNICATION UNIT

## A message from your West Ward Councillors



Welcome back for 2023. We hope that you all had a safe, enjoyable, and relaxed Christmas and New Year break. All Council staff are now back at work, and queries can be directed to [mrsc@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:mrsc@mrsc.vic.gov.au), telephone on 5422 0333 or in person at our customer support centres. The council website at [mrsc.vic.gov.au](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au) is also a great source of information and advice. Your West Ward councillors, Jennifer, Janet and Mark are also happy to help out and provide advice and assistance when required and can be contacted via our council emails or phone numbers (available from the council website).

Congratulations to our new elected Mayor – Cr Annette Death and to our new Deputy Mayor - Cr Jennifer Anderson on their recent election to these positions. In particular, thank you to our outgoing Mayor, Jennifer Anderson who has stepped down from the position after two years in the role, but is continuing as Deputy Mayor for 2023. Jennifer has ably led the council through a period of significant change, both within our organisation and at the broader political level. She has brought a powerful combination of knowledge and experience to the role, combined with a deep understanding of our local communities.

Our new Mayor, Cr Death hails from our East Ward and has impressed her fellow councillors with her enthusiasm, approachability, and competence over the last two years. The positions of Shire Mayor and Deputy Mayor carry a significant

workload and range of responsibilities and as councillors we are all looking forward to working with our new leadership team in 2023.

Councillors are returning with our first official briefing for the year on January 31st. Our first Planning meeting will be held on February 8th and Council meeting on February 22nd.

By the time this article is published, the outcome of the Macedon Ranges Australia Day awards will have been announced. Congratulations to all those who have been nominated and to our winners of each category. As for every year, we have received outstanding nominations in each of the categories, highlighting not only the calibre of individuals and organisations within our shire, but also their dedication to serving and supporting our communities and social fabric.

Please be aware that the start of the fire danger period, which was held off over the Christmas period due to the wet weather conditions, commenced on January 9th and burning off is no longer allowed during this time. However, you can dispose of green waste for no charge at Council Transfer stations.

For those who may have missed the announcement – a significant decision was made by Council at the end of last year not to proceed with the draft Rural Land Use Strategy. The draft strategy had generated a lot of debate across our community, with 177 submissions lodged in response to the draft. More information regarding the strategy and Council's reasons for not progressing it may be found on the council website.

In the meantime, best wishes to you and your families for a safe and successful 2023, and please contact us if there is anything council related that we might support you with.

YOUR WEST WARD COUNCILLORS: MARK, JANET AND JENNIFER.

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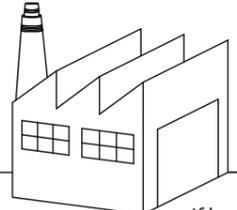
Do you have a swimming pool or spa on your property, or plan on building or purchasing one?

Because pool and spa safety is of the utmost importance, the law now requires you to register your swimming pool or spa with Council and supply us with a Certificate of Barrier Compliance.

An inspection of your pool or spa barrier can only be carried out by a registered building inspector or a registered building surveyor. Failure to register or submit a current certificate within your allocated timeframe could result in penalties.

If you have registered and submitted your certificate, please remember that you are required to supply a new certificate every four years.

You can register and submit your Certificate of Barrier Compliance online or via post. Learn more at [mrsc.vic.gov.au/pools-and-spas](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/pools-and-spas) or call us on 5422 0333.



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## Woodend District Netball registrations open for 2023

Woodend District Netball Club is taking registrations for 2023. To secure your spot in one of the club's 2023 teams, head to [woodendnetball.com.au](http://woodendnetball.com.au) to register.

The 2023 season includes the Netball Victoria NetSetGo introduction to netball program for players aged from 5–10 years of age that runs for eight weeks from 9 February 2023 to 30 March 2023.

Our Woodend District teams play in the Macedon Ranges Netball Association (MRNA) competition from 16 March 2023 to 7 September 2023, with training on Tuesday or Thursday at Buffalo Stadium Woodend, and on Saturday morning in New Gisborne.

Players in the MRNA season will receive their own uniform to keep, 2023 individually numbered wrist bands, sticker, insurance, all games fees, discounted Melbourne Vixen's tickets, 10% discount at our online store and 10% discount on training clinics and holiday programs.

Woodend District Netball Club has had a very successful 2022 with increased player numbers, new coaches, a grand final win and a big twilight series. It is great to see demand for netball increasing in and around Woodend, and we plan to field extra teams at the under 9, under 11, under 13 and under 15 age groups in 2023.

Come and join a club that is progressive and community-driven and focuses on fun, fitness, friendship and fair play in 2023.

Find out more at [woodendnetball.com.au](http://woodendnetball.com.au), or head to our Facebook page.

SUBMITTED BY MIKE BOUDRIE, PRESIDENT, WDNC



## Anne is Woodend Ladies' Club champion

It was a repeat of the two players from last year's Woodend Bowling Club Ladies' Singles Championship, with Rosalie Campbell playing Anne Dornau on a sunny January 10 afternoon. Rosalie was aiming to take back-to-back Championships, whilst Anne was aiming to win her first Singles title, having been runner-up on two previous occasions.

Anne made a blinding start, with a lead of 14–0 after just five ends (4-4-2-3-1) before Rosalie got onto the score board. It was then 21–4 after twelve ends and Anne going on to win 25–5 after 15 ends. Anne will now go on to represent Woodend in the regional Champ of Champs series.



## Woodend Men's Singles semi-finals



In warm conditions, the two Club Men's Singles Semi-Finals were played with Norm Bickerdyke playing Mike Dornau and Stephen Pickles playing Jarrod Behan, both over long and close matches.

Despite torn calf muscles, and wearing a boot, Mike was not going to give Norm a walk straight into the final, and, in fact, held the lead before Norm levelled 13-all after 20 ends. Norm then took the lead before a late Mike fight back, with Norm winning 25–17 after 31 ends.

Stephen and Jarrod also had a great battle, with Stephen building a lead with 16–10 after 18 ends. Jarrod then fought back to 19–17 after 26 ends, before Stephen went on to win 25–17 after 28 ends.

Bowling could be part of your new year's resolution – the health benefits of bowling

If your new year's resolution included getting healthier and fitter, then bowling could be good for you.

Bowls is a low-impact, therapeutic exercise that can improve fitness, co-ordination and confidence.

Health professionals recommend playing bowls as it provides a number of health benefits, including:

- Improved fitness
- Improved co-ordination and skill development
- Increased confidence and self-esteem
- Enhanced mental well-being
- Community connectedness and support

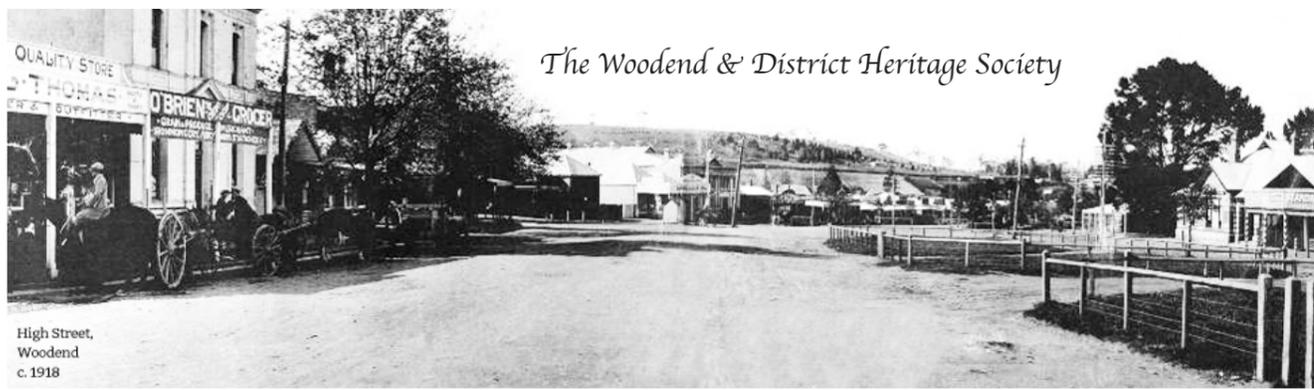
If you have wondered what playing lawn bowls is like, why not come down to the Club and have a go – on either our carpet or grass green.

We can provide everything you need, the bowls and important guidance from one of our experienced players. And it's free!

For more information, please call 5407 9220, visit our website at [www.woodendbowlsclub.weebly.com](http://www.woodendbowlsclub.weebly.com). You can also follow us on Facebook.

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, PRESIDENT WOODEND BOWLING CLUB INC.

The Woodend & District Heritage Society



High Street, Woodend c. 1918

## Remembering Graham Thiele

Ashbourne lost a very special resident when Graham Thiele died on 19 November last year, aged eighty-three. Graham moved to Ashbourne from Gerang Gerung in 1947 with his family. After attending the local school, he worked for Jack Birrane burning charcoal and then for local farmers, before concentrating on the family farm.

Graham became sought after as an expert hay contractor and transporter of stock to and from the Kyneton saleyards. With his experience in farming, he became the man to ask if you had problems such as a cow struggling to calve, a horse with laminitis, a crop that was not growing well.

Graham was also an excellent self-taught mechanic and was often called upon to fix a troublesome tractor, truck or hay baler. He grew up in an era when neighbours helped each other without hesitation. When newcomers settled in Ashbourne, Graham was always willing to help them get started in their farming endeavours. Many locals are indebted to Graham for the success of their farms.

He was fondly nicknamed The Ashbourne Times, as his interest in people led him to know what everyone was up to. If you had been away for a while, a visit and a 'cuppa' with Graham soon had you up to date. His interest in local history and his excellent memory meant that he was a repository of local stories. Hours could pass while you listened to Graham yarning about the events and characters of the area. He witnessed and remembered the huge changes in agriculture in the past seventy years, ranging from horse-drawn machinery to the air-conditioned computer-operated tractors of today.

Despite his skills and knowledge, Graham was extremely modest. When his family suggested an eightieth birthday party, he thought no one would want to come. Of course everyone wanted to come, and he loved it. Graham will be greatly missed by his family and as a friend, advisor and source of Ashbourne history.

SUBMITTED BY JANE HOLTH



Shearers take time off for a cup of tea on a local property  
Eric Thiele, Alf Thiele, S. Hamilton, R. Evans.

Photo: Shearers taking a break: Graham's cousin, Eric Thiele; Graham's father, Alf; S. Hamilton and R. Evans. Source: The Weekly Times 23/12/1964



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# Sacred Heart College Kyneton – a commitment to excellence

Students at Sacred Heart College experience an education defined by three equally important principles – the school’s Catholic identity informed by its rich Mercy heritage; a commitment to excellence in learning and teaching; and, finally, supporting the wellbeing and growth of each young person in our Sacred Heart community.

The relatedness of the three principles above was reflected in the success of the College’s Year 12 class who achieved outstanding results in both the VCE and VCAL pathways. The College’s mean VCE study score was 30, our College Dux, Harrison Gatt, received an ATAR of 96.2 and 56.5% of students achieved an ATAR of 70 or above.

We congratulate all from the Class of 2022 on their achievements. These results reflect several years of hard work in challenging and uncertain times, and their successes provide tremendous opportunities for pathways into tertiary education and the world of work.

The 2023 Sacred Heart College theme is “Respect – see the person within”.

As the shared focus for students and staff during 2023, this theme celebrates one of the six Mercy values that inform all aspects of College life. These six values – respect, compassion, courage, service, hospitality and justice – link the school directly to the Christian story that is our purpose of being.

Sacred Heart College has, as a core principle, the nourishing of right and respectful relationships; relationships defined



by compassion, forgiveness, and love. After several years of unprecedented uncertainty, many students have struggled with the simple action of respecting one another. The origins of the word ‘respect’ challenge each member of the school community to look closely at each other, at our common humanity, and to see the person within.

All students will return to Sacred Heart College on Wednesday 1 February. Classes commence with a particular focus on wellbeing through homeroom and year-level based activities. The emphasis on wellbeing is especially important for the new Year 7 students as they continue the critical transition from primary to secondary school education.

The first of our regular College tours for 2023 will be held on Tuesday 14 February. We welcome all those looking at options for their children’s secondary journey to learn more about the diverse educational offerings of Sacred Heart College Kyneton, by attending a tour – bookings and further information are available via the College website ([www.shckyneton.catholic.edu.au](http://www.shckyneton.catholic.edu.au)).

SUBMITTED BY DR DARREN EGBERTS PRINCIPAL



## Learn. Care. *flourish*



### Choosing a school for your child? Limited vacancies available for Years 7-12, 2023.

Don't miss our next College tours:  
14 February & 8 March, bookings essential.

Visit the College website for tour bookings or  
contact the Registrar for enrolment information.



Scan for tour bookings