

The New Woodend Star

Rotary  Club of Woodend

AUGUST 2025
Volume 29 | Issue 7



Rotary Club of Woodend improves education opportunities for girls at the Mwast Vanuatu school

Rotary  Club of Woodend

The Rotary Club of Woodend completed a new school building in a remote village in Vanuatu, and during the opening ceremony in February last year, attended by 16 Rotarians and friends, the women of the group learned that many local girls did not attend school during their menstrual cycle, due to their families being unable to provide the necessary products. An initiative was devised by the group to engage a social enterprise called Mamma's Laef in a small village outside Port Vila to manufacture washable and re-useable sanitary pads, providing both employment for women in the village to work with the enterprise, and an opportunity for girls to attend school more regularly. Seventy-five kits, each containing ten pads,

a wet bag and a carry bag with instructions have now been ordered and delivered to our partners, the Rotary Club of Santo on the island of Espiritu Santo, where our school building is located.

The women of the Rotary Club of Santo will shortly deliver the kits and carry out training for the girls of the Mwast school. Once the kits are in use, the girls will be able to attend school regularly, which will enhance their education.

The photo shows the group from Woodend Rotary attending the school opening last year, and then meeting with the members of Mamma's Laef mid-July.

SUBMITTED BY ALLAN CANN

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Call for Expression of Interest

A vacancy currently exists on *The New Woodend Star*
Management Committee.

If you are interested and want more information give
Josephine a call at 0458 525 671.

The *New Woodend Star* is a not-for-profit project of the
Rotary Club of Woodend

Strategic vision key to Dja Dja Wurrung success

DJAARA, the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, recently demonstrated its vision and leadership with the launch of two strategic documents, the implementation of which will continue to benefit all who live, work and play on Djandak (Dja Dja Wurrung Country).

In a celebration attended by more than 100 people, including Elders and community members, and high-level representatives of government agencies and business, DJAARA unveiled the revised Dhelkunya Dja, Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Country Plan (2014–2034), and Wuktjarrang – Trading Our Way, DJAARA’s first Economic Strategy.

Dhelkunya Dja (which means ‘healing Country’ in Dja Dja Wurrung language) was developed by Djaara (Dja Dja Wurrung People) over a decade ago as the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation signed a Recognition and Settlement Agreement (RSA) with the State of Victoria.

Interim Dja Dja Wurrung Group CEO Cassandra Lewis described the Dhelkunya Dja Country Plan as the foundational roadmap and 20-year vision for Dja Dja Wurrung People, Country and Culture.

“At the halfway mark, we’ve delivered on so many of the objectives we set out to achieve,” Ms Lewis said.

“Ten years ago, the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation was a small, single entity, with a modest team, focused primarily on securing rights and recognition for Dja Dja Wurrung People.

“Today, we are a large, thriving organisation with multiple enterprises that enable us to achieve more goals, across many fronts.

“We are a mob that gets things done,” Ms Lewis said.

The Dja Dja Wurrung Group (DJAARA and its enterprises) works in collaboration with partners to improve the health of our land and waterways by bringing Dja Dja Wurrung traditional knowledge and practices together with Western natural resource management methods; to share Dja Dja Wurrung Culture and language in public space and through tourism, cultural arts and education; to develop bush foods and bring bush tucker back to Country; and more.

Now with more than 200 staff, the Group has become one of Central Victoria’s large employers, stimulating significant economic activity across the region.

The Dja Dja Wurrung Group has demonstrated its capabilities across a broad range of areas, as equal partners.

In the implementation of Dhelkunya Dja, the Group has negotiated agreements and partnerships with many organisations, including local government, natural resource management agencies, and business.

The Dhelkunya Dja Country Plan is important as a guiding document not only for DJAARA and its enterprises, but also for those engaging with us and walking together in collaboration.

What has not changed in the Dhelkunya Dja review are the nine goals at the heart of the plan, which remain just as relevant today.

“At the halfway mark of Dhelkunya Dja’s 20-year vision and schedule of actions, our aspirations remain steadfast: to uphold the health and wellbeing of Djaara and Djandak, and our living Culture,” Ms Lewis said.

“This refreshed Dhelkunya Dja is more than a look back; it’s a powerful step forward. It sets us up to continue to deliver for People and for Country, for now and for generations to come.”

The document is the foundation for a range of DJAARA strategies, which further guide the Group’s work.

Wuktjarrang – Trading Our Way, DJAARA’s new economic strategy builds on Dhelkunya Dja Goal 8: Murrunayangu (we all live, thrive) – We have a strong and diverse economic base to provide for our health and wellbeing, and strengthen our living Culture.

The Strategy outlines the way Djaara (Dja Dja Wurrung People) do business. It’s a statement of the intent to continue the Traditional Owner economy – an economy where the purpose of exchange is to uphold or improve the wellbeing of People, Country and Culture, and the relationships between them.

Wuktjarrang means ‘exchange belonging to us’ in Dja Dja Wurrung language, and Wuktjarrang – Trading Our Way explains how we’ll continue practising Cultural Ways in a contemporary setting: how the Traditional Owner economy can operate in today’s world.

Developed by Djaara Knowledge Holders and Dja Dja Wurrung Group staff, Wuktjarrang – Trading Our Way also demonstrates the significant contribution the Group makes to all communities and the broader economy. This includes creating environments that increase liveability, attracting families, businesses and investors seeking prosperity.

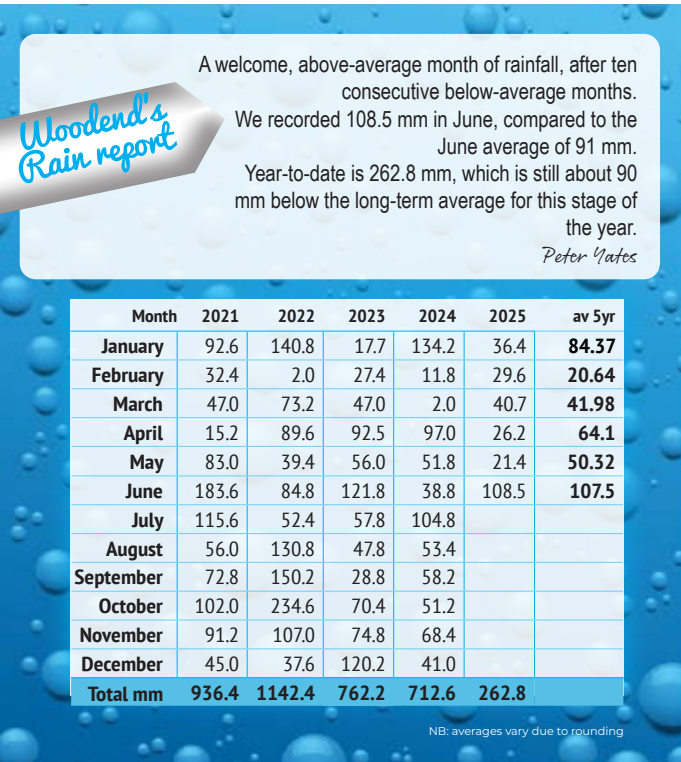
Wuktjarrang – Trading Our Way offers a positive cultural and economic framework to respond to the needs of today, and to again generate wealth without having to compromise on integrity of cultural values and obligations to Country.

“Both these documents will be instrumental to Djaara achieving self-determination – including economic self-determination. And the impact of our work is far-reaching, creating positive outcomes for all communities on Dja Dja Wurrung Country,” Ms Lewis said.

Find the strategies on DJAARA’s Resources page:

Dhelkunya Dja, Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Country Plan:
djadjawurrung.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Dhelkunya-Dja-Country-Plan-2014-2034.pdf

SUBMITTED BY SIMONE EGGER



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.



The Black Forest Sawmill: More than meets the eye

You may have driven past recently, or you may also remember the old days when the Black Forest Sawmill was a thriving operating mill, processing timber products sourced from our local and surrounding forests. Operating at the current site in Woodend, the sawmill first opened in the mid 1950s and with the amalgamation of other nearby mills in 1974, the Black Forest Sawmill continued to operate until the early 2000s, when State Government forestry policies forced the closure of the working mill.

The site is now home to a range of local businesses and community groups who utilise the space to provide products and services to the local Macedon Ranges community. The site has also become a hub for community activity as the headquarters for the Woodend Men’s Shed. Visitors to the mill site will find a variety of businesses that provide specialty timber, custom made furniture and timber products, as well as bespoke timber and aluminium windows and doors and glass products. Whatever you are after, make sure your first step is to call in to the mill and have a chat with one of the local business operators.

Current Businesses located at the mill:

- Timbersearch Australia: New and Recycled Timber
- Macedon Ranges Timber Tops: Custom made furniture specialists
- Evolve Windows / Macedon Ranges Timber Windows & Doors: Custom built windows and doors



- Diamond Trusses: Locally manufactured timber trusses and supplier of wall frames
- Specialised Glass and Glazing: Glass supply and replacements, shower screens, pool Fencing
- CDM Earthmoving and Landscaping: General earthmoving and landscaping
- Woodend Men’s Shed: Community group providing a setting for men to meet and mix

SUBMITTED BY SCOTT VERNON



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Rotary on the move

Acknowledging Service and Leadership

Rotarians, family, and friends, including District 9800 Governor Peter Shephard, gathered for a happy celebration to mark Woodend Rotary's 38th Presidential Changeover. The club honoured outgoing president Adriaan Adolph, who highlighted the achievements of the past year and expressed gratitude to the outgoing board. Special recognition was given to retiring board members, including Community Service Chair Anne Brown and Membership Chair Tony Watters.

Incoming president Rosemary Guyatt, who joined the Rotary Club of Woodend in October 2015, received a warm welcome from club members. She thanked Woodend Rotary for placing their confidence in her and outlined her vision for the year ahead. Rosemary introduced the new board, consisting of Adriaan Adolph, Josephine Falzarano, Terry Longton, Mick Deviny, Vicki Greene, Grant Hocking, Kathryn Footner, Michael Lishman and Jon Hazelton.

A highlight of the event was the presentation of a cheque for \$40,000 from *The New Woodend Star's* Management Committee. Additionally, a donation of \$4,000 was made to support free cleft repair surgery for underprivileged children in Bangladesh, enabling them to lead normal and fulfilling lives.

SUBMITTED BY JOSEPHINE FALZARANO



Photo: handover of the Rotary Collar from Adriaan Adolph to Rosemary Guyatt.



Photo: L-R: Mick Deviny, Rosemary Guyatt, Grant Hocking, Adriaan Adolph, Vicki Green, Josephine Falzarano, Terry Longton, Kathryn Footner



Photo: Kathryn Footner receiving the Paul Harris award from Adriaan Adolph with the help of Peter Shephard, District Governor 9800 (Left)



Photo: Jon Hazelton receiving the Darryl Crozier award from Adriaan Adolph.

Landcare Week 2025: Everyone Can Make a Difference

Landcare Week 2025 runs from 4–10 August, celebrating everyday people who are restoring bushland, protecting native species, improving soil and water health, and passing on knowledge to the next generation. These are people who see a problem and roll up their sleeves to do something about it.

The ongoing message behind the campaign is simple, but powerful: L.I.F.E – Landcare Is For Everyone. You don't need to be a conservationist or a landholder to make a difference. Whether you're planting native plants in your garden, looking after a patch of remnant bush, or simply choosing to live more sustainably, you are part of the Landcare movement.

If you've ever thought about getting involved, now is the perfect time to join your local group. Visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/Live-Work/Environment/Environment-Groups to find a group near you.

Ashbourne Landcare

Ashbourne Landcare Group (ALG) has received a grant to establish a process of seed collection, propagation in a greenhouse and planting. The group focusses on the control of weeds, particularly gorse, blackberry and hawthorn, and on the care of the natural environment, enabling residents to plant locally sourced plants to greatly benefit the environment and local wildlife.

Much of Ashbourne lies in the catchment area of the Campaspe River, which flows into Campaspe Reservoir, which in turn supplies water to many local residents. The quality of the water greatly depends on how landholders treat their patch of the catchment, in particular protecting waterways from degradation by livestock and weeds. The ALG assists landholders who wish to do this work by providing advice and seeking grants and advice from relevant authorities.

At the group's recent AGM, a film showed the history of the various grants received in recent years, which have concentrated on assisting landholders to control their weeds, established bio links to encourage wildlife and funded speakers on a range of topics relating to farming, land care and wildlife such as frogs and birds. For more information on membership, check the Ashbourne Landcare website.

SUBMITTED BY JANE HOLTH

Integrating Permaculture and Landcare principles on smaller rural properties

Newham and District Landcare Group are hosting what promises to be a fascinating illustrated – and free – talk on Friday 12 September at Newham Hall. Permaculture's co-founder, David Holmgren will talk about his 12 Permaculture Principles and how they integrate into Landcare's aims on small to medium-sized landholdings in the Macedon Ranges.

"His observations and practical experience over the 50 years since he and Bill Mollison founded what is now a worldwide movement will surely stimulate lively discussion," organiser Bruce Hedge said.

David will discuss how permaculture can be integrated into Landcare aims, like biolinks, shelterbelts and weed control on a broader scale.

Admission is free, a light supper will be provided, and wine by the glass for a donation will be available.

Friday, 12 September at 7pm for a 7.30pm start, at Newham Hall, opposite the Fire Station. For further details, contact Bruce Hedge on 0427 888 122.



Photo credit: Bruce Hedge

Macedon Ranges-wide savings on state-of-the-art hot water heat pump systems

Save up to \$950 off pre-1 July 2025 pricing, including enhanced Solar Victoria hot water rebate for systems with Australian-made components to help you access this efficient, money-saving heat pump technology.

Volunteers from Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group's GREG Project are offering a bulk buy discount on Australian Reclaim hot water heat pumps of \$550 for installations from now until end of November through our trusted installation partner, t2zero.

In a world where prices keep going up, it is now more affordable to install a premium quality hot water heat pump suited to our Macedon Ranges climate. The saving of up to \$950 comprises a bulk buy discount of \$550 plus a \$400 increase in the Solar Vic means tested hot water rebate from \$1,000 to \$1,400 from 1 July for systems with Australian made products. Victorian VEEC and Federal STC rebates also apply.

Hot water represents 24% of the average home's energy bills. Energy efficient heat pumps reduce hot water enerav use by up to 80%. If you have rooftop solar panels, your hot water bill becomes negligible by using your hot water as an energy battery.

Find more information about this leading Australian brand of heat pump and complete the expression of interest form on mrsg.org.au/heatpump-buy or follow this QR code:



Reclaim Energy hot water heat pump bulk buy

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In conjunction with Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group and support from Reclaim Energy, t2zero is co-ordinating a community hot water upgrade initiative

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Visit: t2zero.com.au/bulk-buy or call Jürgen: 0436 220 220



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*\$950 saving comprises \$550 bulk buy discount PLUS \$400 increase in the Solar Vic means tested hot water rebate for eligible applicants from 1-July

The cheaper home battery program began on 1 July, 2025

A cheaper Australian government program became available on 1 July that provides an upfront discount on the cost of installing home batteries.

Key features of the program include:

- A discount of around 30% on the upfront cost of a solar battery, capped in practice at approximately \$344 per usable kWh of storage.
- Available for households, small businesses, and community organisations with a new or existing solar PV system.
- The battery must be capable of being part of a Virtual Power Plant (VPP), but joining a VPP is optional.
- Installation must be done by a Clean Energy Council accredited installer
- The rebate will conclude on December 31 2030, with the incentive amount decreasing each year.
- This rebate can be combined with eligible state and territory battery incentives.
- Savings: The cost of a typical 13.5 kWh battery could be reduced by up to \$4,000 with the rebate.
- The rebate is delivered through the Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme (SRES), similar to the way rooftop solar subsidies are handled.
- You can only claim this rebate once per property, so getting the right sized battery from the get-go will save money.

Victorian residents could also benefit from a solar panel rebate (see www.solar.vic.gov.au/solar-panel-rebate) up to \$1,400 and an interest-free loan equivalent to the rebate amount.

Note that free one-on-one consultations on all aspects of electrification, including installing solar panels and home batteries, are available from carefully selected trusted partners via GREG (Go Renewable Energy Group). To book your free consult, visit: mrsg.org.au/greg

Such a consult can make sure that any proposed installation is tailored to your home and lifestyle, not just the rebate. As always, we're here to help you find the right long-term setup, not a one-size-fits-all system.

SUBMITTED BY THEONNE DE KRETZER ON BEHALF OF ELECTRIFY MACEDON RANGES,

Nice warm toes? Remember where the smoke goes

Victoria's environmental watchdog has advice for wood burning heater owners this winter.

The condition of the heater, the flue and the fuel you're using all contribute to the amount of smoke from your chimney. EPA's Chief Environmental Scientist Jen Martin says you'll get less smoke and more heat, if you do it right.

"Have your chimney professionally cleaned every year, only burn dry, clean wood, and extinguish your fire before going to bed or leaving the house," Dr Martin said.

"Don't leave it smouldering, it's inefficient, generates more smoke and creates a fire hazard," she said.

Wood heater owners have an obligation under the Environment Protection Act's General Environment Duty to minimise the smoke from their wood heater. EPA urges anyone burning wood to consider their neighbours' health and seek alternative heat sources, especially on calm days with not much wind.

The people most sensitive to smoke from wood heaters are those with heart or lung conditions such as asthma, pregnant women,



Empower Your Home webinars

We've had great success with the Empower Your Home 'lunch and learn' sessions, with almost 500 people having registered for our eight webinars so far.

Join our upcoming August sessions. These events are brought to you by the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance, Councils including City of Greater Bendigo, Central Goldfields Shire, Macedon Ranges Shire and Pyrenees Shire.

To register for any of the below sessions, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/environment-events.

Solar and Batteries 101 – 4 August, 12.30–1.30pm

This session will help you understand whether a solar and/or battery system is the right choice for you, how best to proceed and then optimise savings.

Learn how solar and battery systems work, how to determine what's right for your property/context, how to review quotes and the latest government incentives.

Led by Frank Forster from EnviroShop Newstead, a leading expert and local advocate for home electrification.

Electrify your Ride: Market Updates & Novated Leasing – 1 September, 12.30–1.15pm

The electric vehicle market is moving fast, with new electric SUVs and utes now added. Hear the latest from the market for all vehicle and bike ranges, as well as salary packaging and financial options available.

Hear from experts Rohan Martin, CEO of National Automotive Leasing and Salary Packaging Association (NALSPA), and Thijs van der Heijden, Founder of Sparque – eBike experts and eBike Novated Leasing.

SUBMITTED BY PETER YATES



Woodend Farmers' Market in winter, photo KGMG Creative.

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Woodend Landcare – Saving a threatened species



Woodend and surrounds is the only home in Victoria to the threatened Black Gum (Eucalyptus aggregata). The Black Gum is our unofficial floral emblem! Woodend Landcare has spent decades working to save the Black Gum population from extinction with a combination of weed control to allow more natural recruitment, and by planting young Black Gum trees.

Our efforts have mainly focussed on public land along the creek, inside the town boundaries. Once, there would also have been plenty of Black Gums growing on private land along the creeks between Hanging Rock and Woodend, and also downstream of Buffalo Stadium and along Slatey Creek. Many of these areas only have scant native tree cover, are devoid of trees entirely, or are infested with forests of weedy trees such as willows and poplars. The long-term plan is to bring some of these areas back to a more natural state, and in the process, create a significant corridor for wildlife – a "biolink".

Our friends at the Threatened Species Conservancy have been working with Landcare's help for many years, bolstering Black Gum numbers and habitat on private land outside the town boundaries.

At our AGM (10am Sunday 10 August, Woodend Neighbourhood House), our guest speaker Stan, from the not-for-profit organisation Threatened Species Conservancy (TSC), will give us an overview of the inspirational projects TSC are involved with, including the next steps for our Black Gum's conservation.

If you own property along the creek lines around Woodend and Hanging Rock, and/or would like to help threatened species, this talk will be of interest to you. If you prefer to avoid the AGM and just listen to the talk, feel free to join us at 10.45am for morning tea, with the TSC talk to follow.

See you there!

Notice of Annual General Meeting

10am Sunday 10 August 2025

Woodend Neighbourhood House

47 Forest St, Woodend

Guest speaker: Stan Wawrzyczek on Saving Woodend's Black Gums

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7AM - 9AM

9AM-11AM

11AM - 1PM

1PM-2:30PM



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Join us to explore funeral choices at the Natural Grace Woodend Open Day 2025.

Friday
8 August 2025
10am - 2pm
65 Urquhart Street
Woodend

Call us on (03) 5427 3112
www.naturalgrace.com.au




Demystifying end of life and after death care

What do you know about end of life and after death care? What don't you know but would like to know? What are your end of life and after death care wishes? Have you talked with family members about your wishes?

According to a 2022 YouGov survey, only 53% of Australians feel comfortable talking to a family member about their end of life. It's a tender topic, often avoided. Yet by opening these conversations, we offer a deep kindness to those around us – removing guesswork, easing burdens, and allowing our wishes to be known.

Dying to Know Day on 8 August is a National Day of Action acknowledging the final stage of life and encouraging Australians not to wait to talk about death.

Following on from the success of their Open Day last year, Natural Grace in Woodend is again opening their Sanctuary for everyone to come and visit. They will have a variety of coffins, caskets, shrouds and urns on display, and attendees will be able to look behind the scenes at the operations of a funeral home.

Attendees will also be encouraged to ask questions that they might not otherwise feel they could ask.

Sharon Tregoning, Practice Manager and Holistic Funeral Director said that no question is off limits.

"Our aim is to provide a warm, welcoming and safe space for people to come and have their questions about end of life and funeral care addressed. August 8th is also our 13th birthday, so join us for a cuppa and a chat," she said.

Natural Grace is located at 65 Urquhart St, Woodend and the Open Day runs from 10am to 2pm on Friday 8 August, 2025.

For any queries, please contact us on 5427 3112. There's no need to register your attendance.

SUBMITTED BY SHARON TREGONING



Message from your West Ward councillors

The clock has ticked past the longest day (winter solstice) and it's a new financial year, with the 2025/26 budget adopted. The budget includes an increase in expenditure to renew and upgrade Council's assets and works on Council's local roads, bridges, drainage and new footpaths and also building renewals. The work is spread over the year and is planned with consideration to such things as weather conditions, so although works may be included in the budget they may not occur until later this year or in 2026. Funds are allocated for design work for various projects and recreation initiatives that we hope can then be built the following financial year. In addition to two vouchers for free green waste in Shire Life, there will also be two weeks of free unlimited green waste disposal, which is anticipated to be for one week around October 2025 (in preparation for summer) and for one week in June 2026 (post-autumn).

Following the deliberative community engagement process and a workshop with councillors and officers, we hope to have the draft ten-year Council Plan and other important documents out for community feedback, so please keep a watch for these and take some time to read them and let us know your thoughts.

To provide feedback on any projects out for consultation, please check our website: yoursay.mrsc.vic.gov.au

Thanks to those who attended and/or made submissions to the consultation for the proposed speed reduction for the central area of Woodend, which aims to improve safety for pedestrians and all road users. This is a joint project together with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) and the Transport Accident Commission (TAC).

Shout out to the Woodend Neighbourhood House (WNH) and other Houses around the Shire who have partnered with Council to host some workshops focused on being prepared for and responding to emergencies together. Our Shire has experienced a very high number of emergency event declarations in Victoria since 2019, and this work is very important as we look to the future.

Finally, our congratulations to the Woodend Hesket Football Netball Club (WHFNC) on the opening of the two new netball courts. We recognize the efforts and determination of all those who were involved over the years, especially Kellie Duff. The lifetime award and official naming of the court after Kellie is well deserved and a fitting tribute to recognize her tireless energy over so many years supporting women and girls in netball.

Best wishes,

Janet, Kate and Jennifer.

SUBMITTED BY CR JANET PEARCE
ON BEHALF OF WEST WARD COUNCILLORS

Have your say on upcoming Council consultations

Council's Your Say online engagement hub is your go-to source for information and feedback on all Council-led consultations, in addition to other external consultations Council may support.

Due to the editorial deadlines of community newsletters and the need for some consultations to be tabled and considered at Council Meetings, we may not always be able to provide firm consultation dates through community newsletters. However, the following matters are expected to be consulted on soon, if they are not already live:

- Drafts of revised key strategic Council documents, such as the Council Plan, following earlier consultation in late 2024 and throughout 2025
- A pedestrian and cyclist survey for Romsey, to gain insights into local issues and needs
- Kyneton Airfield leases, following earlier consultation directly with tenants throughout 2025
- Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan, following earlier consultation in April 2025
- Any adjustments to dog off-leash and prohibited areas (also known as Council's Dog and Cat Order 2019), following earlier consultation in July–August 2024
- Draft Woodend Racecourse Reserve Master Plan, following earlier consultation in August–September 2024
- A review of Council's Affordable Housing Policy and strategy
- An update to Council's Biodiversity Strategy

Visit yoursay.mrsc.vic.gov.au to view current consultations, provide feedback and sign up to receive tailored alerts about future consultations as they are listed.

We also understand that not everyone is able to readily access digital platforms like this, or prefer hard copies – we welcome enquiries on any of our consultations and can endeavour to provide hard-copy information and survey questions on request.



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Doing Business with Council – Free Tendering and Procurement Information Session

Wednesday, 13 August 2025 | 1.30 to 3pm

Gisborne Administration and Service Centre, 40 Robertson Street

Learn how to apply for Council procurement and tendering contract opportunities. Meet and hear from a panel of Council representatives sharing information and guidance to help businesses better understand the tendering and procurement process and information about Council's capital works program.

Afternoon tea will be provided, followed by presentations from relevant Council departments plus a guest presentation by Industry Capability Network (ICN), the supply chain and procurement network specialists.

To book or for more information, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/business-events, email ecodevadmin@mrsc.vic.gov.au or call 5421 9674.



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*REA data incorporating Woodend Daylesford & Castlemaine region sales from July 2024 - May 2025.
If your property is exclusively listed with another agent, please disregard this communication.

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How Much Are Home Energy Rebates Really Worth?

Hint: It's probably more than you think.

If you've been considering solar, battery storage or getting off gas, you've probably wondered if the rebates are still around or if you even qualify.

The good news? Most homeowners in Woodend are still eligible for thousands in support. And with the right plan, it's possible to unlock \$10,000 **or more** across multiple upgrades.

The biggest mistake people make is assuming they only qualify for one rebate, or none at all.

Most of the incentives are not income tested. They're based on the size and type of system you install. That means if you take the time to look at how your upgrades can work together, the support starts to add up.

Here's a quick example to break it down:

- \$2,800 in STCs for a 10kW solar system
- \$3,000–\$15,000+ in battery support through the 'Cheaper Home Battery Program'
- \$1,000 from Solar Victoria for a heat pump hot water upgrades
- \$1,000 in combined STCs and VEECs for heat pump hot water upgrades
- \$3,000 + in VEECs for replacing old ducted gas heating with an efficient electric system

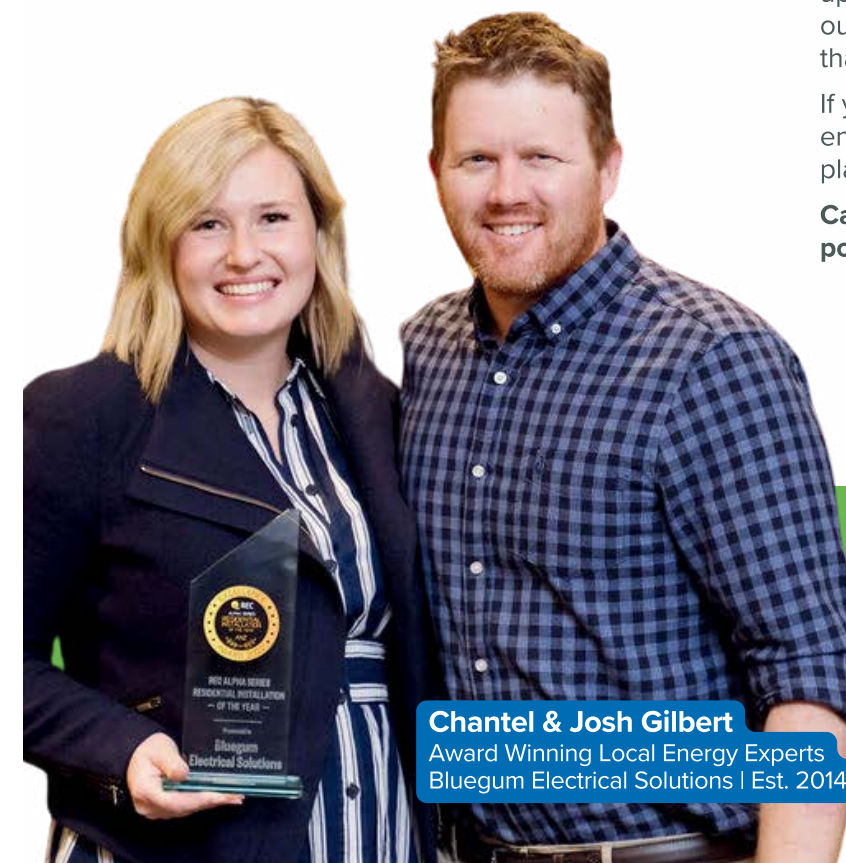
We recently helped a family near Gisborne who upgraded their solar, added a 40kWh battery, and switched to heat pump hot water. Their total rebate value was over \$15,000, all applied upfront, no loans, no income testing.

The key is to start with the right advice. If your upgrades aren't sized or timed correctly, you could miss out on thousands in support or end up with a system that doesn't meet your needs down the track.

If you're thinking about making your home more energy-efficient or all-electric, it's worth getting a plan in place now. Rebates decrease every year.

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Homelessness Week in the Macedon Ranges

Council is partnering with Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health on a community event in August marking Homelessness Week 2025, to raise awareness of the issue and local supports available.

The event will be held on Tuesday 5 August at the Kyneton Mechanics Institute, with doors opening at 10:30am and the event commencing at 11am, followed by a networking and service expo at 11:45am including a morning tea, where you can meet local services and find out what support is available in the Macedon Ranges.

Mayor Dom Bonanno noted that in some of the latest available data, being the Australian Bureau of Statistics' March 2023 Estimating Homelessness report, homelessness in the Macedon Ranges had increased by 31.4% between the 2016 and 2021 Census.

"Homelessness is a complex issue that touches more lives than many people realise. Events like this bring our community together, help reduce stigma, and connect people with the services and information they need," he said.

"By working together and raising awareness, we can take meaningful steps towards ending homelessness in the Macedon Ranges."

Mayor Bonanno also reiterated that amid the Victorian Government's recent housing targets, an essential aspect of meeting the future housing needs of the Macedon Ranges was to ensure the availability of local, affordable housing.

"A minimum \$30 million investment has been allocated to the Macedon Ranges through the Victorian Government's Big Housing Build; however, to date, only \$12.5 million has been allocated to our region," he said.

"We have requested confirmation from the Victorian Government as to the availability of the remaining \$17.5 million and how it will be allocated, and we welcome future partnership opportunities to provide more local affordable housing."

Homelessness Week is a national campaign that encourages community support and government action to end homelessness. It's also a time to learn more about how the issue affects people in our own region.

The event is free and open to everyone. No registration is needed - just come along.

To learn more about this event and local housing support services, visit: mrsc.vic.gov.au/Homelessness-Week



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Hanging Rock – a living landscape for the Lost Trades Fair

Hanging Rock's reputation as a legendary destination for unforgettable events will be further enhanced with the Lost Trades Fair returning to where it all began, the Macedon Ranges, in 2026.

One of the most unique events in the country, the Lost Trades Fair celebrates craftsmanship, skilled manual work, decorative arts, heritage crafts, rare trades, and generational knowledge. Next year, the tools, traditions, techniques, and trades secrets will all be on show against a backdrop only the Hanging Rock Reserve can provide.

Founders of the Lost Trades Fair Lisa and Glen Rundell are thrilled to be bringing the event back to the region where it all started back in 2014.

"Hanging Rock is one of the most iconic sites in the state and it is very exciting to be able to bring our artisans – the rock stars of traditional and heritage trades – together at such an inspirational site to share their skills, trades, talent, stories, culture and knowledge, and to celebrate the finest levels of human craftsmanship," Lisa said.

"We look forward to moving Lost Trades to this magical location and deliver an unmatched experience to the thousands of visitors from across Australia and around the world that attend each year," she said.

Council's Mayor Dom Bonanno is excited by the return of the popular event to the Macedon Ranges.

"Hanging Rock has a reputation as a location that has the power and magic to elevate events, and the return of the Lost Trades Fair is a perfect fit to inspire and captivate attendees and participants alike. Whether you are an avid fan or a first timer, this is one event you won't want to miss," he said.

"The Lost Trades Fair also gives our local accommodation and hospitality businesses a real boost and an opportunity to showcase their wares, with the event projected to bring more than \$3 million to the local economy".

Further details including dates will be finalised soon.

SUBMITTED BY BRAD MATHIESON

“The country habit has me by the heart”

When Vita Sackville West wrote these words in 1926, she shared this passion for living in the country, and enjoyed the habit.

This is the seed from which has grown Country Habit. Enjoying involvement in the local community and business, Fran Wigley established this small textile-based clothing and homeware store in November 2006.

The store has recently re-located to Woodend and can be found at 42 Urquhart Street. It is open 6 days a week, closed on Wednesday. Watch for the bicycle out front and the new lavender garden under the windows.

Country Habit supports locally made and locally designed. You will find some fun Woodend tea-towels, shopping bags and fridge magnets, together with a great collection of greeting cards featuring the work of many local artists. Australian flowers and wildlife are featured on silk and wool scarves together with locally made hankies for everyone. Alongside the children’s wear is a select range of board books by well known Australian children’s authors.

Stocking clothing and sleepwear for most members of your family, from size 0000 for tiny babies to XXXL for larger men, Country Habit has a wide range of choices in mostly natural fibres. And... great socks made in Melbourne.



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To give you a taste of something special from overseas, the fragrance of the Italian soaps will greet you as you arrive, and the collection of Portmeirion china at the back of the store is very special. Need something else to carry all your purchases? Why not select one of the French market baskets.

Get the Habit, visit soon. New stock is arriving all the time.

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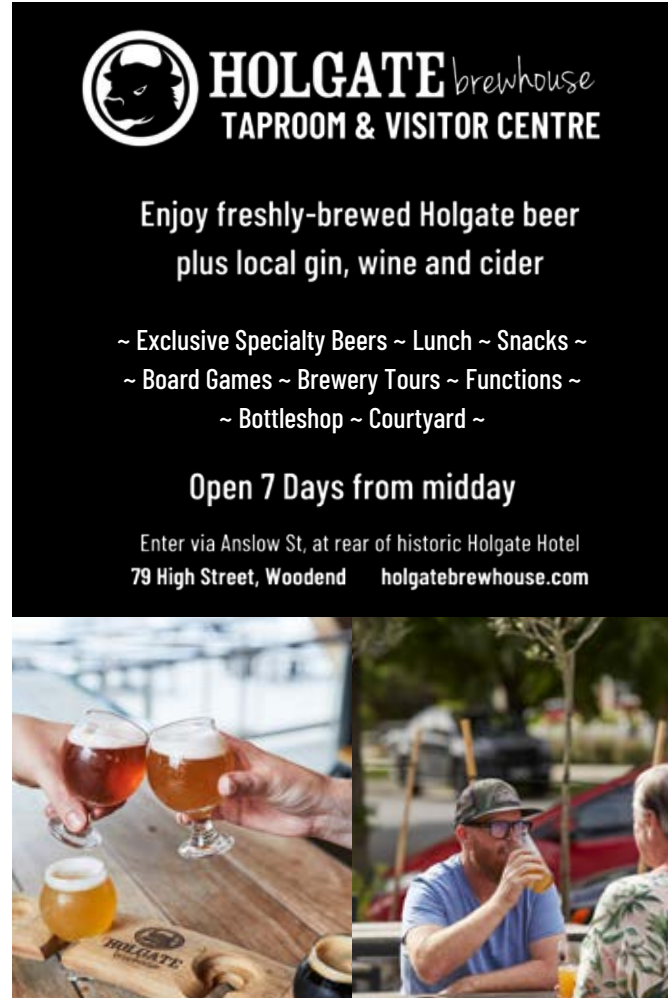



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News from Trentham Branch

Lovely Lunches!

We are proud to again contribute to the running of Woodend Neighbourhood House's monthly Community Lunches hosted by the Woodend RSL.

What a great way to connect with others and enjoy a fantastic 2 course lunch on a budget! Lunch is free or by donation.



Bookings are essential, call 5427 1845, register in person at the Neighbourhood House or via the website <https://www.woodendnh.org.au/whats-on>

Trentham's Words in Winter

An annual winter tradition brought back to life after the covid years, Trentham's Words in Winter celebrates their 21st festival this August! From internationally acclaimed speakers, authors, poets, actors and musicians to stories of the past, sweet events and competitions, enjoy the depths of winter when wisdom, entertainment and good company is warmly shared at this huge festival!

We are proud to support Trentham Words in Winter – check the events page to make your bookings now! <https://www.trenthamwordsinwinter.org/2025-festival-events>



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News from Gisborne Branch

Inspiring the Leaders of Tomorrow: Magic Moments 2025

Photo: Magic Moments students (L-R) Georgia Letson, Susannah Murray, Jesse Warne and Alex Evans at our recent grant night, with Branch staff member Ruby McMahon (far left) and Board Director Sina Smale (far right).



In July, four passionate young locals from Woodend, Newham and Riddells Creek returned home from the 2025 Magic Moments Youth Leadership and Business Summit brimming with energy and inspiration for their future.

Held over five days, the summit is a national program designed to ignite leadership potential and spark entrepreneurial thinking in young people aged 14–17. For the 8th year running, Community Bank Gisborne & District was proud once again to support local students on this life-changing journey. This year's scholars were:

- Georgia Letson (Braemar College, Woodend)
- Alex Evans and Susannah Murray (Gisborne Secondary College, Riddells Creek)
- Jesse Warne (Sacred Heart College, Newham)

Jesse returned from the summit with a personal goal: to start a business that helps young people improve their mental health through physical activity. He shared how transformational his experience was:

"I walked in as a stranger and walked out with lifelong friends. The shared vulnerability and support created a space where I felt truly seen. Heather's workshop taught me the power of authenticity, while the finance sessions sparked a real interest in investing and building wealth. Most importantly, I learned that leadership is about listening, learning, and leading with heart.

"This wouldn't have been possible without the support of Bendigo Bank, whose sponsorship made my journey to Magic Moments a reality. Because of that opportunity, I left with not only powerful memories but a renewed sense of purpose."

By choosing to bank with us, you make local support like this possible.

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Special Event: Screening of 'Under Cover: The Hidden Faces of Homelessness. Monday 4 August, 11am



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Documentary highlighting the devastating reality that women 50+ are the fastest growing cohort experiencing homelessness in Australia. Narrated by Margot Robbie. Bookings required.

Craft afternoon – Every first Wednesday – next session: 6 August, 2pm

Join our friendly gatherings and connect over craft. Bring your current project, share tips and learn new skills. No bookings required.

Baby Rhyme Time: Fridays 11–11.30am during school term

Join Kaz on Fridays for simple stories, songs and rhymes for babies up to one year old.

Cloud Storytime: Tuesday 12 August, 10am and Friday 15 August, 10am

Explore the sky through stories, songs and science, and create your very own cloud identifier to take home.

Tiny Art exhibition and winners announced 1–31 August

Come in and check out our beautiful masterpieces in our Tiny Art exhibition and vote for your favourite!

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

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SUBMITTED BY EMMA KEENAN



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Woodend Senior Citizens

The June bus trip was to the Old Treasury Building in Spring Street, Melbourne. It was very interesting with the history of places in early Melbourne set out in different rooms, including the Gold Rush.

For the July bus trip, we travelled to the Highlands Hotel in Craigieburn for a buffet lunch. There was a great selection, and we could add to our plates a number of times, followed by sweets! A great day for food.

Looking ahead, the August bus trip is on Thursday 14 August to the Fyansford Paper Mill (near Geelong). The cost (please contact below for more details) is to be paid by Friday 8 August at 1pm, as we have to pay for the tour on that Friday.

New members are always welcome. We meet regularly in the Undercroft of the Woodend Neighbourhood House for:

- Button Bingo on Tuesdays 1pm–3pm, finishing with a cuppa and chat
- Playing cards on Fridays 1pm–4pm

General meetings are conducted on the first Tuesday of the month at 1pm and the Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 7 October.

For more information, call Margaret (0458 272 767), Irene (0417 676 843) or Alma (0400 134 478).

SUBMITTED BY ALMA W, PRESIDENT.

News from the Woodend Neighbourhood House



The Term 3 brochure is out now!

Our brand new Term 3 program, for activities running to 19 September, is out now and packed with opportunities to connect, learn, and grow together. Stop by the Woodend Neighbourhood House between 9am and 3pm Monday to Friday to pick up a copy.

New Workshops and Classes

We have several new workshops and classes this term, designed to inspire learning, creativity and wellbeing:

- Leatherwork Class – Get hands-on and create your own suede leather belt pouch with Wendy.
- Starting Acrylics – Curious about painting? Begin your acrylics journey with our art tutor Marilyn.
- Understanding AI – Unpack what AI really is and how it’s shaping our lives.
- Kids’ Clothing Swap – refresh your kids’ wardrobe while saving money and reducing waste.
- Intergenerational Playgroup – Together with Woodend Playgroup, we’re connecting seniors and preschoolers
- Let’s Talk Yoga – Share tea and conversation with Sarah, exploring yoga beyond the mat.
- A Taste of Ayurveda – Discover the original lifestyle medicine with Fiona.
- Sunday Yoga Workshop Series – Deep dive into Hatha Yoga with Chitra.
- Laughter Yoga – Boost your mood and wellbeing through playful exercises.
- Mindfulness Workshop – Learn simple mindfulness skills with Mary for deep relaxation.

Your Favourites Are Back

Returning this term are groups and classes including gardening, mahjong, social groups, yoga, children’s programs, walking and cycling. From Community Lunch to Qi Gong, Bendy Buddies Yoga, and West African Drumming, there truly is something for everyone.

We look forward to seeing you soon at the House!

For more information about any of our upcoming activities, workshops, courses, or events, drop by the House (47 Forest Street, Woodend), visit our website www.woodendnh.org.au or call 5427 1845.

SUBMITTED BY MELISSA BAKER



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Winter news from MRDOC!

Winter is definitely here, but of course, that doesn’t stop us from meeting on a Sunday morning (we make sure we are rugged up in our winter woolies!). Regular attendance is the best way to get your dog into a routine, to socialise (both dogs and humans) and to help produce a well-behaved furry family member.

This July, we had seven new members join us ... Welcome aboard!

In May, we had our Mock Trial Fun Day. Awards were given for each grade: 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th, as well as some Highly Commended. This was a great chance for members to get some personal feedback on their progress. Well done to everyone who attended.

Whilst we may have forgotten the nice warm nights that we experienced for our Twilight classes over the summer months, we haven’t forgotten that we were able to raise some money and donate to some charity organisations that do great work to support animals in their local communities. Thank you to our Instructors who donated their time to make this happen.

If you have been thinking about joining MRODC, we would love to see you. Don’t let the cold weather deter you! Details can be found on the website at www.macedonrangesdogclub.org.au, or contact us via our Facebook page, or email info@macedonrangesdogclub.org.au and a representative from the club will contact you.

SUBMITTED BY LORETTO FRASER, MRODC INSTRUCTOR/COMMITTEE MEMBER

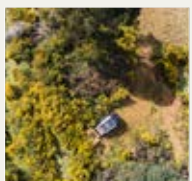


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Woodend Probus

Our speaker for June was Annie Lennie, who regaled us with stories about her involvement with hockey, or as she says, "the most fun you can have with a lethal weapon". Annie talked about her times with her local Melbourne club, and her involvement in national and international hockey, starting out as a scorer and working her way to being a local player, coach, umpire, state and international team manager and technical officer and everything else in between.

She still enjoys a very busy hockey life.

Our next meeting (August) is, unfortunately, cancelled due to various other commitments and holiday plans of most of our committee and members. Please consider coming along to our September meeting, to be held on Friday 19 September at the Norma Richardson Hall in Buckland Street Woodend, opposite the Woodend Cemetery.

All are most welcome.

SUBMITTED BY ROBYN BULL



Vale Jim Muir

The Woodend Fire Brigade is saddened by the loss of long term member Jim 'Jimmy' Muir.

Jim joined the Woodend CFA in 1982 and was a fantastic contributor to the Brigade for more than 30 years in many important roles. He served as Brigade Secretary for two periods and also served on numerous committees.

He was heavily involved with many successful Brigade Running Teams at numerous competitions – locally, intrastate and interstate. He was also instrumental in the success of the Brigade Juniors Program, playing an important role in the development of many young Woodend people – some of whom are still active with the Brigade today, including 1st Lieutenant Malcolm Judd. So, it was no surprise he was made a Life Member of the Brigade.

Regulars to Paysanne in Woodend will miss the regular visits of Jim and wife Shirley.

The Woodend CFA offers its sincerest sympathies to Shirley, and to children Susan and Tony.



Photo: Jim Muir (right) with former Captain and 1993 competition winner Daniel Boyle (supplied)

Beware of the hot spots around your home

The CFA has an informative interactive website to highlight the 'hot spots' that should be checked in all houses. To download the Winter Fire Safety Checklist, please visit: www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/home-fire-safety-checklist

Here you will find lots of useful information about appliances and places that will be found in nearly every home, and the dangers that they can present in winter.



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Dangers during winter

CFA statistics show that one-third of all house fires started in the kitchen, 20% were caused by heat from fuel fires and fuel-powered objects such as stoves and heaters, and another 20% from faulty or overloaded equipment. Here are several other examples: electric blankets, clothes dryers, open fire places, heaters, candles and powerboards.

Keep clothes and other items at least one metre away from all heating devices. Supervise children near all types of heating. Never leave portable heaters or fireplaces unattended; and turn off heating devices before leaving home or going to sleep.

Develop and practice your escape plan – have two ways to escape from your home. Above all else, make sure your smoke alarm is working. Take a few minutes today to test your smoke alarms. It could save your life.

Our busy year continues

Our busy year has continued into June and July: we have been called to more than 100 jobs in the first six months. To put that into perspective, we reached that mark last year in late-December ... and we still have five months to go this 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



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Community Choice Awards 2025 – winners announced

Macedon Ranges Shire Council is proud to announce the winners of the Telstra Macedon Ranges Community Choice Awards 2025.

Residents and visitors were invited to nominate the businesses they believe exemplified excellence in service, with 67 local businesses nominated across five categories. A two-month public voting window followed, giving the community the chance to support their favourites and help determine the winners.

The winners for the Excellence in Customer Service awards were:

- Agribusiness and Primary Production (sponsored by Macedon Ranges Shire Council): **Josh's Rainbow Eggs**
- Health and Wellbeing (sponsored by Community Bank – Gisborne & District): **Macedon Ranges Aqua Aerobics**
- Hospitality and Accommodation (sponsored by Macedon Ranges Business and Tourism Associations): **Woodend Cellar & Bar**
- Professional, Retail and Service (sponsored by Telstra): **Riddells Creek Nursery**
- Trades and Manufacturing (sponsored by nbn®): **Magnum Signs**

Mayor Dom Bonanno congratulated the award recipients, noting that the recognition is a testament to the businesses' dedication and strong connection to our community.

"These businesses have been voted by community members in recognition of their outstanding service, and these awards are a demonstration of how a little excellent customer service goes a long way," he said.

"We're incredibly proud of the passion, dedication and high standards demonstrated by all nominees, and we thank them for the important role they play in contributing to the vibrancy of our shire."

Council also extends its congratulations to all the businesses who were nominated.

"Being recognised by the community is an achievement in itself, and each nomination reflects the positive impact these businesses have on the lives of residents and visitors alike," Mayor Bonanno said. "Their dedication to outstanding service helps strengthen the spirit and identity of the Macedon Ranges."

"Finally, a big thank you to all of our wonderful sponsors for their support – our naming rights sponsor in Telstra, each of our category sponsors listed above and our media sponsor Midland Express."

The Telstra Macedon Ranges Community Choice Awards continue to celebrate local business excellence, alternating every second year with the Business Excellence Awards.

SUBMITTED BY BRAD MATHIESON

Dance Freely in the Dark!

Come and join us for an hour of pure dance bliss at No Lights No Lycra Woodend!

This is your chance to experience the unadulterated joy of movement in a casual, free-form dance session held in the dark.

Forget about judgment, lessons, or even talking – this is simply about dancing for the sake of dancing. Immerse yourself in an hour of non-stop music and let your body move as it pleases.

When: Every Tuesday night, 7:30–8:30 pm

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events.humanitix.com/no-lights-no-lycra-woodend

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<https://events.humanitix.com/no-lights-no-lycra-woodend/tickets>



Celebrating 10 years of footy for fun!

Different jumpers, same mates... it's a country thing

There's something about country footy that's more authentic than metro footy. Those having a kick in suburban competitions are surrounded by clubs close by and plenty of players at hand.

In the country, we have to travel for away games and the clubs are fully supported by the names of towns they proudly carry. It's the people who week in week out volunteer to make those clubs back up each game.

When it comes to Masters footy, there's a big difference to the Metro Superules clubs. Where they are blessed with overstocked lists, and games are played for premierships, the Vic Country AFL Masters is a league of blokes who just want to have a kick for shits and giggles.

A game-day scoreboard is a rarity and often when clubs must travel for a few hours to play, the visiting team is short of a full squad. This only makes the league true to its mantra – footy for fun!

Sure, some games get willing as there's still fire in the old blokes' (beer) bellies and the competitive nature surfaces. This most definitely happens when we are overloaded with players and help fill a visiting team's side and then it's mate-against-mate footy.

When Kerang visited us, a few Hawks filled their ranks, including Mr Fisty who ran about in a 3XL Rams jumper for his M-size frame.

Some of our stars really put on a show for the opposition, some of our blokes also saw an opportunity to clip a mate. All good spirited naturally. It's like training where you



can actually tackle and bump, but mostly everyone just wants to use the opportunity to belt Chilt's.

We also played Gisborne again last month – our third time this year – which seems to be scheduled to make up for the years we were denied a derby. Regardless those games are always tough and spirited.

The Goulburn Valley Giants headed to Gilbert Gordon Oval and again we helped field their side.

We started August with a bus trip to Gippsland, which is a long drive and much harder to stop for beers on the highway, but our beloved bus driver Tobes always manages to peel off for a refreshment (pee) stop and ensure our athletes are well hydrated.

Our final home game is on Sunday August 17 and we welcome everyone to come down for the last hurrah before we hangup the boots for the season.

On Friday September 12 our Annual General Meeting will be held at the Holgate Brewhouse Taproom, which continues to support the Woodend Masters after 10 years.

We can't thank the team there enough for their support, and having our AGM there each year now is a highlight with our Tool of the Year announced. There has been some dumb shit happen this season and a few contenders. All will be revealed next issue.

If you are interested in joining the Masters, or just coming along to support us, check out our Facebook page for updates.



Proudly sponsored by



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

- AUGUST—
- 2 Woodend Farmers’ Market
 - 2 Woodend Lions Community Market
 - 4 Screening *Undercover*, Woodend Library
 - 4 MRSC webinars, Solar and batteries 101
 - 4 Opening, Another Vision exhibition at The Gallery
 - 8 Natural Grace Open Day
 - 9 International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples
 - 6 Woodend Lifestyle Carers Group, Milko Cafe
 - 7 Woodend Rotary Dinner Meeting, Vic Hotel
 - 10..... Woodend Landcare AGM
 - 11 St Ambrose School Open morning
 - 12..... The Men’s Table meeting, Vic Hotel
 - 13..... Woodend Lifestyle Carers Group, Milko Cafe
 - 13..... Doing Business with Council Info Session
 - 14..... Woodend Rotary Dinner Meeting, Vic Hotel
 - 14..... Woodend Senior Citizens trip
 - 15–31..... *A Skull In Connemara*, Mountview Theatre
 - 16..... National Rum Day
 - 19..... World Humanitarian Day
 - 20 Woodend Lifestyle Carers Group, Milko Cafe
 - 20 Knit & Natter Group, Norma Richardson Hall
 - 21..... Woodend Rotary Dinner Meeting, Vic Hotel
 - 23 Woodend Artists’ & Makers’ Market
 - 27 Woodend Lifestyle Carers Group, Milko Cafe
 - 28 Woodend Rotary Dinner Meeting, Vic Hotel
 - 31..... Working Bee, Ruby Mackenzie Park
 - 31..... Movies on the Hill Launch, Norma Richardson Hall
- SEPTEMBER—
- 5–14 Kyneton Daffodil Festival
 - 6 Woodend Farmers’ Market
 - 12..... Newham & District Landcare Permaculture talk
 - 16..... Dementia Support session, Gisborne
 - 17..... Dementia Support session, Kyneton
 - 19..... Probus meeting, Norma Richardson Hall
 - 20 WHFNC Presentation Night
 - 26 AFL Grand Final Holiday (TBC)
 - 27 Woodend Artists’ & Makers’ Market
 - 28 Movie *A Fare to Remember*, Norma Richardson Hall
- OCTOBER—
- 4 Woodend Farmers’ Market
 - 25 Woodend Artists’ & Makers’ Market
- NOVEMBER—
- 1..... Woodend Farmers’ Market
 - 4 Melbourne Cup Holiday
 - 15..... ‘Sidekick’ Ziggy and Miles concert, St Ambrose
 - 16..... Movie *The Social Climbers*, Norma Richardson Hall
 - 22 Woodend Artists’ & Makers’ Market

Entries now open for 2025 Kyneton Daffodil & Arts Festival Art Prize

The Kyneton Daffodil & Arts Festival is thrilled to announce that entries are now open for the 2025 Kyneton Daffodil Art Prize. Held as part of the region’s much-loved springtime celebration, the Art Prize welcomes artists from across Australia to showcase their creativity in this nationally recognised exhibition.

Proudly hosted by sponsor The Old Auction House, this year’s competition features a \$1,000 Grand Prize for the best artwork incorporating a daffodil. Each category winner will also receive a \$250 cash prize, with categories including:

- Esther Rose Memorial Watercolour Prize
- Oil Painting
- Acrylic Painting
- Works on Paper
- Photography
- Other Medium/Sculpture

The Esther Rose Memorial Watercolour Prize, sponsored by Ken Rose in honour of his late wife, continues to be a beloved tradition within the festival’s visual arts program.

While the overall prize requires a daffodil to be featured in the artwork, all entries – whether featuring a daffodil or not – remain eligible for their respective category awards. The competition is open to all Australian artists aged 16 and over, with a maximum of four entries per person. Both 2D and 3D artworks are accepted.

Key dates:

- Entry deadline: 29 August 2025
- Artwork delivery: 11–29 August, between 10am to 4pm daily at The Old Auction House
- Exhibition dates: 5–15 September 2025, 10am to 4pm daily
- Opening Night and Award Presentation: Friday, 5 September at 7:30pm

The exhibition will be held at The Old Auction House, 52–56 Mollison Street, Kyneton, and run for the full duration of the festival. The Kyneton Daffodil & Arts Festival is committed to celebrating diversity and inclusivity and welcomes artists from all communities and backgrounds.

To enter, visit: kynetondaffodilandartsfestival.com.au/art-competition

Be part of one of regional Victoria’s most cherished art events and help celebrate the magic of spring, creativity, and community.



Tia Alysse's picture of 2024, overall winner (supplied)

Another Vision – Michael Howes at The Gallery

Michael Howes' exhibition *Another Vision*, this August in The Gallery's Focus Room, is one man's journey from photography to painting. Michael discovered a love for photography at 10 years of age, when he was given a Kodak Brownie Starlet. This passion stayed with him through to the digital era. His subjects changed from focussing on distant and scenic images to those in the foreground. He now focuses largely on the details of objects. In some cases, he uses extreme cropping to create abstracted images.

In 2020 Michael found himself yearning to branch out from photography, for a new creative challenge that allowed both spontaneity and a meditative process. He began his journey into painting, turning to the cold wax medium (mixed with oil paints), and acrylics which are fast drying; however, when using cold wax processes, the longer curing time and thicker nature of that medium to each layer gives the artwork depth.

This exhibition also features some of the abstract images Michael has created over the last few years using photography. *Another Vision* opens on Monday 4 August until Sunday 31 August 2025. Meet the artist at his opening on Sunday 10 August at 2pm.

Exhibitions for 2026: Please check out the web page or contact or visit The Gallery for more details.

The Gallery is at 684 Mount Macedon Road, Mount Macedon, next to the Trading Post, and is open Friday to Tuesday from 10am to 4pm.

SUBMITTED BY SUE ANSON



Abstract photography (supplied)



Acrylic with cold wax medium (supplied)

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Movies on the Hill

The Norma Richardson Hall's new projection and sound system is up and running, so Movies on the Hill will be launching at 2pm on Sunday 31 August, with an encore presentation of *The Great White Whale*, introduced by its director, local filmmaker, Michael Dillon.

Movies on the Hill is planning an irregular series of film events run by St Mary's Mission, with half the ticket price of each event donated to a nominated charity or shared with a selected community group. Adult tickets include a glass of wine, and snacks will be available for purchase prior to the start of the film. Our August event will support Woodend Foodbank via St Marys Mission's local appeal.

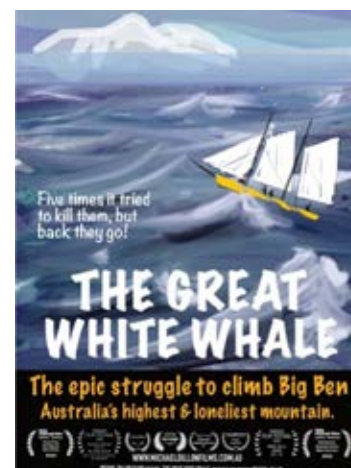
Coming events include:

28 September *A Fare to Remember* – Jump aboard Betsy, the black London taxi at Buckingham Palace, waved off by Dame Edna and headed for Sydney Opera House.

16 November *The Social Climbers* – a crazy formal dinner party held on the summit of a snowy Peruvian peak. Supporting Woodend Rotary.

Some highlights for 2026 ... *Walking with the Great Apes* – a chance to get up close and personal with Orangutans, Chimpanzees, Bonobos, and Gorillas; *Hillary: Ocean to Sky* – a wild jetboat ride up the Ganges from the Bay of Bengal to the Himalayas; *On the Trail of Genghis Khan* – Join Tim Cope, his three horses and his loyal dog, Tigon, as they traverse Ukraine's wild Carpathian Mountains; Anzac Week Special: *Gallipoli* – *A Poem to the Past*.

SUBMITTED BY ROBYN LEEDER (DILLON)



The Mount Players next performance

A dark Irish comedy with skeletons that should stay buried ...



... but where's the fun in that?

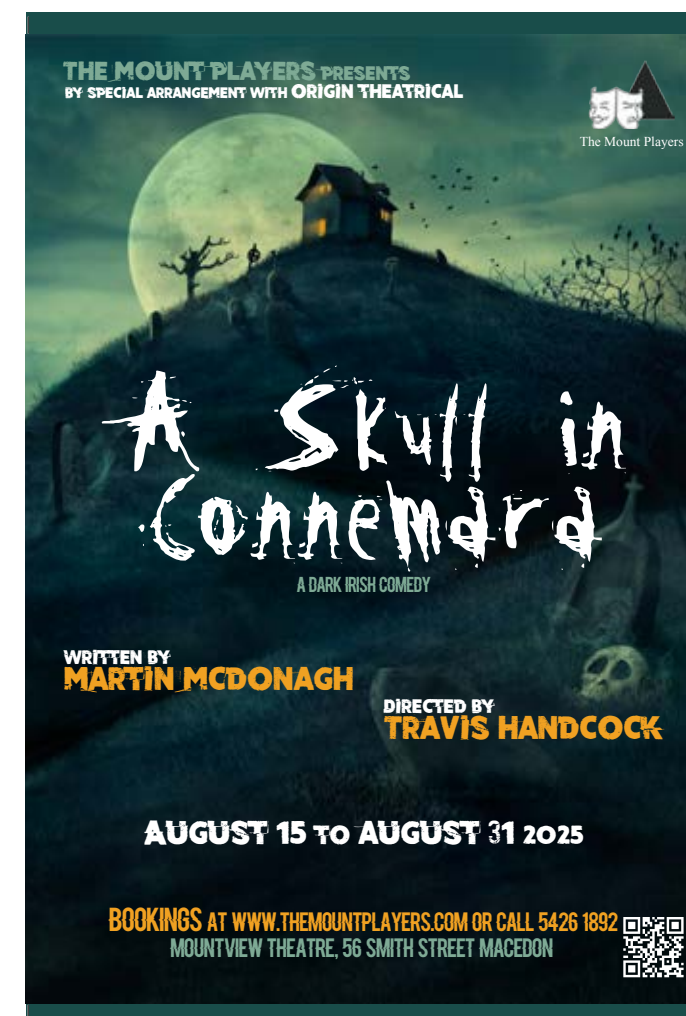
The Mount Players' next production, *A Skull in Connemara* by Martin McDonagh, runs from 15–31 August. If you're lucky, you may still get a ticket!

Synopsis: Featuring dark deeds and daft locals, this razor-sharp dark comedy is set in a quiet Irish village where the dead don't always stay buried – and neither do the secrets. Each year, gravedigger Mick Dowd is tasked with clearing out old graves to make space for the newly departed. But this year, something – or someone – hits a little too close to home. With biting wit and a mounting sense of unease, the play spirals into a hilariously macabre investigation of small-town gossip, suspicion, and the skeletons we all try to keep buried. A comedy six feet deep!

To book tickets, go to www.themountplayers.com or call 5426 1892 for assistance.

See you at the theatre!

SUBMITTED BY THE MOUNT PLAYERS



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Family Day Care Educators needed in Woodend

Early childhood educators in Woodend are encouraged to consider family day care as a way to combine their passion for childcare with a flexible, financially rewarding and professional home-based career.

Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health's Our Village Family Childcare is looking for educators in Woodend to support the growing number of families looking for home-based childcare. As a family day care educator, you can set your own schedule and hours and design your own childcare programs. Caring for children of 6 weeks to 12 years of age, you have the opportunity to care for your own children and earn an income whilst caring for others.

Educators receive support from the Our Village coordination team with, for example, marketing, the collection of fees and the initial setup of your business. Our Village can also organise an assessment of your home for its suitability for family day care. Educators and children get the opportunity to meet with other Our Village groups for facilitated playgroup sessions as well as attend community outings.

Family day care offers care in a small group setting and educators can provide all-day or part-day care, evening and overnight care, casual care, respite care, before and after school care and school holiday care.

To help with the costs of becoming a family day care educator, Family Day Care Australia, in partnership with the Commonwealth Government, is currently offering funding for eligible new educators in selected regional areas, including Woodend, through the Family Day Care Capability Trial.

To find out more, call Amanda Urban on 9744 9252, email amanda.urban@scchc.org.au or go to www.sunburycobaw.org.au/seeking-family-day-care-educators.

SUBMITTED BY SARAH TURNER



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We are proudly delivering projects for the Peer Support and Capacity Building (PSCB) grant for the NDIS.

DRY JULY FOR CANCER SUPPORT

Dry July hits extraordinary milestone

Halfway through this year's campaign, Dry July has hit an extraordinary milestone – \$100 million raised for cancer support services since launching in 2008. Over 400,000 Australians have taken part in the month-long alcohol-free challenge to date, and while we're celebrating this achievement, the job's not done yet.

Why it matters now:

- Cancer remains a leading cause of death in Australia, with 180,000 new diagnoses expected in 2025.
- Incidence of early-onset bowel cancer is rising at 8% annually, with Australia now #1 globally.
- Many of the services that help Aussies navigate cancer are community-funded – and they urgently need continued support.

The Dry July Foundation has already funded 1,200+ projects - but demand is growing. We're calling on everyday Aussies to get involved, sign up, and donate. It's not just about giving up alcohol – it's about giving hope.

SUBMITTED BY CAROLINE LOVEJOY

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Living With a Broken Heart – a Journey to Healing Through Grief

A free 4-week program is available for mothers who have lost a child.

Local mum Jill Barham has created this gentle and supportive program in honour of her son, Jordan who died in a car accident in January 2022. She knows first-hand how lonely and overwhelming grief can be and how hard it is to find the right support when your world has turned upside down.

This program is for mothers navigating life after the unimaginable loss of a child. Timelines are not a factor, whether your loss is recent or many years. Grief does not go away.

Each session will offer:

- Time for reflection
- Gentle guided conversations
- Connection with others
- Music, energy work, and creative express
- Practical tools for understanding and living with grief

Jill will be facilitating with her friend Sam Gardiner, a local artist and bereaved sibling, and together they'll walk alongside you on this journey.

Jill is partnering with The Compassionate Friends Victoria (TCFV), who are supporting the program with expert training, resources and guest speakers.



Photo: Jordan and Mum Jill (supplied)

If you are ready to take the next step toward healing, she warmly invites you to join them.

Bookings are essential by emailing: grieffbuddies@outlook.com

Sometimes, the smallest steps forward can bring the greatest shifts in our wellbeing. You are not alone.

The program is free and auspiced by Macedon & Mount Macedon Community House. Events calendar: www.mmmcommunityhouse.org/whats-on

For further information, contact Jill at grieffbuddies@outlook.com

SUBMITTED BY JILL BARHAM



Dementia Support Australia

In partnership with Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Dementia Support Australia (DSA) will be hosting two free community information sessions to help individuals better understand and access dementia support services.

These sessions will cover an overview of DSA, including:

- who they are and the levels of service they offer
- how and when to access DSA services
- what's involved in completing a referral and triage call
- what to expect during a DSA telehealth or face-to-face visit
- how to implement DSA's recommendations and advice
- insights into caring for someone living with dementia
- time for questions at the end of the session.

Sessions will be held on:

Tuesday 16 September: 10–11am at Gisborne Library

Wednesday 17 September: 10–11am at Kyneton Library

To register your attendance, please contact Council on 5422 0333 or email VillageConnect@mrsc.vic.gov.au

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Special Metro Tunnel tour for Woodend rail pioneer

Recently Woodender Peter Bishop and a group of former City Loop colleagues had a rare glimpse into the city's next massive rail upgrade, with a visit to the Metro Tunnel's Parkville Station.

Mr Bishop, 83, was the supervising engineer for the construction of the City Loop tunnels, the last major transformation of Melbourne's train network, back in the 1970s.

Mr Bishop and a group of other City Loop veterans, including architects and engineers, were guests of the Metro Tunnel Project team for a guided tour of the new state-of-the-art station, located on the doorstep of Melbourne University, the Royal Melbourne Hospital and the Peter MacCullum Cancer Centre.

Mr Bishop said the group was impressed by the design and architecture of the station.

"Having seen a few other metros in various other parts of the world ... I was pleased to see it's got all the facilities and technology that's equal to anything else I've seen around the world," Mr Bishop said.

"It's also a nice station (with) lots of natural light and open space and the width of the platforms have been designed for peak loading in the future."

The two groups of experts compared the challenges of building train stations in the centre of a major city and chatted about advancements in technology.

But Mr Bishop said the construction of the projects, though separated by decades, also had similarities.

"The improvements in technology for doing work ... there's been big improvements in both materials and equipment, which, in theory, make it easier," Mr Bishop said.

"Nevertheless, you've still got the people issues to deal with, in other words the labour force, and equipment.

"It's really not a lot different but you're able to do trickier things because of the improvements in materials and technology."

The Metro Tunnel is the biggest upgrade of Melbourne's train network since the first part of the City Loop opened in 1981 and will more than double the size of Melbourne's underground rail network. With five new underground stations and 9km twin rail tunnels under the city that will connect to the Sunbury Line, the Metro Tunnel will transform the way people move around the city when it opens later this year.

Bendigo Line passengers will be able to change at Footscray for a Metro Tunnel service.

The new underground stations are Arden in North Melbourne, Parkville, Town Hall and State Library on Swanston Street in the CBD, and Anzac on St Kilda Road.

SUBMITTED BY TOBY PRIME



Woodend's Peter Bishop recently toured the new Metro Tunnel



More free mental health care coming to Macedon Ranges

Victoria's network of Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals is being expanded, so more Victorians can get free mental health support close to home without needing a GP referral or Medicare card.

Minister for Mental Health Ingrid Stitt announced that seven new Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals will soon open across Victoria – including one in Mount Alexander Shire, servicing Macedon Ranges as well as Mount Alexander and Central Goldfields local government areas – making it easier for people to get free mental health support closer to home.

Acting as a 'front door' to the mental health system, the Locals offer support and treatment for Victorians experiencing mental illness or psychological distress, including co-occurring substance use or addiction.

Support is delivered in-person, via telehealth and via outreach services with a care plan designed to reflect a person's goals and preferences – family, carers and supporters can also be involved.

"The new Mental Health and Wellbeing Local in the Mount Alexander Shire, that will also service the Macedon Ranges, will make a real difference for our community – providing welcoming, accessible support close to home for people who need it," said Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas.

The new Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals are expected to open from late 2025.

For more information on Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals, visit betterhealth.vic.gov.au/mhwlocal

SUBMITTED BY KATE LEE, OFFICE OF MARY ANNE THOMAS MP

Men's Table

The Men's Table is a preventative men's mental health and community-building initiative, providing a simple, low-cost, grassroots approach to helping men, by building meaningful male friendships and creating safe places to share, overcoming the stigma that "men don't talk".



What we are about: Our vision is Healthy Men, Healthy Masculinities, Healthy Communities. The Men's Table enables adult men to meet on a monthly basis with the same group of men to share a meal and talk openly about their feelings and about the highs and lows that are impacting their lives and well-being. It's healthy to show emotions and share feelings. When men have an opportunity to do this, they build relationships which can strengthen the resilience of the whole community.

Why we exist: The Men's Table hypothesis is that fostering social connection through participation in a Table is a preventative enabler of men's mental health and emotional wellbeing. The simple model is based on regular interaction between men in an environment in which meaningful conversation and mutual support are expected and role-modelled among members

How and where we operate: The Kitchen is The Men's Table's central office serving the Tables and providing a coordinating, developmental and governance role to support the growth and fidelity of our model. We have 250+ Tables in communities in all states and territories, and we are working to continually expand our presence across Australia. The Men's Table model is introduced with a proven local community activation and outreach process and then receives ongoing mentorship and assistance to maintain a healthy Table, using the guidelines learned from other groups.

The information night (we call it an Entrée) is on **Tuesday 12 August 2025 from 6.30pm at The Victoria Hotel, Woodend**. You will then decide if it is right for you.

To learn more, and to register your attendance, please visit themenstable.org/entree-vic

SUBMITTED BY BILL KARAMETOS

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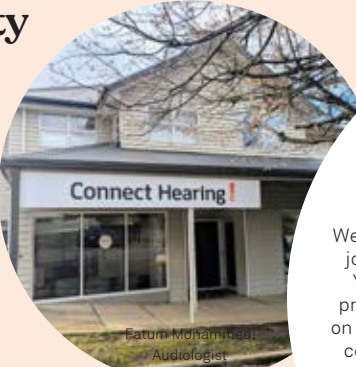
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Improved connectivity for the Macedon Ranges

Connectivity is being improved for Victorians, with more than 850 mobile and broadband projects now completed across the state.

As part of the government's Connecting Victoria program, the Macedon Ranges community has seen two mobile infrastructure upgrades since March 2025, allowing locals to better connect with loved ones, work and study.

Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas said, "For too long I've heard from locals about connectivity issues across the Macedon Ranges, it's fantastic to now have these projects completed to boost connectivity and coverage – helping people study, work and keep connected."

Minister for Government Services Natalie Hutchins announced the milestone, marking the completion of more than two thirds of projects supported by the Connecting Victoria program, which aims to deliver 1300 mobile and broadband projects, with over 900 in regional Victoria.

One hundred new mobile tower projects have also been completed; consisting of brand-new mobile towers, and tower upgrades for 5G use and for additional telecommunications providers.

Two hundred mobile resilience projects have also been completed. These involve the installation of battery back-ups to make towers more resilient during natural disasters.

While the Commonwealth is responsible for telecommunications services in Australia, the Connecting Victoria program aims to address connectivity gaps in regional communities. Reliable mobile and internet coverage is essential for communities to access emergency services and check on family during emergencies.

To find out more about Connecting Victoria, visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/connecting-victoria>

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



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Authorised by MA Thomas, Shop 14, Nexus Centre, 9 Goode Street, Gisborne

More backing for local entertainment

Local musicians, venues and festivals will benefit from funding that will keep jobs and the economy pumping in the live music capital of Australia.

Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas last month announced the local musicians, bands, venues and festivals that will benefit from a \$3 million boost designed to strengthen the industry, and the jobs and communities it supports.

The latest round of 10,000 Gigs: The Victorian Gig Fund will fund 136 venues across the state to stage paid gigs by local artists.

Recipients include iconic pubs, clubs and band rooms, including local venue Newham Mechanics Institute. Other recipients in the region include the Wombat Forest Vineyard in Denver, the Lancefield Hotel, Mount Macedon Hotel and The 1860 Hotel (Evans Bar) in Romsey.

The Live Music Festivals Fund will support 11 festivals across the state with grants of up to \$50,000 to help put on new or existing events.

Music Works will also provide more than \$940,000 worth of grants, backing the careers of emerging and established artists, supporting them to create new music, tour and reach new audiences.

In addition, more artists will have opportunities to develop their careers through Multicultural Arts Victoria's NEWPRINT program, which is designed to support artists, producers and creative workers from culturally and linguistically diverse communities to break into the music industry and take their careers to the next level.

Live music plays a crucial role in Victoria's creative sector, while driving jobs and the economy. This latest package will support not only the musicians on stage, but the crews behind them, as well as venue owners, hospitality staff and local businesses.

Ms Thomas said, "Congratulations to our amazing recipients. Macedon is a hub for live music with iconic venues. This investment will help keep that local energy alive, while supporting local artists and businesses."

For a full list of recipients visit creative.vic.gov.au.

Statewide on-farm drought grants now open

Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence announced the opening of the On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Grants program statewide, with updated guidelines based on farmer feedback and expanded eligible activities.

The program, managed by Rural Finance, makes available co-contribution grants of \$5,000 for all primary producers across the state, with \$10,000 available for eligible farmers in south west Victoria and parts of West Wimmera to help those who have been in drought longer.

Eligible activities under the grant program now include pasture re-establishment and water carting – reflecting the wide-ranging pressures farmers are facing and ensuring support reaches where it's needed most.

Agriculture Victoria's technical decision-making services are also now live and farmers across the state can access a free one-on-one consultation with a farm advisor to help make the difficult decisions they are facing, particularly due to fodder and water shortages.

Agriculture Victoria has engaged 60 consultancy businesses in Victoria, including more than 90 individual farm advisors, who will assist farmers to take action to develop a drought action management plan.

The Look Over The Farm Gate farmer mental health and wellbeing program is also now open, bringing communities together and supporting farmers and farm families under stress.

The program, managed by the National Centre for Farmer Health on behalf of the Government, will provide grants of up to \$5,000 for community-led events that promote social connection and mental health awareness.

Other supports are also available including the Farm Household Allowance, and Regional Investment Corporation loans.

The Rural Financial Counselling Service offers free, confidential and independent financial information, options, decision-making support and referral services to farmers and small rural businesses who are in, or at risk of, financial hardship.

For more information about available drought support, visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons or call 136 186.

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New service to resolve rental disputes: fast, fair and free

Victorian renters and landlords will be able to resolve simple disputes – fast, fair and free.

Premier Jacinta Allan and Minister for Consumer Affairs Nick Staikos announced the go-live last month of Rental Dispute Resolution Victoria (RDRV).

RDRV will help renters and rental providers settle disputes over bonds, compensation, repairs and rent increases in a more informal setting, freeing up VCAT to deal with other cases.

The free service – announced as part of the Government's housing and renting fairness reforms – will give renters a fairer go without the barrier of expensive legal fees or an intimidating VCAT hearing.

Anyone involved in a residential tenancy dispute can access the free service by calling 1300 01 7378, jumping online, or attending RDRV in person.

At RDRV, highly skilled resolution experts will work to bring parties together and resolve rental disputes quickly and avoid a formal hearing. They will oversee each case from start to finish.

A new team of around 40 resolution coordinators have been recruited and trained to handle cases, and an additional 10 staff will soon join as intake officers to support the RDRV call centre.

RDRV will be headquartered on King Street in the CBD with four community locations at Oakleigh, Bundoora, Frankston and Bendigo. It's also a digital-friendly service that can be easily accessed and used online.

More than 60 per cent of disputes are expected to be able to be resolved through RDRV. It's all about guiding parties to the fastest and best result, reducing time, stress and cost, and reducing the need for lawyers.

Consumer Affairs Victoria will still be accessible to people seeking information to better understand their rights.

RDRV is the first of its kind in Australia. Victoria is leading the nation on renters' rights with more than 100 reforms already implemented and more to come including portable bonds, tougher penalties for dodgy landlords and more powers to stop excessive rent increases.

View previous issues and learn about your local community

www.newwoodendstar.com

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Flying Forward: Woodend Heskett Football Netball Club update



As the 2025 season powers into final rounds, there's been no shortage of action, energy and community spirit at Gilbert Gordon Oval.

Round 14 saw our Hawks return to the Nest in style, hosting the Gisborne Giants in a fierce day of football and netball. The games were followed by our annual Megadraw, one of the biggest social nights on the calendar. With over \$10,000 in prizes and live music from Darcy Nolan, it was an incredible night of fun and fundraising. A massive thanks to everyone who bought a ticket, helped on the night, or came along to support – your involvement helps our club grow stronger each season.

Our club continues to thrive thanks to the efforts of countless volunteers – from the BBQ to the scoreboard, the sideline first-aiders to the committee behind the scenes. A shoutout to all our Hawks Helpers this season. We truly couldn't do it without you!

The season may be winding down, but the fun isn't. Mark your calendars for:

2 August – Goods & Services Auction

With crowd-favourites The Piano Maniacs (Brendan Lotkin and Tim Mitchell) on the keys, expect big laughs and even bigger bids!

9 August – Players Function

A night for the players to let their hair down – always a favourite on the social calendar.

20 September – Presentation Night

Celebrate a season of effort, milestones, and memories.

As we round the final bend of the 2025 season, there's a renewed buzz around Gilbert Gordon Oval – not just from the echo of sirens or whistles, but from the energy of planning for an even stronger 2026.

The Woodend Heskett Football Netball Club is a community-driven club, and everything we do – from coaching and game day roles to committee meetings and Thursday night dinners – is made possible by volunteers. As we begin shaping next season, we're putting the call out to anyone keen to get involved.

Whether you've got skills to share, ideas to contribute, or just a passion for local sport, we'd love to hear from you. No role is too small, and new faces are always welcome.

If you're interested in joining the Hawks family in any capacity for 2026, please reach out via: president@woodendhesketfnc.org OR secretary@woodendhesketfnc.org

Together, let's build something special. Go Hawks!

Follow us: @woodendhesketfnc or sign up for our newsletter: bit.ly/WHFNCNewsletter

WRITTEN BY PAUL POBBURY, CO-PRESIDENT WHFNC



Woodend Hawks Junior Football and Netball Club News

Hello from the Junior Nest!

Pat Cronin Round

Recently we hosted Cathryn Mahon from the Pat Cronin Foundation. Cathryn spoke about the need to eliminate violence both on and off the field and court and this was a well-represented event. Special shout-out to the 2024 U15 and U17s football players who fundraised part of the booking fee through the AusKick BBQs that they ran last year. This truly was a club effort, and we hope attending families found it useful to start these challenging conversations.

Snap Session

Club sponsors Snap Fitness recently ran an information-packed session for our young athletes in the lead up to the finals series. Nutrition coach Jon spoke about the importance of healthy foods and nutrition to fuel young bodies that are engaging in high levels of activity. Players and families came away from the session feeling empowered to make healthy choices that are easy to implement at home. Thanks Snap!

Netball training session

A-Grade player and coach/captain Ty Coppinger recently held a training session for our netball coaches. In addition to training drills, hints and tips, Ty led a round-table discussion with our coaches where they could ask questions and seek guidance as to how best develop our young players. This was a great opportunity for all involved and we thank Ty for imparting her wisdom!

These sessions are demonstrative of our commitment to the holistic development of our players and club members beyond the playing fields. If you are a local business and would like to run a session that you think would be beneficial for our club, please get in touch with club president, Danielle Galle at president@woodendhawks.com.au

Superstar players

Congratulations to Isla Munro (U15 netball) on her selection into the Netball Victoria State Pathway programme. This selection follows her impeccable performance in the RDFNL Interleague series. Well done Isla – we're excited to follow your journey.

Finals Updates

At the time of writing this article, we are heading into the finals season with 5 of 7 netball teams and 5 of 6 football teams participating in the RDFNL junior finals

series. This isn't the aim of playing, of course, however, it's a great bonus and a testament to the dedication of our players, coaches, assistants and team managers. It's been a massive season but a good one! Good luck to all our players who are entering this finals season!



Trivia Night

Our annual fundraising evening was held on 26 July – a rip-roaring fun-filled trivia night. Thanks to everyone who attended, and to Trav for his impeccable organisation. These nights support the club in being able to go above and beyond in what we deliver to the community.

Expressions of Interest for 2026:

Do you see what we do at the Hawks and want to be part of the action? Do you have ideas as to how we can make the club even better? If so then consider joining the committee for the 2026 season. In particular, we are taking expressions of interest for the following executive positions: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

The AGM and combined presentation day will be held at Buffalo Stadium on Sunday 24 August at 10am. If you have any questions about getting involved, then please email

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Woodend Bowling Club – Trevor Sturt and Irene Boldiston

It was a privilege to present a much-deserved Life Membership to Trevor Sturt, having been nominated by the Club Committee and accepted by the meeting. Trevor is one of the modern stalwarts at the club, doing so much work, especially with the maintenance and rolling of our impressive new grass green. He is again a committee member and has also been a selector for several seasons.

Irene Boldiston was presented with an Honourary Life Social Membership of the club in recognition of her many years of dedicated service on and off the bowling green.

New committee and selectors elected for 2025–26

The Woodend Bowling Club recently held our Annual General Meeting, which included the election of new office bearers for the 2025–26 year.

There was good attendance by members, with reports from the president, secretary and treasurer, with all major positions then declared vacant for the new year.

The new committee was elected: President Mike Dornau returning for a 10th consecutive term, Vice-President and Treasurer Tony Lennie and Secretary Rob Smithies. There were seven more nominees for committee positions and those elected were Garry Dryden, Arthur Jewel, John Shaw, Trevor Sturt, Steve Milesi, John Gallagher and Peter Wilkinson. A huge thank you to outgoing directors for their significant contributions for many years.

Match committee (Selectors)

This important group will be selecting the competition teams for the club for the next Pennant Season: John Shaw, Derek Barber, Garry Dryden, Arthur Jewell, Stephen Pickles and Tony Lennie.



Having won the Saturday Division 2 Championship last season our top Saturday team will likely be promoted to Division 1. On Saturday we will also have a team in Division 3, whilst on Tuesday we will have teams in Division 2 and 3.

Six new club coaches

The club took an important step recently and funded some of our members to achieve the National Coach qualification. This will be a very important step in improving standards for both new and existing players. Those who achieved this qualification are: Anne Dornau, Mike Dornau, Mark Schafer, Tony Lennie, Steve Milesi, Stephen Pickles.

The Coaching Committee will be meeting to start planning for the new season and to elect a new Head of Coaching

Two new umpires

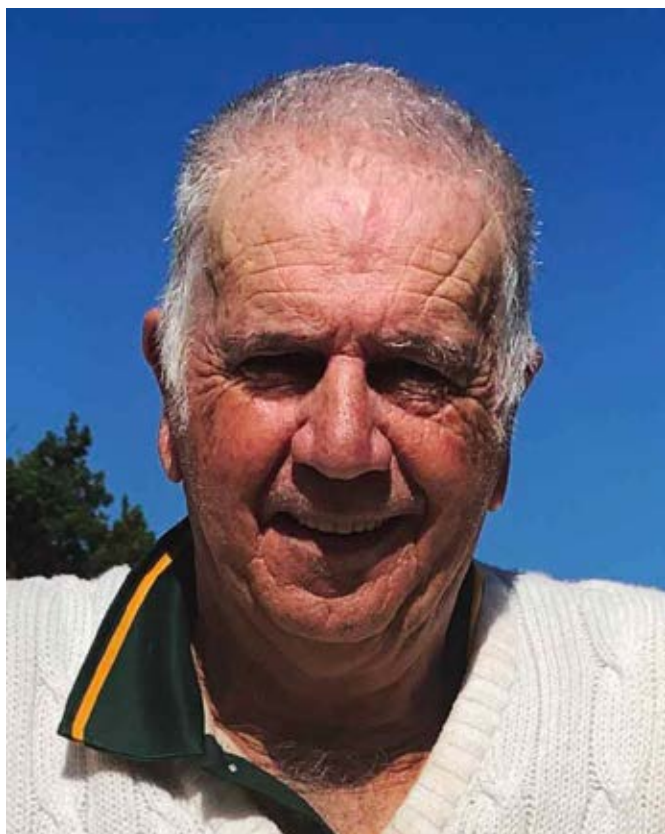
The club has also invested to improve our umpiring and ranks, and congratulations to Steve Milsei and Mark Paterson for gaining National Umpire qualifications

This means that our Umpire and Measurer list is now quite impressive: Mark Schafer (also a National Umpire instructor), Norm Bickerdyke, Mike Dornau, Geoff Symons, Steve Milesi, Mark Paterson and Ken Usher.

Congratulations to all new members of the leadership group and to those with the new qualifications.

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

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, PRESIDENT WOODEND BOWLS CLUB



Woodend Hanging Rock Petanque Club celebrates Bastille Day

We certainly have had a chilly winter so far here in Woodend, but that does not deter a hardy group of petanque players from gathering at the Old Racecourse Reserve on Mondays and Thursday afternoons to play three games of petanque, including, an afternoon tea sometimes, depending on the weather!

Monday July 14 was no exception. Forty members and a few of their friends all participated in celebrating Bastille Day, in the chill that only Woodend can provide!

With no rain on the day, the event certainly turned out to be a great success, with two games played before lunch, then depending on how the weather performed we promised another game after lunch!

The club provided the celebratory lunch for the 40 members as well as prospective new members. As usual, lunch was provided by the committed club members, who had cooked up a storm of some French classics, and then, with French music playing, the afternoon progressed into a most successful event.

We had some winners and losers on the day. Ken and Lyn Murchison came first and second, and Shane Wellington picked up the third spot.

A special thanks to all who made the day the success it was. Without the tireless work of the members of the committee the club would not be able to hold these events.

New members are always welcome, so come and join us on Mondays and Thursdays from 1–3pm.

SUBMITTED BY LOUISE POTTER



Louise Potter and Shirley Marshall welcoming members to the Bastille Day celebrations

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Winners Lyn Murchison, Shane Wellington and Ken Murchison

Local teen brothers inspire local kids

Teenage brothers Jake and James Sinnett have a genuine love for the game of futsal. As well as competing with their own team, the brothers referee games and for the past two years have also been coaching junior players. In the July school holidays they joined a team of 10 other Macedon Ranges Futsal (MRF) coaches to deliver a holiday training program for 120 school aged kids.

Introduced to futsal in Grade 1, the brothers were inspired to give back. "We want to give the same enjoyment we have with futsal, back to the kids," they said.

MRF school holiday programs are open to all primary school aged kids, regardless of experience. "We take a gentle but encouraging approach. We want these kids to learn in a comfortable environment where everyone is enthusiastic," said the boys.

Their coaching style focuses on fun, skill building and keeping all kids engaged. "Drills that involve everyone and have minimal time waiting are best."

At the end of it all, Jake and James's take away message is simple, they want the kids to experience "... a love for futsal and have a great time with old and new friends and peers."

MRF also run a Futsal Skillz program during the school term on Saturday mornings. Registrations are now open. For more information, go to www.mrfutsal.org.au/news

SUBMITTED BY KRISTY MUTSAERS, COMMITTEE MEMBER MACEDON RANGES FUTSAL



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MRF holiday program coaches, left to right: Ella, Sarah, Lucca, Ruby, Zoe, Madison, Jake, Jacob, Brodie and James. Photo supplied.

Women's soccer day kicks goals in Woodend

On Sunday 29 June, Woodend Eagles Soccer Club proudly hosted its Women's Introduction to Soccer Day at Buffalo Stadium Oval – a vibrant and energetic event celebrating the growing passion for women's soccer in the Macedon Ranges.

More than 75 women aged from four years old to mums participated in fun and inclusive training sessions focused on agility, balance, and basic ball skills. The sessions were run by coach Josie, alongside players Havana, Harriet, and local star Nina – all current players at Spring Hills SC. Josie, a former Victoria representative and championship-winning coach, brought her elite-level expertise to the field, organising groups of young girls, teens, and women into skill-building activities.

The day culminated in a fun-filled, chaotic "free-for-all" match on the main pitch, where everyone had a chance to show off their competitive side in a spirited and joyful game.

To top it off, the Woodend Eagles coaches and committee put on a free BBQ and coffee for all participants and supporters. Everyone who took part also went into a draw to win a signed FIFA Women's World Cup Matildas jersey, with the lucky winners being Nina and her mum – a fitting end to an inspiring day.

The event also served as a lead-in to the Eagles' upcoming Miniros 8-week term, kicking off on July 27 at Buffalo. Register now: woodendsoccer.com.au/miniroos

Club President Alistair Fletcher shared:

"At Woodend Eagles, we're proud to foster a supportive, inclusive community where everyone feels welcome. Increasing female participation – as players, coaches, and committee members – is a key focus for us. With soccer now Australia's most played team sport, we're excited to be part of the movement making it accessible for all genders."



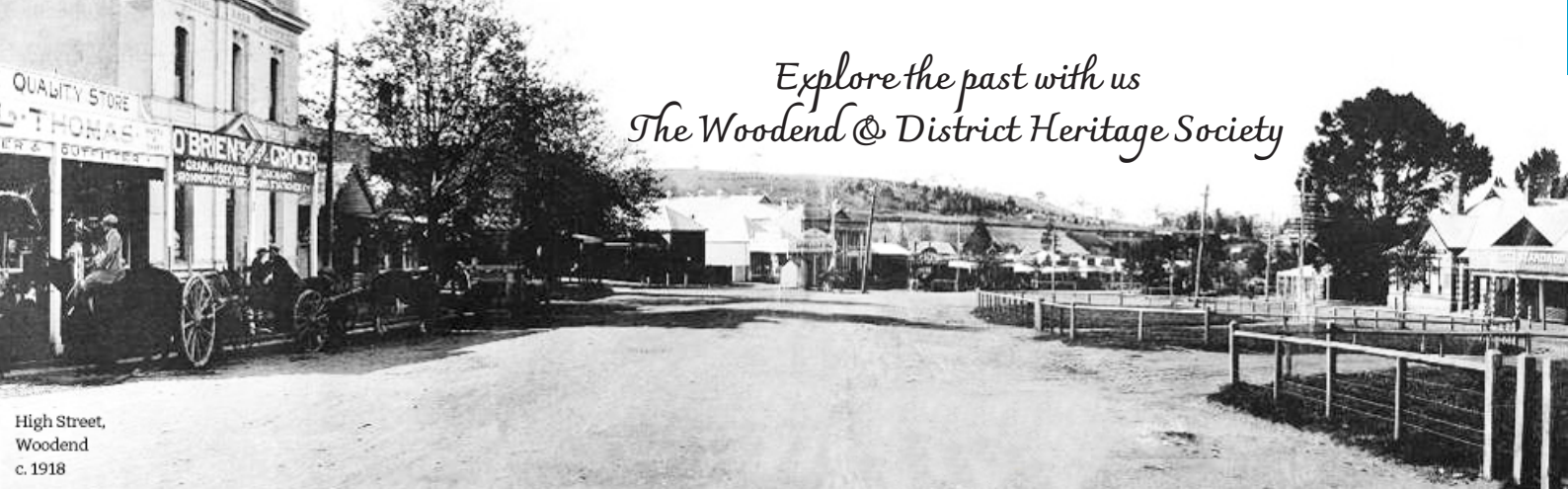
With the backing of local council and State Government, the Eagles are working toward a 50/50 gender participation target by 2027. Plans for gender-neutral facilities and new training and competition pitches at Buffalo Stadium are under consideration to meet increasing community demand. The proposed Buffalo Racecourse Masterplan is released to council at the July meeting on July 23rd for consideration.

This fantastic event was made possible thanks to the ongoing support of:

- Bendigo Community Bank Trentham & Districts, tireless supporters of local sport
- Nice Rice, who provided delicious samples of their new Nice Rice Puffs, a crowd favourite
- And Nellie's Shed, supplying much-needed coffees with their signature warmth and hospitality.

Interested in getting involved? Whether you want to play, coach, volunteer, or join our committee – we'd love to hear from you. admin@woodendsoccer.com.au





Explore the past with us
The Woodend & District Heritage Society

The Woodend Theatre

"Show Place in the Mountains" was once the eye-catching sign above the Woodend Picture Theatre, where the IGA supermarket now stands. The owner, Mr Ashby, had the theatre built by Turner Brothers of Kyneton to include a dress circle, back stalls and front stalls and his policy was that only the best films be shown. Allen Higgs remembered watching the theatre being built in 1933 when he was going home from school. Peter Hume delivered the bricks to the site from the Woodend railway goods yard in a four-wheel lorry drawn by two draught horses. When the theatre was finished, Allen often went there with his family who had booked tickets for two shillings and sixpence. In the early 1940s, Allen worked at the theatre part-time pasting up billboards advertising the films.

Mr Ashby's son Tom was the projectionist assisted by Allen who trained as a projectionist and picked up the films from the station every Friday. In 1948, Mr Ashby sold the theatre to Mr McMillan from Shepparton, who added the sign, and it was managed for some time by Mr Williams. Margaret Bowen was one of four usherettes then employed. At that time films were shown on most Saturday and Wednesday nights and, sometimes, to Clyde girls on Saturday afternoons. Some evenings were very crowded and at interval,



Photo 699: Woodend Theatre usherettes in 1948. From left: Margaret Bowen (nee Lovett), Eva Morris (nee Ellis), Beryl Richardson, Moia Mooney. The girls wore blue uniforms with a gold metallic trim on the lapels and buttons and a gold WT embroidered on the jacket pocket.

Margaret remembered that people bought refreshments at the Theatre Milk Bar on High Street or had to hurry to other milk bars nearby. Mr Ashby, despite very limited eyesight, made his own soft drinks and sold them at the Theatre Milk Bar.

From 1963 until the 1970s, Eric Brinkley was the projectionist and rented the building from Mr McMillan. Eric remembered that the children were often very rowdy while waiting for the film to start, but a visit from the local policeman quickly silenced them. Eric, his

wife and his children cleaned up the next day; mess from possums needing the most urgent attention. Possums sneaked in through the vents in the ceiling, sat on top of the screen and urinated down it. By this time, films were only shown on Saturday nights, unless a school asked for a particular film during the week.

With the increasing popularity of television, Mr McMillan decided to sell the theatre, closing it in August 1964. However, for a short time Joe Bateman resumed showing films. Ron McKenzie recalled that one night the theatre caught fire, and although the fire brigade quickly quelled the flames, the screen was destroyed. Other damage was manageable, so Mrs Bateman stitched together a few double sheets and the show went on. After a stint as a studio for producing films, the building was sold to make way for a supermarket.

SUBMITTED BY JANE HOLTH



Photo 895: Woodend Picture Theatre. "The Show Place in the Mountains", High Street, Woodend. Note 1934 on top of the building. This is currently the only photo we have of the outside of the Theatre.

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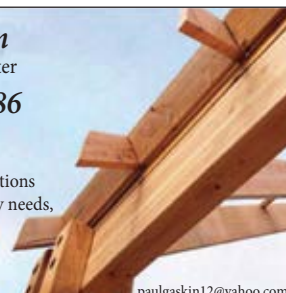
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Students find their voice in Podcast Challenge!

Sacred Heart College Year 11 VCE VM students recently participated in an exciting, hands-on media project – a Podcast Challenge, led by Making Media. The Challenge was funded by the Murray Primary Health Network, and facilitated by Anglicare, and provided an opportunity for students to build on a range of technical and communication skills, in a dynamic environment.

Students researched a range of wellbeing issues including mental health, substance use, and gambling harm, preparing a range of questions before hosting podcast interviews with local youth services and lived experience speakers. The Podcast Challenge involves schools around Victoria, offering the school with the most listened to podcasts the chance to win a \$3,000 podcast kit. At the conclusion of the Challenge, our students were thrilled to learn that they had come second by just eight 'plays' of the podcast between first and second place. Two of our teams ended up winning best podcast in their categories.

The podcast experience is far more than just a contest; it's a powerful opportunity for young voices to break out, promoting 'help-seeking' and leading the conversation on youth wellbeing. Saffron explained – "It was so interesting talking with people who have firsthand experience of these issues, I enjoyed hearing their stories and also learning how to think on the spot and signal to others in my team when it was time for them to be involved in the interview." Liam said, "I hope the podcasts reach people who may be struggling with similar issues and provide some support and information about ways to get help."

Of the experience, VCE Coordinator Jodie Wattie said "The Podcast Challenge was a great real-life experience for our students. They got to work with state-of-the-art equipment and professionals who work in

the media. The experiences were highly engaging and motivating for our students and the increased confidence demonstrated by the students was a delight to observe. The students took so much out of the experience, both through enriched learning opportunities and personal growth; we are incredible proud of them all."

Use the QR codes to either listen to the podcasts (via SoundCloud) or view the amazing flipbook of the experience including interview videos.

The VCE Vocational Major (VCE VM) is a 2-year vocational and applied learning program within the VCE. The program equips students with the skills, knowledge, confidence and agency needed to prepare for work and further education and training.

The VCE Vocational Major prepares students to transition successfully into apprenticeships, traineeships, further education and training, university, or directly into employment. It supports them to develop knowledge, confidence and skills for work and life. It employs a more diverse range of assessment strategies rather than exams, alleviating some of the pressure that students face when completing the VCE.



Kyneton Live – SHC Podcast



Flipbook with interviews and videos



Year 11 Sacred Heart College VCE VM students with ASCO Youth Outreach Recovery Worker, Peter Fountain



Year 11 VCE VM students



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