

# The New Woodend Star

Rotary  
Club of Woodend



MARCH 2023  
Volume 27 | Issue 2



*Joseph Tawadros to  
perform at program  
launch for Woodend  
Winter Arts Festival  
– Sunday 2 April*

[woodendwinterartsfestival.org.au](http://woodendwinterartsfestival.org.au)

Full article, page 5



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# Celebrate Australia Rotary event



Some 300 locals joined in a relaxed outdoor event on a sunny public holiday to catch up with family and friends for a Celebrate Australia free event, organised by Rotary Club Woodend on Australia Day this year. This was funded by the National Australia Day Council and held at the Woodend RSL Sub-Branch.

It was a day of mixed emotions as we reflected on our country's past, respectfully acknowledged those that came before us and celebrated this great country we live in.

Our local MP, Mary-Anne Thomas, the Minister for Health, Health Infrastructure, Health Research and Leader of the House did the acknowledgement to the, Djarra, on whose land we met. Mary-Anne spoke of the importance of community events and a need for us to support each other through all situations.

Our Deputy Mayor Jennifer Anderson also spoke, encouraging all present to acknowledge Australia's Indigenous history, multiculturalism and using the day as an opportunity to reflect on the impact modern Australia had on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, culture and traditions, and the waves of migration that have brought people from all over the world to make Australia their home, each making their own unique contribution to Australia and its way of life.

It was a very enjoyable program of music from the band Structure, who played many rock and pop covers to get people dancing. The afternoon moved into a relaxed mood, with some excellent guitar playing by the guitar duo Ryland.

Food was excellent, with lamb and falafel wraps provided by Oz from Woodside food van and smashed brisket burgers provided by BBQ23. The children had a good time in the open space with many also enjoying the fine artwork of our face painter.

continued next page ...



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.

Thanks must go to Rotarian Howard Burvill for all his work in planning and running the day, which he could not have achieved without the many Rotary volunteers. Also, we acknowledge the other volunteers that supported the day, including the Woodend RSL Sub-Branch volunteers, the St John Ambulance volunteers from Daylesford and Sunbury and our volunteer security guard that camped out overnight to ensure everything was right for the day. Also we appreciate the support from the MRSC in providing recycling support and guidance on running the event.

The question of how to mark Australia Day has become an important conversation for many.

The National Australia Day Council Chief Executive Officer Karlie Brand noted,

“There are as many ways to experience Australia Day as there are Australians, with each of us finding our own meaning and significance shaped by our own experience and history.

“A truly inclusive Australia Day also means ensuring all Australians feel welcome to attend.”

SUBMITTED BY ROTARY WOODEND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE



## Woodend Lions Club Art Show 2023

The Woodend Lions Club Art Show will bloom again in its 48th year. We wove our way through the Covid years, not missing a beat, jumping through the required hoops and displaying fabulous local art. We love the show and the number of folk who come to it shows that its place on the Woodend calendar is assured.

Last year, sales were at a record high, with many locals and visitors finding works that pleased their tastes. The show provides significant exposure to a wide range of local artists in a number of media and styles.

The Woodend Lions Club celebrated its 50th anniversary this year and continues to serve in many different areas.

We raise funds from this show and our community market to support groups and individuals in need. This last year, the Woodend Community Chest, St Ambrose Care and the Neighbourhood House were all well supported. We are committed to do what we can so that folk in our town don't go hungry or cold.

We also donated in the last year to a number of health research efforts, to flood relief and to international disaster relief.

In years past, the art show acquired the prize-winning works and in recent years those works were auctioned to establish scholarships for art students heading to tertiary institutions. To this end, a student from each of the four secondary schools in the area was awarded a scholarship, and we look forward to seeing more from them. In the show, there are prizes in a number of media categories and a really dynamic children's section.

The Woodend Lions Club Art Show is held in the St Ambrose Hall on the long weekend in March (Saturday 11 to Monday 13). It's time to enter the show now, the forms are online [woodendlions.org.au/art-show](http://woodendlions.org.au/art-show)

Woodend Lions Club is a small group of volunteers and if anyone is interested in helping us in setting up or assisting at the show, please ring Barry McDonald on 0409 414 435.

SUBMITTED BY BARRY MCDONALD

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## Sukhjot (Sam) Deol

A quick google search for 'Sizzler' brings up two top results: number one is Sizzler Restobar, Woodend, and number two, Sizzler, the US-owned family restaurant franchise, once famous for the "all you can eat" salad bar for \$20.

This fun fact is relevant to the story of Sam Deol and his wife Satnam opening their Indian restaurant in Woodend in 2017. It's also interesting to note that while COVID-19 saw the last of the remaining Sizzlers in Australia close, happily our local Sizzler RestoBar survived.

So, let's start by clearing up some questions about names: Sam? Is this your Aussie name? "No, actually, back in Faridkot, in Punjab, India, where I grew up, there were two Sukhjits in my class, and we were known as Sukhjot #1 and Sukhjot #2! Not happy with being known as Sukhjot #2, my mother suggested a name change, and my friends started to call me Sam."

And Sizzler RestoBar? Well, Sizzler describes the food, particularly the entrees that are served on a sizzling hot plate. It was going to be called Sizzler Restaurant and Bar, but knowing that Aussies like to abbreviate everything, Sizzler Restaurant and Bar became Sizzler RestoBar. Initially, there was some resistance by locals who were hesitant based on their experience with cheap, all you can eat buffets in the 70s, but once they came through the door, they were converted. About the journey from Faridkot to Woodend, Sam says that after graduating, he was seeking a place to further his education and find career opportunities. Sydney was the city Sam chose; well known to him because of the Sydney Olympics, and from having some relatives who had migrated before him, and he enrolled in a hospitality management course. While studying, he worked in many function centres, including the Taronga Zoo function restaurant and then landed a job as a kitchen hand at the Swiss Hotel, in Market Street, Sydney. Sam was well regarded in the hotel, and he was approached to join the Concierge team. While apparently quite shy, his friendly manner was a hit with guests, and he was soon nominated as "Employee of the Month" and offered a fulltime job at the hotel's front of house, which led to a further promotion to the Hilton Hotel in George Street. Having finished his studies and secured fulltime work, Sam returned to Faridkot and married Satnam, a chef and also a graduate of hospitality management. After a four-day, 500-guest wedding, they came back to Sydney together to start a new life. In 2013, their son, Muqaddar, was born. Opportunity and housing prices took Sam to Melbourne for a year to do a "look-see". His reconnaissance brought him to Woodend in search of restaurants to buy. His early visits to Woodend in the evening gave the impression "seems like no-one lives here," but after many trips, visits to a restaurant for sale in High St, chats with locals, observing their buying behaviour, Sam and Satnam opened Sizzler RestoBar in August 2017.

Sam and Satnam have become a hit with the locals for many reasons: Sam is in charge of front of house and has gotten to know his customers and their families well over the past five and a half years. In his spare time, he plays Division One cricket with Woodend Cricket Club and is an active member of the Sikh community. Satnam with her "magic hands" runs the kitchen six nights a week, cooking, overseeing take aways and predicting the vagaries of customers ordering preferences. What do Woodenders prefer? "Chicken tikka masala is a hit with English customers and Goan fish curry. Satnam can predict if three tables order Goan fish curry, then it will be ordered by most tables that night!"



While their first impressions of Woodend were of a very quiet population who only ordered takeaway, they quickly found a warm and very welcoming community who in fact loved to eat out. Number one patrons who have held this spot since the restaurant opened are Geoff Hildebrandt and Rosie Baker, who were the first through the door on opening day in August 2017 and have remained loyal, weekly customers and friends.

Since moving to Woodend, Sam has started to wear a turban and beard to signify his belonging to the Sikh religion. What does it mean to be a Sikh? "A Sikh is a learner, and our identity is to be helpful and honest". For Sam and Satnam, Sizzler RestoBar is like their second child, and "Woodend is the best place to work in Australia".

WRITTEN BY ROSEMARY GUYATT

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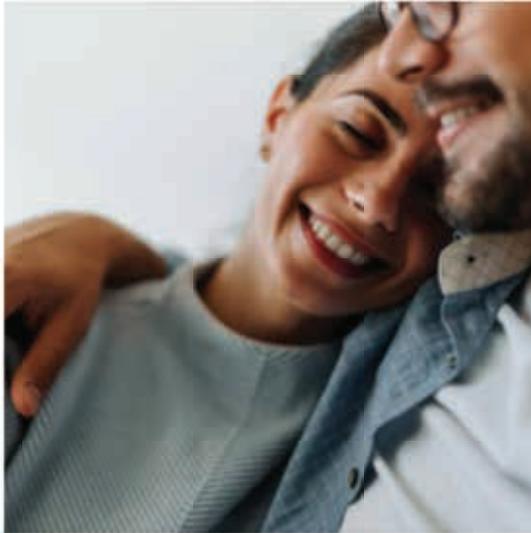
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## Countdown to Easter

Countdown is a new after-school program for four-year-old Kinder to Grade 5 children that is being held over three Wednesdays in March.

Run by St Mary's Anglican Church in Woodend at the Norma Richardson Hall, the afternoons will include games, singing, learning, food and lots of fun as we explore the Easter story. A highlight will be the craft activity, during which the children will create a resurrection garden to take home.

Parents are welcome to join in for all or part of the program. The last week will finish with a family dinner. Sessions will be held on March the 15th, 22nd and 29th. To register or find out more visit [woodendanglican.org.au/countdown](http://woodendanglican.org.au/countdown)

SUBMITTED BY JANE FRAZER

## Woodend Winter Arts Festival program launch concert, 2 April



Save the date. The Woodend Winter Arts Festival (WWAF) will take place over the King's Birthday long weekend, from 9–12 June with a dynamic and thought provoking program, that includes exciting new elements.

The 2023 WWAF program will be launched at an intimate, solo concert from one of Australia's most impressive musicians, Joseph Tawadros, on Sunday 2 April (from 2:30–3:30pm) at St Ambrose Church.

Joseph Tawadros is an Oud virtuoso, composer and six-time ARIA award winner. He was also awarded the Member of the Order of Australia in 2016. Born in Cairo and based between Sydney and London, his chosen instrument, the Oud, is an Arabic lute. A virtuoso of diversity and sensitivity, Joseph performs in concert halls worldwide and is known for his brilliant technique, deep musicianship and joyous style of performance. He is taking a break from his ACO tour to come to Woodend.

Joseph is the first world music artist to present a solo concert of original contemporary music for the BBC Proms. WWAF is thrilled that Joseph Tawadros (our first international performer since 2019) will be coming to Woodend to launch the 2023 Festival in a colourful and virtuosic performance of his original works.

Tickets are on sale now at [woodendwinterartsfestival.org.au](http://woodendwinterartsfestival.org.au). Do get in quick as it will sell out before the concert.



If you are interested in volunteering your time to help with WWAF, the committee would love to hear from you. Please go to the WWAF website and fill in an expression of interest form.

SUBMITTED BY DR JACQUELINE OGEIL, FOUNDER  
AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF THE WOODEND  
WINTER ARTS FESTIVAL



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## Edgy Veg Awards 2023

The Edgy Veg Awards are back! Bigger, better and braver. The competition is firing up, with some delectable and inspired plant-based dishes to excite veg lovers and challenge all veggie-nay-sayers. Which venue will win the coveted title of most delicious plant-based dish in the Macedon Ranges?

Cafes, pubs and restaurants across the Macedon Ranges have submitted dishes that put our shire right up there with the cutting-edge cafes of the city.

Get excited by last year's winner, Woodend's very own Paysanne – this year they've upped the ante with a Layered Crepe Torte: Spinach crepes layered with sweet potato mash and balsamic beetroot with minted cucumber and a redcurrant, ginger and coriander chutney. Will they get more than the 100 votes they received last year?

There's also the new kids in town, McQueens. You can saunter down and vote on their "Nevada Smith": a twelve-inch wood-fired Neapolitan-style pizza. Toppings include crushed tomato, red onion, zucchini, pumpkin, mushroom, cherry tomatoes, artichokes, basil and rocket.

And if you feel like a plant-based pub meal, The Victoria Hotel have a Falafel Salad on offer: house made falafel with hummus, fried shiitake mushrooms, toasted pine nuts and chilli oil.

The Edgy Veg Awards run for the month of April. Voting is easy, each participating café will display the competition QR code that you can scan to rate your dish online. You can find out more about the Edgy Veg Awards from the competition website - [veg.mrsg.org.au/edgy-veg-awards](http://veg.mrsg.org.au/edgy-veg-awards) or scan the



QR code in this article. The Awards are an initiative of Veg Action of Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group, and are funded by the Macedon Ranges Shire Council, as part of the Sustainable Living Festival series.

SUBMITTED BY LUCY CAMPBELL



The Victoria Hotel will present Falafel Salad for the Edgy Veg Awards

## Join in for Sustainable House Day

Sustainable House Day

### Sunday 19 March 2023

Sustainable House Day returns to the Macedon Ranges in March 2023. Sustainable House Day helps people make their homes more comfortable, more energy efficient and cheaper to run.

On Sunday 19 March MRSG presents an Open House event featuring four homes across the Ranges:

- Gisborne South: A small off-grid home created from an old 'portable' school building with added insulation, secondary glazing, draughtproofing, worm farm wastewater treatment, food gardens, solar, batteries and solar hot water.
- Woodend North: Lucy and Robin's house. Solar, battery and electric vehicle saving the owners about \$3000 a year on electricity and petrol. The solar system, battery and EV will be available to view.
- Lancefield: Artist House. A 120m<sup>2</sup> modular home built for \$250k (2018). Features uPVC windows and doors, ceiling, wall and underfloor insulation, recycled and reused materials.
- Kyneton: Hempcrete Cottage. The builder will be in attendance to explain construction methodology and the benefits of hempcrete.

Experience the homes, talk with their owners and pick up some tips to improve your own home.

Free admission, booking required.

For tickets and more information, see the MRSG website ([mrsg.org.au/events-calendar/2023/3/19/sustainable-house-day](http://mrsg.org.au/events-calendar/2023/3/19/sustainable-house-day))

Get involved! We're looking for volunteers to welcome and direct visitors on the day. If you can help out for a couple of hours, please contact us by email ([susthomes@mrsg.org.au](mailto:susthomes@mrsg.org.au))

SUBMITTED BY SUE BARKER, MRSG SUSTAINABLE HOMES ACTION GROUP



Photo: 'Artist House', Lancefield



## Living with e-bikes in the Macedon Ranges

The Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group (MRSRG) is holding its first E-Bike Expo in Woodend as part of the Macedon Ranges Shire Council's growing and popular Autumn Festival.

Held in conjunction with the Woodend Neighbourhood House, the event will host and showcase a range of e-bikes, including Dutch cargo bikes, Giant e-bikes courtesy of local business Woodend Cycles, along with a variety of bikes owned by community members who will be there to share their experiences of living with an e-bike in the Macedon Ranges.

Alongside new e-bikes, REV Bikes will guide you through the process of converting your existing bike to an e-bike. REV specialise in installing top-quality e-bike kits to virtually any bike, building practical and personalised electric bikes, to suit your riding style and to meet your individual needs.

So, if you are thinking about replacing the need for a second car with an e-bike, looking at converting your classic bike to electric or simply wanting to get about town without having to walk up the hills, come to the Woodend E-Bike Expo and see the range of e-bikes available for you and your family. Try them out and ask questions from locals on how they live with e-bikes in the Macedon Ranges.

The festival will be held at the Woodend Neighbourhood House alongside the April Farmers' Market on April 1st. Bookings and more information can be found at [mrsrg.org.au/slf](http://mrsrg.org.au/slf)

SUBMITTED BY NIKKI BARKER ON BEHALF OF THE MACEDON RANGES SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

**WOODEND E-BIKE EXPO** **FREE EVENT**

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## New pedestrian bridge for Woodend



In 2007, Landcare obtained a large federal government grant to rehabilitate land along the south side of Five Mile Creek in Woodend between Pike Street and Bowen Street. The site was infested with weedy poplar trees.

The grant enabled most of the poplars and other weeds to be cleared and replaced by indigenous vegetation. Working with Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Landcare planted the thousands of trees, shrubs and grasses that are now thriving on the site. Part of the plan was to create a track from Bowen Street, through this area all the way to Pike Street. We also left a gap in the plantings as a site for a potential pedestrian bridge sometime in the future.

At this time, Josephine (Jo) Clancy was the Landcare president, and one of her dreams was to see that bridge built. Sadly, in 2018, Jo died but left a generous bequest to the group for the dream to be realized.

Since 2020, we have been working with MRSC and the various other bodies who have a say over such projects and finally, success is in sight. In the near future, we will see the footbridge taking shape about halfway between Bowen St and Wood St. The bridge will have paths connecting it to the tracks on the north and south banks of the creek. Tracks will remain open during construction.

This bridge will be a boon for both the local community and visitors as it will create options for shorter loop walks and easier access for all.

It has been a long haul, but with the help of MRSC and our immediate past president Kate Daniel, we are nearly there, and the bridge will be built at virtually no cost to ratepayers.

SUBMITTED BY PETER YATES – WOODEND LANDCARE PRESIDENT

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## Help Landcare clean up weeds and rubbish on Clean Up Australia Day

Join Woodend Landcare to clean up weeds and rubbish along our beautiful Five Mile Creek.

Weed removal will clean up the Significant Tree Site on the north bank near the East Street unmade road. We'll remove the usual culprits found along the creek (blackberries, ivy, hawthorn, gorse, broom, etc) and most will require cutting and painting. Training will be provided on site.

Rubbish collection will occur from the weed removal site towards High Street.

Have a go at each activity or just focus on the one that suits you.

- When: 9am–12pm, Sunday 5 March 2023
- Location: Five Mile Creek, north bank between Thomas Court and the East Street unmade road. Meet under the big old oak tree next to Five Mile Creek walking track at the end of East Street.
- Access: Walk or ride along the Five Mile Creek track or park in Thomas Court.
- Bring: Sturdy shoes, gloves and protective, full-length clothing are a must if traversing through the bush in search of weeds and rubbish. Sunhat and sunscreen recommended.

Secateurs and eye protection are also needed for weed removal. We'll have our tool trailer on site for dabbers and other equipment.



We love to see children at our events, but they are not permitted to use dabbers and please ensure they are accompanied by an adult, especially near the water's edge.

A delicious morning tea will be provided as thanks for all your hard work.

If you can't make it to our Woodend Landcare Clean Up event, visit Clean up Australia Day – Join a Clean Up ([www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au/join-a-clean-up](http://www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au/join-a-clean-up)) and search the map for another Clean Up event at a time and place that suits you.

Next working bee: 9am–12pm, 26 March 2023 – Ruby Mckenzie Park, Five Mile Creek Reserve.

SUBMITTED BY NICOLE MIDDLETON

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## 'Let's get sorted' and make an impact with waste

Since the launch of the four-bin system in February 2020, Macedon Ranges has seen some of the highest diversion rates of waste from landfill in the state. Evidently, residents in the shire have embraced the new system and are passionate about recycling and reducing their environmental footprint.

It was fantastic to see over 600 residents recently complete Council's survey titled 'Help us make recycling easier', with a majority happy with Council's four-bin system. However, some respondents did say they would like to sort waste correctly, but sometimes get confused with what goes where.

To help residents, Council has relaunched the 'Let's get sorted' waste education campaign alongside Sustainability Victoria's 'Small acts, big impact' campaign.

Residents are being reminded that a few small acts can have a big impact when sorting waste, such as:

- remembering to put your recycling in the bin loose (no plastic bags)
- putting your food-soiled paper packaging, like pizza boxes and paper towels, in your FOGO bin
- only putting glass bottles and jars in your glass bin (no ceramics, Pyrex, lightbulbs or other glass)
- not putting batteries and e-waste in your general waste, but dropping them off for free at transfer stations.

Council's 'Let's get sorted' guide is a great resource for helping residents sort your waste properly. Download a copy at [mrcs.vic.gov.au/lets-get-sorted](http://mrcs.vic.gov.au/lets-get-sorted).

### Cool-ER Changes collaboration for climate change

Council's Cool-ER Changes project will result in a shire-wide Climate Emergency Response Plan and will outline our key strategic approach to enacting our Declaration of Climate Emergency.

The launch event at Kyneton Town Hall on 2 March is just the beginning. Over the coming months, six workshops will explore and develop theme-based actions to mitigate, adapt and strengthen our response to climate change. Join us in for these solutions-focused, collaborative workshops and help address the climate emergency in our own backyard. Our first two workshops are:

#### Cool-ER Changes: Workshop 1 - Nurturing nature

*Thursday 16 March, 6-8:30pm, Gisborne Community Centre*

Healthy ecosystems means healthy people. Bringing together indigenous knowledge with modern experience, we will explore solutions to ensure our land and waterways will flourish into the future.

#### Cool-ER Changes: Workshop 2 – Climate ready communities

*Thursday 30 March, 6-8.30pm, Kyneton Library*

How do we grow a 'climate-ready community' in the Macedon Ranges? From sustainable houses, building and development, to connecting and enhancing our food systems. In this workshop we want to bring the farmers to the families they feed and explore all things sustainable, local, low-carbon living.

Light vegetarian dinner provided. For information and to register visit [mrcs.vic.gov.au/Cool-ER-Changes](http://mrcs.vic.gov.au/Cool-ER-Changes).

Join us in for these solutions-focused, collaborative workshops and help address the climate emergency in our own backyard.



## Environment events in March

Council have launched the autumn calendar of events. There are many exciting opportunities to get involved:

### Nest box monitoring webinar

*Wednesday 1 March, 6:30-7:30pm, online*

Autumn is the best time to monitor our nest boxes for brush-tailed phascogales. Join Tanya Loos, Biodiversity Officer, for a webinar on the ecology of this lovely marsupial and find out how to volunteer in this year's nest box check.

### Pollinator Farm Walk - Sedgwick: Promoting pollinators on your farm

*Sunday 5 March, 10-11:30am, Sedgwick property*

We will take a farm walk to see some pollinators in action, discuss where they can live and how to promote a healthy functioning farm full of diverse pollinators.

### Understanding and Managing Soil Biology on your Farm Workshop

*Wednesday 8 March, 10am-2:30pm, Tylden property*

Soil scientist Declan McDonald will share his knowledge on soils, (physical, chemical and biological) and then travel to a farm property that is starting their journey in applying regenerative agricultural practices.

### Dung Beetles

*Thursday 30 March, 10:30am-12:30pm, Romsey workshop*

*Thursday 30 March, 6:30-8:30pm, Goornong property*

What beetles are in my area? Find out why dung beetles are important to the farm ecosystem, how you can attract them and possibly rear more. Following the workshop, enjoy an on-site farm walk to locate some dung beetles.

### Healthy Landscapes - Equiculture workshop

*Friday 10 March, 9:30am-3pm, Malmsbury*

Learn how to make changes in horse and land management that improve the 'lifestyle' of horses and people and at the same time greatly benefit the wider environment. Do not miss this opportunity with Stuart and Jane Myers back in their old stomping ground. Cost is \$50, lunch and morning tea included.

### Fencing and troughs

*Thursday 16 March, 10am-12pm, Kyneton property*

*Thursday 23 March, 10am-12pm, Marong property*

Come and see a practical demonstration of some moveable and semi-permanent fencing options along with moveable trough options. We will be investigating how these movable fences and troughs combine to improve grazing management.

To find out more about these events and register, visit [www.mrcs.vic.gov.au/environment-events](http://www.mrcs.vic.gov.au/environment-events)

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN

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### How not to make mistakes

As the years rolled on, Michael went into a business partnership with his mum and dad, setting up to pass Bradley's on to the next generation.

Kate came on board in 2007. 'Three weeks after we were married, I put myself on the payroll!' Kate says with a chuckle. Having come from a hospitality background, she was used to long hours and hard work, and loved the customer service side of things.

Kate joining the business coincided with Bradley's renovating their

space to include a new showroom. Michael's close relationship with his parents extended to Kate and she began to learn the ropes in Window/Soft Furnishings both on the job and through a course at RMIT. But she says she didn't learn quickly! And remembers some expensive mistakes... when you're working in an industry providing custom-made items it's pretty hard to flog off blunders in a BIG BLUNDER SALE!

But she can't have wasted too many metres of chintz, because Jim

happily handed over many of his roles to Kate, including the dreaded paperwork and answering the phone. Obviously, he trusted her, with his business and his son!

Jokes aside, Jim and Rhonda had set up a great attitude that endures to this day.

'Jim always used to say that the best way to avoid mistakes is to not do any work,' Kate recalls. 'I love that. I use that so often. Much easier to sit back and not even try. Mistakes happen. Just try to learn from them.'

## Chamber Poets #85: Ten Year Anniversary

An enthusiastic, openhearted audience of around 40 people came together at the Woodend RSL on Saturday 11 February to celebrate the tenth-year anniversary of the public spoken word event, Chamber Poets.

Unlike the standard Chamber Poets event, which has a featured poet, the tenth anniversary session involved an extended Open Section with readings from the Chamber Poets anthology, Shots in the Chamber. The list of readers on the day included Chamber Poets regulars from Woodend, surrounding towns and Melbourne as well as some new names as well.

Twenty-four poets read in the Open Section, and the house band Black Forest Smoke performed five songs throughout the afternoon. In light of the proximity to Valentine's Day, the compositions across the afternoon focused on different stages of a relationship, from flirting, to love, and of course, breakups.

Regulars Minnie and Jenny read poems about Hanging Rock and killer cats, and Ian Gostelow read a poem about gold miners entitled Eureka. Other readers included Ross Donlon, Kevin Brophy, The Wednesday Writers Group from Carlton, Steve Lagerway, Rory Hudson, Bill Wootton, and Tom Perfect, whose wife Judy read one of her own poems for the very first time in public to warm applause.

Woodend poet and attendee Jenny Zimmerman emailed her feedback afterwards, "Another wonderful, fabulous, life-affirming session of poetry – thank you. Minnie and I loved every minute of it. And the songs are the strawberry on the cupcake. You do such a fabulous job of keeping us all happy and creative!"

At the conclusion of the afternoon, the Poet of the Month was awarded to Kevin Brophy by an anonymous judge, and five

books were allocated in the raffle. The Chamber Poets Collective also acknowledged all those who had volunteered their time to assist in the running of the event, including the Woodend RSL for providing a space and drinks.

Myron Lysenko, the founder and MC of the event, says, "What I love about Chamber Poets is seeing writers grow and develop. From watching them get up the nerve to read their poetry for the first time, to gaining confidence and finding their voice. There is always a lovely sense of community and friendship, and a warmth and appreciation for those at the mic from an intent audience."

The next Chamber Poets event on 11 March will celebrate International Women's Day through poetry and song, with special guest, award-winning author and poet, Cate Kennedy from Castlemaine. Everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy Cate reading her poetry, and sharing insights on her work and the occasion.

Poets, musicians and the general public are warmly invited to the March event from 1pm at the Woodend RSL. Chamber Poets is increasingly being attended and enjoyed by Macedon Ranges locals who appreciate the accessibility of a unique local spoken word event and dropping in for a great value afternoon of unpredictable entertainment. Entry is a \$5 or \$10 donation at the discretion of the attendee.

Queries: Myron Lysenko myronpoet@hotmail.com

SUBMITTED BY KATRINA BUTTIGIEG



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## The Mount Players ensure lots of laughs at The 39 Steps

The first production for 2023 opened on 24 February, but you can still catch it before its final performance on 12 March! The 39 Steps is an adaptation of the original film, presented as a BBC radio play in front of you (the live studio audience). A classic story with lots of action, accents and comedy, with two people creating the live sound effects on stage ... everything from smashing glass to punching lettuces will have you giggling the whole way through. John Rowland (Too Many Crooks) has created this radio play for the stage and lets you experience just how they were produced way back when. Bring the family as the show will appeal to all age groups. To book your tickets, go to [www.themountplayers.com](http://www.themountplayers.com) or call 5426 1892.

At the AGM on 13 February, many members gathered for a social time as well as being able to reflect on their successful year in 2022. After the hardships of the previous two years with Covid lockdowns, the theatre was able to pick up momentum and get back to doing what they do best ... bringing a diverse range of shows to life at their Mountview Theatre.

With the line-up on offer for 2023 it is sure to be another successful year. The second production opens in May ... more about that next month.

See you at the theatre!

SUBMITTED BY KAREN HUNT



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## Phoenix Macedon Ranges Art & Craft Display and Sale

We are the Phoenix Macedon Ranges Art & Craft Group, and our next display and sale will be part of the Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival in April.

We are all residents of the Macedon Ranges brought together by our interest in all forms of art and crafts. Many thanks to our local community who have supported us over the years.

We will be holding our next exhibition on Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 April, 2023 (which is Gisborne Market Day). The Phoenix members use many different mediums in their art and crafts, including painting, pottery weaving, glass, and jewellery, just to name a few. If you are interested in joining our group you can contact our long-time member Kay Beale on - ph. 9744 2646.

If you want to find out more about our history and work and the exhibitions, visit [phoenixmrac.com](http://phoenixmrac.com) or [www.facebook.com/phoenixmrac](https://www.facebook.com/phoenixmrac)

SUBMITTED BY CARMEL BUCHANAN



Photo (L-R): Chris Davis, Vishka Davina Haydock, Peter Bevin and Andrew Williams (The 39 Steps Radio Play)





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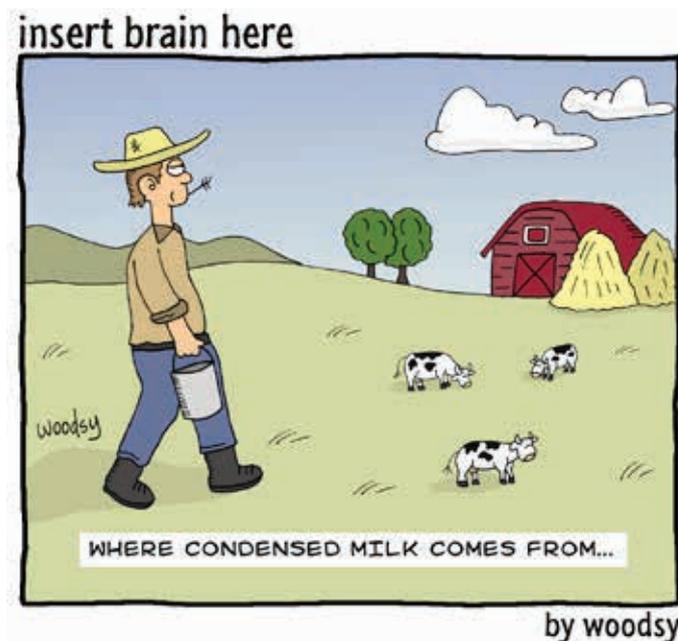
The purpose of our Community Investment Programs is to establish long term, mutually beneficial partnerships with the clubs, organisations and community as a whole. The local community shares in the income generated by your banking. and the profit goes back into supporting projects in our local communities. The more you and your members bank with us the more the community benefits.

This month we are excited to get behind the Woodend Golf Club in the Community Paths Project. The golf course is such a valued local asset and upgrading the paths around the golf course will create greater access for recreational opportunities for visitors and community members.

Another great initiative this month is with our valued Football and Netball teams. Trentham & Woodend Football and Netball clubs will come together in a SALT session. SALT (Sport and Life Training) delivers high quality, positive education into sporting clubs around mental health. The aim of these sessions is to break down barriers, create better connections, support and help build mentally resilient people with healthy values and positive influences with their teammates and the broader community. Bendigo Bank are SALT's major regional sponsors and proudly fund this event.

These are tangible examples of the good that banking locally can offer and, in return strengthens communities for the long term. Whatever your banking needs, Community Bank Trentham & Districts are here for you. For a better banking experience call us on 5424 1608.

SUBMITTED BY CHARL PARRIS



"Insert Brain Here" is an occasional cartoon contributed to *The New Woodend Star* by cartoonist Paul Woods, a former Woodend resident.

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## Macedon Ranges Film Society

The MRFS opening screening for 2023 was *The Full Monty*, held in February, screened using the new and improved cinema-standard 4K Blu-ray projection equipment. This was enhanced by the new drop-down wide screen installed by the management of the Norma Richardson Hall.



Members enjoy discussion of the films over supper and a glass or two of wine. This opportunity to share reviews and observations is valued by most of the MRFS membership. The screening for March is *The Quiet Girl*, a beautiful film set in rural Ireland in the early 80s.

The Committee has chosen a full program of curated monthly screenings for 2023. Those who are interested are invited to visit our website to see the program planned for this year. The film nights are on the second Friday of the month in the Norma Richardson Hall, Woodend. The Committee has been able to fix members' subscriptions for 2023 at the same fee as last year.

New members are most welcome; contact can be made by emailing [mrfilmsociety@gmail.com](mailto:mrfilmsociety@gmail.com) or by visiting our website – [www.mrfilmsociety.org](http://www.mrfilmsociety.org).

SUBMITTED BY NEIL APLIN

## Woodend Police Station news

It's been a fair while since I've written for the local *The New Woodend Star*; it's been almost two years. Some of you may be aware I had a serious medical issue, but I've since fully recovered, I'm fitter and healthier than ever, and I'm back working at Woodend Police Station. This might please some of the community, while for others this news may not be as welcome.

For the last year or so, I've been working within the Macedon Ranges, so I still have had connection within the community. I'm very aware of the challenges you faced as a community through severe storms, COVID and other events across the broader region and state. I know I have stated this a number of times, but it's worth reminding everyone that Woodend Police is a very small police station and we're often actively out and about attending to files, investigating reports and enforcing traffic law. If we are not at the station, or we don't have a patrol unit on, then we are supported by one of the six other police stations within the Macedon Ranges – and if you need police urgently – then someone will come, but it may not be a Woodend member.

Each month I like to have a message or focus – and a current area of concern is the increase of scams on many people within the community. Though scammers are very creative and devious, and are becoming more and more sophisticated, there are a number of things you can do to lessen your chances of becoming a victim.

Things you can do:

- First, check if it is a scam. Go direct to a source you can trust. Visit the official website, log in to your account, or call their phone number. Don't use the links or contact details in the message or given to you on the phone.
- Check what the official source says about what details they might request from you. Often companies or government agencies will say what they will and will not ask you online or over the phone. For example, the bank may tell you that they will never ask for your password. If someone claiming to be from the bank then asks you for your password, you know it is most likely a scam.
- Don't click on links, open any attachments or reply to requests. Scam messages may try and trick you into giving out your personal information. A scammer might ask for your bank account details, passwords or credit card numbers. They may also ask you to download files, software, or allow remote access to your computer.
- Contact your bank or the company named in the scam. Also reach out to your financial institution if you think your credit cards or bank account may be at risk; they may be able to close your account or stop a transaction.

When I am at work, I will (as usual) continue to walk along High Street, mid-morning, coffee in hand. I'm more than happy to have a chat about what we can do to assist you, so please feel free to stop me for a chat.

SUBMITTED BY DAVID ARNOLD, SERGEANT, WOODEND POLICE STATION



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## Kindergarten Vacancies 2023



**Still thinking about kindergarten this year?**  
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To register online **scan the QR Code** or visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/kindergarten](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/kindergarten) or call our Enrolment Officer on **(03) 5422 0239**

## The Woodend Star – March 1923

**Land for Soldiers** – An area of 267 acres (allot114) in the parish of Tylden is available for selection under the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act. The capital value is set down at £1563 which includes original improvements, part of which will be treated as an advance payable in 20 years. The improvements (to be valued) effected by the previous lessee will have to be paid for in addition.

**Presentations** – The transfers of Mr. G Cameron, night officer, and Mr. E. Cassell, clerk, at the local railway station, were noted in our last issue. In token of their esteem, the staff at the station has made each of the two officials the recipient of a valuable pipe. The stationmaster (Mr. Newstead) made the presentation, on behalf of the subscribers, to Mr. Cameron, but Mr. Cassell, having been required to make a hurried departure to his new station, he was unable to be present to accept the gift and, consequently, it was forwarded to him.

**Loose metal** – We observe from the "Sun" that a number of representative business men of Bendigo have drawn attention to the condition of the roads approaching the city, and particularly to long stretches of loose metal which are giving motorists some trouble. In this connection, and in view of the fact that there will be a lot of traffic through Woodend from now until after Easter, it is noteworthy that our shire secretary has endeavoured this week to create a good impression here by getting the loose metal with which the main street was strewn, raked up.

**Sale of Crown Lands** – On Monday afternoon at the Court House, Kyneton, Mr. J. W. McPherson, lands officer, conducted a sale of Crown Lands in fee simple, several allotments at Malmsbury, Woodend and Macedon being offered. An area of 1 acre (allots 6 and 7 of section 59) in the parish of Macedon was purchased by Mr. Harold Trebilcock at the upset price of £10. One rood fronting Ligar Street, Woodend (allot 16, section 26) was purchased by Mr. Patrick J. Browne at £10. Mr Albert F. Donald became the purchaser at £4/2/6 of 2 roods 37 perches (allot 10, section 6) near the quarry reserve at Woodend.

SUBMITTED BY ELAINE SAUNDERS

## Hydronic Servicing, Repairs & Maintenance



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## Ranges Resettlement Art Auction

### Your Chance to support our Macedon Ranges Refugees

On Sunday, 19 March, the Ranges Resettlement Group will be holding a fundraiser and Art Auction at the Social Foundry in Kyneton. This is your chance to support a refugee family that has had to flee their home and will soon be arriving in the Macedon Ranges, seeking sanctuary and a new life.

Our group of local volunteers are tasked with setting up a house and assisting the family over the first 12 months to integrate into Australian society. There will be many expenses incurred along the way and we are seeking support from the Macedon Ranges community and beyond to assist.

The fundraiser will commence at 3pm, and the Art Auction will start at 4 pm. The raffles will be drawn at the conclusion of the auction. The event will conclude at 6 pm. There will be a light supper and tea/coffee provided free of charge, and drinks can be purchased at the venue.

Opportunities to donate to support our refugee family will be available, but the main event will be the Art Auction. Various artists, both local and from Melbourne have donated works varying from sculpture to oil paintings. This could be your chance to acquire a very special piece.

Seasoned local Auctioneer Ron Rutledge, who has auction experience in Australia and overseas (Canada/America/Ireland), will be knocking down our art works to the lucky bidders.

We sincerely thank those artists who have so kindly donated their works for this auction, and local businesses and individuals who have donated items for the raffles. We would also like to acknowledge the ongoing support of the Kyneton Social Foundry.

If you are a local artist and would like to donate a piece or are a local business that would like to offer an item to raffle, or are an individual in a position to donate a piece of art, we would love to hear from you. Or if you are a local business who would like to showcase their produce in the form of serviette-compatible finger food, we would be happy to promote you. (Contact Roger on 0423 020 669)

You can find our event on the Eventbrite website: [www.eventbrite.com/e/ranges-resettlement-art-auction-tickets-541961500437](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/ranges-resettlement-art-auction-tickets-541961500437). If you would, RSVP to give us an idea of numbers, or just turn up on the day

Please put the date in your phone/diary and save up your gold coins and cash notes as we would greatly appreciate your support and hope to see you at the Social Foundry for this event.

If you are unable to attend but would like to assist this family on their journey to a new life, the Ranges Resettlement Group has set up Tax Deductible donation site. You can find it at [shoutforgood.com/fundraisers/rangesresettlementgroup](http://shoutforgood.com/fundraisers/rangesresettlementgroup)

SUBMITTED BY ROGER BARR

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## Macedon Ranges Photographic Society news

Founded by local photography enthusiasts as the Woodend Camera Club in 1983, the Macedon Ranges Photographic Society became known as MRPS in 1994, to encourage members from further afield and to ensure its longevity. The club continues today with many members and the founding vision continues on.

Whether you are just starting out, or a fully-fledged professional, come along to our welcoming environment to take part in all things photography. Our members enjoy regular club competitions and we also compete with clubs outside our local area. External judges provide encouraging feedback and scoring for each entry. If competitions are not your thing, the club encourages mentorship and technical skill workshops and even photographic outings. Members can decide on their own level of involvement.

Come along to a meeting on the first Tuesday of the month, followed by the next Monday. Doors open at 7pm, meeting starts at 7.30pm. Dromkeen, 1012 Kilmore Rd, Riddells Creek. For more information: [www.macedon-ranges-photography.org.au](http://www.macedon-ranges-photography.org.au)

SUBMITTED BY SUE STEWARD



# Your community diary



U3A is a not-for-profit organisation supported by Macedon Ranges Shire Council and is open to Macedon Ranges residents who have retired from full-time employment. We offer a range of social and learning activities.

Our tutors are dedicated volunteers who live in the community and are keen to share their knowledge and experience. No educational qualifications are required or given, and we aim to make our sessions entertaining and informative.

One of our courses this year is 'Unity and Disunity in the USA', presented by Christine Hardy, and assisted by Paul Reid. Both are former teachers with an extensive knowledge of US history and politics. Christine will use her historical knowledge to demonstrate where American history since 1774 has led it to where the society is today. She will also cover Australian history to explain how our similar origins led to vastly different results – we started with convicts; they started with free men; so why is America so different from Australia now? Join the course to find out.

Another new course is 'Crafts - Old or New' with tutor Sarah Brooke. Bring along something that you are already working on, perhaps knitting, embroidery, scrapbooking or clothing repairs. Spend a couple of hours doing your craft and chatting with friends.

There are many other courses to choose from and something to suit everyone. Some courses include Apartheid, Poetry, Folk Dancing, French, Film Club, and Propaganda.

Check out the U3A Kyneton website, [u3akyneton.org.au/courses](http://u3akyneton.org.au/courses), to see the full range of options offered. New members are always welcome and can join via [u3akyneton.org.au/members/join](http://u3akyneton.org.au/members/join). If you need assistance, Roni will be pleased to help you to become one of our valued members.

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

SUBMITTED BY RONI TAUBMAN

## Cultural Diversity Week 2023

### Celebrating a Multicultural Macedon Ranges

Macedon Ranges Shire Council is proud to support Cultural Diversity Week 2023,  an opportunity for us to celebrate the value that cultural diversity brings to our community. Cultural Diversity Week is held annually in March to coincide with the United Nations Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21 March.

In partnership with Regional Victorians of Colour, this year we will bring together culturally diverse people living in our community who will share their stories over morning tea that they have prepared for us.

Following our morning tea conversations, Sister Brigid Arthur, an advocate and fighter for the rights of some of our community's most vulnerable members, will speak about the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project and the contribution that migrants, refugees and asylum seekers make to our community. She will share stories that don't always make the news and challenge us to consider our own contribution as individuals and as a community.

Join us in celebrating and reflecting on the contributions of our multicultural community.

This is a free event, but bookings are essential.

Date: Thursday 23 March 2023, 10:30am – 12:30pm

Location: Norma Richardson Hall, 15 Buckland St, Woodend

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN

Always check with organisers about any events listed.  
To have your event listed on our calendar just send the details to:  
[content@newwoodendstar.org.au](mailto:content@newwoodendstar.org.au)

### — MARCH —

- 1..... Nest box monitoring webinar
- 3..... Hanging Rock Night Walk
- 3..... Curious Kids in the Library: Scientist
- 4..... Woodend Farmers' Market
- 4..... Relay for Life, Lancefield
- 4..... Sustainable House Kits Demo, Library
- 5..... Landcare Clean up Aust day @ Five Mile Creek
- 8..... International Women's Day
- 8..... Understanding & Managing Soil Biology, Tylden
- 9..... Education sessions for Dementia
- 9-13..... LGBTQIA+ Pride Festival, Daylesford
- 10..... Macedon Ranges Film Society at NR Hall
- 11..... Daniel Champagne, KTH
- 11-13..... 48th Annual Woodend Lions Art Show
- 13..... Labour Day Public Holiday
- 13..... MRSG, Sustainable Homes Open Day
- 15..... Knit and Natter, Norma Richardson Hall
- 18..... Hanging Rock Market
- 18..... Create a Tiny Garden workshop, Library
- 19..... Lions Sunday Market
- 19..... Sustainable House Day
- 19..... Macedon Ranges Community Volunteer Expo
- 19..... Resettlement Art Auction at Social Foundry, Kyneton
- 20..... Paul Burke author talk at Library
- 23..... Small Business Bus Woodend
- 23..... Celebrating Multicultural Macedon Ranges
- 23..... Laura Waters author talk at Library
- 25..... Men's Shed Open Day, Old Blackforest Sawmill
- 27..... Be Connected: Avoid Scams, at Library

### — APRIL —

- 1..... Woodend Farmers' Market
- 1..... E-bike Expo at Woodend Neighbourhood House
- 1..... Meet & Three Veg, action group at Library
- 1-2..... Phoenix Macedon Ranges Art & Craft Sale
- 2..... WWAF Launch Concert Joseph Tawadros
- 7..... Good Friday
- 9..... Easter Sunday
- 10..... Easter Monday
- 16..... Lions Sunday Market
- 19..... Knit and Natter, Norma Richardson Hall
- 25..... Anzac Day
- 28..... Melbourne Int Comedy Festival Roadshow

### — MAY —

- 6..... Woodend Farmers' Market
- 6..... Spudfest Trentham

### — JUNE —

- 3..... Woodend Farmers' Market
- 9-12..... Woodend Winter Arts Festival
- 12..... King's Birthday public holiday

## Woodend Library News – What's on?

Our autumn program is packed full of great events – have a look on our website for details or come in and grab a copy from the library!



### Workshops and children's events:

#### Curious Kids in the Library: Everyone Is a Scientist

Friday 3 March, 10am: Storytime welcomes special guest Angela from the Discovery Science & Technology Centre. Angela will show how we are all scientists in our own way with stories, songs, experiments and a take-home activity.



#### Sustainable House Kits demonstration

Saturday 4 March, 11am: Join Sue from Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group to learn how increasing the energy efficiency of your home makes it more comfortable for you, cheaper to run and better for the planet.

Find out how the library's new Sustainable House Kits work and how to reserve one for use in your own home.



#### Create a Tiny Garden workshop

Saturday 18 March, 10am and 11.15am: Share the world of plants with children so they can appreciate the environment they live in! Bring any small containers to create your tiny garden in e.g. eggshells, seashells, saucers, cups and a spoon to scoop the soil into your container. Be imaginative about the small container – think reuse, reduce, recycle.

#### Be Connected: Identifying and Avoiding Scams

Monday 27 March, 10am: The rate of online scams is increasing, and scammers are becoming more sophisticated in their approach to potential victims. These courses outline some of the most common online scams and how you can identify them. Learn what you can do to protect yourself from being scammed, and what to do in the unfortunate case that you're the victim of a scam.

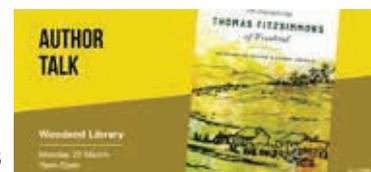


#### Veg Action Group: Meet and Three Veg

Saturday 1 April, 11am: We all know we need to eat more veg for our health, animal welfare and the planet – but working more veg dishes into weekly menus can be hard! Learn about the whys and hows of eating more veg, along with some great recipes and cooking tips. Sample easy to make and delicious veg dishes that will please even the toughest audience. All ages welcome.

### Author Talks:

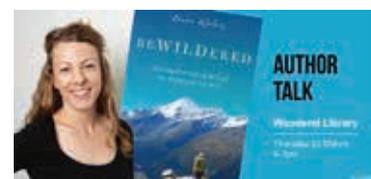
#### Paul Burke: 'The Enterprising Thomas Fitzsimmons of Woodend: Adventures and Survival in Colonial Australia'



Monday 20 March, 11am: Local historian Paul Burke introduces an original Woodend pioneer and his family who lived in Woodend from 1852–1872. Thomas Fitzsimmons was an irrepressible and energetic character, involved in local issues and reinventing himself a number of times. Paul will also share his process of historical research, particularly relating to the potent colonial issue of competition for land.

#### Laura Waters 'Bewildered'

Thursday 23 March, 6pm: Award-winning travel writer and author Laura Waters shares stories and images from her 3,000 km hike down the length of New Zealand, traversing mossy forests, craggy mountains and remote beaches. The journey was not just an incredible adventure but a life-changing personal journey that healed her of anxiety, taught her courage and resilience, and demonstrated the importance of nature. Laura is author of 'Bewildered' (ASTW Best Travel Book 2021) and 'Ultimate Walks & Hikes Australia'.



All events are free, but bookings are required: [goldfieldslibraries.com/woodend-events](http://goldfieldslibraries.com/woodend-events) or call 5427 2074. See you in the Library!

SUBMITTED BY EMMA KEENAN

## Sunbury Ladies Badminton Club

Get involved with a welcoming, fun, social group of women who have been playing ladies badminton since 1999. Social games are held on Monday mornings from 9.30am to noon, and team competitions are held on Thursdays from 9.30am to noon. Venue is the Eric Boardman Stadium in Wilsons Lane, Sunbury. Enquiries and further information can be found at [sunburylbc@gmail.com](mailto:sunburylbc@gmail.com) or [www.revolutionise.com.au/slbc](http://www.revolutionise.com.au/slbc)

## Kyneton Town Hall Events

### Daniel Champagne

8pm, Saturday 11 March: With more than a million streams on Spotify for his song Indigo, Daniel Champagne has been praised for being naturally adept at some techniques that others can't master. He is now regarded as a leading light in acoustic music, with a firm reputation for jaw-dropping performances and making crowds buzz.

### Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow

7:30pm, Friday 28 April: The ultimate comedy trip returns in 2023. Australia's biggest comedy festival is hitting the road for a huge 25th year. Featuring the best and brightest of the 2023 Melbourne International Comedy Festival in a jam-packed show that's sure to leave the whole nation laughing.

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



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## The Vessel

*The Vessel* is a new Australian play written and produced by Tylden local, Dawn Bamforth and directed by Paul Canlan of Kyneton. The play runs for around 40-45 minutes and will be preceded by a ten-minute two-hander, *Until Then*, written and directed by Paul Canlan. Both plays were written in lockdown and have their origins in family relationships; addressing issues of older persons' mental health and intergenerational trauma.

*Until Then* is the story of a father and son and their fractured relationship; when dad has a near-death experience, he is made to reassess his past relationships with family.

*Until Then* is a short play about the connection between father and son and how sometimes it doesn't work out as we'd like. "Clinging onto hope, but until then I won't be holding my breath."

*The Vessel* is the story of Mary, a strong and powerful older woman, bound by physical incapacity and the confines of her room and diminishing brain. What is carried, what is hidden and what is borne by the vessel, are as important as where it lands. The story is told with the assistance of four other cast members - her daughter, a nurse, personal care assistant and roving entertainer (Clown).

There will be a short (15 minute) interval between the two plays, when refreshments will be served.

*Until Then* and *The Vessel* have a strong local cast and creative team and will have a short run of three shows at the Social Foundry in Kyneton. [www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1004783](http://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1004783)

Dates: Saturday 4 March - 8pm and Sunday 5 March, 2pm and 5pm  
Venue: The Social Foundry, 86 Mollison Street, Kyneton VIC 3444

SUBMITTED BY DAWN BAMFORTH

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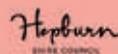



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## Macedon Ranges Community Volunteer Expo

Buffalo Stadium, Woodend

Sunday 19 March 2023 from 11am – 2pm



The Rotary Clubs of Daylesford, Gisborne, Kyneton, Macedon and Woodend, and with support from Macedon Ranges Shire Council are proudly sponsoring the Macedon Ranges Community Volunteer Expo. This event will showcase the amazing work that so many different volunteer organisations within the Macedon Ranges undertake for our community.

Have you thought about volunteering yourself? Volunteering looks different to each person. Some people are looking for a club to join and a regular meeting to attend. Others like the idea of volunteering for an hour a week or month. You might find what you are looking for at the Macedon Ranges Community Volunteer Expo.

Maybe you require assistance and would like to find an organisation that can help you. By coming along to the Expo, you may be able to find the support you need.

Volunteer organisations attending include Foodbank, Days for Girls, Neighbourhood Houses, Macedon Ranges Further Education Centre, among many others.

If your organisation would like to attend the Community Volunteer Expo or you would like further information, please contact [rotarymacedonranges@gmail.com](mailto:rotarymacedonranges@gmail.com)

There will be food and drinks available on the day. The combined Rotary Clubs of the Macedon Ranges look forward to this community celebration and acknowledgement of the valuable work that all the volunteer organisations in the region undertake in our community.

SUBMITTED BY CHARLES BENDER

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## Woodend Men's Shed Open Day 2023

The Woodend Mens Shed invites you to an Open Day on Saturday 25 March, between 10am and 2pm.

Everyone is welcome to come and see what we do, chat to our members, enjoy a barbecued sausage and maybe purchase a handmade item from our range.

Woodend Men's Shed provides a welcoming, supportive environment for all men over the age of 18. Members can work on their own projects, assist in the completion of community projects or just have a yarn and a cuppa with a mate.

During 2022/23 the Woodend Men's Shed has completed projects that have assisted the Woodend Neighbourhood House food bank, Very Special Kids Woodend, Woodend Playgroup, Mt Macedon Primary School, Woodend Primary School, the Mount Players, Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Woodend Wildlife Carers and many individual Ranges residents.

Projects have included many and varied nesting boxes for native fauna and birds, seating and outdoor tables, storage shelves,

stage sets, play equipment, broken chair legs, wooden balls, tool handles and even a pen for a fibreglass pig!

We will have a range of items for sale from outdoor table and bench sets, wooden toys, through to turned darning mushrooms.

We are located at 988 Blackforest Drive Woodend in part of the Old Blackforest Sawmill.

Keep up to date with our happenings on our Woodend Men's Shed Facebook page, or if you are unable to make the Open Day, drop in and see us on a Monday or Wednesday between 9am and 12 noon.

SUBMITTED BY KEVIN DAVIS, PRESIDENT, WOODEND MENS SHED



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### Mental health support group

If you or someone you know is struggling with life and experiencing mental health issues that are impacting everyday functioning, a new support group in Kyneton could help. 'Tools 4 Living Well' aims to support people dealing with issues such as anxiety, depression, panic attacks and stress and help them develop the skills to improve their wellbeing.

The group will draw upon the lived experience of the group members and will provide a safe and nurturing space for people to connect with others and work towards feeling stronger and happier and more able to cope with the pressures of life.

There will also be opportunities for those attending the group to explore more traditional counselling supports if needed. A supervised space for children with activities will be provided for those who need to bring their pre-school youngsters.

Starting from 7 March, the group will meet every Tuesday between 9.30am and 11.30am at Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health's building at 1 Caroline Chisholm Drive Kyneton.

To register your interest please contact Gina Alvarez on 03 5421 1617 or email [gina.alvarez@scchc.org.au](mailto:gina.alvarez@scchc.org.au).

This activity is supported by funding from Murray PHN through the Australian Government's PHN Program.

SUBMITTED BY SARAH TURNER

### Would you benefit from seeing a dietician?

The dietitian service at Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health is expanding, with appointments now available Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Dietitian Erin Dwyer can provide personalised guidance on the best foods to eat to optimise your health and manage a range of medical conditions, such as diabetes, heart disease and lung conditions.

Dietitians can also assist with coeliac disease, irritable bowel syndrome, Crohn's and colitis. They can help those managing food allergies, weight loss or gain and general gut problems such as heartburn, bloating, and bowel movement issues.

Access to the service is prioritised to those on the National Disability Insurance Scheme, the Commonwealth Home Support Program or who have a Home Care Package. To discuss further, call 5421 1666, email [admin@scchc.org.au](mailto:admin@scchc.org.au) or drop in to 1 Caroline Chisholm Drive, Kyneton.

SUBMITTED BY SARAH TURNER

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## Council health and wellbeing news



### Upcoming School Immunisations

Consent cards have recently been distributed to all secondary schools within the Macedon Ranges for the free school-based immunisation program. If you have a child in year 7 or 10, look out for immunisation information and a consent form coming home with your child.

Students who are eligible for vaccination must return the form to school completed and signed by their parent or guardian. Take time to talk with your child about vaccination – why it’s important and how you both feel about it.

If you wish to decline the offer of free, school-based immunisation, you can return the consent section of the form to the school, marked as ‘declined’.

If you have any questions not answered by the information provided, please contact your GP or Council’s immunisation service on 5422 0333.

### Changes to the School Immunisation Program

From 6 February 2023, the routine two-dose HPV vaccine schedule provided to young people aged 12-13 years through the National Immunisation Program (NIP) has changed to a single dose schedule using the same Gardasil@9 vaccine.

The dose change is based on advice from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) who have considered the international clinical evidence that supports a

single dose providing comparable protection to the two doses. These changes simplify the HPV vaccine schedule and will make it easier to vaccinate young people for HPV.

The schedule has not changed for immunocompromised people. A three-dose schedule of 9vHPV vaccine is recommended for people with severely immunocompromising conditions, regardless of their age when they started vaccination.

### Pathways for Carers

This initiative offers carers of older people, people with a disability or mental illness a chance to attend free walking events in Victoria together, and to learn more about news, services and supports available to them.

The next dates are Fridays 3 March and 14 April. Meet at 9:45am at Barry Doyle Memorial Rotunda, 2 Campaspe Crescent, Kyneton.

This is a free event. Registration is required. Contact Abbey on 5422 0262 or visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/village-connect](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/village-connect)

### Education sessions for Dementia

Thursday 9 March, 10am–12pm at Woodend RSL, 32 Anslow St.

Dementia Australia, in collaboration with Woodend Lifestyle Carers Group and Council, are running a free Educational Dementia Immersive Experience (EDIE) session for family carers and family members of people living with dementia. The session aims to enhance knowledge of dementia through virtual reality technology allowing participants to see the world through the eyes of a person living with dementia.

To register visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/EDIE](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/EDIE) or call Dementia Australia on 1300 526 576.

## Puppy Pride

After the success of last year's inaugural Puppy Pride, Kyneton's Botanic Gardens will once again host an event to celebrate all things canine and bring together the LGBTIQ+ community, their friends and their family. The organisers at Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health are putting a call out for puppy superstars, those dogs that love to perform, do tricks or who have a unique feature that needs to be shared.

Puppy Pride, held with the support of Macedon Ranges Shire Council, is on Sunday 26 March from 12pm. Like last year, the afternoon will start with a group dog walk to the Botanic Gardens, where there will be various food and market stalls, activities, competitions and plenty of space to spread out your picnic rug.

The focus will be on gathering together as a community, enjoying the beauty of the natural surroundings and appreciating the many ways dogs improve our health and wellbeing.

"From reducing stress to improving our fitness, dogs can also increase our social interaction and of course provide companionship," says Belinda Brain from Sunbury and Cobaw. "All are welcome – we promise the day will be colourful, vibrant and definitely fun!"

For more details email [puppy.pride@scchc.org.au](mailto:puppy.pride@scchc.org.au) or call 5421 1666.



SUBMITTED BY SARAH TURNER

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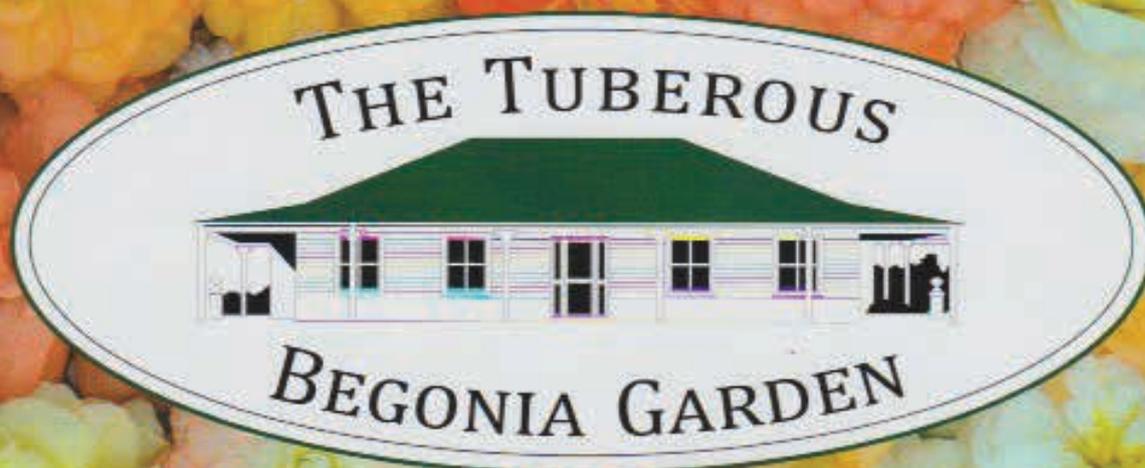
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There are some clean public toilets in Anslow St near the corner High St, Woodend*

## State government news

### Grants to encourage sport participation for women and girls

Applications for the 2022–23 Change Our Game Community Activation Grants Program have opened, says Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas.

Offered through the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation, the grants help local sport clubs and eligible organisations run initiatives that promote participation by women and girls.

The grants also help build capability, equity and leadership at grassroots level.

“Sport and recreation organisations are a big part of our local community, bringing us together, and driving positive change, and that’s why this program is so important,” said Ms Thomas.

Now in its sixth year, the Program has already funded activations and events at more than 350 organisations across the state.

For more information on the 2022–23 Change Our Game Community Activation Grants Program visit the website at [changeourgame.vic.gov.au](http://changeourgame.vic.gov.au).

### Footy and netball club grants

Country and outer metropolitan football and netball clubs will benefit from \$2.5 million worth of grants to help communities through the 2022–3 Country Football and Netball Program.

The program supports new facilities, and replacements and upgrades to existing facilities at football and netball clubs across rural, regional and outer metropolitan Victoria, so they can meet growing demand and welcome even more members.

Grants of up to \$250,000 are available to redevelop and build new ovals and netball courts, install LED sports lighting, and build new or redevelop existing pavilions.

Ms Thomas urged football and netball clubs last month to talk to their local shires to kick start projects. “Better facilities allow clubs to take on more players, host more events and draw bigger crowds, creating a real buzz in the community and boosting local economies,” she said. There’s also a strong focus on supporting clubs in communities who have recently experienced natural disasters such as floods, or clubs in communities that are experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, strong population growth or other economic challenges.

Launched in 2005, the program is a partnership with the AFL, AFL Victoria and Netball Victoria that’s invested more than \$35 million into more than 550 projects across the state.

Applications close on 27 March 2022. For more information about the program and to apply visit [sport.vic.gov.au](http://sport.vic.gov.au).

SUBMITTED BY KATE-IDA LEE, OFFICE OF MARY-ANNE THOMAS, MEMBER FOR MACEDON

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## Mary-Anne Thomas MP LABOR MEMBER FOR MACEDON

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MaryAnneMacedon [maryannethomasmp](https://www.instagram.com/maryannethomasmp)

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

## Zonta Young Women in Public Affairs Award program applications closing soon

The Zonta Club of Kyneton is now accepting applications for the 2023 Young Women in Public Affairs Award. The goal of the program is to encourage young women to participate in public affairs, by recognising a young woman’s commitment to the volunteer sector, evidence of volunteer leadership achievements and a dedication to the empowerment of women.

Applicants are asked to reflect on their voluntary commitment to their school and to their community and the problems limiting the empowerment of women in their own country and worldwide. The Zonta International Young Women in Public Affairs Award Program looks to the young women of today to be the leaders of tomorrow.

The Zonta Club of Kyneton has recognised 21 local awardees since 1997, with local recipients being eligible for the District award. Applications are due by March 15, 2023 – please contact [secretary@zontakyneton.org.au](mailto:secretary@zontakyneton.org.au) for application forms or for further information.

The Zonta Club of Kyneton is part of Zonta International, standing up for women’s rights. They advocate for equality, education and an end to child marriage and gender-based violence. Zonta expands opportunities for women and girls through international education programs and service projects. In the Macedon Ranges, Zonta provides local educational awards, supports women’s health initiatives and local programs that advocate for gender equality and an end to violence against women and girls.

SUBMITTED BY ELOISE FORBES, SECRETARY, ZONTA CLUB OF KYNETON

## Introduction

Across the Macedon Ranges you may be starting to see the nets going on in vineyards. The season to date can be categorised as having an incredibly cold and wet spring, which posed a number of challenges, however at the time of writing, the warmer, temperate weather we have been seeing has things shaping up nicely. Assuming the weather holds, there is great potential for 2023, however growing grapes is farming so anything can happen ... just another reason to really appreciate every vintage that you enjoy in bottle!



### 2017 Lord Malmsbury Classic Red

A lovely, mature red that is showing well after a number of years in bottle and still available from the producer. A medium red in colour, the nose has the unmistakable spiced impact of American oak that is well integrated with black cherry and plum.

The palate is soft and supple, with a Pinot-like elegance to it, in terms of a litheness of red berry fruits, and finely textured yet impactful tannins. The influence of oak gives both brown spice and vanillin tones with excellent drive and carry of red berry fruits to finish.

Rating: 93 | Price: \$35 | When to Drink: 2023—2030

### 2018 Rowanston on the Track Riesling

A light to golden yellow in terms of colour, a nose of fresh lime and buttered toast with a touch of petroleum. There is a fullness of texture on the palate with secondary lanolin and candied citrus characters that are offset by a textural and mineral drive of acidity. In a good place now and will live for a long time. Great value.

Rating: 92 | Price: \$28 | When to Drink: 2023—2032

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### Back to markets at the Rock

Hanging Rock holds a special place in the hearts of Victorians. From music to mystery, it means something different to everyone. For us at Craft Markets Australia, it's the magical backdrop for our gorgeous Hanging Rock Market.

As a shopping destination, this is like no other. After all, how often do you shop in the company of faunal favourites like kangaroos and echidnas? We'd wager not often, but that's exactly what you're likely to see at Hanging Rock. From mobs of kangaroos around the edges of the market area, to our shy spiky friends hidden amongst the rocks and trees, it's certainly a place to be at one with nature.

It's not just the incredible surrounds that will tempt you to this market; our stallholders and their vast range of products are also a beautiful enticement and well worth setting aside the time for.

We've brought together a variety of both local and regional Victorian stalls, all sharing their talents in this magical location beneath the trees and the rock itself. Find the most unique pieces for your home, body, table and family, all handmade or homegrown by the people selling them. By buying from our stallholders, you're supporting small local businesses to grow and thrive – bet that feels good!

We've got fresh gourmet food and drinks to tickle your fancy, both to enjoy there and take home for later. There are plenty of spots to sit and have a picnic, whether you bring a blanket and pick your place or take a seat at a picnic table around the grounds. Either way, take a moment to breathe in the clear country air, and see what wildlife you can spy!

All of this at the feet of one of Victoria's most epic destinations, and less than an hour's drive from Melbourne. After the market, if you're feeling the need to stretch your legs further, Hanging Rock beckons. Put on your hiking shoes and head up the rock for views out across central Victoria.

Come for the market, stay for the beauty of Hanging Rock. It's the autumn road trip your soul needs!

Hanging Rock Market, Saturday 18 March, 9am–2pm. Please leave your pooch at home. Park entry fee of \$10 applies.

SUBMITTED BY LOUISE GAMON

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## Young Voices in good voice

The year has started well for Young Voices of Macedon, with four new singers and new teacher Peter Hagen. The children are working on repertoire, featuring songs by Australian composers Paul Jarman and Dan Walker, to perform at Choralfest at Montsalvat in early May. Although it has not been held for three years, Choralfest is always a much anticipated and very enjoyable event for our choir.

It is pleasing to report that eight of our children – Jude, Josie and Harriet Barnes, Dorothy and Henry Chisnall-Parker, Amelia and Monty Clark and Orson Pillay – were recently awarded long service badges, having been choir members for three years. Not only that, they toughed out the challenges of Zoom rehearsals during that period, helping to produce the impressive CD Zoomtime in late 2021. Our choir leader for 2023 is Josie Barnes.

It is well documented that singing in a choir has a wide range of benefits for children: musical, intellectual, social and emotional. It can play a vital role in a child's development and lead to a life-long love of choral music and singing. And the friendships made at choir are a very important feature of the experience.

Parents and children from the age of six are welcome to come to a rehearsal (Thursdays from 4.15 – 5.45pm at Norma Richardson Hall, Buckland Street, Woodend) to observe and try out.

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

SUBMITTED BY DIANNE GOME

## Dance classes for children

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

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

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

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

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

## Fitness for teenagers



Council's Kyneton and Gisborne Fitness Centres offer a Teen Gym program to all secondary school teenagers, where young people can learn to use gym equipment correctly with personalised programs and instruction from qualified trainers.

Exercise is not only important for physical fitness but is also beneficial to improving mental health. It can relieve tension, promote interpersonal relations, and improve self-esteem and self-confidence.

Teen Gym can be accessed at Kyneton Toyota Sports & Aquatic Centre on weekdays from 4–5pm and Saturdays 10–11am, or at Gisborne Fitness Centre from Monday–Thursday, 4–5pm.

For information, call your local centre: Kyneton on 5421 1477 or Gisborne on 5428 3318.

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## 1st Woodend Scouts update

1st Woodend Scout Group have been enjoying spending time in the great outdoors with a range of exciting activities over the past few months.

In November, our Scout unit attended Gilweroo up at Elmore, an annual Scout camp attended by Scouts from all over Victoria. Despite the weather being cooler than expected, the Scouts had an awesome time; their days jam-packed with fun activities. Our group enjoyed BMX riding, crate stacking, having fun on the giant water inflatables and waterslides, catapulting, remote controlled car racing, and a real highlight was a late-night disco. All the Scouts agreed it was such a fun weekend, and they can't wait to attend the next one!

December saw our two Cub Scout units, Burke and Wills, join up and spend the weekend camping under canvas at the Blackwood Scout Camp. We were very lucky with the weather and enjoyed the sunshine. Highlights of the weekend included constructing bush shelters, learning all about navigation, cooking pancakes on tin cans, hiking and coming up with some funny skits to perform in the evening. It was wonderful for the Cubs to spend time with their friends and make new friends!

SUBMITTED BY CHRIS EAGLE, ACTING GROUP LEADER



## LAWYERS

### WOODEND OFFICE

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## St Mary's Knit and Natter monthly meeting

The St Mary's Knit and Natter is held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

The next Knit and Natter is on 15 February, at 11am in Norma Richardson Hall, 15 Buckland Street, Woodend.

For further information, contact Sylvia on 0488 776 645.

SUBMITTED BY JANE FRAZER

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### Get Into Badminton

Badminton competitions are regularly held at the Macedon Community Centre and run by Macedon Ranges Badminton Club. Badminton is played indoors all-year-round and is fun, with no age limits or fitness level required.

Macedon Ranges Badminton Club offers a wide range of standards and organised playing times. So, get a racquet and get acquainted with badminton. For more information call David on 0419 589 425 or email [macedonrangesbadminton@gmail.com](mailto:macedonrangesbadminton@gmail.com)

## Woodend CFA

### Do your driveways give us access to your property?

The Woodend CFA has an excellent record in turning out to fires and other incidents in our region. However, during recent inspections of the area, it was discovered that a lot of properties do not have safe access for fire trucks to get close to the house or other important assets.

A number of our members regularly visit properties in the area, especially those with work such as drivers or tradespeople. In several cases they have found that they could not, or were barely able, to get a work or delivery vehicle down a driveway. If that was difficult, what chance does a large fire truck have?

### How much clearance do you need?

Fire trucks are very large vehicles, especially our Heavy Tanker, and they need room to enter your driveway and somewhere to turn around. A driveway needs a clearance of at least 4 metres by 4 metres and adequate access through gates. Bridges, culverts and drain overpasses on private land also need to be able to carry the weight of a fire truck, which can be over 14 tonnes.

We are always asking people to clear their properties of fuel to reduce the risk of fire, but good access is another prime responsibility of rural property owners. For further information, contact the Woodend CFA on 5427 2356, email [woodendcfa@gmail.com](mailto:woodendcfa@gmail.com) or visit the station in Urquhart Street. Follow us on Facebook, or you can visit our website: [www.woodendcfa.org](http://www.woodendcfa.org)

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, EX-CAPTAIN WOODEND CFA



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## Summer Holiday Camps a success at PGL!

January 2023 saw PGL Campaspe Downs in Kyneton run their first ever summer holiday camp for 8-14-year-olds during the school holidays, bringing students from far and wide to enjoy the stunning Macedon Ranges. The camp went so well that the program has been extended to holiday camps run during Easter and winter school holidays.

"We were so pleased with how the camps ran and the feedback that we received from both parents and children, that we've decided to extend the program considerably," says director of PGL Australia, Carl Stanforth. "Children will now have the opportunity to try our adventure activities, learn new skills and meet new friends at holiday camps multiple times each year," he said.

PGL Campaspe Downs will run its next Easter holiday camp from 11-13 April 2023.

The effect of these camps on children's wellbeing is evident: "The activities were great, they made new friends, became more independent, confident and generally just had a ball! They are both really keen to come back again." – Jess, parent.

"All three kids were just raving about the whole experience and were wanting to go again" – Oliver, parent

For more information or to book, visit: [www.pgladventurecamps.com.au/easter-holiday-camps](http://www.pgladventurecamps.com.au/easter-holiday-camps)

\*See website for full terms and conditions

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## Woodend Hanging Rock Petanque Club

Last weekend the Coonawarra Petanque Club in South Australia, finally after seven years, decided to hold their Coonawarra Classic pétanque tournament.

On the Friday, 48 teams from around the country, but mainly Victoria and South Australia converged on the town of Penola, for their accommodation in the caravan park and in various hotels and motels in the area.

Then on the Saturday morning, we all converged into the vines of the Coonawarra to play six games of competitive pétanque; New South Wales and Victorian teams playing South Australian teams.

A great competitive day was had by all. There were some winners and some losers, but hey, that's the way it goes in pétanque!

Next morning was the Social day!

The top 16 teams were in the Principale and Complementary and the rest of us in the Sociale.

Another competitive day!

Our Woodend Hanging Rock teams all played well and had a fabulous weekend of competition, fun and enjoyment of all that the region had to offer!

Come and join in the fun and socializing, we travel around our state. Avoca, Nagambie, Ballarat and Apollo Bay are trips coming up, they are just a few of the destinations where we get to play our wonderful game!

The Woodend Hanging Rock Pétanque Club meet at 2pm each Monday at the old racecourse in Woodend and Thursday afternoons at 4 pm at our beautiful Hanging Rock.

Come and join us, we would love to include you in our club.

SUBMITTED BY LOUISE POTTER



## Woodend Bowls Club

### Stephen is Woodend Men's Club champion

The final of the Woodend Men's Singles Championship was played in lovely sunny conditions on the club grass green.



Reigning champion Norm Bickerdyke (photo, left) was up against new club member Stephen Pickles (right). To reach the final, both players had tough semi-final matches, with Norm defeating Mike Dornau, and Stephen defeating Jarrod Behan, both with 25-17 results. Norm started solidly and led 4-0 after three ends, with Stephen taking the lead 5-4 after five ends. Norm then went away until Stephen levelled at 12-all on end 16. It was then Stephen's turn to build a lead of 23-14 by the 24th end and then going on to win 25-16 after 27 ends.

"It was a close match from the very beginning," said Woodend President, and marker-umpire for the day, Mike Dornau, "with Norm going for five club singles championships in a row and Stephen for his first. They were both on the jack for every end, with Stephen proving more consistent in the end, and Norm having a bit of bad luck. It was great to see the depth building at the club in both the men's and ladies' competitions." Stephen and new Woodend Ladies' Champion Anne Dornau will now represent the club in the district and regional Champ of Champs rounds.

### Congratulations to the Grand Finalists and winners

The remaining club championship events continue. Other events still to be completed include the Ladies Pairs, Mens Pairs, Mixed Pairs, 21 Up and 100 Up.

### The new pennant season rolls on

The Club has teams in both Midweek (Tuesdays) and Saturday competitions. Following the Christmas break, the teams returned to competition in mid-January. Most teams are in contention for the Final Four in their divisions.

### Come on down for a free trial

If you have wondered what playing lawn bowls is like, why not come down to the Club for and have a go?

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

Lawn bowls is now played by people of all ages. In fact, most of the players in the Australian team are in their twenties and thirties, and some are still in their teens. Check out our website and Facebook page

For more information, please call our new phone number 4417 7811, visit our website at [www.woodendbowlsclub.weebly.com](http://www.woodendbowlsclub.weebly.com). You can also follow us on Facebook.

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, PRESIDENT WOODEND BOWLING CLUB INC.



## More Council events and news

### Support for small business owners

Throughout March there will be opportunities for small businesses in the shire to get advice, support and training.

The Small Business Bus will be visiting Kyneton between 10am–4pm on Monday 20 March and Woodend on Thursday 23 March with mental health and wellbeing support provided by Partners in Wellbeing.

If you have concerns about your online security, register for a Cyber Security workshop on Thursday 16 March. The free workshop will be held at Gisborne Administration and Service Centre, 40 Robertson Street from 9:30–11:30am.

For information visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/business-events](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/business-events) or contact [ecodevadmin@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:ecodevadmin@mrsc.vic.gov.au)

### Community Sport and Programs

A variety of programs and activities are held by local associations and user groups at the Buffalo Sports Stadium, Macedon Community Centre, and Romsey Recreation Centre.

Visit our website to see what's on offer ([mrsc.vic.gov.au/leisure](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/leisure)) or call Buffalo Sports Stadium on 5427 3411 and Romsey Recreation Centre on 5429 5637.

### Free fitness classes for International Women's Day

Council's aquatic and fitness centres will recognise International Women's Day on Wednesday 8 March with a "Day of Wellness" and free entry to group fitness classes at our Kyneton, Gisborne and Romsey centres.

Programs include virtual fitness as well as instructor-led, land-based or aqua aerobics classes. This is a perfect opportunity to celebrate this special day and sample some of the programs on offer through our aquatics and fitness program.

For information, please contact your local centre:

- Kyneton Toyota Sports & Aquatic Centre, 5421 1477, [ksac@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:ksac@mrsc.vic.gov.au)
- Gisborne Fitness Centre, 5428 3318, [gfc@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:gfc@mrsc.vic.gov.au)
- Gisborne Aquatic Centre, 5421 1452, [gac@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:gac@mrsc.vic.gov.au)
- Romsey Recreation Centre, 5429 5637, [rrc@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:rrc@mrsc.vic.gov.au)

### Why register your pet?

Council pet registrations renewals are due by 10 April 2023.

There are four important reasons to register your pet:

- Pets found wandering unregistered and un-microchipped make it difficult for rangers to reunite them with their owner. Sadly, some pets are never reunited and end up re-homed or worse yet, euthanised.
- It's the law. Your cat/dog must be registered with Council by three months of age.
- The registration cost is much less than the fine.
- Registration fees assist Council in providing animal management services, education materials, incentives and programs, and welfare assistance for animals in our shire.

There are a number of ways you can renew your pet registration including in person at a Council service centre, by mail, BPay, or online.

For information visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/pet-registration](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/pet-registration) or call 5422 0333.

### Village Connect Events for over 55s

#### Information Session 1 – Scam Awareness

Thursday 16 March, 10:30–11:30am

Kyneton Town Hall – Newman Room, 129 Mollison Street

Scams target everyone and anyone can be a target of phone scams or false information online – but there are things you can do to protect yourself. Hear from nbn® Community Ambassador Janeen Stewart who will share up-to-date information on scam trends and what you can do to protect yourself.

Learn about:

- scam trends in Australia
- common types of scams and how to detect common scams
- what to do if you think you've been scammed
- top tips to stay safe, including securing your personal devices and keeping your financial information safe.

#### Information Session 2 – Digital Devices 101

Thursday 16 March, 12–1pm

Kyneton Town Hall – Newman Room, 129 Mollison Street

Devices such as smart phones and tablets are fast becoming a way to strengthen our connections with family and friends. Hear from nbn® Community Ambassador Janeen Stewart who will share up-to date information on how to access Wi-Fi hotspots and answer your connectivity questions.

Learn about:

- using Wi-Fi calling and mobile hotspots
- the NBN network during a power outage
- what technology is available in the shire to ensure you are getting the most from your service.

If you're over 55 and want to join us for these free sessions, call the Village Connect Team on 5422 0333 or email [villageconnect@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:villageconnect@mrsc.vic.gov.au)



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## A message from your West Ward Councillors



## A Message from your West Ward councillors

At the time of article submissions for the February edition, the winners of Macedon Ranges Australia Day awards were not yet known. Now it is our pleasure to congratulate Sue Anderson, Citizen of the Year, for her tireless work volunteering as a wildlife rescuer; Romsey Ecotherapy Park in the Connecting Communities category; Friends of Daly Nature Reserve and Woodend Masters Football Club, joint winners in the Healthy People, Healthy Environment Category; and Woodend's own Matty B (AKA Matthew Barry) in the Business and Tourism category for his work coordinating volunteers at the Woodend Farmers Market. So many great nominations received. We thank you all for your contributions.

You may recall Council made the decision to no longer provide direct home care services to older residents because of changes in federal government funding. Benetas and Intereach have been awarded contracts by the Australian Government to transition into delivering aged care services currently provided by Council. Council will still play an assessment role and through consultation with the community, we will continue to provide other services to our over 65s to help keep them healthy and active.

On 2 March at Kyneton Town Hall, we will be launching Cool-ER Changes, which builds on the momentum of the earlier Cool Changes program run in many of our towns. It aims to create a shared, shire-wide Climate Emergency Response Plan for both Council and the community. Look on our website to register for the various themed workshops that we will be undertaking across the shire between March and June.

Don't forget to book to attend our International Women's Day event on 8 March from 10am to 1pm at Kyneton Town Hall, featuring Woodend local Rhiannon Winchester and her band, Macedon Ranges award winner Sage Roadknight and keynote speaker Antoinette Braybrook, 2022 Melburnian of the Year.

Now that Covid restrictions have eased, we can look forward to face-to-face consultations out in the community again. Each ward will be undertaking drop-in sessions, and West Ward's sessions will commence in conjunction with the Malmsbury Market on March 19. Keep a lookout in the paper and on our website, as we continue to plan more of these informal sessions. Don't forget, you can watch our monthly scheduled council meetings online, either live or a recording afterwards, and you can still turn up in person at Gisborne if you wish.

We look forward to increasing our engagement with you as we work our way around the towns. Please feel free to contact us via phone or email in between these times.

We hope you have a great March and wish you a happy International Women's Day for March 8.

**Your West Ward Councillors,  
Mark, Janet and Jennifer**

## Nominations open for the Community Choice Awards

Macedon Ranges has a host of outstanding businesses committed to delivering excellent customer experiences. In recognition of this, we're inviting residents and visitors to nominate their favourite in the inaugural Telstra Macedon Ranges Community Choice Awards.

An extension of the Business Excellence Awards program, the Telstra Macedon Ranges Community Choice Awards seek to recognise and celebrate those who go above and beyond in their day-to-day delivery of goods and services.

Nominations will be decided by popular vote for each of the five categories:

- Excellence in Customer Service – Agribusiness and Primary Production
- Excellence in Customer Service – Health and Wellbeing
- Excellence in Customer Service – Hospitality and Accommodation
- Excellence in Customer Service – Retail and Service
- Excellence in Customer Service – Trades and Manufacturing

You can nominate your favourite business until 24 March. Voting will be open from 1 April.

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

## Sports and Aquatics news

### Active Kids Sports Program

Children will learn a variety of ball games to improve motor skills and techniques to play sports, while interacting with other children.

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

### Kindagym

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

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

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

Costs for Active Kids and Kindagym:

- Casual visit: \$11.25 (EFTPOS only)
- 10 pass: \$101.20 (six months expiry).

Both programs are casual, no need to book.

For more information call 5427 3411 or email [buffalo@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:buffalo@mrsc.vic.gov.au)

## Local cemetery seeks volunteers to lend a hand

Are you a gardener, history buff, green space enthusiast, cemetery enthusiast or a local seeking to get involved with the community? If you are interested and have some time, Macedon Cemetery is looking for individuals to join its volunteer team.

As a volunteer, you'll have the opportunity to contribute to your community, learn about local history, and help keep the cemetery looking beautiful. The historical and beautiful Macedon Cemetery, which is managed by volunteer trust members, provides a peaceful and respectful environment for families and visitors, and volunteers play a crucial role in helping to achieve this goal.

"Volunteers are at the core of what we do at Macedon Cemetery," said Sharon Bondy, Chair of the Macedon Cemetery Trust. "Their support helps us to preserve, restore, enhance, and share Macedon Cemetery." Volunteers can choose from a variety of flexible roles depending on their skills, interests, and available time; possible activities include including gardening, doing historical research, inputting data into our digitised cemetery records, creating content for social media, hosting walking tours of the cemetery; there's something for everyone.

If you are interested in volunteering at Macedon Cemetery, please email [macedoncemetery88@gmail.com](mailto:macedoncemetery88@gmail.com) or message us via the Macedon Cemetery Facebook Page.

SUBMITTED BY SHARON BONDY

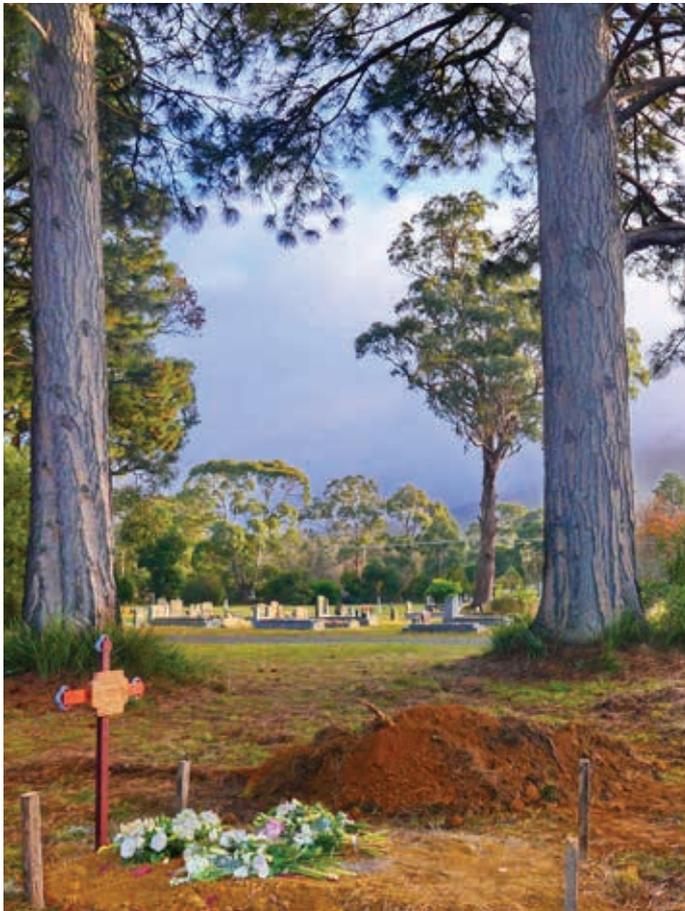


Photo: New grave watched over by old trees (photo supplied by John Spring)

## Australia Day award for Woodend Masters Football Club

On Australia Day, the Woodend Masters Football Club was acknowledged by the Macedon Ranges Shire Council for its efforts to promote a healthy environment within the community.

The Hawks were co-winners of the Healthy People, Healthy Environment award.

Recognition like this within the community only strengthens our resolve to continue being more than a footy club for middle-aged blokes pushing back on middle-aged preconceptions.

Physical and mental health is the cornerstone to a happier life, and the Woodend Masters Football Club provides a safe place for men 35 and over to socialise and focus on their physical and mental wellbeing. The club is dedicated to providing a safe place for men to improve and find support around mental health issues, because we know our demographic suffers more mental health issues than other age groups.

The club is more than a football club, it is a family club, a social club, and a community-focused group that supports other clubs and community members through donations and fundraisers, as well as hands-on help when needed.

The club attends working bees for club members in need, such as those affected by the 2021 storms, or to assist community groups, such as the Lions Club and RSL among many.

Any excess funds raised by the club are also used to support local sports clubs, particularly junior sports, or community groups.

Whether you are a seasoned footballer or you have never played before, the club encourages men to come down to the club and meet likeminded people who are taking part for social and/or health reasons. We embrace everyone and have had many players who have never played Aussie Rules join us from the UK, Ireland, America, New Zealand and South Africa.

We train weekly and play fortnightly games in the Victorian Country Masters Australian Football League.

Masters football's mantra is "footy for fun", which is why we celebrate our Tool of the Year, and not the most talented player. It's an open field as to who can win that after each season.

If you want to help around the club or just come down to support us, the club warmly welcomes you.

Our supporters range from primary school-aged water kids to our just-retired 75-year-old team manager, Scotty!

The club involves families in the group, and welcomes children to join in training. We are proud to say that daughters who have



Photo: Club president Alan Mitchell-Lappin at the Australia Day award ceremony

trained with us have gone on to star for the Woodend girls' football team and win the premiership last year, as well as being invited to train with Essendon's junior women's team.

Our club's vision is to provide healthy options for all Woodend residents, and beyond.

This award is a wonderful acknowledgement that we are achieving those goals.

SUBMITTED BY CHRIS REED



# WOODEND



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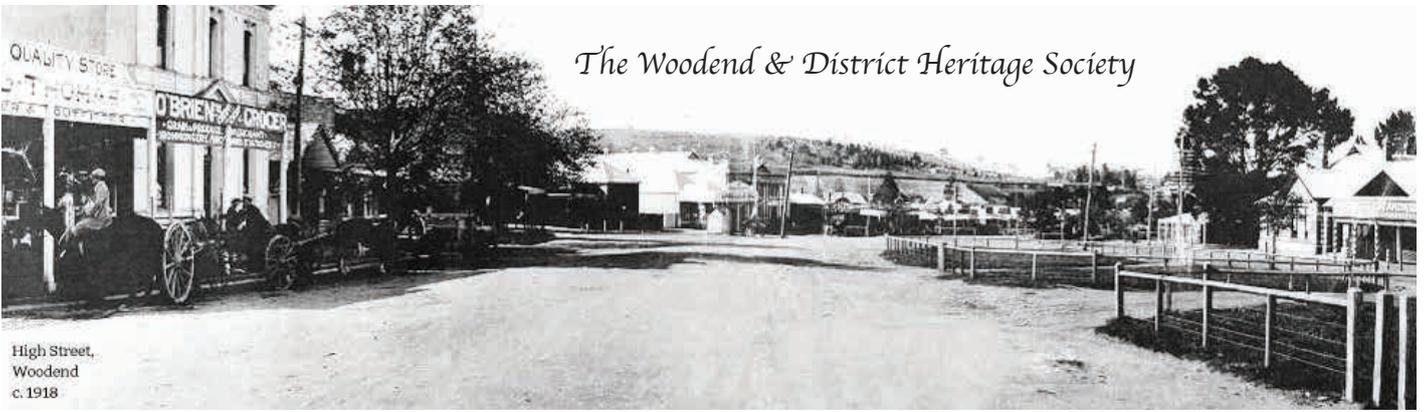


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High Street,  
Woodend  
c. 1918

## The ever-thriving fox

Not long after foxes were introduced into Victoria in the mid-1850s, to provide the sport of hunting for colonial horse riders, they were thriving, reproducing and becoming a major pest. They were declared a pest species twenty years later. In 1884, the Kyneton Guardian noted their prevalence in the Cobaw Ranges, and by 1887, it commented that they had been seen on Mt Macedon. Just a year later, the Woodend Star reported that Mr M. Liddy had killed five foxes on his property. By December 1891, the Shire was considering a bonus for the destruction of the animals.

Foxes were particularly disastrous for anyone keeping poultry. In March 1893, the Star reported that Mr Orr from Woodend North lost forty birds to foxes, and later that year, Mr Ellis made the news when his dogs killed two foxes. Ten years later, the Star commented on the large number of foxes in the Wombat forest. Despite numerous fox-hunting events

and individuals shooting them, the animals flourished. In an interview with a volunteer at the W&DHS, Peter and Rita Hamilton remembered how, in the 1950s, the previous owners of their property became so desperate to protect their chooks that they moved them into the space between the iron roof and the three-ply ceiling of their house. The Hamiltons did not think that the strategy had been successful.

Matt Vallance of Newham was one of numerous locals who took up fox shooting in a valiant effort to control the numbers. Obviously a man of many interests, he also became known for being a member of the Woodend Band in the 1940s, driving a model B4 Ford, and building a passenger bus with the McKenzie brothers.

Meanwhile, to the present day, foxes continue to taunt chook owners and challenge their efforts to protect their birds.

SUBMITTED BY JANE HOLTH



Photo 1582: Matt and Alice Vallance hunting on the Jim Jim



Photo 1577: Herb Darby and Matt Vallance at his farm at Carlsruhe after shooting foxes. This photo appeared in the Age newspaper.

## Fingers and Toes Festival for Daffodil Festival

As part of the upcoming Daffodil Festival, the Kyneton Handweavers and Spinners Group is running a fun new competition.

The Fingers and Toes Festival is looking for entries to cover those pinkies! Gloves, mittens, socks, slippers, booties – knitted or crocheted or felted. Handspun or commercial fibre, pretty or plain.

There are 24 classes to choose from. There are even novelty classes: biggest pair of socks, smallest pair of socks, Christmas stocking or Daffodil themed items, and a children's class for budding knitters.

The closing date for entries is 1 August, 2023, with items needed at the end of the month. All entries will be on public display on 2 September, 2023, at the Red Brick Hall, Kyneton.



So come on knitters and crocheters of Macedon Ranges and beyond, show your work and warm up those fingers and toes.

Full details and entry forms from:  
[fingersandtoesfestival@gmail.com](mailto:fingersandtoesfestival@gmail.com)

SUBMITTED BY ANNABELLE MACDONALD

## ARBORIST



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## Kerrie Gaskin Jewellery

Kerrie Gaskin is a Woodend based qualified gemmologist and diamond grader who offers personal consultancy services from her home in Woodend. After years of experience working for some of Australia's most iconic retail jewellery brands such as Prouds and Edmonds jewellers, she began her trade in gemmology working for respected gemmologist Morris Rubenstein. As well as being a qualified gemmologist, Kerrie also qualified in diamond technology, which enables an understanding of a diamond's genesis to the mine and from the mine to the marketplace, as well as handling and identification skills. She worked alongside one of Melbourne's most respected diamond traders for many years.

Kerrie offers a full-service gemmology and jewellery consultancy, with services including:

- Design consultancy for remodels and remakes of jewellery
- Repairs of jewellery
- Resizes
- Rhodium plating of rings
- Pearl rethreading
- Valuations
- Replacement of watch batteries and repairs
- Bespoke design of wedding and engagement rings



For an appointment contact Kerrie on 0403 128 757

SUBMITTED BY KERRIE GASKIN

# All Welcome at College Guest Speaker Program

In 2018, Sacred Heart College introduced its Parent Engagement Partnership, a program with an aim of providing members of the Macedon Ranges community and surrounds the opportunity to enjoy quality guest speakers on current educational topics. The College has always organised presenters for students and staff, but parents didn't get the opportunity to experience them. When you consider how important it is for the relationship between all three, parents, staff and students, to be strong, having access to the same resources and information about Learning and Wellbeing makes sense.

These free events are open to all in the Macedon Ranges, with the concepts being presented valuable for all. It is our hope that providing the opportunity for parents to build knowledge and skills around specific areas of young people's lives will ultimately allow a more informed approach to regional issues. Sharing the information being taught in the classroom will ensure a consistent approach, and a better appreciation of the challenges being faced by today's student.

The next guest speaker in our program will be Dr Michael Carr-Gregg, one of Australia's highest profile psychologists. He specialises in parenting, children, adolescents and mental health. The session is scheduled for Tuesday 14 March with a focus on 'Boys Issues'.

Dr Carr-Gregg explains, "Looking at the evidence which confronts us of so many young men suiciding, being suspended from school, in trouble on the streets and struggling to achieve at school, any

sensible person would have to conclude that young males are in considerable difficulties. Not all young men, but sufficient young men to cause concern. The puzzle for future generations will be why it took governments so long to act. This workshop examines the nature and extent of the problem and looks at what the latest research is saying schools and parents might do to help."

Guest speakers we have hosted as part of this program include: Andrew Fuller: Adolescent Psychologist and Behaviouralist, Brian Jeffreys: Mental Health expert – Managing Stress and Anxiety, Therese Joyce: Positive Psychology, Police and Paramedic representatives: focusing on keeping teens safe beyond the school gates, Wayne Schwass: Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing and many more.

A list of scheduled presentations is provided in the Save the Date notice, with further information and booking links available on the Parent Engagement Partnership page of the College's website – use the QR code to access. We hope you may be able to attend one of our future presentations on a topic that interests you.

SUBMITTED BY MS JULIE MORTIMER, DEPUTY PRINCIPAL STUDENT WELLBEING

Free Educational Parent Presentations

Save the Date

23 May Presenter: Sonya Karras - Safe Partyng  
1 Aug Presenter: Dr Jodi Richardson - Moving Teens from Anxiety to Resilience  
15 Nov Presenter: Maria O'Shannessy - The Parent Coach Workshop Limited to 30 people

Scan to learn more

Sacred Heart College Kyneton



Dr Michael Carr-Gregg



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Don't miss our next College tour on Wednesday 8 March or join us at our Open Evening on Thursday 27 April.

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



Scan for tour bookings