

The New Woodend Star

Rotary
Club of Woodend 

JULY 2023
Volume 27 | Issue 6

*Street Festa lights up the town during the Woodend
Winter Arts Festival*



The Saturday night at last month's Woodend Winter Arts Festival drew a huge crowd, with buildings and the clock-tower illuminated by projections of local artist Mary Larnach-Jones' colourful artwork.

More pics and article inside.

First published 1997 – by the community, for the community

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Success for the Woodend Winter Arts Festival



The Woodend Winter Arts Festival committee are celebrating another successful event. According to WWAFF's founder and artistic director, Dr Jacqueline Ogeil, the four-day event, which took place over the King's Birthday long weekend, was one of the best yet.

"The combination of great weather, fantastic crowds and engaging and immersive events made the 18th year of the Woodend Winter Arts Festival one of our best yet."

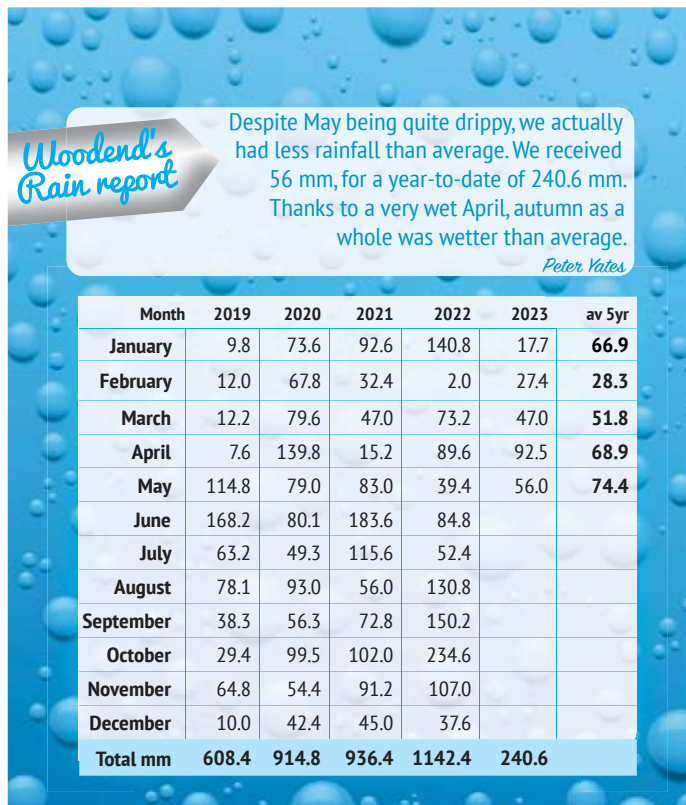
"Our music program delighted audiences with incredible performances by some of Australia's leading classical musicians, while our Words & Ideas program included engaging discussions from some of the country's most prominent minds."

"Other highlights included the annual fireworks display at Buffalo Stadium, along with the inaugural High Street Festa, where both locals and tourists were wowed by the colourful projections of Mary Larnach-Jones' artworks on Woodend's historic facades. There was a definite buzz in the air at both events," she said.

"WWAF would not be possible without the generous efforts of our committee, volunteers and staff, the deep pockets of our donors, sponsors and supporters, both in-kind and with financial contributions," said Dr Ogeil.

Mark the date for the 19th Woodend Winter Arts Festival, which will take place from 7–10 June, 2024.

SUBMITTED BY THE WOODEND WINTER ARTS FESTIVAL COMMITTEE



Woodend's Rain report

Despite May being quite drippy, we actually had less rainfall than average. We received 56 mm, for a year-to-date of 240.6 mm. Thanks to a very wet April, autumn as a whole was wetter than average.
Peter Yates

Month	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	av 5yr
January	9.8	73.6	92.6	140.8	17.7	66.9
February	12.0	67.8	32.4	2.0	27.4	28.3
March	12.2	79.6	47.0	73.2	47.0	51.8
April	7.6	139.8	15.2	89.6	92.5	68.9
May	114.8	79.0	83.0	39.4	56.0	74.4
June	168.2	80.1	183.6	84.8		
July	63.2	49.3	115.6	52.4		
August	78.1	93.0	56.0	130.8		
September	38.3	56.3	72.8	150.2		
October	29.4	99.5	102.0	234.6		
November	64.8	54.4	91.2	107.0		
December	10.0	42.4	45.0	37.6		
Total mm	608.4	914.8	936.4	1142.4	240.6	



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The *New Woodend Star* and the Rotary Club of Woodend acknowledge the Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Peoples and their Ancestors as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands of the Macedon Ranges on which we meet, work and live. We recognise their living culture and continuous connection to the land and waters in our area and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.



One of a number of Words & Ideas events



Affinity String Quartet



Dr Jacqueline Ogeil performs Music for the First Piano



Ensemble Liaison



Multiple choirs join in the Big Sing around the clocktower



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Woodend history book earns Don Grant Award

The recently published book, *The Enterprising Thomas Fitzsimmons of Woodend* has received a special mention in the Don Grant Award for 2023.

The Don Grant Award is awarded to the best family biography in a given year and aims to encourage the craft of writing family history.

Don Grant was the co-founder of the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies (renamed Family History Connections in 2018), an organisation created in 1973 to promote and support genealogical studies, the history of the past and present members of a family or families.

The book, *The Enterprising Thomas Fitzsimmons of Woodend* traces the history of the Fitzsimmons family from Ireland to Woodend, the place where the family flourished and Thomas became an enterprising and important part of the community.

In making the award the judges made the following comments:

“The author moved to Woodend, asked the Woodend and District Historical Society if he could volunteer and this project was suggested to him – to research a pioneer of Woodend about whom there was very little information. This commendable book is the end result of much digging into Thomas Fitzsimmons’ family background and life; and who turned out to be a businessman, a publican and a farmer, but not always successfully. The book is a very useful addition to the history of Woodend.”

The book can be bought from the Woodend and District Heritage Society or local newsagencies.

SUBMITTED BY PAUL BURKE

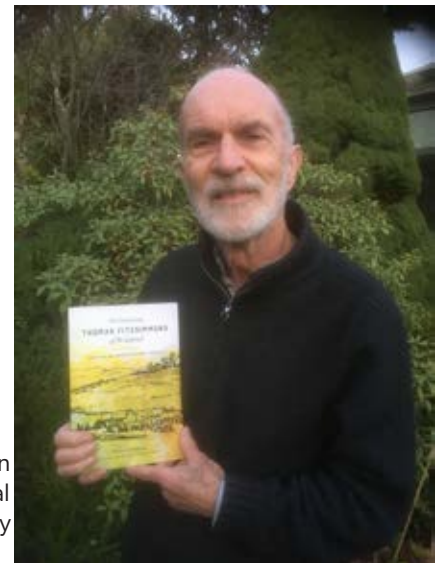




Photo by Hubert Weisrock

Jo Clancy's bridge opening

Woodend provided us with a nice break in the wintry weather on the occasion of an opening ceremony for the new pedestrian bridge over Five Mile Creek on Sunday 18th June. The new bridge was built by virtue of an incredibly generous bequest by Jo Clancy, who served on the Woodend Landcare committee for many years and was President for a time. Jo passed away in 2018.

About fifty community members assembled and were joined by local councillors, the designer and the builder of the bridge, as well as twelve members – three generations Jo Clancy's family, who travelled from Melbourne.

After some of Jo's friends, colleagues and family members shared their reminiscences, all adjourned to the site of the memorial where Jo's family (pictured) unveiled a memorial plaque. Shared refreshments followed, and those present had the opportunity to look at photos and plans of the site dating back to 2006.

Jo came to Woodend in about 2002 with her daughter Ruth. She was able to buy her house after winning two luxury cars on Sale of the Century, and she quickly became involved with Landcare.

She had an enduring interest in the natural environment and one of her dreams was that one day, there would be a pedestrian bridge across the creek between Bowen Street and Wood Street. A site for that potential bridge was included in our plans

in 2007. Jo decided to leave her entire estate to Landcare, with some very specific wishes for us to carry out. High on her list was the bridge. Sixteen years later, it became a reality thanks to Jo!

Getting the bridge to completion was not an easy task. Being on public land, there were requirements to be met, and the advent of COVID and rampant price increases, for a while it looked doomed to failure.

But with the help of Jo's family and the staff and councillors at MRSC, we finally got over the line and the result is an outstandingly useful and attractive piece of infrastructure which cost the community virtually nothing.

All attendees tested the integrity of the 25-metre long bridge after Ray, the designer assured us it would cope.

Afterwards, Jo's family scattered some of her ashes from the bridge as a final tribute.

Landcare will be adding some more plantings near the approaches to the bridge in spring, so we hope the community will help us with the plantings and of course with our ongoing weed control.

SUBMITTED BY PETER YATES – PRESIDENT, WOODEND LANDCARE

Photo by Robert Bruhn



Photo by Hubert Weisrock



Photo by Hubert Weisrock

Trentham and District Community Bank

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Edyta Wyatt is our Branch Manager and Mobile Lender at Community Bank Trentham & Districts. With over 20 years' experience in the finance industry, Edyta brings a wealth of knowledge and industry experience. She has a strong passion for helping customers achieve their financial goals with holistic conversations to fully understand their needs, requirements, and objectives. Edyta is highly skilled in structuring the correct loan scenario for clients.

Corina Sabo is our Customer Relationship Manager at Community Bank Trentham & Districts. She comes from an accountancy background, with 15 years' experience in this field. Corina has an extensive knowledge of home loans, banking products and services. She has a solutions-focused approach to get the best possible outcome for the customer. It's no surprise she has won Regional, State and National 'People's Choice Award' for her commitment and outstanding customer service.

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SUBMITTED BY CHARL PARRIS

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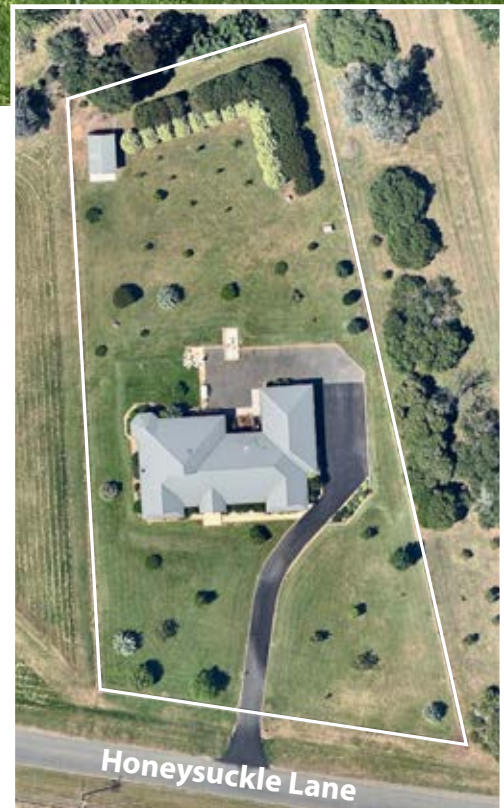
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A SHAKE-UP AT WOODEND CELLAR & BAR

MANY OF YOU FONDLY KNOW THE SPACE AS WOODEND WINE STORE, WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW IS NEW OWNERS ADAM & JACQUI HAVE REIMAGINED MORE THAN JUST THE TRADING NAME!

When the KGMG team heard that the Woodend Wine Store was under new management, we had to stop in and say hi to the new neighbours (and grab a local bottle because wine not!). After talking shop with Adam, we learned that he and his lovely lady Jacqui had BIG plans, the first and most telling being the subtle name change to Woodend Cellar & Bar.

Over the weeks/months since we've seen (and snapped) the Woodend couple transform the space into a cozy yet stylish wine bar that also acts as the cellar door to the Macedon Ranges wine region. Adam & Jacqui are all about celebrating local vigneron, brewers, and spirit makers and continue to grow the selection each week (with a healthy mix of unique Victorian, interstate, and international makers for good measure).

But our favourite new feature by far (especially at THAT time on a Friday arvo) is the refurbished bar space and menu. Gorgeous green upholstery and marble tables line two intimate rooms, and on the menu, you'll find a rotating list of mostly local feature wines on the pour, a tight list of classic cocktails, and locally sourced snacks and dishes if you happen to bring an appetite. If you're a fan of good hospitality and an exceptional local drop, do yourself a favour and stop in to see what's new!

CELLAR OPEN 7 DAYS, BAR OPEN THURS TO SUN
WOODENDCELLARANDBAR.COM.AU



SCHOOL'S OUT, LIFE & FORK CLASSES ARE IN SESSION!

Since the early days of our collaboration with Life & Fork, the KGMG foodie contingent knew Chef Erica had serious chops as a chef and teacher of all things culinary.

Her cooking classes have always been a blast to attend and promote. Any participating home cook will agree with us! But what we've had a front-row seat to, more so in 2023 than ever, is Erica's passion and skill in getting kids, teens, and young people as excited to get in the kitchen as her adult students. Furthermore, her NDIS program for the same age group is nothing short of inspiring to behold.

All we'll say is that if your young ones have any inclination to learn to cook, as a hobby or a profession, we highly recommend getting in touch with Life & Fork ASAP to register your interest for her next "After School" intake.



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Home Care Packages

The government's Home Care Package scheme provides money to eligible individuals to access services to enable them to live safely and



**SUNBURY
COBAW
COMMUNITY
HEALTH**

independently at home. Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health has been a Home Care Package provider for the Macedon Ranges for the last two years and has just re-opened its books to new clients. The not-for-profit organisation has a strong connection to the local community, having delivered health, wellbeing and support services locally for nearly 40 years. They can help you to manage your Home Care Package funds and organise the services you need to keep living at home.

"We work with Home Care Package recipients to tailor services that meet their needs and their goals," says Deb McCallum, Sunbury and Cobaw's Community Connections Manager. "With our experience in the local community, we offer a trusted, personalised support where the individual has choice and control over their care. You get to choose what services you get, where and when you get them and who you get them from."

The types of services that can be purchased include help with personal care, housework, light gardening and minor maintenance, assistance with shopping or transport along with healthcare supports such as podiatry and physiotherapy. They can also find suitable social, activity and exercise groups locally.

To chat to someone from the team, call 5421 6061 or email hcp@scchc.org.au.

SUBMITTED BY SARAH TURNER,
SUNBURY AND COBAW COMMUNITY HEALTH



Peace took centre stage in Melbourne in May

A Nobel Peace Prize laureate inspired participants at the Rotary International Convention in Melbourne, Australia, about how they can build more peaceful societies and combat climate change.

As convention attendees continued to explore Melbourne and enjoy events planned by local Rotary members, they also heard from speakers who have already made an impact in areas that are priorities for Rotary, including promoting peace, protecting the environment, and eradicating polio.

Leymah Gbowee, a Liberian peace activist, social worker, and women's rights advocate, shared how the dream of a future without war taught her a new understanding of peace.

"Peace is not just the absence of war, but the presence of conditions that dignify all of us," said Gbowee, who lived in a refugee camp and worked as a counsellor for child soldiers during more than a decade of civil war in Liberia. "We cannot boast of peaceful societies while there are unfulfilled dreams stemming from a lack of opportunities."

"Many regions need essential social services so all – men, women, boys, and girls – can feel a sense of belonging and validation," she continued. "That, I believe, is the Rotary dream – serving humanity and ensuring that all feel a sense of purpose."

Gbowee said her dream of a better world is what propelled her to start the Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace, a campaign that helped bring about the end of the civil war and led her to become one of the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize laureates.

"While we all have dreams we wish to fulfill, each dream is tied to the next person's. Like the rainbow, our dreams are the radiance of hope we want to see in our world."

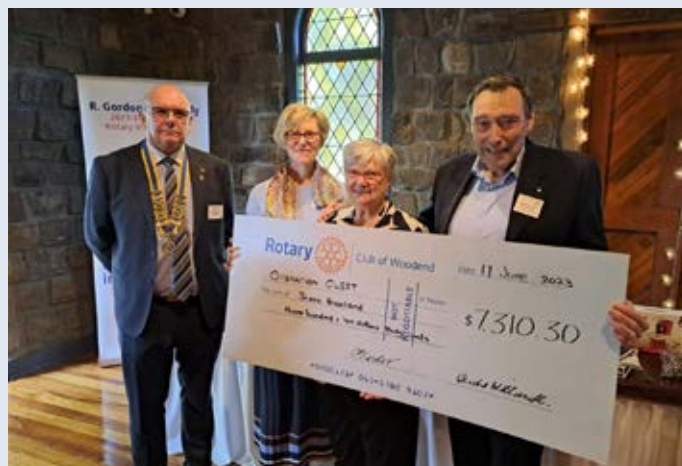
She urged participants to "make our dream of a peaceful and safe world a reality."

An extract of an article written by Etelka Lehoczky for Rotary International Conference 2023.

SUBMITTED BY JOSEPHINE FALZARANO



2011 Nobel Peace Laureate and Founder of Gbowee Peace
Photo credit: Rotary International



L to R, President Charles Bender and Rosemary Guyatt present the cheque for Operation Cleft to Kath Ronan and Bruce McKewen from Box Hill Central



L to R, President Charles Bender is presented a cheque for \$30,000 from Jane Watters on behalf of The New Woodend Star Management Committee



Deidre Willmott inducting new members as her first official role as President of the Rotary Club of Woodend. L to R, DG Ron Payne, Jenny Rysenbeek, Joop Rysenbeek, Deidre Willmott



The Rotary Club of Woodend Board 2023–24. L to R, Rosemary Guyatt, Mick Deviny, Terry Longton, Adriaan Adolf, Steve Simpson, Deidre Willmott, Ann Brown, Charles Bender, Josephine Falzarano and Tony Waters

Woodend Rotary celebrates its 36th Presidential Changeover

Rotarians, family and friends, including our District 9800 Governor Ron Payne and his wife Deb, came together for a very happy celebration to thank outgoing president Charles Bender and welcome incoming president Deidre Willmott.



Charles highlighted the Club's achievement in the past year by announcing the completion of the new classrooms for the Vanuatu school in Mwast, which will accommodate 80 school children; the completion of the wash stations; and that work has started on additional amenities such as science equipment, solar panels, outdoor shelters and composting toilets. He also thanked members for their work on the Rotary centenary project on Five Mile Creek, Rotary Rocks, a contemplative space for the Woodend community.



Deidre Willmott President 2023–24 and President Charles Bender during the changeover ceremony

Charles also thanked the outgoing board and paid special tribute to those retiring from the board, including Youth Director Paul Quinn.

Each year at the changeover, Rotarians are awarded for their service and actions.

This year, Charles awarded the Darryl Crozier "Service above Self" to Ed Brown for his outstanding work and commitment to Club, and the Paul Harris Award to Rosemary Guyatt and Mick Deviny; Rosemary for generously giving her time and expertise in the Vocational and Community Service roles, and Mick for his willingness to take on key leadership roles, including the monthly Coles BBQs, which is a steady source of fundraising income for the Club.



President Charles Bender presenting Ed Brown with the Darryl Crozier Award

The Royce Abbey Award went to Josephine Falzarano, given to a Rotarian who has demonstrated enthusiasm and commitment to the Object of Rotary.

Incoming president Deidre, who joined the Rotary Club of Woodend in September 2020, was warmly welcomed by members. She said she was very excited to be taking on the presidency for the next year.

Deidre welcomed the new board, consisting of Adriaan Adolph, Mick Deviny, Josephine Falzarano, Mike Hamer, Rosemary Guyatt, Terry Longton, Steve Simpson, Tony Waters and Ann Brown.

Highlights of this year's Handover lunch was the presentation of a cheque for \$30,000 from The New Woodend Star's Management Committee, \$7,310 to provide free cleft repair surgery to underprivileged children in Bangladesh, enabling them to live normal and meaningful lives, and we inducted two new members to our Club – Jenny and Joop Rysenbeek.



L to R, District Governor (DG) Ron Payne, Rosemary Guyatt (recipient Paul Harris Award) and President Charles Bender

SUBMITTED BY JOSEPHINE FALZARANO



L to R, DG Ron Payne, Peter Baker and Roger Leask from the Royce Abbey Award Committee (RAAC), Josephine Falzarano (recipient) and President Charles Bender



L to R, Grant Hocking, DG Ron Payne, Mick Deviny (recipient of the Paul Harris Award)

The Power of the Personal

On Sunday 18 June, at Kyneton Town Hall, an audience of around 150 listened transfixed as speakers from Iraq, Afghanistan, South Sudan and Burundi told stories of their quest for freedom. Hosted by Macedon Ranges Rural Australians for Refugees, with the support of Macedon Ranges Shire Council and the sponsorship of Bendigo Bank Gisborne, the event marked the beginning of Refugee Week 2023. The stories were harrowing, and for all, the journey to rebuild their lives is a work in progress.

Ali escaped the Taliban and made a perilous journey across the Timor Strait and after years in detention was granted refugee status. He hopes to start a business one day, but his main goal is to be reunited with his wife and daughter.

The first Gulf War left Dalal Sleiman's life in ruins. Forced to flee Iraq, she found refuge in Australia, where she learned English, earned a degree from Victoria University and established the Australian Chaldean Family Welfare and the Chaldean Women's Association in Victoria. Dalal remembers her former life and home with fondness but is now a proud Australian. "When we play Iraq," she says, "I barrack for Australia."

The event had its sombre moments. Lizzy Kuoth's testimony reduced many in the audience to tears. But emcee Tom Ballard struck a balance between humour and respect. Organisers Gwen Wilson and Karen Pierce were delighted. "Tom grew up in a family with a strong sense of service," Gwen said, "and it shows. He gave up most of his Sunday to be with us, in support of a cause he feels passionate about. We couldn't be more grateful."

The event was supported by local businesses Epis Domaine and Bindi wineries, Woodend Nursery, Woodend Golf Club and Kyneton-based traders Duck Duck Goose & Larder, Monsieur Pierre, The Social Foundry and The Town Roaster.

The afternoon included the drawing of a raffle and the launch of a writing competition. Sponsored by Woodend Lions and Aesop's Attic Bookshop Kyneton, the competition closes on 31 July and will award prizes worth \$200 in each of three age categories. The competition is open to all secondary students living or studying in Macedon Ranges shire. Students who wish to participate or would like more information can contact mrrar.secretary@gmail.com

SUBMITTED BY ANDREW GRIMES, MRRAR



Hazara photographer and human rights activist Muzafar Ali addresses the audience. Photo by Kathy Mexted



Refugee Ali tells of his escape from Afghanistan. Photo by Kathy Mexted



L to R: Ali, Dalal Sleiman, Lizzy Kuoth, Innocent Karabagega, Tom Ballard. Photo by Kathy Mexted



Burundi refugee Innocent Karabagega greets a young audience member. Photo by Kathy Mexted



Fleeing oppression in South Sudan - An emotional Lizzy Kuoth tells her story. Photo by Kathy Mexted



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OF HOMELESSNESS

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The Problem of Homelessness in the Macedon Ranges

Please join us for a free screening of the eye-opening Australian documentary 'Under Cover', narrated by Margot Robbie, and a discussion panel exploring the problem and solutions for homelessness in the Macedon Ranges.

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SWEETEST, JUICIEST WINTER CITRUS RANGE

Lemon Yoghurt Drizzle Cake

With winter upon us its time to ramp up our vitamin C levels to ward off those nasty bugs, we are abundant with a range of new seasonal citrus including navel oranges, mandarins, lemons, limes, grapefruit and tangelos .

Winter is also a time for rest and comfort food. Lemon drizzle cake includes citrus notes, wholesome flour and yoghurt with pantry staples such as butter, sugar and eggs and can easily be adapted to change the flavour from lemons to orange or from cake to a muffin.

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Gorse! There is help.

Gorse is a noxious weed introduced as a fencing solution from Ireland. Living up to this role, gorse forms spiny, dense and impenetrable thickets. It is extremely flammable, threatening assets nearby, is a favourite haven of foxes and rabbits, decreases land values, affects farm stocking rates and seriously threatens bushland and recreation reserves. This, combined with its potential to spread to all soil types and most climatic zones in Victoria, it is no wonder gorse has climbed the ranks to be listed as a Weed of National Significance (WoNS), one of the most problematic weed species in Australia.

Keep your eye out; it is a leguminous plant covered in hard spines at all its terminals, with bright yellow, pea-like flowers setting in from 18 months of age. Seeds are viable for decades, therefore it is wise to tackle the new isolated plants first, then make a plan to eradicate the main stand. Surprisingly, many of us are unfamiliar with gorse or have misconceptions around its control.

We at the Victorian Gorse Taskforce (VGT), a not-for-profit organisation, want to support communities in reducing gorse in their local area through grants, resources, networking and information events.

If you just have small patches of gorse and wish to start controlling it one by one, we recommend the 'cut and paint' technique, in which a dabber applicator bottle is used to apply a minimal dose of a registered herbicide to the target cut stem only. If gorse is a problem on land you manage, we encourage you to connect with your local community group. Visit our website for a wealth of best practice information on controlling gorse. vicgorsetaskforce.com.au

If gorse is a problem on publicly owned land adjacent to private land where you have worked hard to eradicate gorse, we encourage you to enquire with the 'Good Neighbour Program' through your regional DEECA. Phone 136 186.

For tips, events and grant announcements, please follow the Victorian Gorse Taskforce on Facebook or Instagram to get up to date information, support and our encouragement.

SUBMITTED BY CHRISTINA BOON - VGT COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER.

Cool-ER Changes update

Following the completion of six workshops, focus now shifts to refining priority actions for each theme to include in the shire's first Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP). Keep your eye out for a draft version of the plan, available for public consultation later this year. Workshop outcomes and notes are available to view at mrsc.vic.gov.au/Cool-ER-Changes



We would still love to hear from local community groups that are keen to participate in local climate action. If you would like to get involved in shaping our CERP, please contact us at environment@mrsc.vic.gov.au

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Join the Plastic Free July challenge

Council is actively involved in supporting our community to choose to refuse single-use plastics. You too can make a difference by joining millions worldwide in taking steps to end plastic pollution by participating in the Plastic Free July challenge.



By taking small, practical steps together, we can reduce about 300 million kilograms of plastic polluting the world each year.

The Plastic Free July challenge provides resources and ideas to help participants reduce single-use plastic waste every day at home, work, school, and in the community.

It can be as easy as picking one single-use plastic item to avoid or swap for a reusable alternative. So what single-use plastic will you choose to refuse this July?

For information on how to get involved, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/Plastic-Free-July

MRSC Environment events for July:

Nature guide in focus: Weeds of Central Victoria – Webinar via Zoom, 18 July 7–8pm

Join this webinar to learn more about weeds in Central Victoria. The webinar will cover noxious woody weeds common in the Macedon Ranges such as gorse and blackberry, and environmental weeds such as poplars and ivy.

National Tree Day – Planting at Hanging Rock – Field activity, 31 July 10am–12pm

Celebrate National Tree Day (30 July) at Hanging Rock. Get your hands dirty at our planting at Smokers Creek to improve biodiversity and water quality. This activity is not suitable for children under 10 years of age.

To register for these events visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/Environment-Events

To download Council's useful nature guides and learn more about local flora, weeds, birds and insects, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/nature-guides

Clean polystyrene recycling

Polystyrene is now being accepted for recycling at Council's resource recovery facilities in Kyneton, Romsey and Woodend.

Fully clean, white polystyrene will be accepted (coloured or food grade polystyrene such as cups, bowls, meat trays, etc. will not be accepted).

For resource recovery facility locations and hours, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/resource-recovery-facilities

Healthy Landscapes

Do you manage five acres or more? Would you like to know how to improve your property through efficient grazing?

Our award-winning Healthy Landscapes program runs courses and workshops throughout the year and provides useful resources via our website to assist you to implement practical land management practices to improve your grazing, productivity, soil health, biodiversity, and waterway health.

To view upcoming workshops and recordings of previous workshops, and to download information sheets and resources, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/healthy-landscapes.

Stay cosy this winter

Stay snug during the winter months with some quick and effective tips:

- Check for gaps or drafts around windows, doors and vents. Seal them up to prevent cold air sneaking in.
- Use thick curtains or blinds to provide an extra layer of insulation. Open them during the day to let the sun in, and close them at night to trap the heat indoors.
- Add warmth to your floors by adding rugs or carpets in key areas, especially on bare or tiled surfaces.
- Swap lightweight bedding for cosy blankets and flannel sheets to keep you warm at night.

Find out more about improving the energy efficiency of your home by borrowing a Sustainable House Kit with your library card at Goldfield Libraries. Learn how to use the kits at a workshop at Romsey Library on 22 July from 11am–12pm. To register, visit the Goldfields Libraries events calendar www.goldfieldslibraries.com.

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN

MACEDON RANGES SUSTAINABILITY GROUP INVITES YOU TO

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MRSG.ORG.AU/FARMERS-MARKETS

Winners of the single-use plastic art competition

In term one this year, Council held an art competition for early learning, kindergarten, primary and secondary school-aged students. Entrants were asked to create an artwork that showed the impact that single-use plastic has on our environment.

Council received more than 250 entries across the three age categories. Congratulations to the following winners:

Early learning category – Save our waterways

- Walert group, four-year-old kinder, Swinburne Avenue Kindergarten
- Liam, Macedon Ranges Montessori Pre-School

Primary School Category – Pesky Plastics!

- Molly, Riddells Creek Primary School
- Owen, Bolinda Primary School
- Emily, Heskett Primary School

Secondary School Category – Plastic Fantastic!

- Ella, Braemar College
- Rebecca, Braemar College

Winning artwork is currently on display at Hanging Rock Reserve Discovery Centre as part of the Impacts of single-use plastics art exhibition, along with images of all of the submitted entries.

For information, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/single-use-plastics

Setting an ambitious emissions reduction target

The State Government is setting one of the most ambitious emissions reduction targets in the world – planning to cut Victoria’s emissions by 75–80 per cent by 2035.

Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas welcomed Minister for Climate Action Lily D’Ambrosio’s decision to formalise the new target to cut the state’s emissions by 75–80 per cent by 2035 under Victoria’s Climate Change Act 2017.

This target builds on progress to date, having already cut the state’s emissions by 32.3 per cent below 2005 levels.

To achieve this, zero-emissions transport, helping farmers cut emissions, storing carbon in our landscape and driving down emissions in the waste sector through the circular economy.

All government operations will also be powered with 100 per cent renewable electricity by 2025.

The re-establishment of the State Electricity Commission (SEC) will be a key driver reducing emissions and bringing down power bills through \$1 billion of initial investment into new renewable, government-owned energy. This investment will deliver 4.5 gigawatts of renewable power – the equivalent of Loy Yang A.

Victoria’s target of 95 per cent renewable energy generation by 2035, renewable energy storage target of 6.3 GW by 2035 and offshore wind energy targets will also enable the state to make this transition.

The emissions reduction target of 75-80 per cent by 2035 and net zero emissions by 2045 will be legislated later this year.

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

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Your community diary

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

— JULY —

- 7 Pathways for Carers, Village Connect
- 11 Community Lunch at Woodend RSL
- 13 Ian Hann, Rotary Woodend
- 14 Acrylics workshop at Neighbourhood House
- 15 RSL Xmas in July with Big Band
- 15 Art to Wear Show at The Gallery Mt Macedon
- 18 Lions Sunday Market
- 21 Knit and Natter, Norma Richardson Hal
- 28 Board Games for over-55s, Romsey

— AUGUST —

- 4 "Elton & Billy" concert at Kyneton Town Hall
- 4 Pathways for Carers, Village Connect
- 4 Woodend Farmers' Market
- 5 Repair Café at Neighbourhood House
- 8 Undercover documentary, Kyneton Town Hall
- 25-27 Words in Winter (Daylesford/Hepburn)
- 26 Toni Childs Retrospective at Kyneton Town Hall

— SEPTEMBER —

- 2 Woodend Farmers' Market
- 10 Black Sorrows in Concert at Kyneton Town Hall
- 17 Woodend Lions Market
- 29 Public Holiday for Grand Final AFL

— OCTOBER —

- 7 Woodend Farmers' Market
- 15 Woodend Lions Market

— NOVEMBER —

- 4 Woodend Farmers' Market
- 7 Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
- 8 Kyneton Cup
- 19 Woodend Lions Market

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Elton & Billy – Face to Face 25th Anniversary Tour

8pm, Friday 4 August

Australia's premier Elton John performer, Greg Andrew, and premier Billy Joel performer, Anthony Mara, come together to celebrate The Rocketman and The Piano Man. This is one incredible show you don't want to miss, backed by a masterful band of musicians and packed with hit after hit including Benny and The Jets, Rocket Man, Tell Her About It, Piano Man and many more.

Toni Childs – Retrospective

7.30pm, Saturday 26 August

Join the legendary Toni Childs for a special performance as she celebrates her life's musical works. Toni will be performing hits and fan favourites from Union, House of Hope, The Woman's Boat and Keep the Faith. Her live shows are life-changing experiences and aren't to be missed as her voice penetrates deep into your body and soul.

The Black Sorrows in Concert

4pm, Sunday 10 September

Joe Camilleri and The Black Sorrows are coming to town for one show only. Joe Camilleri has been at the forefront of the Australian music scene for decades as the leader of Jo Jo Zep & The Falcons and The Black Sorrows, and as writer of anthems Hit & Run, Shape I'm In, Chained To The Wheel, Harley & Rose and Never Let Me Go. Joe and The Sorrows' latest release features the incredible band Darlinghurst. A Little Love is uplifting, joyous and full of The Black Sorrows' good vibes.

To purchase tickets to Kyneton Town Hall events, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/buytickets or call 1300 888 802 (10am-4pm, weekdays).

Village Connect events for over-55s

Are you 55 years or older, residing in the Macedon Ranges and looking to connect with others in the shire? Council's Village Connect program has a range of activities on offer for over-55s and carers.



Current events include:

- Pathways for Carers – Friday 7 July and 4 August. Meet at 9.45am at Barry Doyle Memorial Rotunda, 2 Campaspe Crescent, Kyneton. Free monthly walking event for carers of older people, people with a disability or mental illness. Come together and to learn about news, services and supports available.
- July free coffee cup event – Monday 3 July, 11am–12pm, Hanging Rock café
Connect with like-minded individuals in the community over a free coffee and cake at Hanging Rock. Registrations essential. Spaces limited.
- Board games for over-55s: Backgammon, Friday 28 July, 10.30am–12pm, Romsey Co-op Café, 126 Main Street.
Gather and connect with like-minded individuals in your community over a casual game of Backgammon.

To register for Village Connect events or find out more about the program, call 5422 0333 or visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/village-connect

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN

Soulful Suppers on Thursdays

With the cost of living skyrocketing, and no signs of inflation slowing down, the number of people struggling to afford nutritious food is on the increase.

MRSG's Veg Action, in partnership with Woodend Neighbourhood House, have launched a soup kitchen on Thursdays between 5-7pm in the Undercroft of the Neighbourhood House (enter via the gates next to the Skate Park, off Margery Crescent).



The first of the Soulful Suppers was held on 22 June, and these will continue weekly throughout winter. So far, the menu has included a hearty minestrone soup and a golden pumpkin soup.

Check in with the Woodend Neighbourhood House to see what soups will be on that week.

If you're doing it tough (or know someone who is) come and be cooked for in a warm and inviting space. And bring your kids too; they can enjoy the soup and there'll be a colouring in table to keep them busy.

Whilst Soulful Suppers is running, the Neighbourhood House Foodbank will also be open in the same space for people to access pantry staples and personal hygiene supplies.

For those not doing it tough financially, but who want to come down for dinner and a chat, there's a donation box if you'd like to contribute. Everyone is welcome.

SUBMITTED BY LUCY CAMPBELL



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A huge month in July at the Mountview Theatre

The Mount Players are incredibly excited to announce that our Youth Theatre will be back in Terms 3 and 4! We welcome



Kerry Turpie and Mark Constable, two fabulous, highly-qualified teachers who will run each of the classes together for students aged from 10-19 on a weekly basis from 10 July. Spaces are limited, so check out our website for full details on our program and how to enrol.

On the weekend of 8 and 9 July, our annual One Act Play Festival finally returns and offers a weekend of short plays that are adjudicated with awards presented at the completion of the Sunday afternoon session. Come for a session or nestle in for a cosy weekend. Bar open and food available. Tickets only available at the door.

On the weekend of 22 and 23 July, the theatre welcomes a visiting Melbourne company, The Good Girl Song Project, who will bring their performance of Voyage, a new Australian musical, to our stage for just two performances. Voyage follows the immigration story of two women who board a ship to NSW in April 1833. During the voyage, the two women form a strong friendship, one that must withstand the capricious whims of the Sydney colonists. For once they leave the familiar shores of their home, there is no going back. A simple set; stunning character transformations – Voyage asks audiences to reflect on their attitudes to women, migration, identity, colonisation and racism, and questions whether the attitudes of the 19th century are still mirrored in contemporary Australia.

For full details of our Youth Theatre Program, One Act Play Festival and Voyage, go to www.themountplayers.com or phone 5426 1892 for assistance.

SUBMITTED BY KAREN HUNT

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News from the Woodend Neighbourhood House

School Holidays Program

We have three activities on offer these school holidays – Get Slimed!, a drama workshop with Storyboard Drama Studios, and a High Tea with friends. Visit our website to reserve your child’s spot as places are strictly limited.



Term 3 Brochure Out Now!

We’re looking forward to another exciting term at the Woodend Neighbourhood House, with lots of new and returning classes on offer. Stop by the House to pick up your copy of the program or visit our What’s On section of our Website to see what’s coming up.

Creative Classes

Our art tutor Marilyn has put together some exciting new classes and workshops for Term 3. On Friday 14 July, Marilyn will run a 4-hour ‘Start Painting with Acrylics’ workshop. This will be followed by an eight-week Friday afternoon class ‘Continue Acrylic Painting’. For those who prefer to draw, we are offering a four week ‘Continue Drawing’ class on Thursday afternoons. Visit our website for all the details of our creative classes this term.

Repair Café

The Woodend Repair Café is open on the first Saturday of every month, coinciding with the Woodend Farmers’ Market. The Repair Café is next running on 1 July and 5 August. Enjoy a cuppa whilst our fantastic fix-it volunteers mend your household items! Gold coin donations welcome.

Community Lunch

Our monthly two-course community luncheon is back on Tuesday 11 July at the Woodend RSL. Bookings are essential to assist with catering. Donations welcome.

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Food Bank at the Woodend Neighbourhood House

The Woodend Community Food Bank is open on Mondays and Thursdays between 12.30pm–2.30pm in the Undercroft of the Woodend Neighbourhood House. Access to the Undercroft is via the gates by the Skate Park, off Margery Crescent. Everyone is welcome to stop by to access food and personal hygiene items.

Donations are also very welcome via the collection bins in Coles and IGA in Woodend and cash donations can be made in person or via bank transfer. Contact the Woodend Neighbourhood House between 9am–3pm Monday to Friday to donate.

For more information about any of our upcoming activities, workshops, courses, or events, drop by the house, visit our website www.woodendnh.org.au or call 5427 1845.

SUBMITTED BY MELISSA BAKER

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Art to Wear 2023

The Gallery's annual Art to Wear Parade is on again at Jubilee Hall, Macedon, on Saturday July 15, at 1pm.

There will be a wonderful array of unique handmade clothing, jewellery and other accessories created by sixteen talented makers from all over Victoria.

You will be offered champagne and afternoon tea. Our models will appear in knits, felts, woven materials, and painted silk and wool. The parade will also include hats, scarves and jewellery as well as innovative recycled pieces.

All garments not sold on parade day will be featured at The Gallery, Mt. Macedon during July.

Purchase tickets online only through Trybooking: www.trybooking.com/CIPMO

Enquiries: 0419 009 030, or via email: info@thegallerymtmacedon.com.au

SUBMITTED BY SUE ANSON 0413 581 632



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Woodend Senior Citizens Group

Woodend Seniors Citizens meet on Tuesdays and Fridays from 1pm at the Woodend Community Centre (corner of High and Forest Streets, Woodend).

New members are welcome.

We run monthly bus trips for our members; recently we visited the Seaworks Maritime Museum, followed by a two-course lunch at the Victoria Inn in Williamstown.

If interested in joining, please call Alma (0400 134 478), Margaret (0458 272 767) or Irene (0417 676 843).

SUBMITTED BY WOODEND NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE ON BEHALF OF WOODEND SENIOR CITIZENS GROUP



Men's Shed

Ladies' woodworking in Woodend

The Woodend Men's Shed completed its first Ladies' Woodworking Course in late June. Six women were selected by ballot to take part in the course, which had attracted a large number of applicants from throughout the Macedon Ranges.

Designed to teach the participants basic woodworking skills, the six-week course helped attendees to produce a toolbox, a bird nesting box and a decorative outdoor lantern (which had 22 individual parts).

Skills learned included measuring and cutting timber, drilling, applying glue, sanding and assembling projects. Safe use of tools was a key focus of the course.

Participants were presented with certificates of achievement by Deputy Mayor, Jennifer Anderson on the final night.

Feedback from a survey conducted at the conclusion of the course reflected that the participants had thoroughly enjoyed it and appreciated the skills they have learned.

Spokesman for the Mens Shed, Bob MacDonald said, "It has been very satisfying for the Shed members who participated in teaching the woodworking skills to the ladies and everyone learned something from the experience."

The Men's Shed was supported in the project by the Macedon Ranges Shire Council and the Woodend Neighbour House to whom they are grateful.

A second Ladies' Woodworking Course is planned for later in the year, and participants will again be drawn by ballot from the large list of those who have expressed interest.

SUBMITTED BY BOB MCDONALD

Macedon Ranges Obedience Dog Club

What a great turn out for our June induction! More than twenty new puppies braved the weather.

Did you know that local government areas (councils) have requirements for responsible dog ownership?



More information can be found on the Macedon Ranges Shire Council website: www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/Live-Work/Cats-Dogs-Pets/Pet-Ownership.

Visit www.macedonrangesdogclub.org.au, our Facebook page or email info@macedonrangesdogclub.org.au and we will contact you.

SUBMITTED BY CAROL, INSTRUCTOR/TREASURER MRODC

St Vincent de Paul Society expands its helping hand

The Gisborne Conference of St Vincent de Paul Society commenced crisis support for residents of Gisborne and surrounding townships in the southern area of the Macedon Ranges in November 2022.

The Conference is extending its support to residents of Woodend, Woodend North, Newham, Heskett, Romsey and Monegetta.

Conference President Neville Spiers said the group can help any person or family reaching out.

"We provide support to individuals and families to help them overcome personal hardship and regain control of their own destinies; we call this giving a 'hand up'," he said.

"We do not discriminate against any person asking for help in any circumstance."

The volunteer group has been formed to address a growing need for compassionate support in the area, with more families and individuals reporting difficulty meeting significant financial challenges. All St Vincent de Paul members hold a current Working with Children Check and a National Police Check.

The organisation receives no government funding, relying solely on community support to fund its compassionate work.

Residents requiring support or after more information can contact the St Vincent's support line on 1800 305 330.

The Gisborne Conference is also looking for new volunteers to continue its vital work and anyone interested can contact the above number.

SUBMITTED BY NEVILLE SPIERS



Walking group. Photo credit: Hubert Weisrock

CLASSIFIED ADS

Wanted ads, for sale or job vacancies — adverts in this section are the same price as business cards. We will prepare your advert with your text.

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Woodend Library News – What’s on?

Our winter program is out and packed full of events and workshops for all ages. Programs are available from the library or alternatively, you can look at the events page at goldfieldslibraries.com

All events are free but bookings are required: goldfieldslibraries.com/woodend-events or call 5427 2074.

Dee White Writing Workshop for Kids

A great opportunity for kids who love reading and writing stories: Join local children’s author Dee White for a series of four workshops covering character, plot, point of view, dialogue and setting. Workshops are free but places are limited, so get in quick! Ages 10-12 years.

Attendance at all four workshops is encouraged. Please book each session separately.

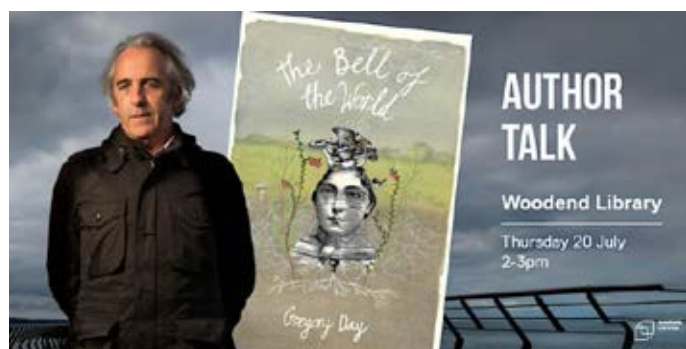
Saturday 15, 22, 29 July and 5 August 10–11.30am



Gregory Day: The Bell of the World

Thursday, 20 July 2023, 2–3pm

Introducing Gregory Day—novelist, poet and musician whose sixth novel reflects a writer at the peak of his powers. His new novel embodies a breathtakingly beautiful and lyrical cultural reckoning – a song to natural wonders not yet gone and a luminous prehistory of contemporary climate change and its connection to colonialism. To book or reserve a copy of *The Bell of the World*, head to our website - www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au.



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Curious kids in the library: On the move!

Storytime welcomes special guest presenter Angela from the Discovery Science & Technology Centre in Bendigo, to explore movement. Children will use simple forces to make things move, including making rocket balloons and charming paper snakes to dance.

Friday 4 August, 10am. Ages 3–5 years

Bookings are preferred to ensure we have enough materials for everyone.



The Warm Winter Read has returned!

This season, as the temperature drops we want you to make time for yourself and your chosen story every day. It’s not too late to join so you can build your reading habit with the Beanstack app or pick-up a Reading Journal from the library. While reading is its own reward, you’ll also go in the running to win some bookish prizes! Not sure where to start? Your local librarian can’t wait to help you find your next great read.



See you in the Library!

5427 2074

woodend@ncgrl.vic.gov.au | www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au

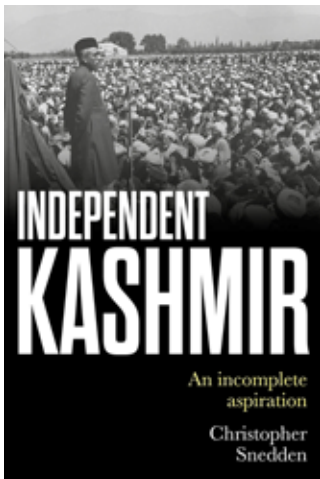
SUBMITTED BY EMMA KEENAN



U3A (University of the Third Age) 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 wide 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.

A five-session course on India, Pakistan and the Kashmir dispute is commencing in July. The course will discuss the major historical and geo-political aspects of each nation and their dispute over Kashmir and explain why this issue is vitally important to both nations.



There are many other courses to choose from and something to suit everyone, including History, Poetry, Current Affairs and Cycling and more.

Non-members and friends are all welcome to attend our weekly "Friday@U3A" presentation by guest speakers or to watch an interesting video followed by afternoon at the Kyneton Mechanics Institute, 81 Mollison Street, Kyneton.

There are several new courses coming up in the second semester.

Check out the U3A Kyneton website, u3akyneton.org.au/courses to see the full range of options offered. They include courses for the mind, courses for the body or social activities.

New members are always welcome and can join online via u3akyneton.org.au/memberships. Our annual subscription is \$40. If you need assistance, please contact Roni, who will be pleased to answer your queries and help you to become one of our valued members.

Further information about U3A Kyneton can be found via u3akyneton.org.au, by email members@u3akyneton.org.au or call Roni 0439 360 763.

SUBMITTED BY RONI TAUBMAN



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1st Woodend Scouts

Scouting is all about education for life, and our adventurous programs teach practical life skills. Recently the Woodend Cub Scouts learnt by doing when we came together on a District camp in Ballarat, themed around (of course) gold.

The age group was 8–11 years, many of whom had little camping experience. For some attending the State Cuboree (like a Jamboree) in September, it was a practical opportunity to experience what it will be like to sleep and live in a bush setting in tents.

We arrived very excited on the Friday evening to set up our tents and prepare for the evening activities. Early the next morning, we arose to the birds singing and cub scouts laughing, ready for a full day of adventure.

Woodend Scout Group had 28 youth members and five adult leaders attend the weekend, with 120 youth members plus leaders attending overall. The Cubs had fun learning new outdoor skills such as abseiling and shelter construction. They also built a Da Vinci bridge, as well as participated in team building and problem-solving activities.

Saturday night concluded with a campfire then off to bed, in order to get up early Sunday to pack up tents. On this activity, the Cubs had to do it all, including washing dishes – much to their distaste. Overall, a great weekend of learning, doing and appreciating each other and the outdoors.

SUBMITTED BY CHRIS EAGLE, ACTING GROUP LEADER



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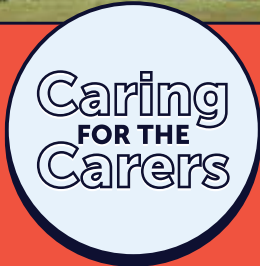
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Message from our local sergeant

Hello again,

I thought I would start with some positive news: Woodend Police is finally fully-staffed with its gazetted strength for the first time since 2015. Our new colleague joined us last week, having lived most of his life in Woodend, he is community focused and is a fantastic asset to our team.

We are still receiving reports for theft of number plates. Please take the time to buy one-way screws/bolts, which should only cost you a few dollars. The local hardware store also stocks them, having specifically ordered them in to assist locals after I spoke to them.

I don't want to lecture the community, but I'm sure it won't be a surprise to anyone that we will be focusing on traffic for the foreseeable future. Across Victoria we have had way too many deaths on our roads this year. Victoria Police are expected to make every effort to drive this trend down (pun intended). This week alone, Woodend Police stopped two residents who will be walking for the next three months due to speeding, one in biblical conditions. I don't apologise for enforcing the law, as I've been to way too many traffic fatalities. I would like to ensure our loved ones, community and volunteer First Responders are limited to experiencing this type of trauma.

Finally, I caught up with the editor of this newsletter at the fireworks during the Woodend Winter Arts Festival, which had a great community turnout. It was suggested that I should include a picture of myself for these articles, though I did comment that I thought I had a good face for radio and politely declined.

Next month I will be on leave, so it is unlikely that there will be an article for the paper, but I should return the following month. Please stay safe at home and on our roads.

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Federal Budget 2023-24

The Budget recently handed down by the federal government is expected to provide cost of living relief, with the community benefiting from savings on child-care and medicines. A new Energy Price Relief Plan will provide eligible local residents and businesses with a rebate of up to \$250.

Changes to Medicare will also see bulk billing incentives triple.

What Budget 2023-24 will mean for our division:

- A \$40 increase to Jobseeker payments for approximately 12,500 people
- An increase in payments of \$92.10 per fortnight for almost 500 Jobseekers aged 55-59
- A 15% boost in rent assistance for almost 12,000 households
- The childcare package is expected to benefit 6500 families.
- Over 3000 apprentices currently training in the division will benefit from Australian Apprenticeship supports to improve completion rates.
- Medicare bulk billing incentives will have immediate benefits for almost 70,000 people in McEwen.
- Over 35,000 people will be able to buy 60 days worth of medicine for the price of one prescription for more than 300 common PBS medicines

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE MOGRIDGE,
OFFICE OF ROB MITCHELL MP - MEMBER FOR MCEWEN

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Transforming early childhood education for the best start in life

More children and families will have greater and more affordable access to two years of quality kindergarten, with the Government's new Best Start, Best Life reforms.

The Victorian Budget 2023/24 provides for \$1.8 billion for early childhood education, ensuring more children get the best start in life while giving more parents – particularly working mums – the choice to do what's best for their families.

The investment will lock in Free Kinder, continue the roll-out of Three-Year-Old Kindergarten and start the transition of Four-Year-Old Kindergarten to Pre-Prep from 2025. It will also support Aboriginal community organisations and Traditional Owners to improve cultural safety and inclusion in early childhood services.

This historic expansion of early education meets a need so Victoria's littlest minds grow and learn. To support the need for more educational toys and equipment for play-based learning, a \$5,000 grant will be provided for every kinder in Victoria.

This funding means each kinder will see new, inclusive and age-appropriate materials including construction blocks, musical instruments, puzzles, chalk, gardening tools and sensory toys – encouraging children of all abilities to use their imagination and creativity, while learning through play.

"Our Best Start, Best Life and Three-Year-Old Kindergarten reforms are transforming early childhood education, saving hard-working families money and supporting parents to return to the workforce," said Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews of the program.

Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas MP said "I'd like to thank our local early learning educators across Macedon for their amazing work. \$5000 for additional educational toys and

equipment will help give our local kinder kids the best start to life, close to home."

With wear and tear inevitable, services will be encouraged to purchase toys made of natural and sustainable materials – extending their durability and keeping them out of landfill.

Up to 140,000 children and families are already benefitting from the first year of Free Kinder, which gives children 5 to 15 hours of funded kindergarten each week – while saving families up to \$2,500 in fees per child.

Pre-Prep will start in 2025 in the local government areas of Ararat, Gannawarra, Hindmarsh, Murrindindi, Northern Grampians and Yarriambiack – with other LGAs progressively joining the roll-out in following years.

Further funding in this year's Budget includes \$1.2 billion for infrastructure projects critical to the delivery of 15 hours of Three-Year-Old Kindergarten each week by 2029, and 30 hours of Pre-Prep each week by 2032.

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

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5 things I've learnt from my first week as an EV owner

I've had my EV for just over a week; here's what I've learnt.

#1. Going full charge: From phone to car batteries –

Some people keep their phone batteries topped up at all times, while others live on the wild side, hoping their phone won't die when they need it most. I used to be in the second camp – always running on near-empty fuel. But owning an EV changed that. It's best to keep your EV juiced up and ready. Thankfully, with a home charger, refuelling is a breeze. No more cold 10-minute waits at the servo. Just plug in when you get home. (It takes less than 10 seconds!)

#2. Driving on sunshine: Harnessing solar power –

My EV runs on sunshine – believe it or not! I've got solar panels at home and at the Bluegum office, plus a smart charger. Now I'm charging my EV with solar power that would have otherwise gone back to the grid. It's like I'm fuelling up for free. How awesome is that?

#3. Battery benefits for EVs - On those gloomy winter days with no surplus solar power at the Bluegum office, I simply plug my EV in when I get home and use the solar energy stored from the day in my home battery. When I get home after kinder pickup, my 2-year-old reminds me, "Plug the solar in, mummy."

#4. EVs are quick off the mark – and they need quick charging to match -

My Volvo XC40, for example, would take nearly 40 hours to charge from a normal powerpoint. That's why I use a Fronius Watt pilot charger. It charges my EV quickly at 11kW per hour on 3 phase, and it's dynamic, so it can vary depending on how I want to charge, switching between solar, battery, or grid power automatically as required. Best of all, I just plug in and walk away – easy peasy!

#5. It's part of an ecosystem –

Owning an EV is just the start of an exciting, all-electric revolution. Sun-powered, electric homes are our future, and charging your car fast is one piece of the puzzle. With solar, battery and an EV, you can control your home's energy without sacrificing comfort and help us build a sustainable future – free from the fear of skyrocketing energy bills.

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Winter warning for firewood sales

Illegal firewood operators are being put on notice, as the Conservation Regulator and Parks Victoria urge Victorians to source their winter firewood from reputable sellers and report dodgy dealers.

Firewood theft from public land is a significant issue across Victoria which heavily impacts critical wildlife habitat and cultural heritage. Sadly, much of the stolen timber is sold onto unsuspecting customers.

Firewood sellers can only sell timber sourced legally from a wholesale supplier, commercial wood lot or from private land with the permission of the landowner and in accordance with the Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation.

It can be difficult for customers to recognise reputable firewood sellers, so buyers are encouraged to ask the following questions:

- Where does your wood come from? Firewood sellers should be able to provide the details of where the wood for sale is sourced from.
- Can I get a receipt? Firewood sellers should provide a tax receipt with a business name and ABN listed.
- Why is the wood so cheap? If the firewood seems cheaper than similar sales nearby, ask the supplier why.

Buyers should report details about suspicious sellers or firewood theft from public land by calling 136 186.

This year the Conservation Regulator is targeting firewood theft with Forest Fire Management Victoria and Parks Victoria through Operation Hollows. Authorised Officers are patrolling forests, parks and reserves, and use concealed cameras and other methods to detect offences.

Anyone caught cutting or taking timber illegally from public land can face on-the-spot-fines of \$740 under the Forests Act 1958 or a maximum penalty of \$9,246 and/or 1 year jail if the matter is taken to court. Chainsaws, trailers and vehicles can also be seized if they're detected as being used for the offending.

"Firewood theft is a major issue in Victoria's parks and forests, impacting the habitat of hundreds of native wildlife species, which is why the Conservation Regulator is committed to investigating and prosecuting those responsible," said Kate Gavens, Chief Conservation Regulator.

The autumn firewood collection season from public land ended on 30 June, and the spring season begins on 1 September.

Details of where firewood can next be collected can be found at: www.ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood/firewood-collection-in-your-region.

For more information about buying firewood responsibly in

Victoria visit: www.vic.gov.au/buying-firewood.

Financial assistance is available for people on low incomes who buy firewood for heating: www.ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood/energy-concession-and-support.

The Conservation Regulator oversees the regulation of wildlife, forests and public land in the state of Victoria. Follow us on Twitter: @ConservationReg

The Conservation Regulator oversees the regulation of wildlife, forests and public land in the state of Victoria. Follow us on Twitter: @ConservationReg

Don't ignore road closures and 'wheel be all right'

Victorian public land authorities are warning off-road adventurers to obey all closed tracks and gates in forests and parks as seasonal road closures come into effect from this long weekend.

The Conservation Regulator and Forest Fire Management Victoria Authorised Officers are targeting illegal vehicle use and gate breaches on public land during patrols over the cooler, wetter months of the year.

Seasonal closures are in force between June and November every year to protect sensitive environments and to preserve public access tracks when they are most vulnerable to damage. Driving off-road and going around these gates destroys important native plants and vital wildlife habitat, including billy buttons and Clover Glycine.

Between June and November 2022, more than 400 breaches of closed gates and roads across Victoria were recorded, with hotspots in alpine areas, Mt Disappointment State Forest, and Lerderderg State Park.

Conservation Regulator Authorised Officers also fined more than 95 people during the same period for vehicle offences, including illegally driving or riding off-road or on a closed road, and breaching a closed gate.

David McLroy, Acting Director of Regulatory Operations, Conservation Regulator, said "Victoria's forests are home to thousands of native plants that need our protection and there is no excuse for people deliberately driving and riding around locked gates or on closed roads. The damage they cause seriously threatens environmental health and biodiversity."

Last year, a Bairnsdale man was convicted and ordered to pay \$1,744 in fines and legal costs after he pleaded guilty to damaging a seasonal closure gate and driving on a closed road in Nunniong State Forest in October 2021.

In Victoria, it is illegal to drive or ride on a closed road on public land. Anyone caught breaching road closure rules can be fined up to \$925, and the offence carries a maximum penalty of \$9,246 if prosecuted in court.

The public can find out more information about seasonal closures by visiting ffm.vic.gov.au/forest-and-road-closures. Local conditions and weather can affect the timing and locations of road closures, so before leaving home, drivers can check specific tracks via the MapshareVic tool: mapshare.vic.gov.au/webmap/publicaccess.

If you notice any illegal vehicle use on public land, you can report it anonymously to DEECA on 136 186. For more information about rules on public land, visit: www.vic.gov.au/rules-in-state-forests

Follow the Conservation Regulator on Twitter: @ConservationReg Follow Forest Fire Management Victoria on Twitter: @FFMVic



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Environment - be careful of floor surfaces that are slippery or water bowls too low that the dogs need to bend.

Gentle exercise old age is not a time to deal with injuries - stop throwing the ball - instead stop and smell the roses.



5427 2753

Local deliveries available

Woodend CFA—A 100% volunteer brigade



The Woodend CFA is a 100% Volunteer brigade, like all CFA brigades in the Macedon Ranges, with a proud volunteer history going back over 127 years.

In my 20 years with the brigade, I was amazed at some of the misconceptions that are held. More so, by people who have lived in the area a long time.

I was staggered to hear that some people believed that there were permanent paid firefighters at the Woodend fire brigade. This is not true; the brigade is 100% volunteers.

Further to that, some people thought that the Captain and Lieutenants were receiving wages. Not true. Not one volunteer in the Woodend brigade receives or has received any payment of wages for the time they give to their CFA duties.

I have also heard that we were reimbursed if we turned out to an incident. Again, not true.

We are all volunteers who do what we do to provide an important service to our community. As do all members of CFA brigades in the Macedon Ranges, and CFA volunteer brigades throughout the state. And the same applies to SES volunteers.

Woodend CFA volunteers give up our time totally free, a considerable amount of time in the case of some members. There are also many others who volunteer their time and services for various brigade and community work, also totally free. But very rewarding!

Congratulations to new volunteers!

In the last few years, we have welcomed a number of new and experienced volunteers to join the Woodend CFA, and many have already made a significant and valuable contribution to the safety of our community. We also have a number of new members currently completing their initial paperwork and are undertaking their General Fire Fighter training, and who will soon become operational members of the brigade. Welcome all to the Woodend CFA team!

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please get in touch.

For further information, contact the Woodend CFA on 5427 2356, or visit the station in Urquhart Street.

Follow us on Facebook, or you can visit our website: www.woodendcfa.org.

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, FORMER CAPTAIN WOODEND CFA



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Greater Western Water – Thriving Communities grant recipients applauded

Greater Western Water (GWW) has awarded \$176,000 to 26 community groups and organisations through the 2023/24 Thriving Communities Grants and Sponsorship Program.



Sponsorships are aimed at increasing opportunities for community participation and development throughout the western region.

GWW General Manager Strategy and Partnerships, Kessia Thomson, said applications had been received from every LGA across GWW's service area, from Melbourne to the Macedon Ranges.

"We have funded a range of projects that make our region a great place to live, including community care projects, art exhibitions, family and cultural events, and health initiatives," she said.

"We also continue to support projects that have a positive impact on our natural environment, supporting local waterways and wildlife."

For the full list of this year's recipients and more information on the annual Thriving Communities program, visit www.gww.com.au/grants-sponsorships

SUBMITTED BY STEFAN DELATOVIC

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Mary-Anne Thomas MP LABOR MEMBER FOR MACEDON

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

Woodend Junior Football Netball Club

WJFNC started the season with our annual Pie Night at Gilbert Gordon back in March. Our fabulous sponsor Bourkies Bakery supplied over 300 pies, and it was a great way to open the season and get players and families together.

For the first time in three years, we have 12 teams across all age groups in football and netball, which is fantastic. This provides great opportunity for our players to continue and improve their development.

Our first round commenced back in April, with all groups playing home and away games. We've played 10 rounds, and we're well over halfway through the season!

We also hosted our major fundraiser for the year back in May, a 'Trivia and Silent Auction Night'; it was a huge success, raising just over \$5,000 for the club. A big thank you to all the local businesses who donated vouchers and silent auction items, and also a massive thank you to all that attended; we wouldn't be the club we are today without the support from everyone involved.

Hawks Footy Wrap

Under 9's: We have a big group of kids who love their footy and are being guided by Coach Tony! Learning and developing their foundation skills each week, with a big emphasis on fun and skill development.

Under 11's: This season we have two teams, Soppe & Reid. Both are playing great team footy and developing every week.

Under 13's: Coached by Troy, the boys are playing a competitive brand of footy each week.

Under 15's: A young team of boys itching for their first win of the season, are competitive in every game this year. Big second half of the season coming up, looking for a scalp, that W isn't far away!

Under 17's: Another young team, again competitive every week, getting better every game. Knocking off the top team in the season's biggest upset so far.

Youth girls: Premiership star Lilly Bromley has taken the coaching reins this year and has the girls primed for another tilt at back-to-back flags! The YG Hawks are currently sitting 3rd and are getting ready for a busy second half and lead into finals! They know what it takes to win the big one! Will be a massive factor come finals time!

A big shout-out to all players who represented the league in their respective teams on this King's Birthday long weekend.

Hawks Netball Wrap

It's been a busy and exciting time for our junior netballers at the Hawks. This year, we've got five teams playing in the Riddell District Football Netball League (RDFNL) – one team in the U11s, one team in the U13s and three teams in the U15s. This is our biggest cohort of U15s ever! So far, our U11s are going strong, sitting 2nd on the ladder and our U13s are 3rd on the ladder, so we hope they may get to play finals.

Our teams play on Sundays over autumn/winter, with games at home at Gilbert Gordon or away at one of the many clubs across our league, sometimes venturing as far as Melton and Diggers Rest. Last Friday we had our first and only night game, and we

enjoyed playing under lights for a change. This was to enable representative players from across the league to compete in the Netball Victoria Central West Association Championships in Altona on Sunday 4 June. The Hawks were proud to have two of our players selected to represent the RDFNL at the Association Championships – Asha Duff-Tytler in the U13s and Minty Taylor in the U15s. Both teams did well, with the U15s making it to the semi-finals.

We'll soon turn our attention to planning for next year, getting an idea of player and team numbers and appointing coaches and team managers. We are always looking for people interested in coaching or umpiring, so please contact us if you are keen to play, coach or umpire in 2024. The netball sub-committee can be contacted on netball@woodendhawks.com.au

Lastly, Volunteers

Finally, a huge shout-out to all volunteers, parents and carers that help every week, either by timekeeping, umpiring, managing teams, coaching, driving their child to games and training, even cutting oranges. WJFNC is purely a volunteer-run club, so any help is much appreciated. If you would like to be, or to get more involved, please reach out by emailing vice.president@woodendhawks.com.au.

Go Hawks!

SUBMITTED BY WOODEND JUNIOR FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB



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Volunteer opportunity in the Macedon Ranges

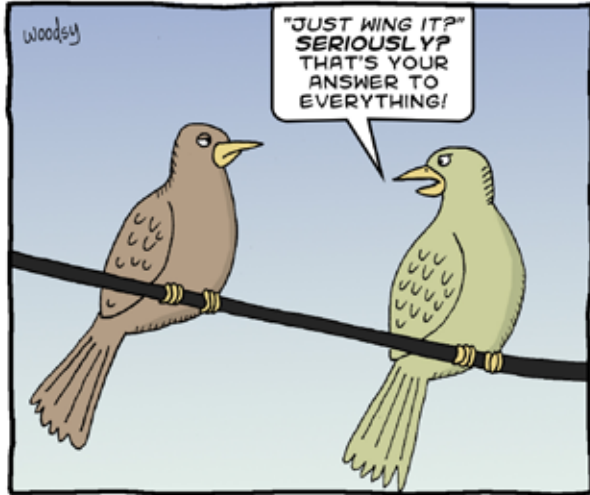
Would you like to provide companionship and friendship to an older resident of Macedon Ranges?

From 1 July, Council will offer the Australian Government Aged Care Volunteer Visitor Scheme to older people living in residential aged care facilities or their own homes.

Volunteers will be matched with a resident or group of residents with a common interest. A minimum commitment of a fortnightly visit is required, or more often upon agreement.

For information, contact Council on 5422 0333 or email volunteervisiting@mrc.vic.gov.au

insert brain here



by woody

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More Street Festa images ...



Mary Larnach-Jones' artwork projected onto the Mechanic's Institute building (Country House Woodend) and the Old Council Chamber building (Fox in the Chamber).
Photos by Peter McTaggart.

A message from your West Ward Councillors



Message from your councillors

There was lots of excitement recently, and almost all of Woodend seemed to be out supporting the Woodend Winter Arts Festival (WWAF). People enjoyed watching the fireworks display with accompanying classical music and entertainment at the opening event, attending the evening in the town centre viewing the stunning art exhibition projected onto building facades of artwork by long-time local artist Mary Larnach-Jones, or attending one of the many concerts and special events supporting our arts industry.

Our thanks and congratulations again to all the volunteers who work for months in the lead up and during the event, and the sponsors who make this happen. Many say it was the best festival they can recall.

When this edition goes to print, the draft Budget 2023/34 and Draft Council Plan Year Three will hopefully be approved. With over 100 submissions and a variety of requests, there is always a lot to consider, and we look to find a balance in allocating funds across all areas that Council is responsible for, and also evenly between the three wards in the Shire.

THE MOON

TAROT
Reading / Counselling

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You may be aware that officers are providing a Capital Works Monitoring Report every month at the Scheduled Council Meeting, where we review and note where there are increasing costs of construction and whether some works need to be rescheduled, placed on hold or require further funds. This is to help ensure transparency.



We are pleased with the announcement that Council has entered into a new agreement with Melbourne builder, Monaco Hickey (a division of Australian-owned Roberts Co) to complete the first stage of the Macedon Ranges Regional Sports Precinct (MRRSP). This means relatively minimal impacts to estimated timelines, and it is very welcome news indeed.

Hopefully, you have all been using the new bridge in Woodend over the Five Mile Creek. We recognise the generous donation by the late Jo Clancy, a remarkable woman who was passionate about nature, Landcare and our environment. We also thank the Woodend Landcare group and Council Officers who worked together to ensure Jo's wish has come to fruition.

West Ward Councillors really enjoyed the chance to chat to many of you who stopped by our listening post in June at the Woodend Farmers' Market. We did note everything you raised, and hopefully you have also received a response from officers where that was required. We are always happy to hear from you at other times, and often will request that you notify Council directly of your concerns or issues to ensure there is clarity and process. If you cc Councillors, then we will also receive the response from officers.

Thank you to everyone who is providing feedback to various Council documents out for consultation, as well as submissions on planning matters and permit applications. We appreciate your interest and time, and that you send them to Councillors. You will note that we will always request that you also send them to the official email address, mrsc@mrsc.vic.gov.au so everything can be formally registered.

We are pleased with the many invitations you send to Councillors to attend events and share in your celebrations, and we try to attend as many as we can.

Hopefully you have all voted for Woodend, which has been nominated as a finalist in the Top Small-Town category at the annual 2023 TAC Victorian Top Tourism Town Awards, which is exciting, following the recent announcement as Victoria's most liveable regional town.

There has also been lots to celebrate, with some wonderful winners of the Telstra Macedon Ranges Community Choice Business Awards, which included a business located in Woodend who won the Health and Wellbeing Award:- Zenkai - Complete Recovery of Health. We know others were nominated, and congratulations to you all for your hard work and excellent service.

We also want to recognise the efforts of the organisers of the Macedon Ranges Edgy Veg Trail and Awards which are growing every year. This is part of the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group (MRSG) Veg Action Group celebrating and supporting local, seasonal plant-based eating. Congratulations to Sam and the team at the Sizzler Restobar, who were joint winners of the Best Plant Based Dish Award.

*Stay warm and take care.
Best wishes, Janet, Mark and Jennifer.*

2023 Victorian Youth Fest Recipients announced

The Government is supporting young people in Macedon with funding for youth-led events for the 2023 Victorian Youth Fest.

Mary-Anne Thomas, Member for Macedon said the Macedon Ranges has a number of successful recipients of 2023 Victorian Youth Fest grants who will share in over \$200,000 total of funding to host youth-led events and activities.

Victorian Youth Fest is a month-long celebration in September that provides grants of up to \$2,000 to eligible organisations to host events, led by and for young people aged between 12 and 25. Youth Fest provides opportunities to showcase talents, grow networks and to connect with peers.

Successful recipients in the Macedon Ranges include:

Macedon Ranges Shire Council: Art Space

Part activation, part exhibition, Art Space is a concept connecting young people in the Macedon Ranges through the unique tapestry of rural life – focusing on challenging societal bias and stereotypes of youth mental health. An art exhibition, workshops and an interactive live art event will be delivered in the first week of the Term 3 school holidays. The program will be shaped by youth leaders involved in the Macedon Ranges Live4Life Program.

Woodend Neighbourhood House: Woodend x Level-Up

Woodend Neighbourhood House will provide an inclusive youth-focused event in partnership with Macedon Ranges Shire Council youth team and Level-Up Gaming Events during Youth Fest 2023 to bring young people between the ages of 12-25 together. The event will use gaming activities to help break down stigma associated with social isolation.

“We’re so proud to support local young people in the Macedon Ranges to lead the design and delivery of events and activities that meet their needs, showcase their talents and create important community connections with their peers,” said Mary-Anne Thomas, Member for Macedon of the initiative.

Applications supporting regional and rural events and underrepresented community groups were prioritised through the Youth Fest program.

For more information, visit youthcentral.vic.gov.au/youth-fest

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



Free Rego for all Victorian Apprentices

The Victorian Government will help to ease cost of living pressures for apprentices by making vehicle registration free for eligible apprentices from next month.

Premier Daniel Andrews and Minister for Roads and Road Safety Melissa Horne visited the Kangan Institute in Broadmeadows last month to meet apprentices who will be eligible for free vehicle registration from 1 July, saving them up to \$865 every year.

The \$10 million initiative is being delivered in the Victorian Budget 2023/24 will provide free registration to apprentices like carpenters, joiners, bricklayers, plumbers, electricians and chefs if their employer can verify that their vehicle is an essential part of their work.

Mary-Anne Thomas, Member for Macedon said, “We are proud to be supporting our local hard-working tradies and easing the cost of living pressures where we can.”

Apprentices who need their car for work are already entitled to a 50 per cent discount on their vehicle’s registration fee as part of the Trade Apprentice Registration Discount scheme – with over 12,000 apprentices and trainees currently taking advantage of the discount.

The scheme was introduced in 2016 to reduce costs for trade apprentices needing to use their own vehicle for work purposes, and expanded to border communities earlier in the year – giving apprentices who live in Victoria but work in New South Wales and South Australia the same savings as those who live and work in Victoria.

Eligible apprentices can apply for the free vehicle registration via the myVicRoads portal on the VicRoads website.

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



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Local businesses awarded and supported to keep thriving

Winners of the inaugural Telstra Macedon Ranges Community Choice Awards 2023 have been announced, while support continues to be provided to local businesses tendering for Council work.

Following an amazing response to the first-time awards, 78 local businesses were nominated by residents and visitors who felt they went above and beyond in displaying excellent customer service. Woodend was represented among the winners by Zenkai - Complete Recovery of Health in the Health and Wellbeing category, sponsored by Macedon Ranges Shire Council

From those nominees, the winners of this year's awards as decided by public vote were:

Mayor Annette Death said it was great to give the community a chance to shine the spotlight on their favourite local businesses.

"Given the new format of these awards, we were really pleased by the number of nominations and the positive response we've had in general," she said.

"We hope this gets the word out about businesses in the region that are doing great things – congratulations to all of the winners and nominees."

The new Community Choice Awards reflect Council's ongoing commitment to support local businesses in alternating annually with the Business Excellence Awards, which will return next year.

Following a successful tendering and procurement session earlier in the year, Council will be hosting another session on 12 July, where local businesses can learn more about Council's procurement process and how best to apply for tenders.

Council contracts totalling more than \$12 million have been awarded to local businesses over the past four years, with locals also among an additional \$33 million worth of contracts budgeted for, such as those on supply panels.

"It's important we empower local businesses to better position themselves for these opportunities, as they give so much back to our local economy and provide local jobs," Mayor Death said.

mrcs.vic.gov.au/business-events or call 5421 9674.

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN



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100 years ago ... in the **Woodend Star**, July 1923

Footballer Injured - James Koochew, of Woodend, whilst playing with the Kyneton team against Foundry at Castlemaine last Saturday, sustained injuries to his back which became extremely painful and necessitated his admission to the Kyneton Hospital, when returning home by train. He is unable to state how the injuries were received, but it is thought that they may be due to a fall or to muscle causes.

SUBMITTED BY ELAINE SAUNDERS, TNWS COMMITTEE

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Ladies Netball Competition – Teams Wanted!

If you have been thinking about getting a netball team together to get fit and have some fun, or about registering your individual interest, now is your chance. We are looking for at least one more team for our Tuesday night competition at Woodend Buffalo Sports Stadium. The next season starts in July 2023.

For information or to register, email buffalo@mrc.vic.gov.au or call 5427 3411.



Woodend Bowls Club

New committee elected for 2023-24

The Woodend Bowling Club recently held its Annual General Meeting, which included the election of new officebearers for the 2023-24 year.

There was good attendance by members, with reports from the President, Secretary and Treasurer, with all major positions then declared vacant for the new year.

The new Board was elected: President Mike Dornau returning for an eighth consecutive term, Vice-President Geoff Symons, Secretary Rob Smithies and Treasurer Tony Lennie. There were seven nominees for the remaining five Board positions and those elected were Judy Condon, Stephen Pickles, John Shaw, Trevor Sturt and Ken Usher. A huge thank you to outgoing directors Norm Bickerdyke, Rosalie Campbell and Anne Dornau for their significant contributions for many years.

Saturday Selectors: John Shaw, Stephen Pickles, Geoff Symons, Ian Fletcher and Derek Barber
Midweek Selectors: Christine Gillman, Pat Morgan and Trevor Sturt

Thank you to all members who nominated for these important positions.

New synthetic green update

The long-awaited and delayed work to replace the surface after the October floods is now scheduled to start sometime in late June or early July. Once this work is completed we will replace our grass green.

Social bowls every Wednesday through winter

Even though we have started another chilly Woodend winter, you still have the opportunity to have a bowl at our club on our new all-weather green when the replacement is finished.

We have an organised Social Bowls every Wednesday, starting at 12.30pm. The cost includes several games, afternoon tea and entry into the raffle.

If you are new to bowls, this is a great way to get started with a friendly social environment, lots of experienced advice and we can provide everything you need.

We are always looking for new members of all ages. In fact, many of the leading lawn bowlers in Australia are now in their twenties and thirties. Simply get in touch with the club to find out more.

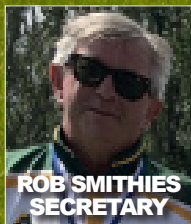
For more information, please call 5407 9220 or visit our website at www.woodendbowlsclub.weebly.com. You can also follow us on Facebook.

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, PRESIDENT WOODEND BOWLS CLUB

WOODEND BOWLING CLUB BOARD MEMBERS 2023-24



MIKE DORNAU
PRESIDENT



ROB SMITHIES
SECRETARY



TONY LENNIE
TREASURER



GEOFF SYMONS
VICE-PRESIDENT



JUDY CONDON



STEPHEN PICKLES



JOHN SHAW



TREVOR STURT



KEN USHER



Woodend and Hanging Rock Pétanque

Well, the pétanque season is formally over, as it runs from October to May. But that is not to say that there is no more pétanque for the Woodend Hanging Rock Pétanque Club!

We now move into our winter calendar. But before we say goodbye to the summer calendar, we have held a few special pétanque days, one being the President's Cup, in honor of Marilyn Steel, and the last hurrah for our champion president of many years, Chinka Steel, who is about to leave for life on the Mornington Peninsula.

It was a great night, with many honoring Marilyn and Chinka and their contribution to the Woodend Hanging Rock Pétanque Club, which wouldn't have existed without their energies and encouragement over the last 22 years.

Also in May, a group trooped up to the Redesdale Hotel for a morning of pétanque, followed by a delicious lunch put on by the Redesdale Hotel. Great day had by all, especially Ed Lowe, who was the champion of the day!

During this winter break, and part of our winter calendar, we have several tournaments coming up, with one being the continuing of the 'Golden Boule' tournament.

On the first weekend of June, we played Round 1 against teams from Maldon Petanque Club in the rain and cold, but soldiered on to have a great day of pétanque!

In the future weeks, we will play teams from Mount Macedon Pétanque Club, Pyrenees Pétanque Club from Avoca, Ballarat Pétanque Club and will finish with a tournament against The Smythsdale Pétanque Club at Woody Yaloak.

Then of course, there is Bastille Day on July 14, which we always celebrate at Hanging Rock Reserve with a game of pétanque, followed by a delicious lunch prepared by the committee.

On one of our annual weekends in August, we also hold another tournament in Echuca, where teams from various clubs around the state gather to play at the Port, outside the Star Hotel.

We meet on the Friday night at the Star for a get-together and then over Saturday and Sunday we play our favorite game, culminating in a lunch at the hotel.

So, even though our season is over, there are still plenty of occasions to play the game we all love, pétanque!

If you're looking for some fun and company join us!

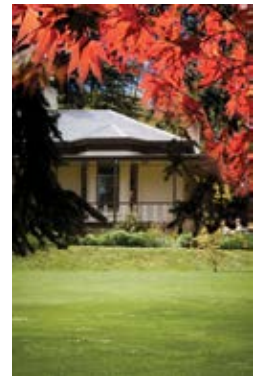
The season will start at the Racecourse in Forest St, Woodend on Monday October 2 at 2pm, and on Thursday October 5 at Hanging Rock at 4pm, followed by a BBQ.

If you're interested in knowing more about the club, please call Louise on 0438302218.

SUBMITTED BY LOUISE POTTER

Duneira Estate

Duneira Historic Homestead (circa 1875) in Officer Lane, Mount Macedon, is now open for guided house tours throughout Winter. Stuart Stoneman was the last owner of Duneira Estate and his extraordinary art collection, his vast library, and his collection of antique furniture are all housed in the main residence. Stoneman wished to share his collections, his house and its magnificent gardens with interested individuals and groups, and to offer the public an opportunity to learn about and appreciate the significance of Duneira in our colonial past. Throughout the tours, our knowledgeable guides will provide fascinating insights into the story of this historically significant hill station, along with an informative commentary on the art collection.



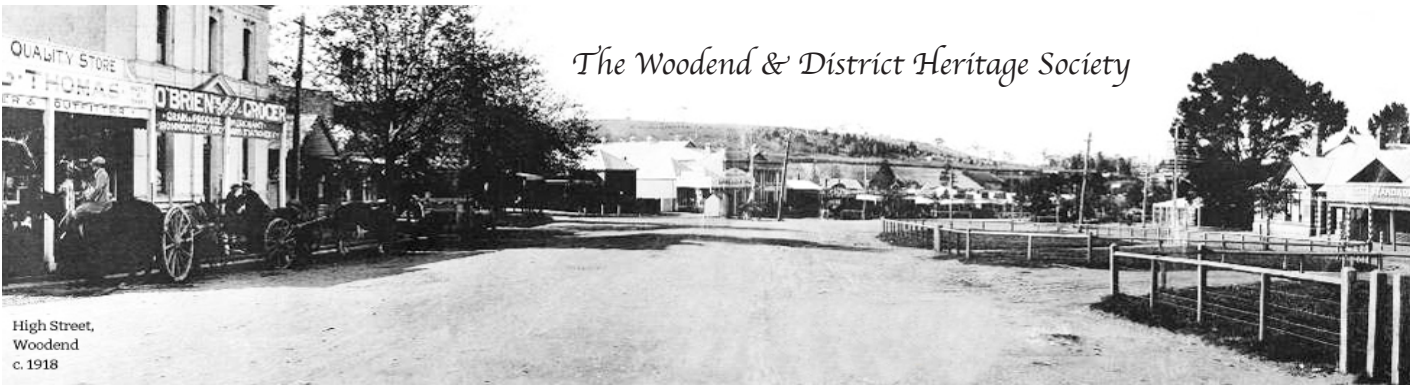
Morning tea in the newly restored Stables is included with this tour.

Dates:
Thursday 13 July 10am-12pm
Thursday 10 August 10am-12pm

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SUBMITTED BY MELINA GODDARD



High Street,
Woodend
c. 1918

The Woodenders go bowling

On 1 June 1890, an enthusiastic gathering of Woodenders formed a bowling club and a tennis club. The new Woodend Bowling Club Committee applied to Council for permission to use land south of Five Mile Creek. Once granted, the committee had a picket fence erected around the site and the bowling green was laid. The club made rules similar to those of the Kyneton Bowling Club, formed in 1877. On Christmas Day, the committee opened the green with a match between Messrs McKenzie, Tassell, Johnson and Froomes. Woodenders often preferred to play in Kyneton for several years while the rather bumpy Woodend green flattened out.

In 1898, the *Woodend Star* reported that at the annual meeting of the Bowling Club there were insufficient members for a committee or a president. Once an active group, the Bowling Club was defunct, while the tennis and croquet clubs carried on. However in 1903, the previous president, Mr H.D. McKenzie, rallied about thirty gentlemen at a special meeting, and reformed the club. Half the green was used to play bowls, the other half croquet. The bowling green was reopened 28 October 1903. The *Kyneton Guardian* reported that 'the weather was beautiful ... a scene of bustle and excitement, the summer dresses of the ladies being a relief to the eye after the cold, wet and changeableness of the season just passed through. There was a goodly company present ... and a very pleasant afternoon was spent.'

A new green was constructed in 1907. The original was stripped, followed by further digging of earth which was then mixed with screened ashes from Melbourne. Further screening was laid, followed by at least 11 pounds of grass seed. In 1918, the first recorded Ladies Bowling Match was held between Castlemaine



Opening of the Woodend Croquet & Bowling Green, 28-10-1903

Photo 540: The first ball bowled at the opening of the Woodend Croquet and Bowling Club 28 October 1903. Mrs McKenzie, wife of the President of the Club, threw the first 'jack' and the first bowl, followed by Mrs Birrell, wife of the President of the Tennis Club.

and Woodend at Woodend. Woodend won by six shots. The game was reported as one of the most exciting seen for some time. Since those heady days, the club has continued to thrive for men and women on a green enlarged in 1923.

Congratulations to Paul Burke who has won a 'Don Grant Award – Special Mention' for his book, *The Enterprising Thomas Fitzsimmons of Woodend, Adventure and Survival in Colonial Australia*.

The book is available for \$25 at the Woodend District Heritage Society in the Old Woodend Courthouse in Forest St, which is open Wednesdays 10am–12:30 and 1:30–4pm.

SUBMITTED BY JANE HOLTH



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Talented Artists visit for Arts Week

Arts Week, held during Term 2, was filled with a multitude of activities for participation and enjoyment, with over 280 students involved across the week.

These included: Drama Improvisation Workshop, badge making, Photography Competition and Portraiture Workshops with the amazing Danny Butterworth, friend of the College and Doug Moran and Archibald finalist. Year 9–12 Drama students were fortunate to be able to enjoy a livestream of Melbourne Theatre Company's 'I Wanna Be Yours' featuring former SHC student, Ellie Barkla. We also welcomed another past student, professional musician Taylor Sheridan, who shared several performances while sharing stories of his career – further details on the careers of these alumni are provided below. We thank these talented artists for giving their time so freely. What a week!

Taylor Sheridan (Class of 2008)

The ultra-talented Taylor Sheridan performed a concert for Year 8s, as well as a cosy recess gig in the staffroom and a lunchtime gig for the entire school. It was an incredible event and Taylor's talent and professionalism made for spellbinding

performances. We were treated to stories of Taylor's life at school and his "long and winding road" to following his passion for music and songwriting.

Taylor talked about his involvement in a variety of cover bands before making the decision to focus on his own songwriting to tell his own story. Taylor describes his music as "soulfully acoustic" and combines different styles in his sound, creating something fresh.

Taylor has released two independent EPs and a string of singles and has toured all around the country, playing with some of Australia's finest, including Pete Murray, Vanessa Amorosi, Daryl Braithwaite and John Farnham.

Ellie Barkla (Class of 2014)

We were thrilled to welcome past student Ellie Barkla back via Zoom for a Q&A session with our Drama students, following the livestream of MTC's 'I Wanna Be Yours'. Ellie plays Ella, an actor and voice coach



from Yorkshire, who meets Haseeb, a British-Pakistani poet, at a performance workshop. Through short scenes, the play builds an authentic and insightful picture of contemporary, cross-cultural courtship. The Zoom was a fantastic opportunity for our students to ask Ellie questions about the processes she goes through in preparing for a role and what it's like to be a professional actor.

Ellie has had a varied career since graduating from SHC in 2014. Growing up in Castlemaine, she trained at Federation University, attaining a Bachelor of Arts (Acting) with Distinction in 2018. Since then, Ellie has tried her hand at stand-up comedy, Shakespeare, film and musical theatre, with a long list of accomplishments from stage and screen.

SUBMITTED BY BEN GALLAGHER,
LEARNING AREA LEADER - THE ARTS



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Enrolments Closing Soon.

Enrolments for Year 7 2025 close on 28 July 2023 (students currently in Grade 5).

Contact the Registrar for enrolment enquiries or download our enrolment application form via the website. Don't miss our next College Tours: 12 July (Principal's Tour) and 8 August.



Scan for tour bookings