

The New Woodend Star

Rotary
Club of Woodend



SEPTEMBER 2023
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Photo: Cooper previously representing Victoria

**Local Hawks/MRBA Basketballer to represent Australia
at the U17 Asian Championships in Qatar...story page 42**

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DO YOU KNOW A LOCAL LEGEND?

TELL US ABOUT A GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL IN OUR COMMUNITY DOING WONDERFUL THINGS!

Help contribute to the New Woodend Star and share their story.

Send your words and pictures to us!

Submit via: content@newwoodendstar.org.au

A message of thanks to the Woodend community

Last weekend, driving through Woodend, I pulled off the side of the road onto what I thought looked like fairly dry grass and found myself bogged. Ironically, I had pulled over to let someone know I was running late to my destination. While on the phone to the RACV for a tow, a local man, two boys and a dog stopped to help. While they were trying to push me out another man stopped, then decided he didn't have the right tools and went home for equipment. While he was gone, another vehicle stopped and the driver showed me how to set up my bumper bar for a tow. The second man returned with a friend, who had a winch on his four-wheel drive and pulled me out. In the end, I was assisted by four men, two boys and a dog and was quickly on my way again. The whole saga took about 15 minutes.

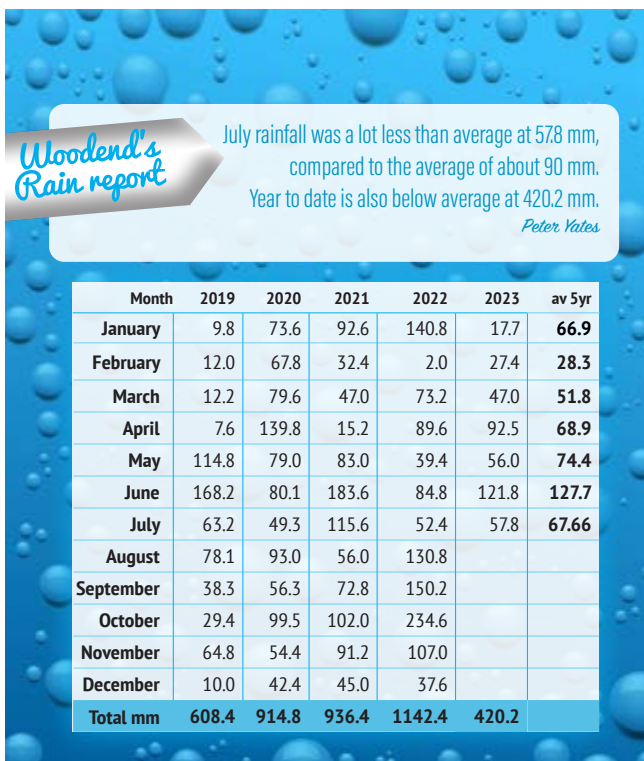
Thank you so much to my rescuers for your friendliness, willingness to help and patience – I was told that bogged out-of-towners are quite common and instructed not to park on grass again.

So I enjoyed a lovely weekend away, with one slight glitch that could have been tedious if not for the generosity of your community.

And while I was looking for trouble with my choice of parking spot, I have learnt and will not park on the grass in Woodend again

Many thanks, don't go changing.

SUBMITTED BY NICOLE JONES, KERANG



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.



Photo taken at Edgars Mission that includes Nicholas, his support crew and the founder of Edgars Mission.

Nicholas Fowler takes strides for a cause

In an extraordinary act of kindness and compassion, 22-year-old Nicholas Fowler, a student from Ashbourne, is stepping up to make a significant impact in animal welfare. Nicholas is embarking on a remarkable journey to raise funds for Macedon Ranges animal sanctuary and rescue not for profit, Edgar's Mission Inc., by participating in the upcoming four-day Trek for Kindness in the Sumatran rainforest.

Set to kick off in October 2023, the Trek for Kindness will see Nicholas trekking through the Sumatran rainforest, accompanied by fellow Edgar's Mission supporters who share his passion for making a difference. Nicholas will be fully immersed in the Indonesian jungle, camping beneath the stars, and will also take a trip to the Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Program in Medan. There, he will gain insights into the vital work of rescuing, rehabilitating, and safeguarding endangered orangutans. Additionally, Nicholas will play a part in reforesting the area by planting local tropical trees to counter the effects of illegal logging.

To actively contribute to this endeavour, Nicholas aims to raise a total of \$3,500 as his fundraising target for Edgar's Mission. This is where the support and generosity of the community will come into play. Every contribution, no matter the size, will make a significant difference in helping him achieve this goal.

Nicholas recently embarked on a remarkable 30km walk from Mount Macedon to Edgars Mission in Lancefield on August 5, not only showcasing his commitment but also helping spread awareness about the cause.

All the funds garnered through sponsorships and donations

will be channelled directly to Edgar's Mission, where they will be used to further their commendable work of rescuing, rehabilitating, and providing a haven for animals in need.

About Edgar's Mission

Since 2003, Edgar's Mission has rescued thousands of abused and injured animals from unsustainable factory farms rehabilitating them to give them a better chance at life. One pig, Edgar, has grown to around 400 farm animals hosted at any given time. Driven by kindness for all, Edgar's Mission seeks to create a humane and just world.

SUBMITTED BY NIKKI BARKER.



Photo: courtesy of Edgar's Mission - Kiki the smallest animal rescued by Edgar's Mission

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Edyta Wyatt:
Branch Manager and
Mobile Lender

Edyta is the Branch Manager of Community Bank Trentham &

Districts, with over 20 years' experience in the Finance & Banking sector. 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 and is highly skilled in structuring the correct loan scenario for clients. Edyta is happy to meet customers at their home, office, local café or an online meeting, whichever works best for you.



Corina Sabo:
Customer Relationship
Manager

Corina is the Customer Relationship Manager at Community Bank Trentham & Districts, she comes from an accountancy background, with 15 years' experience in this field.

Corina works closely with customers to accomplish their goals, with a solutions focused approach to get the best possible outcome. She has an extensive knowledge of home loans, banking products and other services including e-banking. It's no surprise she has won Regional, State and National 'People Choice Award's' for her commitment and outstanding customer service.

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Edyta Wyatt
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Greater Western Water launches first Reconciliation Action Plan

Greater Western Water (GWW) has proudly launched its first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) today, guiding the organisation's important work to build strong foundations and thriving relationships with First Nations communities and Traditional Owners.

Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Ash Skinner performed a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony to open the event at Wunggurrwil Dhurrung Centre in Wyndham Vale.

Representing an inclusive and culture-led approach to reconciliation, the Innovate RAP seeks to foster consultation and collaboration with the First Nations community, and emphasises the role that all GWW staff have to contribute to and pro-mote reconciliation.

GWW Managing Director, Maree Lang, said developing the RAP took critical self-reflection and constructive feedback from First Nations colleagues and community.

"While it's our first RAP as Greater Western Water, it recognises where we have come from through the efforts of our previous organisations.

"Together we worked to understand where we were at as an organisation and what is achievable for the two years that this RAP commits us," she said.

"Working alongside First Nations organisations is integral to achieving our goals, and this is particularly true of our work with Traditional Owners, with whom we are building not just strong relationships but healthy business partnerships."

GWW's Innovate RAP commitments include:

- Supporting First Nations business, suppliers and networks
- Increasing employment opportunities and internal cultural awareness
- Promoting reconciliation events and opportunities to grow our sphere of influence
- Growing bush tucker and native vegetation regeneration projects on our sites

The beautiful artwork featured in GWW's RAP was created by Wadawurrung artist B.J.C. The artwork was selected through The Torch, a not-for-profit that delivers an Indigenous Arts in Prisons and Community program, with artists receiving 100 per cent of the proceeds from the sale of their artworks.

Read GWW's reconciliation commitments in their Innovate RAP Plan at gww.com.au/RAP

SUBMITTED BY STEFAN DELATOVIC



Photo: GWW Chair David Middleton and Managing Director Maree Lang at the RAP launch.

Get your hydronic system winter ready!



Woodend Hydronic Heating & Cooling specialises in servicing, maintaining and repairing hydronic heating systems and installing wall hung split systems. Servicing is required periodically to ensure your system maintains optimal efficiency and reduces the likelihood of breakdown and need for repair. Our company is locally owned and based, with over 20 years experience in the heating and cooling industry.



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Expand Your Space with Zipscreen Blinds

Ready to elevate your outdoor experience this summer? Introducing the innovative Zipscreen Blinds - the ultimate solution for extending your living space beyond your home.

As the weather warms and the sun shines brightly, it's the perfect time to transform your patio into a comfortable oasis for relaxation and entertainment.

Our Zipscreen blinds offer more than just practicality. With a variety of elegant designs, colours, and fabrics to choose from, you can customize your blinds to match your unique taste and the existing aesthetic of your home. Enjoy enhanced UV protection, shielding you and your furniture from the sun's harmful rays. Once the sun sets, these blinds also provide protection against wind, rain, and bothersome bugs.

Choose from simple spring-operated, crank, or motorized options. The blinds feature a small headbox available in various colours, and the fabric is securely held by side-tracks, ensuring complete coverage.

Contact us today and beat the summer rush.

Homelessness Crisis in the Macedon Ranges

It's time to ask what each of us can do to address the crisis.

Rotary is calling on property owners to provide accommodation for the growing number of people facing homelessness in our area.

Josephine Falzarano of Woodend Rotary put the call out to the capacity crowd at the Kyneton Town Hall on Tuesday 7 August 2023 for the screening of the documentary UNDERCOVER, followed by a panel discussion.

Rotary Clubs across the Macedon Ranges have been working together since 2018 on the project Rotary in Support of Empowerment or RISE Against Homelessness.

"We need properties, studios and houses that are ready to rent out or where we can work with industry to upgrade the properties," she said.

She highlighted the support that Rotary has already received from generous property owners and local businesses like RT Edgar that have been managing the rentals free of charge, specifically thanking RT Edgar director Jason York for his support.

"We hope that many in the community will look at their properties through a different lens and consider making them available."

The audience heard that across Australia 400,000 women over 50 have been identified as homeless or are verging on homelessness.

This includes the Macedon Ranges.

The extent of the crisis here was laid out by Kate Weston and Justine Maher of Sunbury and Cobaw Health. While rents and interest rates continue to rise, the number of people seeking support grows, doubling from June to July this year alone, with 198 families and individuals over 25, and 24 individuals under 25 all seeking assistance.

According to Justine, a total of 1,200

people from the Macedon Ranges are on the Victorian Housing Register waiting for public housing; 700 of those are on priority lists. These numbers are comparable to numbers in the city and, with so little accommodation available in the Macedon Ranges, the service is at crisis point.

Those from Woodend were shocked to hear that after Kyneton, Woodend is the number two hotspot for homelessness in the Macedon Ranges, followed by Gisborne at number three.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council CEO Bernie O'Sullivan expressed how many in the audience were feeling when he said the movie "made him feel ashamed that this is happening under our noses, unseen. It is easy to miss what is happening, a couple of key life events can make it happen."

He spoke about the Council's Affordable Housing Policy and later outlined the work that was underway with Homes Victoria, with \$30 million in state government funding earmarked for the construction of affordable houses in the Macedon Ranges.

When a member of the audience asked how she could convert her house into two residences without encountering a long and complex process, Bernie O'Sullivan agreed that the planning scheme is not "fitting the bill to deal with this crisis." He invited her to come and speak with the Council to explore what can be done.

Well known businesswoman, Annie Smithers of du Fermier in Trentham, is concerned that our tourism industry is increasingly seeing entrenched inequality, with some people owning multiple properties that are reserved for short term rentals, while low-paid workers in the industry cannot find accommodation. "We can do better with our housing stock," she pleaded.

Rob Pradolin, founder of Housing All Australians, which made the UNDERCOVER documentary, told

the audience he is "over waiting for government". If we don't act, he says, by 2032 the cost of homelessness to Australia will be \$25 billion per annum.

The last panel member to speak was Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group president Lenka Thompson, who spoke about MRSG's commitment to social justice, including working to help low income households reduce their energy bills by making their houses more energy efficient.

Overall, it was a thought-provoking evening that both confirmed that homelessness is already a crisis right here in the Macedon Ranges; and at the same time provided practical suggestions for what we can all do to help.

The event was a collaboration between Rotary, Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group, Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health, and Macedon Ranges Shire Council.

Rotary would like to thank David Gormley O'Brien, vice-president of MRSG for chairing the steering committee for the event, and for all his work in bringing it all together. Thank you also to Jane Monk for her excellent work facilitating the panel discussion and questions from the audience.

This free event was made possible by generous donations from APD Projects, Rotary and Macedon Ranges Shire Council.

If you know of any buildings or have spaces on your property that are not currently being used, or would like further information, please call Josephine on 0407 271 628.

Anyone who is homeless or at risk of homelessness should call Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health on 5421 1666 or the 24hr statewide number for Housing Victoria 1800 825 955.

SUBMITTED BY DEIDRE WILLMOTT FOR THE ROTARY CLUB OF WOODEND



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Living in a war zone

Anna Adrusyk of Kyiv gave an unforgettable presentation at Woodend Rotary in August, when she spoke about life in Ukraine since the Russian invasion. Anna and her two boys, aged seven and two, were in Australia at the invitation of Australian friends who wanted her to have some respite from the war. She used the visit as an opportunity to meet Australians and share with them how it feels to be attacked by the country of many of her own ancestors. She described the fear and the terrible noise while hiding in the potato cellar with two small children as bombs are dropped around her city, living with constant power shortages and how it feels to have her husband, a non-military man, called up for service and not even know where he is. Most of all, her message was one of thanks to the Australian people for their support for the people of Ukraine.



Photo: Anna Adrusyk, speaking to Woodend Rotary, wearing a traditional Ukrainian dress featuring sunflowers, the national flower

SUBMITTED BY DEIDRE WILLMOTT

At Rotary, we are deeply concerned by the ongoing loss of life and humanitarian hardship caused by the war in Ukraine. We're using our deep networks and decades of experience to take meaningful action in the region. To date we have raised US\$17.3 million (AUD\$27.2 million) to provide relief such as food, water, shelter, clothing and medicine to refugees and others affected by the war.

Find out more about what Rotary is doing and how you can support relief efforts by going to <https://www.rotary.org/en/rotary-responds-ukraine-crisis>



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Vanuatu School Children say thank you

The Rotary Club of Woodend has now completed a new school building in Mwast, a remote village on the island of Espiritu Santo in Vanuatu. This new building will house up to 80 students and provide an office for the principal of the school.

The building will provide comfortable conditions compared with the existing crowded timber building, which has been damaged over the years by cyclones. Often during the year, teachers need to take the children outside under a tree to escape the oppressive heat inside. The new building provides safe and secure conditions; it has been designed to withstand cyclones, which are common in the area, and has adequate ventilation to deal with the heat.

The school children were so happy to have this new building they wished to send a particular "thank you" to Bourkies Bakehouse in Woodend, their staff and customers, who have provided substantial financial support via their donation tin. A way of expressing their appreciation was for the principal to take a photo of the children outside the new building and send it to Woodend Rotary to print. This has been achieved and the photo shows Woodend Rotary president, Deidre Willmott, making the presentation to Adam Bourke alongside Allan Cann, project manager for the Vanuatu project.

The Rotary Club is now working towards installing solar panels, a toilet block and educational equipment to improve the facilities at the school.

SUBMITTED BY ALLAN CANN, WOODEND ROTARY



Photo: Left, Alan Cann, Adam Bourke and Deidre Willmott.

Rotary Club of Woodend

Grand Final Week PIE NIGHT

A fundraiser for the
Woodend Junior Football/Netball Club
Thursday 28 September, 6.30pm
Woodend Hesket Football Club Rooms
1 Davy Street Woodend

Join us for a family friendly night of football fun,
Trivia quizzes, handball competitions and more.
Dress code 'footy themed'
prize for 'best dressed'

COST: Family \$45 (2 adults 2 kids)
adults - \$15, under 18 - \$10,
children under 6 - free

Ticket includes pies and hot dogs.
Drinks @ bar prices.

RSVP 20th September
Booking essential via
<https://www.trybooking.com/CKTWH>



Katherine Brabon to speak about her new book Body Friend

Acclaimed author Katherine Brabon, who grew up in Woodend, will be Woodend Rotary's guest speaker on Thursday 21 September.

Katherine is the author of novels The Memory Artist, The Shut Ins, and Body Friend, published last month.

Katherine's work has received a NSW Premier's Literary Award, the Vogel's Literary Award and the David Harold Tribe Fiction Prize from the University of Sydney, as well as nominations for the Voss Literary Prize, the Christina Stead Prize for Fiction and the ALS Gold Medal. She lives in Naarm/Melbourne.

Copies of Body Friend will be available for purchase on the evening.

Rotary meetings are held every Thursday night, upstairs at The Victoria Hotel, starting at 6.30pm.

If you would like to join us, please contact the Club Service Chair Steve Simpson on 0419 901 391



Getting that rent back on track and managing your property the best way!



Meet our RT Edgar Macedon Ranges team:

Erin Guarino (Assistant Property Manager), Angelina Quiroga (Property Manager at Woodend office), Alisha Clarke (Property Manager at Gisborne Office) & Marissa Boyd (Rental Department Manager/Partner) are here to provide you exceptional service for your property management needs.

- Are your tenants not paying rent?
- Are your routine inspections not getting completed?
- Is maintenance on your rental investment not being looked after?

If your property is being managed in this way and you are not happy with your agent- did you know you can change agency ?

With our experience and prompt actions, knowledge of the new legislation- we can get these issues up to date for you and will handle the changeover on your behalf at no cost to you.

Contact: Woodend Office 5427 1222 or Gisborne Office 5428 8633 to chat about your property.



Photo: KGMG Creative - Alice Ramshaw

THE IMPORTANCE OF WORK EXPERIENCE

Every year in the third week of Term 3, Braemar College holds a work experience program for all Year 10s, which provides them with an opportunity to be involved in places of business that they might want to explore in the future. A program like this prepares students for how particular industries approach tasks and how that fits together with the student's work style.

All students are asked to set up their own placements without relying on parents or teachers. This is such a helpful approach because it prepares each student to search for jobs in the future without support from others, which goes a long way to developing independence.

During my work experience week in early August, I was involved in many hands-on tasks that provided more insight than a lecture or course ever could. As a whole, students have the opportunity within this week to really understand how an industry works and gain a variety of life skills that can be applied beyond their specific workplace. For a lucky few, genuine employment opportunities can even result from the week!

One invaluable takeaway from my placement was discussing and understanding what employers look for when job applicants reach out. These discussions included suggestions for relevant volunteer work that would not only benefit my resume but add to my overall industry experience (like having the opportunity to write this article for The New Woodend Star!)

Above all, Work Experience week is an incredibly positive rite of passage for many young students. With university, trade school or other avenues for life after high school just around the corner, there are few opportunities quite like it!

WRITTEN BY ALICE RAMSHAW – YEAR 10 BRAEMAR COLLEGE



Macedon Ranges is reviewing our Municipal Emergency Management Plan – have your say

Every council in Victoria is required to have a Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) and review it every three years.

These plans outline the arrangements for the planning, response and recovery from significant emergencies – such as storms, floods and fires – for the municipality.

Council, emergency services and partners all play a role in developing these plans, as organisations that have a huge role to play in emergency management locally.

These plans are also aimed at capturing the unique needs of the local community and how resilience, households and businesses play a role.

Council welcomes your input and invites you to participate in a short survey on what you think matters when it comes to planning for emergencies in Macedon Ranges.

This survey closes on 1 October 2023. Visit mrcs.vic.gov.au/your say

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN, MRSC

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Gear up for Bird Month in October

Bird Blitz

Now in its fifth year, the Macedon Ranges Bird Blitz is back! This year Council is proud to be partnering with BirdLife Australia's Aussie Bird Count – a fantastic way to explore this year's Bird Blitz theme which is 'Birding for Beginners'. The Aussie Bird Count takes place during bird week from 16–25 October.

Bird Survey Blitz!

Council's bird monitoring program involves 80 bird monitoring sites across our reserves and roadsides. These surveys help us assess the health of our local environment. We are calling on birding volunteers to assist and attend a citizen science co-design workshop on Sunday 22 October.

Birding for beginners

Council also has a range of activities for fledgling birders, including monthly Birding for Beginners walks at Jacksons Creek, Gisborne, and a birdwatching and identification workshop on 15 October.

For information about all of the above bird month events, visit mrc.vic.gov.au/environment-events.



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Mulch promotions

Spring is coming and what better way to reinvigorate your garden than with some free mulch. Mulch can be self-loaded for free at any of our resource recovery facilities.

There are many benefits to using mulch in your garden: from preventing weeds, to helping maintain a consistent soil temperature. Find out more mrc.vic.gov.au/mulch

Waste app

Did you know that Council has its very own waste app? Some of its features include personalised bin collection calendar with optional reminders, a waste A-Z of what goes where and further information about Council's waste and recycling services.

Download from your app store or visit mrc.vic.gov.au/Waste-App

Preparing your property for the fire season

Spring is here! It's time to shake off the cobwebs of winter and venture outdoors to enjoy some sunshine. Spring is also a great time to start preparing your property for the summer when fires are likely to happen.

You can reduce the risk to your home and property by cleaning up around your dwelling or building and clearing potential fire hazards before the fire danger period kicks in.

These jobs include:

- removing any overhanging tree branches and shrubs over one metre high next to or below windows
- keeping grass short and clearing other combustible debris near your home
- clearing roof gutters of any leaf litter
- maintaining any defensible space around your home
- ensuring any rainwater tanks are accessible and full
- ensuring you have a bushfire survival plan in place and practise it regularly – this should also include pets
- attending local CFA community meetings around fire preparedness – follow CFA's North West Region Community Safety Facebook page for dates and times.

Remember, being fire ready is everyone's responsibility. For information on preparing your property, visit cfa.vic.gov.au



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Environment events

National Threatened Species Day

7 September, 7-8pm, webinar.

Join our webinar to hear from Brad Blake and learn about his passion for delivering conservation programs for locally threatened species and how you can help.

Bird walk for beginners: an hour with the birds

21 September, 9-10am, Jacksons Creek, Gisborne

Join bird enthusiast and Biodiversity Officer, Tanya Loos along Jacksons Creek for an hour with the birds. 21 September, 9-10am, Jacksons Creek, Gisborne

Holistic Grazing Management Course 23/24

The six day Holistic Grazing Management course begins on 15 September and finishes in May 2024. The course is designed to assist land managers to improve their skills and knowledge about grazing livestock, resulting in an increase in soil carbon and perennial pasture species, including native species. To register, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/healthy-landscapes.

Cultural awareness for farmers and private land managers

6 September, 10am-2.30pm, Sedgwick (Bendigo)

18 October, 10am-2.30pm, Leonards Hill (Daylesford)

Farmers and land managers are invited to a special information session on country with Traditional Owners. The session will begin with sharing knowledge from members of Dja Dja Wurrung, followed by a visit to locally significant sites.

To register for these events or sign up to Council's monthly environment eNews, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/environment-events

Pollinator planting season is coming

Over the last twenty years, Woodend Landcare has planted more than 30,000 indigenous plants. In recent years though, our emphasis has been on maintaining those plantings and controlling the weeds.

While most of the trees and shrubs have thrived, much of the understorey has succumbed to the spread of weedy grasses and garden escapees such as ivy. To give the smaller native plants a chance, weed control must continue, and the main pathway to success is with regular attention.

Together with weed control, this year we will also be doing some planting to bolster the understorey with flowering shrubs and smaller plants, specifically to provide food for native pollinators. Dates and locations of these planting days will be advertised in The New Woodend Star, on our blog (woodendlandcare.com.au) and on noticeboards around town. We hope many of you can join us for the fun working bees, where we will be planting pollinator plants, ensuring their survival by caring for them as they grow, and controlling the invasive weeds in the future. All very important and rewarding tasks.

The upcoming spring plantings form part of the Upper Campaspe Landcare Network's Pollinator Corridor Project. John Walter (UCLN President) will be speaking about this project at our AGM at 2pm, Sunday 10 September, Woodend Neighbourhood House. Please join us to hear about this exciting project.

Please note that there will be no Sunday working bees during September due to holidays, but we will compensate with two working bees in October.

Next working bees

Sunday 8 October, 9am - 12 noon: At the new Jo Clancy Bridge on the south bank of the Five Mile Creek

Sunday 29 October, 9am - 12 noon: 100 metres upstream of the new Jo Clancy bridge but on the north bank of the creek.

SUBMITTED BY PETER YATES, WOODEND LANDCARE PRESIDENT

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Sensational spring holiday activities at the Library

The spring school holidays are almost here, and as always, the library has free play and fun activities lined up! For the latest information, head to ncgrl.vic.gov.au/holidayprogram or come in and pick up a program.

While many of our activities are available on a walk-in basis, for some, bookings are essential.

Documentary screening: The Lake of Scars – Wednesday 20



September, 2pm

Join us for a screening of this insightful documentary recounting how a battle to preserve timeless Indigenous culture found hope in an act of black and white conciliation. Presented by the late, great Uncle Jack Charles, *The Lake of Scars* explores the beautiful, mysterious scarred trees, middens and stone scatters of profound archaeological significance at Lake Boort in central Victoria.

Bookings required: goldfieldslibraries.com/woodend-events or call 5427 2074

Here Be Monsters – Online author talk with Richard King – Wednesday 4 October, 6.00pm–7.00pm

Join author and poet Richard King for an engaging look into the hidden ways in which technology is impacting our world and our humanity. From genetic engineering to Chat GPT, and from mood altering pharmaceuticals



to widespread automation of work, new technologies are rewriting the terms of our existence. Richard suggests rethinking technology's unchallenged march from a humanistic perspective as we enter uncharted territory, heeding the mapmaker's warning, *Here Be Dragons ... Here Be Monsters*.

Bookings are essential for this online event – head to goldfieldslibraries.com to reserve your place.

New Releases – head to our catalogue to reserve your copy! www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au

See you in the Library!

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SUBMITTED BY EMMA KEENAN



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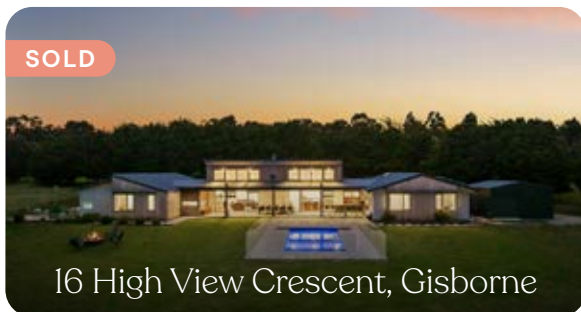
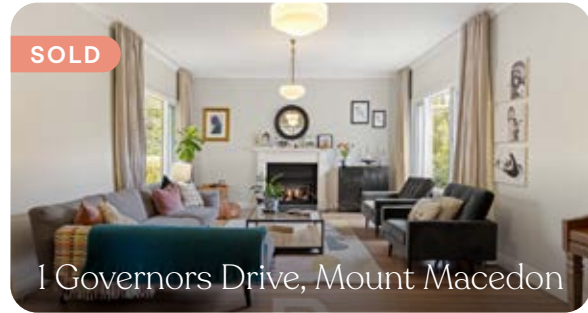
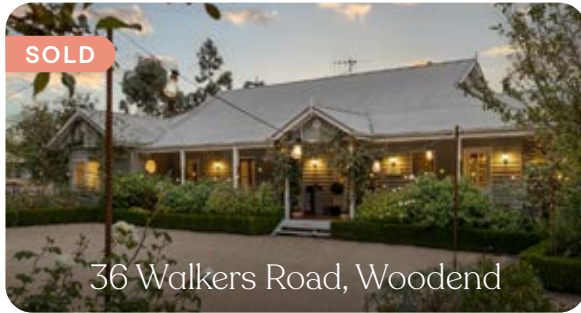


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Woodend Repair Café

The first Saturday of the month brings the Repair Café back to the Undercroft at the Woodend Neighbourhood House. Our helpful band of fix-it volunteers look forward to a wide variety of challenges, which in the last few months have included

a broken vacuum cleaner, a cracked wooden mirror frame, blunt garden tools and a damaged ladder on a much loved toy fire engine. Stop by the Undercroft on Saturday 2 September between 9am and 1pm to have your broken household items assessed by one of our repairers.

Access is via the gate by the Skate Park, off Margery Crescent.

First Aid training

We're pleased to once again offer comprehensive and compliant first aid training to our local community, in partnership with Intelligent Training Solutions. Provide First Aid (HLTAID011) and Provide Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) (HLTAID009) will run on Friday 8 September at the Woodend Neighbourhood House. Enrolment is essential via the ITS website: <https://enrolments.its.edu.au/>.

September Community Lunch

Join us for the Community Lunch at the Woodend RSL on Tuesday 12 September at 12 noon. There's always lots of laughter and good conversation as we share a two course meal with friends old and new. Bookings are needed to help with catering, and a donation on the day is most welcome, but not essential.

Blacksmithing workshop

Kick off the school holidays with a Blacksmithing workshop on Saturday 16 September between 1pm and 4pm. This is the perfect Father's Day gift for any local father figure – and the (older) kids can join the fun too, as the workshop is tailored to people aged 10+ (dependent on skill and maturity). Each participant will make their own coat rack to take home.

School Holiday Program

Our school holiday program is taking shape – check out our website or Facebook page for the latest update. Locked in so far include Lovaball Kids for a fun morning of games and activities on Tuesday 19 September (suitable for ages 4–8 years), Level Up Gaming on Wednesday 20 September (suitable for 12–25 years), and a Storyboard Drama Studios workshop on Wednesday 27 September (suitable for primary school-aged children).

Woodend Food Bank

The Woodend Community Food Bank is open on Mondays and Thursdays between 12.30pm and 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.

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 and 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



A Connected Woodend

'A Connected Woodend' was relaunched at the end of July, with representatives from more than ten community organisations gathering to discuss the shared priorities of our community.

The meeting was chaired by Melissa Baker, manager of the Woodend Neighbourhood House, with representatives from Woodend Uniting Church, Woodend Cricket Club, Woodend Lions Club, 1st Woodend Scout Group, Gisborne Community Centre, Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group, Woodend Community Farmers' Market, St Mary's Anglican Church, Woodend RSL, Woodend CFA and the Woodend Police in attendance.

A key emphasis of the meeting was the importance of a collective approach to emergency management, following local events such as the storms of June 2021. The group also identified the very real need for food and housing relief in our community.

Each of the groups discussed their individual priorities, as well as what they could offer in an emergency management situation.

Melissa Baker, manager of the Woodend Neighbourhood House said, "It was clear from the meeting that everyone valued the important role they had in fostering community connection, both with long-term residents, as well as those new to the area. We live in a community-minded town, and there are lots of ways to get involved, not only through the organisations that attended the meeting, but many others that were unable to make it on the day."

Melissa continued, "We also want to work towards a combined emergency response, should the need arise. We'll be meeting again in October with a focus on the upcoming fire season, and we encourage any group or organisation interested in attending the next meeting to get in touch with the Woodend Neighbourhood House to be added to our mailing list."

For more information on 'A Connected Woodend', please contact Melissa Baker at the Woodend Neighbourhood House on 5427 185 or via email on reception@woodendnh.org.au.

Woodend Senior Citizens

Come and enjoy playing Button Bingo on Tuesdays at 1pm or cards on Fridays at 1pm at the Woodend Community Centre, corner of High Street and Forest Street.

The group's Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 5 September at 1pm.

Upcoming bus trips include a visit to Whittlesea Bowling Club on Thursday 7 September for 'Morning Melodies with Brendan Scott'. The trip includes the bus, morning tea (scones, jam, cream, bottomless tea and coffee), the song and dance show and a one-course lunch at the bowling club.

Bookings are essential and must be paid by Friday 1 September. Bus departs at 8.45am in Kyneton, 9am from the Bentinck car park and 9.05am from the Woodend clock tower. Bus arrives back in Woodend at approximately 3.10pm. No refunds if un-able to attend – please arrange transfer of your ticket with another member if you are unable to go.

Still to come is a visit to the Mont de Lancey Historic Homestead in Wandin North on Thursday 12 October.

New members are welcome. For more information and to book into an event please call Margaret 0458 272 767, Irene 0417 676 843 or Alma 0400 134 478.





Hi, just an update from the Woodend Police Station.

I know I've mentioned this a number of times; I was hoping to remind you all that Woodend is not a 24-hour police station. In fact, Kyneton is the only 24-hour station (a van and two at the station counter) within the Macedon Ranges area. Gisborne has a 24-hour response vehicle, but the police station counter is not staffed in the same way. This ultimately means that Woodend doesn't necessarily have someone to answer your questions at the counter, but we might still have a unit attending tasks and all the things we actually do.

Crime-wise, we are still having a lot of what I call "opportunity thefts". To avoid these, always remember to lock everything up/away, get one-way screws for number plates and don't leave your keys accessible.

Continuing from my last article, there is still a push on road safety within the Macedon Ranges and across the whole of Victoria Police. So Woodend Police will be out checking speeds and conducting breath tests. I make no apologies about enforcing speeding in school zones, as this still occurs far too frequently. Even though we stand out in our fluoro vests, with a marked police car, and flashing lights to remind you, I still hear "I just wasn't concentrating". I don't want to be too graphic, but I don't recall ever attending a collision involving a child pedestrian and a car that just resulted in minor injury. It's distressing for everyone involved and if I can in any way prevent that from happening, I will.

As part of the Road Safety message, we are undertaking preliminary breath tests (PBTs) on a daily basis. Last Saturday night, just after 6.30pm, we set up in High Street and had done fewer than 10 tests before we obtained a positive reading. The consequences of drink driving are devastating, and if you have a collision, your insurance will not cover you; there is also a loss of licence, a monetary penalty plus the cost of having an expensive interlock device fitted to your car. Please don't take the risk of drinking and driving, the consequences to your way of life could be very costly.

Please stay safe.

SUBMITTED BY SERGEANT DAVID ARNOLD, WOODEND POLICE STATION

Winter, Scones and Connection



In the depths of winter in Woodend, it can require effort, will, determination and layers of thermals to leave the house. With our thermals and coats in hand, Woodend Eves had one of its winter meetings at the pub. A beverage, company and a meal seemed like a nice way to have a meeting, connect and come out of what often feels like isolating hibernation. This year we have aimed to include some more social activities as a branch.

We combined a social outing and an information session and attended the screening of UNDERCOVER, a documentary about homelessness. The outing was aimed at acquiring more understanding of the issue of homelessness in our community. As a group, we are always looking at ways to contribute back into our community with money we have raised.

We are looking forward to our association day, which this year is all centred around ... you guessed it: scones! We are also excited to have some guest speakers to our meetings in the spring, focusing on this year's branch goals of connecting with the senior citizens in our community and disaster relief.

We connected once again with our local senior citizens at Bupa in Woodend, with a craft morning. Some of the residents worked on UFO's (unfinished objects) and others did some card making. We have very much enjoyed our time at Bupa and are looking at another visit in the spring.

We also spent the winter reminiscing, as one of our members went into the archives and found many minute books from some of the very first Woodend Branch meetings in 1932. Some members remembered being a child attending CWA meetings and learning crafts. If you had a mother or grandmother as a part of the CWA Woodend in the past, we would love to hear from you.

Any woman is welcome in the CWA, for more information or to connect Facebook @CWA Woodend Eves or via instagram @cwa_woodend_eves. We meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 7pm at the Woodend Neighbourhood House. Please email cwawoodendeves@gmail.com for more information or via our socials.



SUBMITTED BY ANITA LA FORGIA FOR THE CWA WOODEND EVES

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U3A (University of the Third Age) is a not-for-profit organisation, whose membership 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 all dedicated volunteers who live in the community and are keen to share their knowledge and experience. No educational qualifications are required or given, and the aim is to make sessions entertaining and informative.

Non-members and friends are always welcome to attend our regular weekly "Friday@U3A" sessions at 2.00pm by guest speakers or to watch an informative video, followed by afternoon tea and time for an informal chat at the Red Brick Hall, 23 Yaldwyn Street West, Kyneton.

The full range of courses offered can be viewed via the U3A Kyneton website, <https://u3akyneton.org.au/courses/>. They include courses for the mind or body, or social activities. A regular group meets for coffee at 11.00am on Wednesdays at Angie's Café, 72-74 Mollison Street, Kyneton and an informal lunch club gathers monthly at varied locations around the Shire.

New members are always welcome and can join online via <https://u3akyneton.org.au/memberships/>. Further information is available by emailing members@u3akyneton.org.au If you need any assistance to help you become one of our valued members, please call 0439 360 763.

SUBMITTED RONI TAUBMAN

FEM helps the Woodend CFA



Fire Equipment Maintenance (FEM) is a simple and effective way that you can support your local CFA, so that we can continue to more effectively serve our community.



As part of new building regulations, businesses must have their fire equipment checked on a regular basis. In fact, the government can now inspect your premises to make sure this is being done.

As part of your FEM contract, our professional technicians will regularly inspect your premises to test and service all fire hoses, reels and extinguishers. And because the Woodend CFA is committed to the safety of our community, you can be guaranteed of continuous, professional on-going support.

We'd like to thank the many businesses who have supported the Woodend CFA through FEM work and look to continuing this valuable service for them into the future.

The funds raised from the FEM work helps the brigade purchase much-needed equipment and vehicles – as you can see below for the range of work we undertake.

If your business or organisation is not using Woodend CFA for your FEM, it is a good way to support your local fire brigade.

If you would like more information, please contact the brigade's FEM manager Kate Daniel.

We are much more than a 'fire' brigade.

We actually attend a wide range of emergency response events, beyond just fires, as well as performing a wide range of roles within our community.

In reality, we should actually be called the Woodend 'Fire, Motor Vehicle Crash, Emergency Response, Rescue, HAZMAT, Gas Leak, FEM, Community Education, Good Friday Appeal, Santa Run, et al' Brigade.

But imagine answering the phone and having to say all of that. Woodend CFA or Woodend Fire Brigade is much simpler!

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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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

— SEPTEMBER —

- 2..... Woodend Farmers' Market
- 2..... Kyneton antique Fair
- 3..... Fathers Day
- 5..... Woodend Senior Citizens Annual General Meeting
- 6..... Cultural awareness for farmers
- 7..... Webinar - National Threatened Species Day
- 8..... First Aid Training ,WNH
- 10..... Annual Suicide Prevention Walk
- 10..... Black Sorrows in Concert at Kyneton Town Hall
- 16..... Blacksmithing workshop - WNH
- 12..... Community Lunch held at RSL - WNH
- 17..... Woodend Lions Market
- 20..... Knit, Chat and Cuppa, Norma Richardson Hall
- 20..... Screening Lake of Scares, Library
- 21..... Rotary - Speaker Katherine Brabon
- 22-24..... 2023 National Insect Expo, Buffalo Sports Stadium
- 28..... Rotary Grand Finals Pie Night
- 29..... Public Holiday for Grand Final AFL
- 30..... AFL Grand finals

— OCTOBER —

- 1-7..... Be Kind to Animals Week
- 4..... Author Talk - Richard King Here be Monsters
- 7..... Woodend Farmers' Market
- 8..... Woodend Landcare Working Bee
- 14..... A evening with Jonathon Welch ,KTH
- 15..... Birding for beginners MRSC
- 16-25..... Bird Blitz MRSC
- 15..... Woodend Lions Market
- 18..... Knit, Chat and Cuppa, Norma Richardson Hall
- 18..... Cultural awareness for farmers
- 29..... Woodend Landcare Working Bee

— NOVEMBER —

- 4..... Woodend Farmers' Market
- 7..... Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
- 8..... Kyneton Cup
- 17-19..... Budburst
- 19..... Woodend Lions Market
- 20..... The Umbilical Brothers - The Distraction, KTH

Knit, chat and cuppa

Knit, Chat and Cuppa is held every third Wednesday of the month at the Norma Richardson Hall, 15 Buckland Street Woodend from 11am. No charge.

Bring your own craft or knit squares for the St Mary's Guild's long running blanket drive (and other knitted items) which are donated to various charities. We have yarn or you can bring and donate your own.

The guild's current focus is on Aboriginal communities in central and remote Australia.

Come and join in with the friendly and casual atmosphere.

For more info: contact Sylvia on 0488 776 645.



Kyneton Town Hall Events

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

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



An Evening with Jonathon Welch

7.30pm, Saturday 14 October

Multi award-winning singer and founder of the Choir of Hard Knocks, Jonathon Welch AM presents an evening of the greatest music theatre classics from stage to screen. From Les Mis to Phantom of the Opera, My Fair Lady, South Pacific, Oklahoma, Pippin to Disney and the Wizard of Oz, Jonathon will thrill you with his magnificent tenor renditions from Broadway's greatest hits. Joining him are local special guest choirs, Rainbow Voices and Divine Divas Show Choir with conductor and accompanist Adam Przewlocki.



The Umbilical Brothers – The Distraction

8pm, Friday 20 October

The Umbilical Brothers take the energy of live performance and the spectacle of cinema and smash them together in a new show performed simultaneously on stage and on the big screen. It's like nothing you've ever seen, and nothing they've ever done, and it will blow your mind way more literally than you are expecting. The Distraction: enabling your screen addiction. Winner – Best comedy at the Adelaide Fringe Festival.





The Magic of Theatre at The Mount Players Youth Theatre

If you've got someone aged between 10 and 18 in your life who loves to perform or wants to learn more stagecraft while having fun and making friends, then The Mount Players Youth Theatre classes could be the answer!

After being rebooted in Term 3, our Youth Theatre still has some spots available in Group B (ages 13 –15) and C (ages 16 –18) and limited spots in Group A (ages 10 –12).

From exhilarating drama games and exercises to learning about lots of things theatrical, these sessions are the perfect place to unleash creativity and boost confidence on and off stage.

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BUDBURST WINE FESTIVAL – 17–19 November, 2023

Discover the cool wines and warm hearts of Macedon Ranges winemakers at their annual wine festival,

Budburst, this spring from Friday 17 to Sunday 19 November 2023.

Budburst is a once-a-year opportunity to step behind the vines and meet the family-owned and small-batch makers who shape mainland Australia's coolest wine region.

The Friday evening will see local venues showcase Macedon Ranges wine alongside other great produce of the region, bringing together what they believe to be the best of the Macedon Ranges.

Across the weekend, more than twenty-five Macedon Ranges winemakers will open their wineries and cellar doors to wine enthusiasts. From 10am to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday, you can enjoy wine tastings, curated food menus championing local produce, art shows, sculpture walks and live music.

Explore at your own pace or jump on one of the Budburst bus routes. This year, Budburst will run smaller buses to more wineries, delivering participants directly to cellar doors around the Macedon Ranges. Additional details will be released soon.

Festival and bus tickets are on sale from 1 September (early bird until 30 September). For more information and to book tickets, visit budburst.com.

SUBMITTED BY KAREN HUNT

SUBMITTED BY DR RENATA MORELLO, PRESIDENT MRVA



After our riotous Shakespeare season, we are very excited to announce our final production for 2023, Peter Pan: A Musical Adventure. The Mount Players are joining forces with Boilerhouse Theatre Company to bring you a truly magical, swashbuckling adventure the whole family will enjoy in November. More about this next month. See you at the theatre!

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Yea Garden Expo

The scenic township of Yea is just over an hour's drive from Melbourne and centrally located for many regional towns. On the weekend of Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th September, from 9am – 3pm each day, the Yea Rotary Club has organised a Garden Expo. This is perfect timing for gardeners, busy preparing their gardens for spring colour. The Expo provides an opportunity to view a host of garden related products at the Yea Saleyards site (Flat Lead Rd), just off the Yea – Whittlesea Road, a few kilometres on the south side of Yea. The site is flat, sealed and easily accessible and dogs are welcome, provided they are kept on leads.

The cost of just \$10 entry fee includes free parking, Ample food options are available throughout the day, including egg and bacon rolls for the early starters, a gourmet BBQ, homemade soups and Devonshire teas, Indian food, and coffee vans. Close to 70 vendors will be on site with exhibits ranging from bulbs, seeds, seedlings, flowering plants, and trees, to garden tools and equipment, garden art and ornaments, compost, fertilisers and more. The quirky and popular horseshoe garden sculptures, produced by local Darryl Callander will again be available.

There is even a plant creche where purchases can be safely left until ready for pick up on departure.

The popular speaker program operating daily will this year feature Award winning Horticulturist Craig Castree speaking on four different topics over the weekend.

To check out the vendors present or for more details visit either of the websites www.yeagardenexpo.com.au or www.yearotary.org.au keep up to date via Facebook (Yea Garden Expo). Tickets may be purchased at the gate or prebooked via www.trybooking.com/CGUBP



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Join us in spreading Christmas cheer on Woodend's High Street

Woodend residents and local community groups are invited to a meeting aimed at kindling the festive spirit in our town. This meeting marks the commencement of efforts to organise Christmas decorations, including the much-loved giant Christmas tree that graces the community space of our High Street each year.

Date: Sunday, 10 September

Time: 4.00pm

Location: Holgate Brewhouse

In previous years, the giant Christmas tree has been made possible by a small number of individuals, ably supported by an army of keen crocheters who spent many hours creating individual squares that were then sewn together to create the tree. It's time to hand over the reins to a dedicated group of community members to ensure that the future of the tree is secured.



At this meeting, hosted by Catherine Bartlett of Mort & Pestle and Nikki Barker of Monroe Marketing + Design, we will discuss the funding, coordination and planning needed to ensure that Woodend shows our festive spirit at Christmas.

We invite residents and community groups who are interested in maintaining and enhancing our High Street at Christmas to join us on Sunday, 10 September, at 4.00pm at Holgate Brewhouse. Your ideas, creativity, and involvement are crucial to making this year's Christmas decorations truly special.

Let's work together to spread the holiday cheer and create a magical atmosphere that will fill our town with wonder and delight. See you at the meeting!

SUBMITTED BY NIKKI BARKER AND CATHERINE BARTLETT

Wild Wings 'n Furry Things

During September, The Gallery Mt Macedon presents 'Wild Wings 'n Furry Things.' This new collection of nature art by local artist Lesley Rosochodski reflects her continuing passion for wildlife and the natural environment. Each painting is meticulously planned and created in oils on high quality surfaces. The exhibition represents a window into Lesley's recent art.

The series is inspired by the way humans use word play to describe and connect with birds and animals, based on their natural behaviours. Each artwork personifies a variety of humorous and charming wildlife characters, defining their unique characteristics. Embodying realism, emotion and story, the paintings capture a range of human metaphors.



In a world of expanding suburbs and cities, where nature is rapidly eroding, Lesley's art ultimately speaks of conservation. It reminds people of the existence of nature, and their duty of care to all species and to our planet. A portion of the exhibition proceeds will be donated to wildlife rescue and rehabilitation.

You are invited to view the Wild Wings 'n Furry Things exhibition at The Gallery from Tuesday September 5 to Sunday October 1.

Opening celebration: Saturday September 9, 2pm.

The Gallery is open 10am to 4pm, Friday to Tuesday, 684 Mt Macedon Road, Mt Macedon (behind the Trading Post)

Any queries, contact Sue Anson on 0413 581 632.

SUBMITTED BY SUE ANSON



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Calling all photographers!

To recognise International Day of People with Disability 2023, Council will be holding a "Showcasing Inclusion" photo competition, and is inviting the community to submit photos that show inclusivity in daily life.

The competition will run during spring, with a presentation event around International Day of People with Disability, falling on 3 December 2023, followed by a travelling exhibition for the community to view entries.

Competition categories will focus on different aspects of life such as education and employment, the arts, sport and recreation. There will also be a category for photographers who identify as a person with disability and for photographers under 16 years old.

Photos are to be submitted in digital format, so we encourage everyone to get out their phones, iPads, and cameras! Entries will be judged on how well the photo shows inclusivity, creativity, and artistic and technical merit.

For information on how to submit photos, competition opening and closing dates, and terms and conditions, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/IDPWD

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN, MRSC

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A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF BRAEMAR WORK EXPERIENCE...



My name is Alice, and I am a year ten student at Braemar College. This week my Work Experience program was provided by KGMG Creative, a company based in Woodend that tackles website design, digital content creation and social media for local businesses in the Macedon Ranges. KGMG Creative helps to showcase what they are all about through social media and content customised for each brand's target audience.

I currently study Visual Communication Design, where skills learnt on Work Experience Week can be directly applied, helping me to better understand target audiences and therefore craft engaging content that will resonate with them.

During my work experience week at KGMG, I assisted with set design, aided with set up and packing down and lots more. I also had the opportunity to take my own photos, and I learnt a lot of new camera skills to better my technique, including ways to make my images more impactful.

I joined the team on photoshoots at various local businesses and experienced all of the work that happens behind the camera in order to create the best visual content. One of my favourite experiences this week was the photo shoot at Woodend cafe, *Fox in the Chamber*, where I observed how KGMG work hand in hand with the client to discuss themes, content areas, promotions and other key areas that the business wanted to market via social media.

We also engaged in many photoshoots at the office studio, including a locally owned chai brand Captain Spice and a local health food producer LOKA Foods. We played around with the lighting, backdrops and props to find the most engaging way to showcase each product.

One of the most positive takeaways from my time with KGMG is the opportunity to discover so many innovative local businesses. The variety of businesses in their network goes to show how much opportunity there is in the region for young aspiring professionals in any industry!

It has been a great experience working with KGMG Creative, I highly recommend any students looking for work experience placement in the future to not only consider them but to explore the many opportunities there are within the local business community too!

Alice Ramshaw, Yr 10, Braemar College Woodend

"Well done Alice! - we loved having you as part of our team, and look forward to seeing you grow in the creative industry!"



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Looking back 20 years...

Macedon Ranges Specialists

Position Statement/Consumer Notice

Estate Agents and Sale of Land Acts (Amendment) Bill 2003



From "The Age"
Saturday 17 May 2003

WE FULLY SUPPORT THE NEW STATE GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION TO BAN DUMMY BIDDERS AT AUCTIONS AND REQUIRE ALL VENDOR BIDS TO BE FULLY DISCLOSED.

A thorough clean-up of dodgy auction practices is long overdue and we believe that if public trust and confidence are restored in auctions, the auction system will thrive and many more properties will be sold by auction.

FOR THE RIGHT PROPERTIES, A PROPERLY ORGANISED, PROMOTED AND ETHICALLY CONDUCTED AUCTION, THAT HAS MAXIMUM TRANSPARENCY, IS UNDENIABLY THE BEST, FAIREST AND MOST EFFICIENT WAY FOR PURCHASERS TO BUY AND VENDORS TO SELL REAL ESTATE.

However, the issue of dummy bidding and the abuse by some auctioneers of undisclosed vendor bidding at auctions has brought more bad publicity and disrepute to the real estate profession and consequent negative effects to the auction system than any other issue over the past ten years.

Agents and auctioneers who are still using dummy bidders in practising their craft, will need to undertake remedial training. Those who still create phantom, fictitious or bogus bids may need to do a course on the meaning of misleading, deceptive and unconscionable conduct.

A transparent auction system will deliver for purchasers, vendors, valuers, financiers, solicitors, the REIV, Government, consumer groups and all other stakeholders. Even the most passionate anti-auction evangelists and crusaders will have nothing to criticise.

The new legislation will work and it will be enforceable. The public's respect for estate agency work will be considerably enhanced and intelligent young people will be attracted to estate agency practice and auctioneering as a vocation.

Under the new rules, auctions will have integrity, and still be entertaining street theatre, but not illusion. That will be left to illusionists like David Copperfield!

WHEN THOSE AUCTIONEERS WHO DON'T UNDERSTAND THE NEW RULES REALISE AND APPRECIATE THE PUBLIC BENEFITS AND DETAIL OF THE RULES, VICTORIA WILL TAKE A FURTHER LEAP FORWARD AS THE REAL ESTATE AUCTION CAPITAL OF THE WORLD.

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In 2003 we went out on a limb. We were prepared to stand up and be counted for what was right for the integrity of the auction selling system.

We actively supported proposed State Government changes to the auction selling system in the face of strong opposition from many quarters, including from within the estate agency profession.

The auction legislation amendments were ultimately enacted and became operative in 2004.

We are proud of the position we took in supporting the banning of dummy bidding.

"If I add a battery to my solar, will I get a zero bill?"

Ever thought about boosting your solar setup with a battery? With rising power costs and shrinking feed-in tariffs, everyone's pondering that tantalising "zero bill" dream.

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For some, the numbers align for near-zero bills.

Others might shave off expenses, ensure backup, or need to adopt more energy-efficient solutions as well, like heat pump hot water.

A battery lets you tap into renewable solar power around the clock. Whether that's firing up the dishwasher in the evening or using the dryer for a quick clothes refresh, you can do so without the guilt and cost of peak power rates. It's freedom powered by the sun!

And here's a sunny thought: as energy costs climb, the payback on solar and batteries gets quicker, and with the move away from Gas to an all-electric future, we'll soon see batteries as an everyday appliance.

Being battery-equipped sets you ahead. Less grid drama, consistent backup power, and a reduced carbon footprint – what's not to love?

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Celebrating Macedon Ranges seniors

The Victorian Seniors Festival is close and it's time to celebrate! Following the positive response from last year, Council will again present 'celebration boxes' to 25 older residents who have made significant contributions to the community.

Take this opportunity to say thank you, celebrate the achievements of our older residents, and recognise the important contribution they make to our local community. If you know an older person in the shire who has made a difference, nominate them today.

Residents of the Macedon Ranges aged over 65 (or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples aged over 50) are eligible to be nominated.

Nominees will be considered on the basis of their contribution to the local community, how they demonstrate active ageing and promote a positive image of older people.

Examples may include contributions to a community groups, family life or work, keeping mentally and physically active, making a difference to the environment, or as a volunteer champion.

To submit a nomination or find out more visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/seniorsfestival or call 5422 0333.

Nominations are open from now until Sunday 1 October 2023.

The event will be held on Friday 20 October 2023 from 10.30am-12.30pm at the Kyneton Mechanics Institute, 81 Mollison Street, Kyneton. RSVPs are essential – contact Sharon Gill on 5422 0333 or email sgill@mrsc.vic.gov.au

You can also find out more about the 2024 Victorian Seniors "Learn, Love, Live" Festival program at www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/festival

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN



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Woodend Customer Service Centre open with changed hours

Following a review of the Woodend Customer Service Centre, including community consultation, a recommendation was made at the June Council Meeting to keep the service centre open but with reduced operating hours.

From Tuesday 1 August, the new operating hours for the Woodend Customer Service Centre are 12pm to 5pm, Tuesday and Thursday. For information, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/contact-us

Flagship storm waste facility nominated for another award

Council's flagship storm waste facility has been shortlisted in the EPA Waste Prevention & Reduction category at the 2023 Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria Tidy Towns & Cities Sustainability Awards.

On the award nomination, Council's CEO Bernie O'Sullivan said: "Council is thrilled to have the Romsey storm waste facility named as a finalist for another award, and we would again like to thank Emergency Recovery Victoria for the support in its implementation.

"This project was born out of the need to respond quickly to the wide-spread destruction caused by the June 2021 storms. Council recognises that the Macedon Ranges community strongly values environmental stewardship, recycling and 'green' solutions, so these were the principles we kept in mind when looking at solutions for the clean-up operation.

"Our focus was to reduce green waste to zero by creating repurposed products for impacted Councils and communities.

"This flagship facility has created a new standard for operational recovery, and is a model that can be applied by Councils across Victoria for any future disasters."

Winners are set to be announced at an awards night in October.

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN, MRSC



Woodend Hanging Rock Petanque Club

Well, we have had a long cold winter!

But it does not deter our hardy petanque players.

It all began on June 3, with the beginning of the Golden Boule competition, held fortnightly, for five games.

The competition is held between several petanque clubs from regional Victoria: the Maldon club; Pyrenees Petanque Club, based in Avoca; Ballarat Petanque Club, Mount Macedon Petanque Club, and of course, Woodend Hanging Rock pPetanque Club.

The aim of this interclub competition is for all participants to learn and understand the skills and technique of the game, the rules of petanque, game strategies and etiquette.

This all culminated at Woody Yaloak at the Smythesdale Petanque Club, on the cold and windy day of August 8. But as usual, the petanque players soldiered on!

As of today, we don't know the winning club. There will be a presentation to the winning team on September 2.

Watch this space!

On the weekend of 19 and 20 August, a group of 50 petanque players from many different clubs throughout Victoria assembled at the Port of Echuca, for a weekend of the game we love, petanque!

So, if you think this all sounds like a bit of fun.

Please join us. Our season starts October 2 at the old racecourse in Forest Street, Woodend at 2pm. Then, Thursday 5 October, we will play at the Hanging Rock Reserve on South Rock Road at 4pm.

All enquiries to Louise Potter, 0438 302 218.

SUBMITTED BY LOUISE POTTER



September, and what seems like the longest winter, is finally showing signs of spring. The daffodils and cherry blossoms are blooming, and we can celebrate National Wattle Day in style, with the increasing yellow coming out all over the place, particularly along Five Mile Creek. We hope you have been able to make great use of the new Jo Clancy bridge.

Woodend Landcare will resume their monthly working bees, and council staff work hard to keep our open spaces neat and tidy. We appreciate your contributions by not littering and picking up after your dog.

Taking care of our environment for our own enjoyment, and for our unique flora and fauna, is so important. At the July Council meeting, we endorsed new Environment Support Grants. Our Landcare and Friends' Groups play such an important role through their tireless volunteering. These grants provide funding to assist them in their great work. We thank Macedon Ranges Community Enterprises for matching Council's funds to double the available amount to \$40,000 for the Biolinks boost grant.

At the same meeting we endorsed the recipients of our Events and Festivals Grants and the Community Funding Scheme. Congratulations to all. It is always a pleasure to award these grants. We know you work hard on your applications and that through your efforts we can achieve great things together from your ideas.

Our annual community satisfaction survey is available on our website, and some of our highlighted responses can be read in the July Council agenda. We strive to improve on your behalf and welcome your feedback throughout the year, as the survey is only one form of feedback. We take all feedback seriously.

We also endorsed the Skate and BMX Strategy and Road Mobility and Safety Strategy for community consultation in July. Thanks as always for your feedback and make sure you check the 'Have Your Say' section of our website each month for new opportunities.

Finally, at the July Council meeting, we acknowledged the Australian Government's proposal for constitutional recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders through a Voice to Parliament and will share information to enable residents to make their own considered and informed choice in the referendum. Council's positioning statement on The Voice to Parliament is now available on our website.

Don't forget the Daffodil and Arts Festival in Kyneton 31 August to 10 September, and there are many other arts and cultural events across the shire throughout the month, with details again on our website.

On Wednesday 4 October, we will be at a listening post in Kyneton outside Woolworths from 6pm-7.30pm if you want to come past for a chat, but we are always only an email or phone call away, and are here to help direct you to how to best get your questions answered if we are unable to answer them ourselves.

Enjoy the days getting longer and hopefully some brighter warmer weather.

Take care. Jennifer, Mark and Janet

Works are underway Brooke Street Woodend



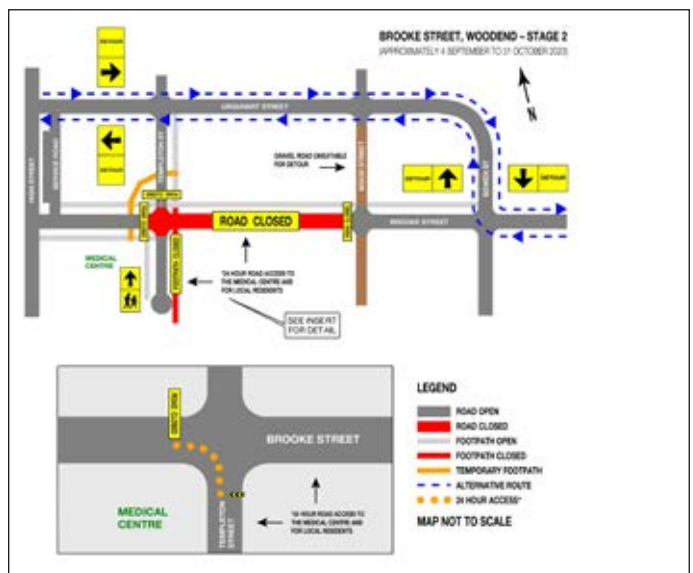
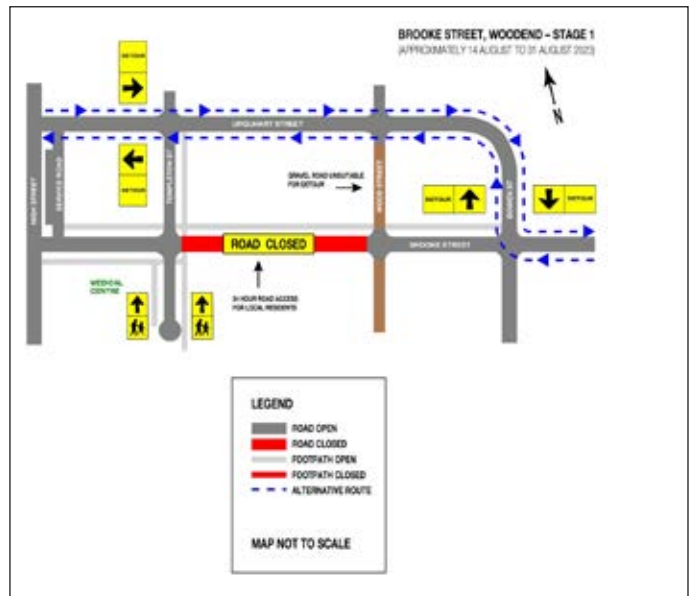
Works are underway to upgrade a key section of Brooke Street in Woodend, to improve safety and connectivity for drivers and pedestrians.

Having begun in mid-August, the planned Council works include the reconstruction of Brooke Street from Templeton Street to Wood Street, a raised safety platform at the intersection of Brooke Street and Templeton Street, and a raised central island at the crest of Brooke Street (east of Templeton Street).

These improvements will provide safer connections, especially for students attending nearby St Ambrose Parish Primary School and for others attending the various facilities nearby in Woodend.

During these works, there will be temporary road closures in the surrounding area, with traffic management and detours in place including to maintain access for nearby residents and businesses. The detours will also apply to the FlexiRide Woodend bus service.

These works are targeted for completion by the end of October 2023, subject to weather and other factors. Visit the project page at mrsc.vic.gov.au/works for more information and the latest updates.



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ROCK SOLID FUTURE FOR HANGING ROCK

Hanging Rock's East Paddock has been purchased from Macedon Ranges Shire Council by the State Government and a new masterplan released to protect the cultural significance of the cherished destination.

Minister for Environment Ingrid Stitt last month announced the \$3 million purchase will provide a clear pathway for the future management of the iconic Hanging Rock.

The East Paddock will officially be integrated into the Hanging Rock Reserve.

Events at the East Paddock will be carefully managed to limit impacts on nature and the surrounding environment.

According to a state government release, the Traditional Owner groups and the

Macedon Ranges Shire Council were consulted extensively to develop the Hanging Rock Precinct Master Plan, which outlines new actions on how to sustainably promote the region's cultural heritage.

The Plan also outlines future developments to protect the natural environment and improve the visitor experience, including a new revegetated 'Songline' walking trail and a visitor centre that will act as a hub for dining and education purposes.

Minister for Environment Ingrid Stitt said that the Master Plan and the purchase of East Paddock moved us closer to achieving long-term protection for Hanging Rock.

The government says it will continue to work towards a joint management

arrangement with Traditional Owners, and that Macedon Ranges Shire Council will continue to manage the day-to-day operations of Hanging Rock for at least another three years.

The Hanging Rock Precinct Master Plan and purchase of East Paddock are among the aims set out in the 50-year Hanging Rock Strategic Plan approved by the Victorian Government and Macedon Ranges Shire Council in 2018.

To learn more about the Hanging Rock Project and Master Plan visit forestsandreserves.vic.gov.au/initiatives/hanging-rock-project.

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

Photo: L to R:
Annette Death, Mayor
Liz Allen, DJARRA representative
Ingrid Stitt, Minister for Environment
Uncle Perry Wandin, Wurundjeri Woiwurrung representative
Mary-Anne Thomas MP, Member for Macedon
Michael Harding, Taungurung representative
Bernie O'Sullivan, CEO Macedon Ranges Shire Council



FUNDING BOOST FOR WILDLIFE RESCUE VOLUNTEERS

Wildlife rescue volunteers will be better able to help sick, injured and orphaned animals with a new round of grants opened last month.

Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas announced in August that applications were open for the 2023 Wildlife Rehabilitator Grants, allowing wildlife shelter operators and foster carers to access grants of up to \$3,000.

The grants help volunteer wildlife rehabilitators continue to care for thousands of native animals every year, including kangaroos, koalas, possums, wombats, birds and reptiles.

Ms Thomas said, "These grants are about helping the many dedicated volunteers who house, feed and care for our precious wildlife when they need it most."

Last year, more than 100 wildlife carers and shelters across Victoria were awarded the grants, which helped fund enclosures, medication, feed, rescue equipment and veterinary fees for wildlife.

In a media release, the government said it has invested \$5.2

million to support the work of "foster carers, authorised wildlife shelter operators and key wildlife organisations", under Biodiversity 2037 strategy, which it says is designed to protect biodiversity and environment in the state.

Details are available on wildlife.vic.gov.au/grants/wildlife-rehabilitator-grants and applications close at 3:30pm on 15 September 2023.

SUBMITTED BY KATE LEE, OFFICE OF MARY ANN THOMAS MP



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Carers Week workshop

Do you take better care of the person you are caring for than yourself? If the answer is yes, you will benefit from this workshop.

We will explore the reasons why your health and wellbeing is so important, and give you strategies to help better care for yourself. The workshop is open to all families and carers, especially those who find it difficult to care for themselves.

The workshop will include:

- Why caring for ourselves is so important
- What stops us caring for ourselves
- Making a self-care commitment

Council is working in collaboration with other service providers to share our resources and provide support for you and your family.

Date: Wednesday 11 October

Time: 10.30am-12.30pm

Venue: Dromkeen Gallery 1012 Kilmore Road, Riddells Creek

Guest Speaker: Sally Camilleri from Carers Victoria.

Morning tea provided. To register call 5422 0333 or email hshort@mrsc.vic.gov.au

Fighting Parkinson's

Parkinson's disease affects people in a range of different ways and symptoms vary widely between individuals. Because of the nature of Parkinson's and the difficulties individuals face when diagnosed, community support groups can play an important role.

One group in the Macedon Ranges, based in Lancefield, has increased attendance at its monthly meeting over the past few months. The group has a general focus of helping people with Parkinson's through education, support and advice form specialist services, and meets on the second Wednesday of the month at the Lancefield Bowling Club at 1.00pm.

Anyone can attend and family members of people with Parkinson's are very welcome.

Join us for tea or coffee (a gold coin donation is appreciated).

For more information about Parkinson's, call Fight Parkinson's Victoria on 1800 644 189

SUBMITTED BY TIM WEBBER

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Council's Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme grant approved

The Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme (ACVVS) provides connections and companionship to those feeling isolated or lonely.

The ACVVS is a free service available for those in residential aged care or Home Care Package recipients. Volunteers are matched to a recipient with similar interests and can be:

- one-on-one or group visits to residential aged care homes
- one-on-one visits to people receiving a Home Care Package.

ACVVS is designed to connect with those who are or may feel socially isolated; do not have regular positive and engaged contact with friends or relatives; have frailty, mobility or

communication impairment that prevents them from participating in social or leisure opportunities; or do not participate in social support group services funded by a Commonwealth-subsidised aged care program.

The ACVVS team works with our volunteers to support, supervise and coordinate the volunteering program and promote Council's Positive Ageing Plan.

High-quality social connections are essential to our mental and physical health and our wellbeing.

The Australian Government has funded Council, among other organisations, to address social isolation and loneliness in older people through the ACVVS. To learn more or to get involved, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/ACVVS or contact us via email VolunteerVisiting@mrsc.vic.gov.au

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN, MRSC



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Who are our talented Baristas?

Jasmine and Makenzie.



Investing in the wellbeing of small businesses in Macedon

A second round of grants to provide mental health and wellbeing support to small businesses was launched recently by Minister for Small Business Natalie Suleyman, including a \$15,000 grant to Kyneton District Business and Tourism Association. The winning organisation aims to use the funding for Reset by Business Kyneton and the Making Kyneton Merry project, hosting a mental health day including workshops, speakers, and yoga classes to improve wellbeing, connections and empowerment among local businesspeople prior to the holiday season.

Minister Suleyman lauded the program, citing the success of past funding to business communities across the state, and said the new round will offer groups the chance to start the wellbeing conversation and deliver real benefits for their communities.

Grants of \$15,000 are awarded to organisations to implement a community-led wellbeing project for their local small businesses.

The program is part of the state government's Wellbeing and Mental Health Support for Victorian Small Businesses initiative.

For more information on Business Victoria, visit business.vic.gov.au

SUBMITTED BY KATE LEE, OFFICE OF MARY ANN THOMAS MP

Get your bicycle into shape for the warmer weather!

With warmer weather just around the corner, now is a great time to do a little bicycle maintenance so you can hit the road running... or riding!

1) Cleaning your drivetrain:

- a. Wrap a rag around the chain stay, and then spray your chain and cassette liberally with degreaser, slowly turning the pedals backwards to circulate through the length of the chain.
- b. Grab your chain cleaning brush and while turning the pedals backwards run the bristles between the cogs on your cassette, to dislodge any accumulated grit (repurposing an old toothbrush will do the trick).
- c. Spin the chain backwards through a clean rag, to remove the grease and dirty de-greaser from the chain.
- d. Reapply lubricant (usually wax or Teflon-based is a good choice for dry weather).

2) Patching a tube:

- a. Locate the puncture: Inflate the tyre and listen out for a hissing sound – mark where the hissing is

coming from and roughen with sandpaper or course metal tab.

- b. Repair the puncture: If your patches are self-adhesive, remove the backing and firmly press down. Hold for a couple of minutes. If your patches are glue-on, apply a generous film of rubber cement around the hole. The glued area should be larger than the size of the patch.

- c. Replace the tube:

Insert the valve of the tube through the valve hole and then work your way around. Slowly work the tyre around onto the rim. You should be able to do this with your thumbs. Once you've seated the tyre correctly on the rim, inflate the tube about halfway, check that there are no unsightly bulges or asymmetries, and then inflate fully.

Stop by the Healthy Loddon Campaspe-funded bike repair stations at Woodend Neighbourhood House or Romsey Neighbourhood House next time you're out and about.

Replacing your short car trips with bike rides is a great way to get a little exercise and a small but simple climate solution to try.

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMANS, MRSC

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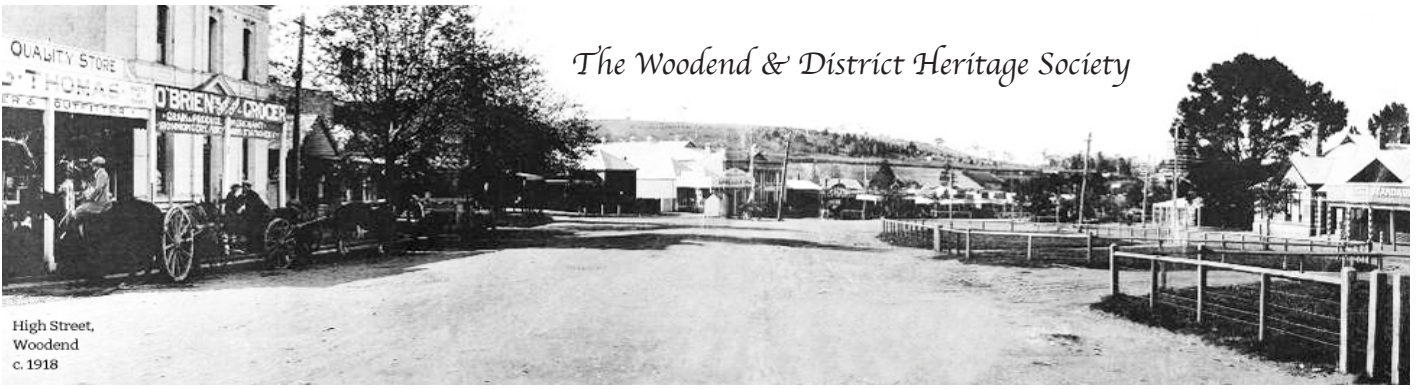


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c. 1918

Can you put a name to any of these children?

At the Woodend District Heritage Society, we hold thousands of photos dating from 1857 to the present day. Unfortunately, when these photos are given to us, they are often undated, and a mystery as to the place or people shown. Below are three photos we hope you can help us identify.

And please either write on the back of your photos (in pencil) or caption them if they are digital. Later generations will be very grateful to know that, yes, that is Grandpa John and Grandma Elizabeth Whoever sitting on the verandah in 1945.

Photo 109:

Woodend State School, Grades 4 & 5, 1963.

Back Row: 1 - 2 - 3. Steven Richardson, 4 - 5 Peter Lester, 6 John Fry, Teacher: Brian Dolan,

Third Row: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7.

2nd Row: 1. Robert Barker, 2 - 3 - 4 - 5. Bruce Montgomery.

Front Row: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7.



Photo 108:

Woodend State School, Grades 3 And 4. 1962.

Back Row: 1 - 2 - 3 Montgomery?, 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9

2nd Row: 1 - 2 - 3. Greg Else, 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8

3rd Row: 1. Graeme Bowen, 2 - 3. Peter Lester, 4 - 5. Robert Barker, 6. Gladman, 7. John Fry, 8. Steven Richardson,

Front Row: 1. Megan Lloyd-Smith, 2 - 3? Cleary, 4 - 5. Heather Hale, 6 - 7. Terrey Morgan, 8 - 9. Lynette Plant. In Front: -.



Photo 115:

Woodend State School, Grades 3 & 4b. 1963.

Back Row: 1. Graham Davies 2 - 3 - 4 - 5. Tim Morgan

Mid. Row: 1 - 2. Robert Richardson, 3 - 4 - 5 - 6. Trevor Pollard,

Front Row: 1 - 2. Pauline Patterson 3. Pam Drew 4 - 5 -

Teacher: Mrs Bessie Lewer.



SUBMITTED BY JANNYSE WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR WDHS

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Local Hawks/MRBA Basketballer to Represent Australia

Exciting news during the week when local basketballer Cooper Duff-Tytler was selected to represent Australia at the U17 Asian Championships in Qatar. Cooper extends the recent success of local basketball, with Woodend producing a number of junior players that have achieved state representation, but he is the first to be selected to represent Australia.

Cooper started his journey in the Macedon Ranges Basketball Association's Aussie Hoops program as a 7 year old, moving onto joining the Woodend Hawks in the Sunbury Domestic Basketball Association and playing for both associations at representative level.

The great thing for coaches all around is that he represents the mantra of "being a great team player" – having always taken a team first approach to his basketball, playing great defence, pass first, showing a willingness to listen and learn and working hard in whatever way his team needs and this is the key to his success – and it helps that he is pushing 6" 5 inches. Cooper recently competed for Basketball Victoria Country in the Australian National Championships with his team winning the silver medal.

SUBMITTED BY ANDREW CONDRON, PRESIDENT HAWKS BASKETBALL CLUB



Photo: Cooper with his under 14 Hawks teammates



Photo: Cooper at Tournament with his U12 MRBA teammates



Work continues on our grass green replacement



Following the damage caused by last October's floods, work has continued on the replacement of our grass green.

Work started in mid-June with a sod cut of the old grass surface. This was followed by work on the soil, including the addition of a soil conditioner, fertiliser and a granular fumigant.

The next important step, completed recently, was further rotary hoeing and then laser-levelling using the latest high-tech equipment (as seen in the photo).

This will be followed by the installation of the new cement sheet plinths and then work will commence on preparing the surface for the planting of the new grass.

It will be a long process for completion, with the green planned to be ready-for-play next April.

The long-awaited and delayed work to replace the destroyed synthetic green surface was scheduled to start late in August. Hopefully, we can give you a detailed report next month.

When all of the works are completed, Woodend will then have two high quality bowling surfaces – grass and synthetic.

A Sport for anyone

A recent study into a broad range of sports revealed that lawn bowls was one of the most, if not the most, inclusive sports in the world.

There are few sports that are as available as a competitive or social sport; few sports that are open to and encourage more people.

Lawn bowls is a sport that welcomes people of all ages, all genders, and people of all abilities.

Lawn bowls is played competitively by people aged from 10 to 100. It is amazing to play a pennant match where a 10 year old or a teenager is matching it against a veteran of the sport. And all in a spirit of fun and harmony.

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

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, PRESIDENT WOODEND BOWLING CLUB INC.

Come join us! Cricket season starts soon



Join the Woodend Cricket Club – a friendly Club that welcomes players of all ages, backgrounds and skill levels. We have four senior teams and eight junior teams.

Senior pre-season at Melton Indoor Cricket Centre, 6pm September 4, 11, 18, 25.

And then Gilbert Gordon Oval Woodend, 5pm every Thursday night from September 22. Season starts October 7, 2023

For more information, contact Greg Matthews (Seniors coach) 0407 914 418 or greg@ropepro.com.au

For Junior programs, season dates and registration, contact Stewart Black on 0419 832 390 or Steve Rollinson (Secretary) at woodendcricketclub@gmail.com

SUBMITTED BY SCOTT VERNON

Staying Strong at Buffalo Sports Stadium

Join group circuit classes for men and women 50+ years of age, focussing on weight-related exercises, balance, low cardio and coordination. Sessions are held on Tuesday and Friday mornings from 9 – 10am. Our instructors can amend exercises to cater for individual needs.

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Engaging Junior Students in Science

Developing an interest in science, and scientific thinking, through engaging activities and hands-on learning is central to Junior School Science (Years 7-9) at Sacred Heart College, Kyneton. As you can see from the photo below, and as these Year 8s quickly discovered, a visit from Professor Bunsen can be highly entertaining. This is just one of many experiences offered to encourage students to develop an interest in science, to nurture exploration, encourage a questioning mindset, as well as reflection on their place in an ever-changing world.



The Science curriculum for Years 7, 8 and 9 encapsulates short 'taster topics' drawing on concepts from Physics, Biology and Chemistry. This allows students to begin to identify which if any of these pathways they may like to pursue in the senior years.

Students cover all the basics of the 'Science Toolkit -' experiencing practicals, learning how to record the various stages of an experiment, making predictions, understanding methodology, identifying, and controlling variables and learning about scientific equipment. Of course, all science classes have a strong focus on the principles and importance of lab safety.

Some of the topics covered in Year 7 include: physical properties (solids, liquids and gases), the solar system, the history of science and the classification of species. A popular lesson for this year level is an investigation practical called the Aluminium Boat Task, where students are challenged to construct a boat that is able to float using aluminium foil. Sounds simple enough, but the boat needs to be carefully designed and constructed as it will be challenged to carry a number of metal washers. After a little trial and error, a growing understanding of buoyancy and surface area sees the development of boats that can manage the task.

Topics covered by students in Year 8 include: sound & light, energy, chemical and physical change and cells. An opportunity to dissect a chicken wing provides an invaluable hands-on experience, allowing a sense of discovery and skill development in preparation for future dissections.



Ecosystems, chemical reactions, and electricity are some of the topics covered in Year 9. Students consolidate their learning, incorporating detailed graphs and tables in their practical reports, as well as analysing and questioning when a hypothesis aren't supported and identifying alternative explanations for findings, as required.

Students from all year levels are offered opportunities to add to their classroom learning with lunchtime activities and guest speakers invited to share their scientific expertise with our community.



Sparking an interest in discovery and engaging students in science from the Junior Secondary years and beyond is vital for our global future.

SUBMITTED BY JENNY BALDWIN

Photo Right: Mr Darroch assists with an experiment as Year 9 students learn about exothermic and endothermic reactions



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Scan for tour bookings