



BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO MOUNT MACEDON'S MEMORIAL SITE

The Andrews Government is helping preserve the legacy of veterans by enhancing Mount Macedon's iconic Memorial Cross Reserve.

Minister for Veterans Robin Scott and Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas announced that the Mount Macedon War Memorial Cross Reserve Committee will receive \$50,000 to improve the site.

The Reserve is a major attraction in the Macedon Ranges region and has a long history of community use, although an increase in visitor numbers has put pressure on the reserve environment and infrastructure.

The funding will go towards a detailed heritage analysis to preserve and enhance the site's commemorative features.

It will also ensure more stories of local World War Two veterans can be depicted at the site, in recognition of the 75th anniversary of the end of World War Two this year.

The detailed planning and works follow the Master Plan for Mt Macedon completed by La Trobe University's Community Planning and Development Unit last year, which showed a more than 66% increase in visits to the Cross in recent years.

The grant is one of 63 to be delivered across the state to build and repair memorials, preserve stories and maintain the wellbeing of veterans as part of four grants streams: Victoria Remembers, Restoring Community War Memorials and Avenues of Honour, the ANZAC Day Proceeds Fund and the 75th Anniversary of the End of World War Two.

For information on all the successful grants, visit vic.gov.au/grants-support-and-commemorate-veterans.

SUBMITTED BY BELLA MANSON OFFICE OF MARY-ANNE THOMAS MP

Recovery Operations Centre supports community

Macedon Ranges Shire Council has established a shire-wide Recovery Operations Centre (ROC) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

The ROC is a centralised service where you can ask for support, request information, offer assistance or put forward recovery ideas and suggestions that relate to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ROC has been established as part of our ongoing #InThisTogether community and business support campaign.

The ROC is also supporting the distribution of a new Health and Wellbeing Information pack, which has been developed by the Macedon Ranges Health and Wellbeing Partnership.

The information pack includes: information on local support services and food banks, healthy eating, active living, mental wellbeing, being connected and supporting young children and families during the pandemic.

Please contact the centre if you would like an information pack to be posted to you.

You can contact the ROC Monday to Friday, from 8.30am to 5pm, either by calling (03) 5422 0237 or by email to recovery@mrsc.vic.gov.au

SUBMITTED BY LEANNE YOUNES, MRSC



Photo by Ruth DeJong - Woodend RSL Dawn Service Full Anzac Day story Page 6

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MEMBER 2020

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Your community diary

GET YOUR EVENT LISTED ON OUR CALENDAR

Just send the details to content@newwoodendstar.org.au

— June —

5..... Woodend Farmers' Market

8..... Queen's Birthday Holiday

— July —

4..... Woodend Farmers' Market

— August —

1..... Woodend Farmers' Market

— September —

5..... Woodend Farmers' Market

25..... AFL Grand Final Holiday

— October —

3..... Woodend Farmers' Market

3..... Sustainable Living Festival

4..... Day light saving starts

Please note: due to the COVID-19 pandemic you should check with organisers about any events listed here

The New Woodend Star is a fully on-line process. For pre-printed inserts call us on 0458 525 671 to make an appointment for delivery

Melbourne Road and Kilmore Road, Gisborne intersection upgrade

Since consulting with the Gisborne community in 2019, we've been working to develop a solution to improve safety and traffic flow for everyone using this intersection.

Concept release

We've used your feedback to help us develop a concept that addresses the issues you told us about. To view our concept you can:

Go online

Regionalroads.vic.gov.au and search 'Melbourne Road and Kilmore Road'

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NRengagement@roads.vic.gov.au

Call us

Call 133 778 (RRV) to request a hard copy to be mailed to you.

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Woodend's Rain report
 Another wet month, with 139.8mm falling. April typically contributes about 47mm, so this one was well above average. April 2017 was even wetter, but was followed by a dry May and June. Hopefully this year will continue to be on the wet side and the creek continues to run.

Month	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	av 5yr
January	35.3	27.8	80.0	9.8	73.6	45.3
February	14.3	26.5	3.8	12.0	67.8	24.9
March	47.0	23.7	31.7	12.2	79.6	38.8
April	36.2	165.0	31.0	7.6	139.8	75.9
May	101.2	38.6	115.6	114.8		
June	98.8	10.6	78.2	168.2		
July	186.6	60.0	73.3	63.2		
August	107.0	119.6	91.3	78.1		
September	163.6	55.2	26.2	38.3		
October	91.8	45.8	69.0	29.4		
November	63.2	77.4	55.5	64.8		
December	92.8	77.2	91.0	10.0		
Total mm	1037.8	727.4	746.6	608.4	360.8	

Help us build a school in Vanuatu

As we battle some of the toughest and most uncertain times we've ever faced, please spare a thought for our Pacific neighbour, Vanuatu, who is facing crisis upon crisis.

Already battling the shutdown of borders and schools due to COVID-19, Vanuatu recently experienced a category-5 cyclone that decimated homes and infrastructure.

With borders closed due to the pandemic, and thousands of people still seeking food and shelter, it will be some time before locals will have a chance to rebuild their lives.

So even though we are battling our own issues, what can we, as a small community in Australia, possibly do to ease some of the shock and despair, and help give our island neighbours a future?

Woodend Rotary, as it happens, is already half-way through a life-changing building project, that will benefit 280 school children in the small village of Mwast.

Even before the cyclone hit, Mwast was in desperate need. The existing school building is a basic shed with scarce furniture and only one square metre of space for each student.

The Rotary build will double the school's classroom area and give the students access to furniture and equipment to help them interact and learn.

News of Cyclone Harold has cemented the Club's resolve even further; the village needs this project completed now more than ever.

As an active and passionate group, the Club is determined to see this project through – but it needs individual and community support to make that happen.

Already the club has committed over \$70,000 to the project. To realise the final stage, the Club needs to raise a further \$12,000.

We know Woodend is a generous and compassionate community. Every donation will make a difference.



Photo supplied by Allan Cann: A local Vanuatu resident inspects her home after cyclone Harold



Can you help?

Tax deductible donations can be made through Rotary Australian World Community Services (RAWCS). To make a tax deduction, go to <https://donations.rawcs.com.au/45-2019-20> and follow the prompts. RAWCS Ltd administers the Rotary Australia Overseas Aid Fund.

For further information on RAWCS, contact Rotarian Tim Webber on 0412 528 228.

For non-tax deductible donations or for more information, contact Rotarian Allan Cann at ascann@bigpond.com or phone 0409 411 169.



Photo supplied by Allan Cann: Work has begun on the school, with concrete floors and walls completed

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Council meals assistance supports older people

Macedon Ranges Shire Council (MRSC) has been continuing to provide services and support to older people in the community during this challenging time.

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented many challenges, but staff have been working hard to ensure that delivered meals are available, including the implementation of contactless deliveries.

Staff have been making regular welfare calls to all clients, many of whom are isolated from their families.

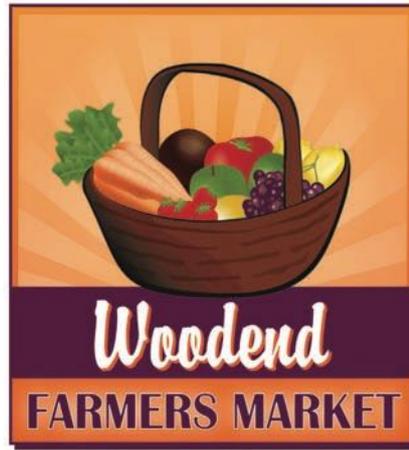
Council would like to remind the community that our friendly staff are always willing to take your call and explain the options available to best support and meet your individual needs.

Acting Director Transition Sarah Noel said, "Our staff are a great community resource, and I encourage any person aged over 65 to call us on 5422 0333 if you are finding living at home difficult.

"Our staff are trained to direct your call and get you the assistance you need to remain living independently in your own home."

For more information and enquiries, call (03) 5422 0333.

SUBMITTED BY LEANNE YOUNES, MRSC



Woodend Farmers Market

1st Saturday of the month

9.00am - 1.00pm

Corner High Street & Forest Street

mrsg.org.au/farmers-markets



Social distancing guidelines are strictly enforced

Native grass and wildflower seeding rejuvenate in Woodend



Macedon Ranges Shire Council recently completed the reseeding of the Quarry Road Retarding Basin Reserve in Woodend.

The reserve has been sown with native grass and wildflower species.

A one-hectare direct seeding area was prepared over a 12-month period, and the sowing was successfully completed on 30 March. Perfect conditions were available on the day, as it had just received enough rain to ensuring sowing success.

This is a unique project for Macedon Ranges Shire Council, and it is expected to transform the area over the next 12 months.

In addition to the native grass seeding, two plots of wildflowers have been sown to increase biodiversity. Included in the wildflower plots is an endangered species, called *Podolepis linearifolia*, which was grown by Flora Victoria in its native seed orchard facility.

This project was made possible by Council's Environment and Engineering teams working together to improve storm water management and biodiversity resilience in the shire.

SUBMITTED BY LEANNE YOUNES

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Message from your Councillor



The June edition of The New Woodend Star usually entices locals to take part in the annual Woodend Winter Arts Festival; a highlight on my calendar each year. Unfortunately, it cannot go ahead in June 2020 due to the Pandemic, and I hope everyone will support the festival to continue when

we are able to return to large gatherings and enjoy the creativity of the artists involved.

It has been wonderful to see that event organisers and businesses that have had to alter their usual plans have been promoting those who usually support or sponsor them, and are helping others able to keep trading to increase their reach. This has been particularly evident to me with your support of the New Woodend Star and the wonderful volunteers who continue to produce this vital form of communication and connection with the Woodend community.

Council continues to assist community groups and businesses and has established the Recovery Operations Centre (ROC), where anyone can make contact via 5422 0237 or emailing recovery@mrsc.vic.gov.au if you have questions or ideas about what is or could be done in response to the changes that have had to occur as part of the Pandemic.

Council's upcoming budget has factored in ways in which we can assist people in need because of the Pandemic, as well as ensuring usual services and infrastructure everyone always requests each year can continue to be delivered, such as footpaths and investigations into important projects like road safety and potential community centres.

Although I know everyone is still busy despite COVID-19, I encourage you to take a good look at Council's budget and plan when it is released for consultation, and to let us know what you think. We cannot maximise our care for the community without your valuable input.

Don't forget also that Council meetings, which have been live streamed for over 2 years now, are continuing to occur, as we now have virtual council meetings in order to comply with the social distancing restrictions. We have also introduced virtual submitters' committees so Councillors can ask questions of applicants and objectors to issues relating to planning.

Please continue to check on our website for updates, and as always remember social distancing and hand hygiene to protect not only yourself but the ones you love.

Regards,

Jennifer 0408 273 670

SUBMITTED BY CR JENNIFER ANDERSON

Story by a young author

ADVENTURE TIME

By Eliza Roberts age 9 years

One beautiful sunny day, me (Eliza) and my friends, (Bell, Ginger, Annie, Lexie, Frankie, Jack, Ned and Mitchell) were a bit bored so we decided to make the best of the sunny weather and go exploring near Hanging Rock. Before we left, we packed an emergency backpack full of water, lollies, snacks, first aid stuff and a blow-up flamingo. Now you might think that's



a bit weird, but you never know when you'll need a blow-up flamingo. Once we were all ready, we set off. After an hour of exploring we found a lake. It was such a hot day so we decided to blow up the flamingo and go in the lake. We took turns going on the flamingo and we had ropes to hold onto so we wouldn't float away. When Annie had her turn, she wasn't holding onto the rope! Then she started to float around the tree that was in the middle of the lake. Frankie kept saying, "I WILL JUMP IN AND SAVE YOU ANNIE!" but everyone knew that there was no way Frankie would jump in the middle of the lake. Luckily, Annie started floating towards the edge of the lake where we could reach her and we pulled her in. After we had all calmed down, we had a little picnic and then headed home.

Later that week, some kids from our school said that they were going to Hanging Rock. Who knows what happened to them because they weren't at school the next Monday

SUBMITTED BY ELIZA ROBERTS

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What a different Anzac Day.

The build-up to the day was different, I think partly due to the isolation. At 05:45, my wife and I moved to our driveway, after I had broken and lowered our personal flag. We had another Australian flag along with torches and candles. It was so very pleasing to see about half of our street lit up similarly for our Stand To. We had our radio tuned to the Canberra service, so any awake were able to join in and keep pace with that ceremony.



Photo: Chris Latcham, Ex Army Signals

Our impromptu bugler (cornet) sounded the Last Post and Roust. I must apologise to all assembled for not reciting The Ode, I was so taken by the solemnity of the moment.



Photo: Bugler Ian Hocking, Ex Navy, & Bruce Mildenhall, whose father fought at Tobruk in WW2 at Woodend Clock Tower

When I returned to the RSL, our Mayor, Councillor Janet Pearce, was there and stopped to commend our service. She remarked that she was blown away as she stood in her driveway for Stand To and heard the Last Post wafting through the air from Ian Hocking's performance.



Photo: Decorated Gulf War Veteran, Alan Mitchell-Lappin MG, who laid the Macedon Shire wreath

At 11am, I moved to the Woodend Cenotaph, just in case others joined there and I was required to enforce social distancing. It was very pleasing to see some floral tributes already laid there with a respectful social distancing small crowd there. John McCausland gave a wonderful speech, while Howard Burvill lowered the flag. Quite an occasion.



Photo: Event Manager, John McCausland and President, Ken Bryce

From there, the small crowd moved to the Clock Tower, which was beautifully adorned with knitted poppies from the nimble hands of Lulu Cockram's mother. She knitted 200 new poppies – one for each Newham and Woodend Shire soldier who fell and some spares for the stock of wreaths.



Photo: Representing three Fields of Conflict: Ruth DeJong, WW1, Alan Mitchell Lappin MG, Gulf War, and Bruce Mildenhall, WW2.

I believe that the driveway service can become a new tradition as some people might prefer to assemble there in lieu of staying in bed, or not able to be at the Memorial Cross at that precious time.



Photo: Janice Smith, whose grandfather was in WW2

Lest We Forget

SUBMITTED BY KEN BRYCE

Vale Philip Kudnig 1933-2020



Philip was born in NSW in 1933. He studied engineering and attended National Service. He then joined the Officer Cadet School at Portsea and subsequently joined the Royal Australian Engineers. Philip was appointed to the British Commonwealth Force Korea and was awarded the Korea Medal for Peacekeeping. Following the Korean War, Philip undertook a role in overseeing the Citizen

Military Forces (CMF) in Hobart. It was during this time that Philip met Judith Harvey, and the couple were married in 1959. In 1963, Philip was sent to Maralinga, the site of the British atomic testing. The family then moved to Canberra, and Philip undertook an assignment in Vietnam, as he was appointed Officer Commanding First Field Squadron Royal Australian Engineers. In 1974, he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. His unit was given the job of building the airstrip on Lord Howe Island and rebuilding Darwin after Cyclone Tracy.

In 1979, Philip retired from the army to pursue a life of farming in Euroa. In 2000, Philip and Judy sold their farm and moved to Mount Macedon. Philip became president of the Gisborne Rotary Club and was a member of the RSL at Woodend. He regularly attended the Anzac day march in Woodend.

In April 2020, Philip sadly passed away after a long and brave battle with illness. A private funeral was held where Philip's children and grandchildren spoke of his amazing life achievements and cherished his love and support for his family. A moving RSL service was held at the funeral.

SUBMITTED BY SIMON KUDNIG



Community Health Facility Completed

A year since works first started, Cobaw Community Health's building is now completed. The purpose-built new facility, made possible by a \$9.7M grant from the Victorian government's Regional Health Infrastructure Fund, will replace Cobaw's main office in the centre of Kyneton.

"The design creates a welcoming and flexible space, which will ensure that everyone visiting Cobaw access to the highest levels of comfort and professionalism," says Margaret McDonald, Cobaw's CEO. "This vital part of local infrastructure gives us the capacity to provide a greater range of allied health and community services with significant increases in clinical spaces to meet the increases in service demand."

The building is clearly visible as you come off the freeway at Kyneton. All of Cobaw's services will be available in the new building, including counselling, family and parenting support, homelessness support, LGBTIQ+ groups, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech pathology. In addition, there will be a number of co-located and visiting services including the Centre for Non-Violence and Centrelink that will grow over the coming months with the increased space. In addition, multi-purpose rooms and a kitchen will allow community groups access to spaces for meetings that have state of the art audiovisual equipment.

"We are pleased to be joining existing services on the precinct and particularly value the ongoing collaboration with Kyneton Health," added Ms McDonald.

Despite the doors currently being closed to all of its sites including at Romsey and Woodend, Cobaw continues to deliver all of its programs and services via telehealth and in person where necessary. The contact details for enquiries and referrals remain the same – call 5421 166 or email admin@cobaw.org.au.

SUBMITTED BY SARAH TURNER

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Prepare now for 1 July start of cat curfew



Macedon Ranges
Shire Council

Have your say on waste management

Council is urging cat owners to prepare for the upcoming shire-wide cat curfew, which comes into effect on 1 July 2020.

From this date, all cats within the shire must be confined to their property from sunset to sunrise, and will also be prohibited from the shire's most sensitive environmental areas.

The cat curfew is part of Council's Dog and Cat Control Order 2019, which also resulted in dog off-leash areas being introduced.

As well as being a legal requirement, there are many benefits to confining your cat:

- Your cat will be healthier and live longer – it is less likely to be involved in an accident or be exposed to potentially fatal diseases
- Your cat is less likely to get lost (saving a trip to the pound and associated fines)
- Your cat won't annoy your neighbours (e.g. spraying, yowling, fighting, or riling up dogs)
- There will be less hunting and wildlife predation, which helps the Macedon Ranges environment.

Cat owners should consider appropriate overnight housing for their cat or cats, including adapting, designing, building, and/or buying an appropriate cat enclosure.

The new cat requirements are a result of extensive public consultation that began with the development of the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017-2021.

For more information, phone (03) 5422 0333, or visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/cats

SUBMITTED BY LEANNE YOUNES, MRSC

Council's current Waste Management Strategy 2015-2020 is due for review, and input is being sought from the community to help with developing the new strategy.

The final strategy will set direction for all of council's future waste management activities and will address community priorities, issues and opportunities surrounding waste management.

Council is also taking into consideration current and emerging sector trends, resulting from changes in the waste management industry. These include the banning of recycling imports to China, closure of major Victorian recycling facilities and capacity issues within Australia's recycling and reprocessing industry.

Council has responded quickly to date, by introducing a four-bin waste collection service to include food organics and garden organics (FOGO) and glass, and this has improved overall recyclability.

The waste management survey will help Council's waste management team identify the issues and opportunities that are important to you, so they can be prioritised in the future waste management strategy.

The survey is open until Friday 26 June 2020. Participants will automatically go into the draw to win one of three compost bin or worm farm prizes.

To have your say, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/your-say or contact council on (03) 5422 0333.

SUBMITTED BY LEANNE YOUNES, MRSC

Coronavirus and your mental health

Macedon Ranges Suicide Prevention Action Group (MRSPAG) is reaching out to the local community during this difficult and uncertain time.

Many of us may be feeling higher levels of worry and anxiety, and all of us have lots of questions – Are our friends and family safe? What will happen to us if we get sick with the virus? How do we cope with job uncertainty and financial stress? When will things return to normal?

MRSPAG Chair, Annie Rowland said, "We know there are going to be more community members who will be feeling vulnerable and who may need to access mental health treatment and support at this time.

"If you are feeling well and able to support someone, we greatly encourage you to reach out. A phone call, text message, or note in the letterbox can be all it takes to let them know you are there. We also hope everyone knows it is okay to reach out and ask for help if you need it."

MRSPAG is a group of community members who work together to prevent suicide in the Macedon Ranges. They also provide a peer support service for those bereaved by suicide. You can find the dates for these meetings at <https://www.facebook.com/MRSPAG> or email info@mrspag.com.au.



Access to free online suicide prevention training

During this time of physical distancing, suicide prevention training is now available online. MRSPAG recommends the LivingWorks Start program. As part of the Macedon Ranges Suicide Prevention Trial, North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network is providing free access to this program. The program only takes an hour and gives you the skills and knowledge to keep family, friends, co-workers, and others safe from suicide.

If you live or work in the Macedon Ranges and would like FREE access to this training, please contact Deepa, Suicide Prevention Project Officer, deepa.patel@mrh.org.au.

If you or someone you know is in need of immediate mental health support, phone Lifeline on 13 11 14 (24/7) or text 0477 13 11 14 (6pm-midnight). For other 24/7 supports - visit MRSPAG on Facebook or website

SUBMITTED BY DEEPA PATEL

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Mountview Theatre facelift

Well, here we are, another month on already, and dare I say ... starting to see a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel? It would be fantastic to announce when our doors will re-open, but we must continue to be patient and keep our fingers crossed!

However, having said that, there has been some exciting action taking place behind our closed doors! We are very happy to announce that our 30-year-old bathrooms are currently being completely upgraded by the Macedon Ranges Shire Council. This downtime has in fact provided a fantastic window of opportunity for them, and we can't wait to show off our smart, new, contemporary bathrooms to patrons. A huge thanks to the shire for these upgrades, for which we are very grateful.

Looking forward to seeing everyone back at the Mountview Theatre before too long.

SUBMITTED BY KAREN HUNT

Warning for regional drivers

Despite there being fewer cars on our roads, Australia's regional drivers are being warned the likelihood of hitting a roo while behind the wheel is about to increase.

According to the latest data from insurer AAMI, animal collisions are once again expected to spike as winter sets in, with a 15 per cent jump between May and August.

The five hotspots in Victoria are Heathcote, Gisborne, Wallan, Sunbury and Woodend.

SUBMITTED BY ANGELA WILKINSON, AAMI



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Cool Changes plan re-imagined for Woodend

Cool Changes is Macedon Ranges Shire Council's program to work with local communities across the shire to facilitate the development of local climate action plans.

It evolved from the successful pilot project, Sustainable Malmsbury, and has been informed by a shire-wide survey undertaken in September 2019.

Cool Changes for the wider Woodend district (postcode 3442) commenced with a community information forum on 2 March 2020.

In the absence of face-to-face community workshops, the program for facilitating the development of a local climate action plan is taking a new form.

Based on the positive response from a survey conducted in early April, where 80 per cent of respondents indicated support for, or commitment to, developing a community climate action plan, Council has investigated alternative consultation formats.

Using a mix of online platforms, Council will be working with consultants Hip V Hype to conduct Cool Changes Woodend for the area covered by postcode 3442, during the next few months.

The project commenced with a Project Foundations Workshop on 25 May and there are many ways for residents to be involved with the project over the next few months. Council is excited about undertaking this new form of community planning.

With additional support from Sustainability Victoria, as part of the statewide Zero Carbon Communities Transition Program, Cool Changes will demonstrate how communities across the state can plan for climate action into the future.

For more information, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/climate-change

SUBMITTED BY LEANNE YOUNES



Register now for kindergarten

Register online before 30 June to enter the draw to win two terms of FREE swimming lessons.

To register, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/kinder-rego

Kindergarten registrations open for 2021

Online registrations for 2021 for kindergartens in the Macedon Ranges shire are now open.

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SUBMITTED BY LEANNE YOUNES, MRSC

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- The hearing impaired who do not receive government assistance and who are unable to afford hearing aids;
- Asylum seekers and refugees, immigrants where English as second language;
- Indigenous Australians;
- Other marginalised and vulnerable people in our communities, including victims of domestic violence.

By recycling used hearing aids, Recycled Sound supports and enhances sustainability in our community and environment.

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SUBMITTED BY GRANT AND MELISSA HOCKING

your place

When you think of velvet ...

What comes up for you when you think of velvet?

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Pause for a sec to ponder velvet ...

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Somehow, Morris & Co have kept the elegance of the original designs while losing the stuffiness of the formality associated with old velvets. Now it's relaxed. The fabrics are cotton-backed so are, literally, lighter and more nimble than their grandmothers.

With fruits and snakes, sunflowers and wisteria woven through the many designs, even the most modern house could handle a feature wall, an ottoman or a cushion or two. As with anything, it's about the right place, the right time, the right balance.

Speaking of right place and time, we're finding that customers are more purposeful when they visit these days. Combining covid restrictions with our appointment-only system seems to work for all.

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Authorised by MA Thomas, Shop 14, Nexus Centre, 9 Goode Street, Gisborne. Funded from Parliamentary budget.

Making The Macedon Ranges Trails Project a reality

The Victorian Government will get shovels in the ground and thousands of people back to work, building the projects that matter to Victoria – and creating the jobs that matter to Victorians.

Today, the Government launched the first part of our Building Works package, which will provide \$2.7 billion towards shovel-ready projects – big and small – to get thousands of people back to work.

With travel and other restrictions having hit Victoria’s visitor economy hard, the Building Works package includes \$382 million in upgrades, maintenance and new experiences at tourism destinations across the state.

Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas, today announced that the Macedon Ranges Shire Council would receive \$8.75 million as part of Building Works to make the Macedon Ranges Trail Project a reality. “We need to be investing in projects now that will not only help our local economy recover from the coronavirus pandemic but will benefit our community into the future,” said Ms Thomas.

Designed to encourage cycling, walking and running for people of all abilities, the Macedon Ranges Trails Project will provide shared use trail links that connect some of the major towns across the Macedon Ranges.

“The Macedon Ranges Trail Project will create local jobs, support our local businesses and provide fantastic experience for locals and visitors to enjoy in our beautiful region,” she said.

Covering over 23 kilometres, the trails will link Woodend to Macedon, Macedon to New Gisborne and New Gisborne to Riddells Creek.

Once complete, trail users can hook into local events and sample the best of food and produce along the way, and even consider an overnight stay within the Macedon Ranges towns.

The trail will enhance the vibrant and varied tourism offerings in the Macedon Ranges and improve community health and social inclusion by providing a safe, shared and accessible trail for everyone to enjoy.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council will now begin working with public land managers to finalise design and commence work as soon as possible.

The Building Works package will create thousands of jobs while also pumping extra dollars back into our economy. Companies engaged to complete the work will be required to find new employees through Working for Victoria in the first instance.

SUBMITTED BY BELLA MANSON



Photo: Mary-Anne Thomas MP

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Western Water helping to monitor coronavirus (COVID-19)

Western Water and Intelligent Water Networks are working together with other water authorities in an Australia-wide project to monitor coronavirus (COVID-19) in wastewater.

Western Water is contributing to the project by taking weekly samples from the Melton and Sunbury Recycled Water Plants. The samples are then sent to the ALS laboratory in Melbourne, where they will be stored until the testing methodology is developed. Once the development phase is complete, the samples will be analysed at a DNA sequencing laboratory in Melbourne.

The samples are taken from treatment plants that supply a large cross-section of the Western Water service region, so these samples will be crucial, along with others taken from across Victoria, in establishing a fuller picture of how the virus behaves.

Although worldwide and local research findings have shown that any detectable traces of COVID-19 found in sewage and recycled water networks are not infectious, the project provides key data for scientists to better understand the virus.

Complementing wider research into COVID-19, the ColoSSoS Project (Collaboration on Sewage Surveillance of SARS CoV2) is an initiative of Water Research Australia.

Western Water's Acting Chief Operating Officer Paul Clark said, "The community benefits of this project cannot be underestimated. This research will help track and monitor the virus across our service region and allow scientists to gather information on how it behaves in the wastewater network. It's important that we use all the tools at our disposal to determine how this virus works, and what we can do to protect the customers and communities we serve."

Intelligent Water Networks Program Director Dean Barnett said, "Collaboration is key in a project of this size and scope, and it's been really inspiring to see how well the water authorities have worked together to combine resources, compare notes and share results."

This research could provide evidence to health authorities about how effective measures to slow the spread of coronavirus have been, increasingly important as Victoria moves towards considering relaxing lockdown measures.

Western Water staff are taking additional precautionary measures as part of the organisation's coronavirus response, including wearing enhanced PPE, regularly cleansing and sanitising and practicing strict physical distancing measures.

Visit the website to find out more about Western Water's response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic at www.westernwater.com.au/COVID-19

SUBMITTED BY LUKE WILLOUGHBY



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*Conditions apply. The Solar Homes Program is means tested - please refer <https://www.solar.vic.gov.au/solar-panel-rebate> website for details. Solar Homes Fact Sheet and Solar Panel Rebate Fact Sheet are downloadable from this link.

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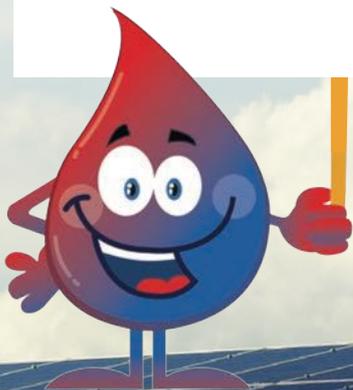
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Joy Daymon - her story.

Many Woodenders joined forces to ensure that one of our most mature residents, Joy Daymon, had a very happy 95th birthday in May. They made and wrote cards, and gave gifts and goodies so that the usually very independent and social Joy was still able to celebrate well.

Joy was born in 1925 in Sydney and lived there for three years until moving to Fremantle WA.

War broke out in 1939, when Joy was only 14, and she listened eagerly for news each day of what was happening overseas. When she turned 18, her father told her in no uncertain terms that she was not to join up ... so of course she did just that!

Joy joined the Air Force (known then as the WAAF Women's Auxiliary Air Force) as soon as she was of age and worked as an aircraft mechanic, travelling to both Perth and Ascot Vale in Melbourne to do her technical training. When she qualified she was stationed in Geraldton to work on the aircraft.

"The best thing I learned in the Air Force was to stand on my own two feet and stand up for myself."

As the war was coming to a close she was transferred to Bairnsdale in Gippsland. When the VE Day announcement came through on May 8th 1945, the celebrations were great. "I remember driving along and throwing toilet rolls as streamers all over the base. The Sergeants' Mess was opened up to everyone and the beer flowed very well that day," Joy remembers fondly.

Joy headed back to Subiaco where many enlisted women worked in administration, finalising medical discharge papers for the returning soldiers.

Three years after 'signing up', Joy was discharged too, so she went to live in Perth and returned to work in the retail area. "The best time of my life was just after the war when a group of about eight couples would get together for evenings of good, clean, fun; just celebrating that we were all together". At the age of 26 she married Reg, and they welcomed a daughter. Raising her daughter is her "proudest achievement," Joy says.

Reg died in 1995, so Joy decided to move to Woodend where her daughter had set up home.

Since moving to Woodend 25 years ago, Joy has been in many social clubs, Woodend CWA, Senior Citizens, Probus, Walking Group, and she is an active member of St Mary's Church, where she is the garden co-ordinator. She has also travelled extensively to China, the UK and Europe ("Switzerland and Austria were my favourite places"), Vietnam, and Borneo for the 70th anniversary of VE Day; "Quentin Bryce was on that trip with us."

Joy says that the best thing about being 95 is living here in Woodend where she has many friends, and if she was going to give any advice to young people it would be to "live a good clean life, have fun, and enjoy yourself - just don't do anything wrong!"

Joy is very grateful to everyone who took the time to send her birthday wishes for her 95th birthday.



SUBMITTED BY THE REV MELISSA CLARKE

Digital Connection Project for Seniors

Are you 65 years or older and living in the Macedon Ranges Shire? Would you like some help with learning to use a digital device (a computer, smartphone or tablet) and how to access the internet?

The internet is a great way to stay socially connected, particularly during this period of COVID-19 and social distancing. With more and more services moving online, it is important to know how to use the internet with confidence.

We can show you how to:

- talk to and see family and friends online
- keep up to date with the news and what's happening around the world
- find new friends and local groups who share your interests and hobbies
- connect with old friends
- do your banking and shopping safely and securely online
- book medical and other appointments online

If you have a digital device but need some help learning how to use it, we can link you with a volunteer who can help. If you do not have access to a device and are not able to buy one, we may be able to source one for you.

Call Macedon Ranges Shire Council on (03) 5422 0237 for further information and to register your interest.

This Digital Connection Project for Seniors is a joint initiative of Central Victorian Primary Care Partnership, Cobaw Community Health, Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Goldfields Libraries, Kyneton Community House, Lancefield Neighbourhood House, Gisborne Men's Shed, Macedon Ranges Health and the Zonta Club of Kyneton.

SUBMITTED BY LAUREN TYRRELL, COBAW HEALTH



Photo: L-R Norma Proctore, Reverant Mellissa Clark, Joy Damon



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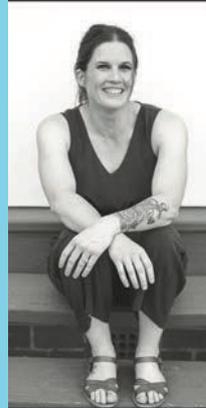
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PS My Family Matters offers free online mental health first aid training to carers.

Local charity PS My Family Matters, who support those caring for loved ones with a mental illness, is offering mental health first aid training online. The traditional 2-day course has been adapted to suit the restrictions of the health crisis and offers carers an opportunity to self-pace their training to suit their individual schedules. "Through the grant funding we have received from the NDIS and the State Government, we are able to offer this training to carers who are looking after loved ones with a diagnosed mental health issue," said Tamara Wilson, president of PSMFM. "The training is open to all family members over the age of 16 who would wish to become more informed about mental illness and how to handle it."

PSMFM is offering 20 complimentary places to carers in the Macedon Ranges. The program runs over a series of online modules with 2 facilitated sessions. "In the past, many carers have been unable to attend the 2-day face to face training due the pressure of time and caring commitments," said Tamara. "This format will give more carers access to this vital training, at their own pace". To enquire about booking a spot on the program or to know more about PSMFM, please call 0475 269 965. PSMFM is continuing to run online coffee catch ups for carers, which are proving to be popular during this time of lockdown and restrictions. Please ring for more details.

If you need immediate support or assistance contact Lifeline on 131 411.

SUBMITTED BY MIKE HAMER

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Woodend Community Bags



Woodend Community Bags are delighted to share with you our latest project during this time of isolation. Like so many, we have been unable to get together, so we decided to sew at home. Yes, we are still making bags for our community to help Say No To Plastic Bags. If you were one of the lucky ones, you may have been given a bag at the May Community Farmers Market.

Local mum and nurse Krista works at Northern Health Epping Emergency Department on the front line. This can be a challenging job at the best of times so to say thank you, WCB decided to sew scrub hats and bags for the team at Northern Health, plus we made sure to add in some lollies for Krista and her team.

We are all so excited that the work we have done with such joy and passion, has been able to assist Krista and her team during these tough times.

So this is a true feel-good story from our small group of amazing people who come together to be part of a safe, friendly community.

If you would like to join us anytime, you don't need to be a sewing wiz, you can come and cut, fold or even just enjoy a tea and coffee with us. Please do not hesitate to give Sally a call on 0419 108 526 to find out more. We are always in need of extra material to sew, and like we always say, more hands make great bags!



SUBMITTED BY SALLY SCANLAN

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Patrick Eckle's Wine review

Introduction

The vineyards are now dormant in the Macedon Ranges, with the winemakers about to begin pruning, which is the first activity in setting up for what the 2021 vintage will bring. The reviews this month showcase a producer that is not based in the region, but has done a lot to promote the Macedon Ranges over the last decade: Shadowfax wines. The other, Lyons Will, is championing Gamay from their Estate Vineyard in Lancefield.

2018 Lyons Will Estate Gamay

The ferment included 60% whole bunch, and the remainder was left as whole bunches and went through carbonic maceration before being aged in old oak for nine months, with the wine unfiltered and unfinned before bottling.

A light red with youthful hues, it has a nose that gives dark cherry with some stem and iodine alongside cranberry fruit. The wine has generosity and tension with finely tuned acidity and paired with drying, fine tannins with piercing black cherry fruit that broadens on the mid palate before being pulled back with impact of tart cranberry fruit. Excellent length to finish.

Rating: 93 | Price: \$38 | When to Drink: 2020 - 2026

2018 Shadowfax Macedon Ranges Chardonnay

A long-time favourite of mine, Shadowfax have been crafting some of Victoria's best Chardonnay for decades. 2018 was the first vintage without Matt Harrop at the helm with Alistair Timms taking over and not missing a beat in producing a wine that has both generosity and tension.

The wine was fermented using wild yeast and aged in larger format French oak. It has a drive and acidity that showcases the uniqueness of the Macedon Ranges with the ability to create wines of great structure and cellaring potential, without being tart or lean. Fruit comes in the form of white peach and nectarine with a build of almond meal richness and just-ripe fig. The gentle build of oak-induced spice fills the mid palate with the finish enjoying length of piercing stone fruits and flint like spice.

Rating: 95 | Price: \$34 | When to Drink: 2020 - 2030

SUBMITTED BY PATRICK ECKEL

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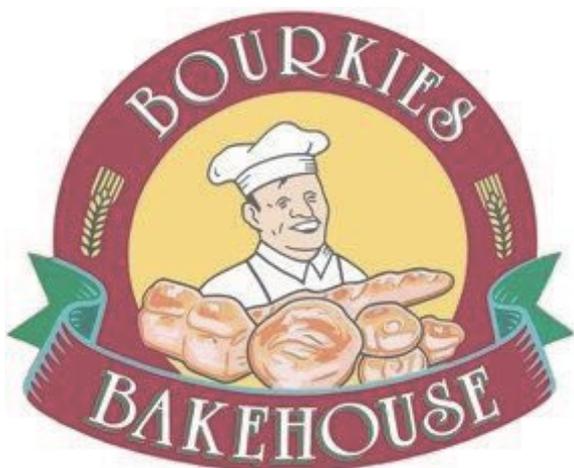
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The Library team have been working at home creating lots of different ways you can continue to access our wonderful resources, whether you are connected online or not. Please stay in touch - we are here to help! Let us know if you need assistance accessing our eLibrary resources, email us on our branch email - woodend@ncgrl.vic.gov.au or call 54272074. We have lots of resources to share.



While Libraries remain closed we are working towards offering a click and collect service for loans from our collection by 1st June. We will provide information about how, where and when this will become available once the items you reserve are here in Woodend. Make a few reservations today! Staff and community safety are remaining our top priority and we will continue to follow state government advice about a staged return to service.

Here are some of the ways you can stay connected:



Ask a Librarian

We can still do what librarians do best - assist with book suggestions, research and reference enquiries, or just say hello and chat! We can help you learn

more about how to use your device, the internet, social media, or how to access free e-books, audio books, newspapers, magazines or movies. Or we'd love to talk to you about books, stories, news and life in lockdown.



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Freemusic has millions of songs you can stream for free. With a selection ranging right back to the 40s and 50s, you can create your own playlists or listen to playlists already curated for you. There are also music videos and a selection of audio books.

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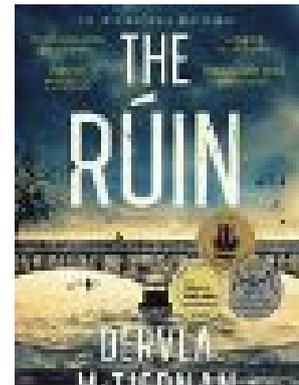
researching their family history, or thinking about starting, the National Library of Australia (NLA) has enabled access from home to Ancestry.com for all members. There are also many other useful resources on their website, accessible from home.

To join the NLA: <https://www.nla.gov.au/getalibrarycard/registration>

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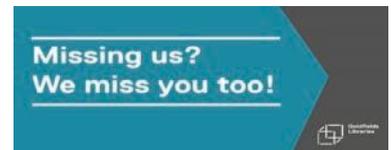
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Book review – available to listen to on Borrowbox

The Ruin is an entertaining, good old-fashioned family drama and whodunnit. The story, set in County Galway in Ireland, uncovers well-hidden family secrets amidst recent tragedy. A policeman missing the action of the Dublin office and a local Doctor are thrown into an investigation that changes their lives and there's a few twists to keep you guessing. A good story to keep you entertained.



SUBMITTED BY LULU COCKRAM

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or mobile 0411 150 114 for more
information. There is also a Website,
www.life.org.au and click on Trentham
in the list of clubs.

New members are always
welcome, as are new ideas for club
activities.

SUBMITTED BY WENDY REDMAN

2019 Active Living Census results are in



The results for the 2019 Active Living Census, conducted as part of the Victorian Government-funded Healthy Heart of Victoria initiative, have been finalised.

The Healthy Heart of Victoria initiative aims to improve health outcomes across the Loddon-Campaspe region.

As part of the census, a paper survey was mailed to all households in the region, and residents were also encouraged to complete the online survey. There were 3,691 Macedon Ranges residents who took part.

The key findings for Macedon Ranges shire were:

- Only 14 per cent of adults meet guidelines for vegetable consumption and 51 per cent meet guidelines for fruit consumption.
- About six per cent of all households had gone without food in the past year.
- Almost two thirds (61 per cent) of adults are overweight, or obese.
- Almost two thirds (62 per cent) of adults meet guidelines for physical activity.
- More than half (53 per cent) of all residents want to be more active.
- Walking is the most popular way to exercise (21 per cent), followed by swimming (nine per cent), bushwalking (seven per cent), indoor fitness/gym (seven per cent) and active play (six per cent).

The results and findings will inform Council's plans for programs and facilities.

Community organisations can also use the information to inform and support community wellbeing and to attract more funding. To view the report online, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au

SUBMITTED BY LEANNE YOUNES



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At Woodend Nursery, our garden philosophy is to “teach YOU!” so YOU can manage your own garden. That said, if you need garden maintenance, design, or planning, we have a team to help you!

Call the friendly Cassius (the man with the chocolate lab on the website) and we will help you choose the right plants for your garden!

As we move into winter, NOW is the time to order your bare rooted stock and save money! And in addition to saving money, Woodend Nursery is your one stop shop for all your planting and gardening needs. If you need us to design new ideas or gardens, to plant, to arrange topsoil and mulch, to install irrigation, or simply to maintain your existing garden, call Cassius and we will get our friendly team into the job so you don't have to!

Also please visit our website www.woodendnursery.com.au to order online or Facebook page Woodend Nursery to access up-to-date fact sheets and tips for gardening or planting.

Stay safe, stay happy, stay green and healthy :)

SUBMITTED BY CASSIUS AND THE WOODEND NURSERY TEAM

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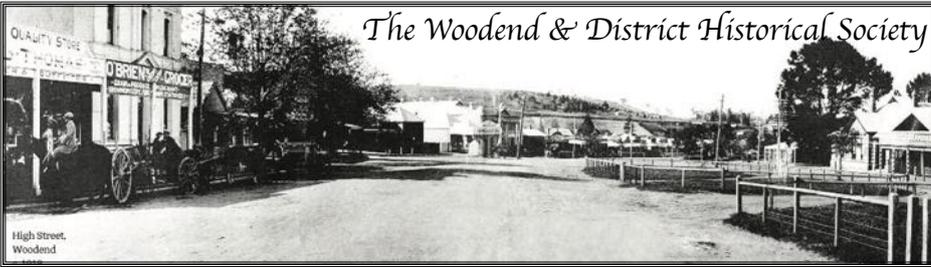
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The Spanish Influenza

COVID-19 represents the worst public health crisis the world has faced since the Spanish flu. Estimates of global deaths from the flu in 1919 vary, from around 30 million to 100 million. Australian losses were probably about 12,000 to 15,000, much less than other countries.

The Spanish flu was first detected in Victoria in December 1918, and by January 1919 the state was declared infected and placed in quarantine, the NSW government closing the border with Victoria, and public buildings were shut. For a time, it was compulsory to wear a mask in the street. Places of entertainment such as theatres, cinemas and dance halls closed, as did churches and schools.



Photo: Medical staff and workers in Surry Hills, Sydney, in April 1919. Schools and businesses were closed, hospitals overflowed and masks became compulsory in public. Photograph: NSW State Archives and Records

Early in the autumn of 1919, it was thought that the disease was under control, and state governments lifted some restrictions, but a second wave of infection hit and carried off many Australians with it. A lighter third wave followed with small impact, a theory being that the virus mutated extremely rapidly to a less lethal strain, a common occurrence with pathogenic viruses over time. However, people remained anxious over the next few months.

As to the economy, Pierre van der Eng, (Associate Professor of International Business at the ANU Research School of Management) believes that the consequences of this pandemic will not necessarily amount to an economic recession. The main reasons are that the 1919 pandemic did not paralyse the economy entirely and raged for just half of the year, after which economic activity resumed. The Australian economy of 2020 may be equally resilient.

(Source: ANU, College of Business & Economics website)



Photo: Female employees at Kodak's Abbotsford factory use an inhalatorium - meant to clear the lungs with Sulphur - during the Spanish 'Flu outbreak in February 1919. Credit: The Australasian

SUBMITTED BY JANNYSE WILLIAMS

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Thanking our FEM Clients for their support



Fire equipment maintenance is an important service provided through the Woodend CFA, where we organise to have fire extinguishers and other equipment installed and maintained on a regular basis. We sincerely thank our FEM Clients for their ongoing support.

The funds raised through our FEM work are vital to the ongoing running of the Woodend CFA, and over the years have played a part in some significant developments.

The construction of our new fire station, which opened in 1996, was completed with funds from FEM. More recent projects have included the construction of the new garage and workshop and the installation of a heavy-duty generator. Future projects include the purchase of a new tanker and forward command vehicle.

All of these projects would not have been possible without the contributions from our FEM Clients. We thank them for their support in the past and look forward to the same in the future. If you would like Woodend CFA to look after your FEM, please contact the brigade.

A different Good Friday collection

Woodend and neighbouring CFA brigades (Newham and Heskett-Kerrie) have been collecting for this worthy appeal since 1980, and in that time we have collected a total of more than \$265,000. In the last ten years, we have averaged around \$12,000 a year, but this year we struggled to get anywhere near that, as volunteers were not able to undertake the door knock due to the corona virus restrictions.

Technology came to the rescue, with the introduction of the Good Friday Virtual Tin Shake, which was a clever way that community members can still donate to the Children's Hospital Appeal via their local CFA Brigade by donating online. Despite the changes we still managed to raise over \$4,000.

For further information, contact Captain Mike Dornau on 0409 093 935. On Sundays, call 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.

The Woodend CFA is a 100% volunteer emergency service, committed to Creating a Safer Community.

SUBMITTED BY CAPTAIN MIKE DORNAU, WOODEND CFA

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As we start to emerge from the coronavirus lockdown, we are looking forward to our members getting back onto our greens and enjoying our wonderful sport. We thought it was a good time to reflect on how good a sport it is, for people of all ages and abilities.

10 REASONS TO PLAY BOWLS

1. It's family-friendly. There are a lot of reasons why bowls is fun. One is that the whole family, including the very young, can play!
2. It's easy to learn. There aren't many sports where you can get the hang of it in a few minutes.
3. It's social. Bowling clubs are a great social place to meet new friends or catch up with current ones.
4. Just about anyone can play. Bowls is for everyone, regardless of age, gender, cultural background or ability.
5. There is a club near you. More than 520 clubs throughout Victoria, so there will be one within easy distance of home or work, including Woodend.
6. It's cheap. Far cheaper to play or join a club than many other sports, plus drinks at Crackerjack prices!
7. You don't need much equipment to start: flat soled shoes and a set of bowls. Woodend has bowls to loan, and even without the right shoes, there's barefoot

bowls.

8. There are lots of different ways to play. You can play alone, or with a team. For a long time, a short time, socially, against mates or with the whole family.

9. It's active and outdoors. It's a great way to stay active, fit, healthy and get outdoors.

10. You can represent Australia. Heaps of opportunities to represent your state and country. Bowls is a Commonwealth Games sport.

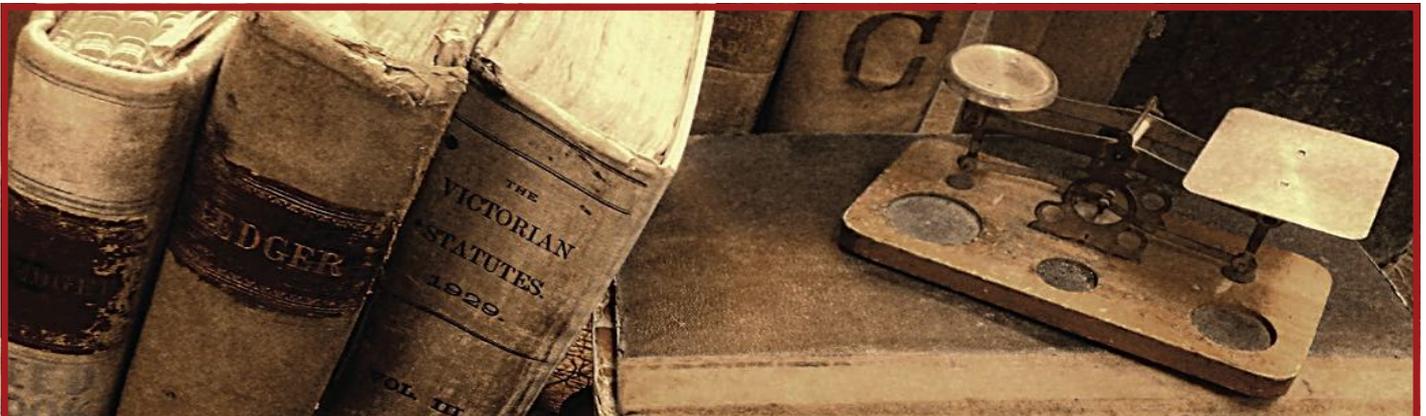
A SNAPSHOT OF BOWLS IN AUSTRALIA

The most recent study by Bowls Australia revealed some very interesting statistics.

- There were 1,879 bowling clubs in Australia, with 1,335 of those in the country.
- A total of more than 670,000 people participated in lawn bowls, including nearly 500,000 members of clubs, making it one of the most popular sports in the country. This also included around 35% female and 65% male.
- In terms of age, 23% were under 40 years, 20% were aged between 40 and 60, 40% were aged between 60 and 75, and 17% were over 75 years of age.
- Well over half of the total participated only in social programs, which was an increase of nearly 20%, with a growing emphasis on schools programs.

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

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU



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Sacred Heart The Changing Face of Education

With the announcements by the State Government, students and staff across Victoria can look forward to a return to onsite learning and teaching in two stages from Tuesday 26th May. Significant preparations are underway at Sacred Heart College to ensure that the return of students and staff maintains the health and well-being of all involved. There is no doubt that the Sacred Heart Year 11 and 12 students will be both excited and relieved to return to face-to-face teaching. Maintaining a positive outlook and conscientious work habits is challenging under normal circumstances, but the way these senior students have applied themselves, in light of the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and global shutdown, is nothing less than remarkable. I would like to congratulate them on the determination and resilience they have all displayed in recent months.

An interesting aspect to watch, as schools return over the next month, will be how learning and teaching has been changed after almost ten weeks of enforced remote education. Teachers will be looking with great interest to see whether there has been growth in skills such as independent learning, time management and the accessing of electronic resources; while the school more generally will continue to explore how remote schooling can inform our traditional practices.

Sacred Heart College students have continued to enjoy an extraordinary range of activities despite the challenges of remote schooling. I applaud the ingenuity of our teachers and the determination of students and parents. The results that we have seen, albeit electronically, have been amazing (a small sample of these have been provided below).

Congratulations also to all in our local community for the efforts they are making to support one another. Never has the mantra 'We're all in this together' been more accurate than the experience we are living through at this time.

SUBMITTED BY DR DARREN EGBERTS

The Zoom Classroom

Zoom offers video communications and has been utilised for classes to gather 'virtually'. As well as general classes and student meetings, Zoom is being used for many practical classes. One popular class has been Food Technology, where students, provided with a recipe, can follow the teacher cooking in real time. Families have an added bonus of being able to taste test the outcome with images of the finished dishes photographed and uploaded to a shared drive. Recent recipes have included scones, vegemite scrolls, smoothies and pasta.



Photo: Cooking via Zoom with Food Tech teacher Ms Belinda Kime
Online Collaboration

A number of creative subject areas have found ways for online collaboration. Both Music and Drama have been using Flipgrid, a website that allows video discussion using a message board with a topic requiring student video response. Textiles and Art subjects have been utilising sites like Padlet, Prezi and Jamboard – which allow students to work in teams, posting their ideas on a message board, including images and web links, allowing discussion and feedback.

Photo: A Jamboard with collaborative work on the Met Gala



SUBMITTED BY JENNIFER BALDWIN

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