

The New Woodend Star

Rotary
Club of Woodend



APRIL 2023
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LEST WE
FORGET

Anzac Day Dawn
Service April 25

Photo: Mt Macedon Memorial Cross
Courtesy of the Mount Macedon Dawn Service Committee

First published 1997 – by the community, for the community

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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



Voting now open for the Community Choice Awards

Nominations for the Telstra Macedon Ranges Community Choice Awards are in! It's now time to vote for the businesses you think go above and beyond in their day-to-day delivery of goods and services in the following categories:

- Agribusiness and Primary Producers – sponsored by Macedon Ranges Business and Tourism Associations
- Health and Wellbeing – sponsored by Macedon Ranges Shire Council
- Hospitality and Accommodation – sponsored by the Macedon Ranges Industry Groups
- Retail and Service – sponsored by Telstra
- Trades and Manufacturing – sponsored by nbn local

Voting closes 5pm, Friday 2 June. To vote visit, mrsc.vic.gov.au/community-choice

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN, MRSC



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.

Woodend Community Centre moving forward

Plans for the new Woodend Community Centre are moving forward this year, with the Cultural Heritage Management Plan completed successfully in February, in conjunction with the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, paving the way for the building permits to commence for Stage 1. This follows the successful endorsement of the completed Woodend Community Centre Master Plan and Business Case last year – allowing this site to be rebuilt into a sustainable, all-inclusive centre that meets the modern needs of our whole community.

The rebuild will include a new library, community and visitor information hub, multipurpose indoor and outdoor performance spaces, small gallery and local produce display. What we need now from the community are your letters of support to demonstrate excitement



Photo courtesy of City Collective and MRSC

for the project, and to ensure the local voice is heard and your needs are considered in the final design.

These letters can be sent to woodendccc@gmail.com. Businesses, individuals and community groups are

encouraged to submit – your voices are valued and will assist in our applications for funding and overall design completion – thank you!

SUBMITTED BY THE WOODEND COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTRE GROUP

Woodend Golf Club renovations have commenced!



Photo: The renovated club house will be accessible by a ramp once completed.



Photo: Woodend Golf Club volunteers get busy packing and removing equipment before the building works start.

An enthusiastic team of Woodend Golf Club Committee members and Club volunteers have been busy packing up club materials and moving furniture and equipment ahead of the upcoming club house renovation.

We all know the importance of a great club house to the community. Golf Club members will be looking forward to the day in a few months' time when they'll be able to move back in. During the months of work, they'll be operating from a temporary building on site.

Club President, Barney Hearnden said that one of the most important parts of the build will be an improvement to accessibility for all members. "I'm mostly looking forward to the day when our members who can't access the clubhouse because of stairs will be able to equally enjoy the facilities as much as everyone else."

The Club hopes the new improved venue will encourage local groups and individuals to hire the facilities in the future. Kitchen improvements will mean an up-to-date commercial kitchen can be used to cater for events. New dressing rooms and toilets will accommodate all members.

The renovation is a joint project of the Macedon Ranges Shire Council and the Woodend Golf Club. For more information about the progress of the works, visit the Club's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/woodendgolfclub>

SUBMITTED BY IRENE O'DUFFY



MOUNT MACEDON ANZAC DAY

DAWN SERVICE

TUESDAY 25TH APRIL AT 6AM

AT THE MOUNT MACEDON MEMORIAL CROSS

ACCESS TO THE SERVICE IS VIA BUS ONLY (CAMERON DRIVE CLOSED)

Gisborne to Dawn Service:

DEPART:	LOCATION:	ARRIVE:
4:15am	Gisborne Train Station	4:45am
5:10am	Gisborne Train Station	5:40am

Kyneton to Dawn Service:

DEPART:	LOCATION:	ARRIVE:
4:45am	Post Office	5:15am

Riddells Creek to Dawn Service:

DEPART:	LOCATION:	ARRIVE:
4:15am	Riddells Creek Primary	4:45am

Sunbury to Dawn Service:

DEPART:	LOCATION:	ARRIVE:
4:50am	Sunbury Train Station	5:30am

Woodend to Dawn Service:

DEPART:	LOCATION:	ARRIVE:
4:30am	Woodend Train Station	4:50am
5:15am	Woodend Train Station	5:35am

Lancefield & Romsey to Dawn Service:

DEPART:	LOCATION:	ARRIVE:
4:45am	Lancefield Mechanics Hall	5:20am
5:00am	Romsey Community Hub	5:20am

Tony Clarke Recreation Reserve (Waterfalls Road, Macedon) to Dawn Service:

FIRST BUS: 4.15am
LAST BUS: 5.20am

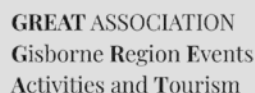
Buses from Tony Clarke Recreation Reserve in Macedon will operate as a continuous shuttle service.

+ On-Site Coffee Van!

BOOKINGS FOR ALL BUS SERVICES ARE ESSENTIAL (EXCEPT FOR THE MACEDON BUS SERVICE)

TO BOOK VISIT WWW.ORGANSCOACHES.COM.AU OR PHONE 5422 1788

A GOLD COIN DONATION WOULD BE APPRECIATED



For further information visit www.mtmacedondawnservice.org

Anzac Service to honour three Woodend generations

The Mount Macedon Anzac Day Dawn Service Committee is very pleased to announce that it will be holding another iconic service at the Mount Macedon Memorial Cross this Anzac Day.

The Dawn Service is a commemorative event that honours the sacrifice of veterans, salutes their service and seeks to learn from the experiences of servicemen and servicewomen.

This year's Service will recount some stories with local connections. One is from Jack Bullen, a 101 year old veteran and Woodend resident. "Jack saw service in some of the toughest World War 11 settings - El Elamein and the jungles of New Guinea. It is a great privilege for our Service to not only honour Jack and his story, and to have that story introduced by one of his great grandchildren, who is a student at Braemar College", said Bruce Mildenhall, the Chair of the Dawn Service Committee

In another remarkable link with the past, the story of Allan Cameron Andison senior and junior has been revealed to our researchers. The father and son, from Woodend, both served in World War 11, with Allan Cameron Andison senior later serving as Shire President in Woodend. Their story will be introduced by the son of Allan Cameron Andison, Gary Andison, who is the long serving bugler who plays the Last Post at the Mt Macedon Dawn Service and many other commemorative events in the Shire.

Community members and those with an interest in our nation's service history are warmly invited to attend, however in order to provide a safe and orderly event,

private vehicles (including cars, motorcycles and bicycles) are not permitted to travel to the Mount Macedon Memorial Cross on Anzac Day morning.

Access to the Service is via a free bus service which operates from Gisborne, Woodend, Sunbury, Kyneton, Riddells Creek, Lancefield and Romsey with continuous shuttle buses from Macedon's Tony Clarke Reserve from 4.15 AM. The bus schedule and details on how to book a seat are attached.

Attendees are requested to ensure that they dress for the weather and bring a water bottle and a torch. Attendance is free but please bring some cash in the event you would like to purchase a snack or drink. As the event is planned and delivered by a fully volunteer organisation, any donation towards the ongoing conduct of the Dawn Service is appreciated. Please use this link to donate via our MyCause page <https://www.mycase.com.au/p/304013/mt-macedon-anzac-day-dawn-service-2023>

The Mount Macedon Anzac Day Dawn Service is possible through the generous support of several sponsors, and dozens of volunteers. We thank them for their commitment to our mission and the community.

More information about the Mount Macedon Anzac Day Dawn Service is available from our website: <https://www.mtmacedondawnservice.org/>

The public is encouraged to stay in touch with announcements through our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MountMacedonAnzacDayDawnService>

SUBMITTED BY MARCUS FIELDING



Photo courtesy of Mount Macedon Dawn Service Committee

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RSL Woodend Anzac Service



All Woodend community groups and residents are invited to join the members of the Woodend RSL in celebrating Anzac Day on 25 April again this year.

Those wishing to join veterans and community groups in the Anzac March, please assemble on the High Street slip road outside Bradleys by 11.30am. The March will end at the RSL premises, after pausing at the Vietnam and clock tower memorials.

Those wishing to attend the Anzac Service, please assemble at the front of the RSL at 32 Anslow St before 11.45am.

Attendees are welcome to remain for refreshments at the conclusion of the ceremony.

SUBMITTED BY JOHN MCCAUSLAND, PRESIDENT WOODEND RSL

Supporting the Good Friday Appeal!

As part of this year's Royal children's appeal, Ramai has teamed up with Josh's Rainbow Eggs to sell their special Chocolate Easter Eggs - with proceeds from each sale going to the Good Friday Appeal! Each chocolate egg is \$2.80.

Theo was born with bilateral renal cystic dysplasia. This meant he was being fed through a nasogastric tube for the first two years of his life (yep, that's a tube down his nose into his tiny belly) which helps support his growth and manages his kidney condition.



Over the years, Ramai Woodend has been the vessel for Mums from all over the Macedon Ranges to confide their stories. From relationship irks to full-blown dramas, Sam has heard them all. She has learnt that there is a recurring theme amongst Mums of sick kids. A theme that revolves around not feeling comfortable asking for help and feeling alone within a community of healthy babes. When it feels that everyone is celebrating the norms in life, these amazing parents are celebrating clear blood tests, nights without feeding tube accidents, little bodies having an hour without painful cries and wracking up kilometres in the family car taking trips to specialists and doctors. Often they are doing this in silence and are just 'getting on with it'. These parents are our neighbours, our friends, these are the members of our community that need our help and our love.

Sam feels privileged that these Mums confide in her and that she can provide a safe space for them. Sam feels lucky that Theo's Doctors have a clear plan for him... and feels amazingly overjoyed to have the Royal children's hospital supporting their family. Sam couldn't be prouder to support this cause annually.

-Written By Samantha Salas

So buy 1, buy 10 or buy 100! All support is appreciated! purchase in salon, call 0438062143 or online www.ramai.com.au



Rotary Vanuatu School Project completed

After several years of setbacks, the rural village of Mwast on the Vanuatu island of Espiritu Santo now has two new classrooms and an office.

The project began in 2017, when Woodend Rotarians Allan and Shirley Cann who have provided business mentoring for many years as volunteers in Vanuatu first suggested building classrooms in Vanuatu as a worthwhile project.

“We noticed that many primary school-age children were not attending school and were told by the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) that many parents could not afford to send children to school, and many schools were so overcrowded, new children were turned away.”

The Rotary Club of Woodend undertook to raise the funds to build the new classrooms. A budget of \$100,000 was considered necessary, and the project was made possible in part by a grant from The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International, and the commitment of the Rotary Club of Woodend, and the generosity of the Rotary clubs of Wendouree, Werribee, Yarra Bend, Kardinia and Swan Hill Sunrise. The Woodend community has also supported this project through generous donations, particularly through a collection tin at Bourkies Bakehouse and at community events.

The classrooms were originally planned to be built on the island of Ambae, but due to a volcanic eruption, the island was evacuated and some of the villagers relocated to Mwast.

Mwast is a small village 25 kms north of Luganville on the island of Epiritu Santo. It is reached by a 60-minute drive along a tortuous 4-wheel drive track. Some students and staff have a long walk to the school, and due to the distance, they have to travel and spend the week at the school, using the school buildings as their sleeping quarters after classes.

In early 2018, we signed a MOU with the Vanuatu Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) for the design, supervision and construction of the proposed school. The Rotary Clubs paid for the materials and the local villagers undertook to construct the school building themselves.

Allan, Shirley and myself visited Vanuatu to view progress on the Mwast School building in November 2019. The concrete slab had been manually poured (no ready mixed concrete) the concrete block work finished and preparation for the roof commenced.



Photo L-R Andrew - Foreman; Diallo Wabak - School Principal; Allan Cann - Woodend Rotary; Terry Longton - Woodend Rotary; Tanga Vera - Building Supervisor (MoET)-(deceased)

However in 2020 Cyclone Harold hit Vanuatu. The village suffered damage, but the school building was undamaged as it had been built to cyclone standards. Then Covid-19 arrived, and Vanuatu was closed to all travellers, and construction was halted for two years. In June 2022, MoET recommenced the construction, using funds from the Australian Government Cyclone Harold Reconstruction fund.

The Rotary Club of Woodend is delighted to finally see the completion of the International Project. The official school opening ceremony will be held mid-year and a self-funded group from the club are planning to attend.

SUBMITTED BY TERRY LONGTON



Photo Wash stations completed



Photo L-R A Diallo Wabak - School Principal, Shirley Cann - Woodend Rotary



Woodend Nursery launches new design service to reduce your landscape/softscape costs

As people start to feel the pain of less cash in their pocket but still want a new design or a garden refresh, at Woodend Nursery, we have developed a novel idea to save money but to still get the same results.

Across the Ranges, our customers want the perfect, picture-postcard garden but have tighter budgets. So we've launched a new design service, where we create a bespoke garden design, and the customer installs it for themselves, with guidance and support; learning about how to plant and how to maintain their garden moving forwards. It's a win/win for both us and the customer.

Newcomers to the area Ashley and Axel wanted to create a beautiful garden that was suitable for our unique microclimate.

"With two kids we just wanted a garden that looked awesome, gave us some privacy, attracted birds and bees, but mostly a garden that didn't need too much maintenance. With all the costs associated with the build of our new home, our budget for the garden was limited, but Cassius and his team suggested we do the tough and dirty work; and I even got friends and family to help with a working bee. Having someone source and supply all the plants saved us so much time. Also, working with an easy-to-understand design plan made the whole process seamless."
-Ashley and Axle

Cassius is a strong believer in using sustainable natives that improve biodiversity. Native plants survive on rainfall alone, provide habitat, shelter and food for local wildlife, and ultimately save you time and money

To find out more, book a consult at Woodend Nursery, or call 0400 939 656

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Get your business rainbow ready this IDAHOBIT



Woodend businesses and community organisations are invited to get rainbow-ready in time for this year's IDAHOBIT celebrations, by registering to receive a free 'Pride Pack', delivered by Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health.

IDAHOBIT is marked each year on 17 May around the globe as the International Day Against LGBTIQ+ Discrimination.

Included in the Pride Packs are:

- A pride flag
- 'Welcome Here' poster and information on the 'Welcome Here' initiative
- Information on IDAHOBIT
- Pride lapel pin
- Pride pen
- IDAHOBIT decal for your business or organisation's window

Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health has partnered with Macedon Ranges Shire Council's Economic Development team to encourage businesses to get creative with dressing up their windows or foyers with rainbows. There are some great prizes up for grabs for any registered business or community organisation with an ABN, for the most creative rainbow displays, including a \$1000 first prize voucher and \$500 second prize voucher to be used to engage the professional services of another Macedon Ranges business.

"We are proud to be partnering with Macedon Ranges Shire Council on this initiative," says Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health CEO, Phillip Ripper. "We know how important it is for the LGBTIQ+ community to see they are welcomed and supported by local businesses and community organisations.

This has a profoundly positive impact on people's sense of wellbeing, safety and belonging in their community."

Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health also encourages businesses to register for their online 'Safe and Inclusive Spaces Workshop', which is being delivered on

Wednesday 3 May, 7pm – 8.30pm – book your place here: www.surveymonkey.com/r/WelcomingSpaces2023.

To register for your free Pride Pack, go to: www.surveymonkey.com/r/IDAHOBITPridePack

For more information on any of these initiatives, call 5421-1666 or email healthpromotion@scchc.org.au.

SUBMITTED BY SARAH TURNER

What do rate rises mean for you?

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Mortgage Choice Woodend

Mortgage Choice Pty Ltd Australian Credit Licence 302968 and Smartline Concessions Pty Ltd Australian Credit Licence 385323, are owned by REA Group Ltd.

Big rise in local property prices helps Woodend mortgage broker to slash clients' repayments

The steep rise in Macedon Ranges house prices over the past few years is helping people to fight back against soaring mortgage rates.

Peter Machell, who runs Mortgage Choice in Woodend, has saved clients a combined total of \$13,500 in just four weeks.

He says people who have a \$400,000 mortgage and haven't recently reviewed it could secure at least half a percentage point off their current rate.

That would save them about \$2,000 in interest a year.

"In one instance, we negotiated a rate discount of 0.37 percentage points. This secured our client a saving of \$2,045 a year in interest," Peter said.

"Another client's rate was trimmed by 0.42 percentage points, resulting in a saving of \$1,662 a year in interest."

When reviewing a home loan, Peter and his team also assess the price of the property. If the price has risen substantially since the loan was last reviewed, they use it as leverage with lenders.

"People who took out a loan two or three years ago – especially first-home buyers – may have borrowed with little equity in their property. But now their home could be worth hundreds of thousands of dollars more," Peter said.

"Because the size of their loan is now smaller when compared with the value of their home, lenders become more willing to discuss a better rate."

Peter, who has been a mortgage broker for 20 years, is urging people to get a review of their mortgage if they haven't done so recently.

"In only four weeks since the middle of February, we've been able to save a combined \$13,503 a year in interest," he said.

Peter runs Mortgage Choice in High St, Woodend. Contact him on 5427 4262.

SUBMITTED BY PETER MACHELL, MORTGAGE CHOICE WOODEND

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Easter Saturday 08/04/23 **9am-4pm**

Easter Sunday 09/04/23 **CLOSED**
Easter Monday 10/04/23 **CLOSED**



The threat of English Ivy

For over forty years, Woodend Landcare and its predecessors have done a lot of work to control weeds along Five Mile Creek and in other areas, to eradicate the most invasive weeds, such as gorse, broom, willow and hawthorn, and to allow indigenous vegetation to flourish. In many areas, we are seeing great results.

But in recent years a new threat that is much harder to deal with has arisen: English Ivy (*Hedera helix*).

The rise of English Ivy in Woodend

After a wetter than average last three years coinciding with a reduced Landcare working bee program due to COVID, ivy has taken off.

English Ivy is an aggressive, highly invasive weed, and in Woodend it has no natural predators. It is generally spread by birds, illegal dumping of garden cuttings and seed, which the plant produces after climbing a tree or structure

As ivy thickly covers the ground in search of trees to climb, its thick ground layer prevents natural regeneration of seedlings, smothering and killing ground layer plants. Then when it finds a shrub or tree, it can climb up to 30 metres high, and once off the ground, produces flowers and black, berry-like fruit containing seeds, and eventually it kills the plant it has climbed.

By eliminating other plants, ivy reduces the diversity of native flora. Without a variety of plants for food and shelter,

native wildlife is also affected; leading to a loss of biodiversity in our reserves and backyards.

To humans, all parts of ivy are poisonous if ingested, and the sap is an irritant on contact. The plant is also covered in minute hairs, which may cause sneezing and eye irritation.

Getting rid of English Ivy

We all need to play our part in reducing the amount of ivy, and therefore increase the number and variety of native plants and animals, in Woodend.

Although ivy is difficult to get rid of, cutting the stems at the base of trees it is climbing prevents it from setting seed. Pulling up runners along the ground in smaller infestations can have a positive impact, as can smothering it with sheets of plastic or old carpet.

Control with herbicides is difficult and requires expert guidance or the use of a qualified, experienced contractor. In the home garden, "cutting and painting" using a small purpose-designed dabber bottle with a foam tip (think shoe polish applicator) containing glyphosate can be quite safe and effective.

All parts of ivy need to be disposed of in your green FOGO bin. Ivy is not accepted as green waste at any MRSC transfer stations.

While ivy can look attractive, it is capable of wiping out other plants, animals and insects. Ultimately it destroys our native biodiversity, if not on your property, then on a nearby reserve. If you have English Ivy growing in your



garden, we ask two things – either remove it or at the very least do not allow it to climb and set seed.

April Landcare Working Bees

Sunday 30 – Slaty Creek Reserve, Ashbourne Road; work site located on the left as you head out of Woodend. Plenty of off-road parking is available.

9am to noon. Morning tea provided.

For more information, call Peter on 0407339856 or email woodendlandcare@gmail.com

Thursday Crew – every Thursday morning, subject to weather. Contact Dave - dvbower@gmail.com

SUBMITTED BY PETER YATES, PRESIDENT
LANDCARE WOODEND

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Sustainable House Kits for hire

Council is pleased to partner with Goldfields Library to provide Sustainable House Kits. These kits allow you to conduct self-assessments of your home and offer practical tips to help increase energy efficiency and lower the cost of bills.

The kits include:

- Thermal camera – to identify draughts and heat/cooling-loss spots
- Power Meter – to identify electricity usage of individual appliances
- Energy saving thermometer – to build understanding of seasonal temperature comfort levels
- The Energy Freedom Home handbook – a practical guide to home energy efficiency and reduction.

Kits can be borrowed via the Woodend and Gisborne libraries, using a library card. For information and availability, contact the libraries directly (Gisborne 5428 3962; Woodend 5427 2074) or visit <https://www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au/>.

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN, MRSC

A small act makes a big impact.

Remember to always put your recycling in the bin, loose. Take a moment to update your recycling knowledge.

Visit mrcs.vic.gov.au/bins



Expert panel debates conservation approach 'rewilding' in Central Victoria

Hosted by local conservation organisation, Biolinks Alliance – an expert panel including representatives from ecology, research and the Dja Dja Wurrung – are set to debate whether 'rewilding' can solve widespread environmental challenges in Central Victoria.

'Rewilding' is embraced worldwide as an approach that goes beyond saving single species or patches of remaining habitat, to restoring the wider natural processes, and missing species that support life.

This free event brings together an eminent panel of experts and thinkers to discuss what rewilding could look like in Central Victoria, why it hasn't been taken up widely so far, and what potential it has to restitch the natural fabric of life in the region, so it can support future generations.

With Victoria being the most cleared state in Australia and having lost at least 13 mammal species in the last 200 years, the need for rewilding could not be greater, yet the approach has not taken hold here to the extent it has elsewhere in Australia.

"Restoring nature across large scales – together with drastically reducing greenhouse emissions – is the great environmental challenge of this decade," says Dr. Sophie

Bickford, Biolinks Alliance Executive Director.

Event panelists include Darren Grover, Head, Healthy Land and Seascapes at World Wildlife Fund Australia; Dr Tristan Derham, Research Associate at University of Tasmania; Amos Atkinson, Dja Dja Wurrung; and Paul Foreman, Conservation Strategist and Ecologist at Biolinks Alliance.

"We are convening leading thinkers to explore whether rewilding can restore nature at the extent and speed we urgently need here in Central Victoria," Dr. Bickford said.

Through its own scientific expertise and leadership, Biolinks Alliance supports the restoration of wildlife and landscapes in Central Victoria, by partnering with and building the capacity of other environmental groups and networks.

This free event will be held at 3pm on Sunday 7 May at Kyneton Mechanics Institute 81 Mollison St, Kyneton,

For more information about tickets, contact Ellie McKenna: ellie@centralvicbiolinks.org.au

SUBMITTED BY: BIOLINKS ALLIANCE (WWW.BIOLINKSALLIANCE.ORG.AU)

Living With E-Bikes and Electric Vehicles in the Macedon Ranges

The Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group (MRSRG) is holding a series of events in April as part of the Macedon Ranges Shire Council's growing and popular Autumn Festival.

Held in conjunction with the Woodend Neighbourhood House, the first ever E-Bike Expo on April 1 will host and showcase a range of e-bikes, including Dutch cargo bikes; Giant e-bikes courtesy of local business, Woodend Cycles; along with a variety of bikes owned by community members, who will be there to share their experiences of living with an e-bike in the Macedon Ranges.

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

If you have been exploring the transition to electric vehicles, then the Malmsbury Electric Vehicle Expo on April 15 will explore the pros and cons of moving to electric vehicles, with a range of EV industry experts presenting on topics such as classic car conversions, preparing your home for an electric vehicle, and new EVs available in Australia in 2023.

Come to the Malmsbury Expo and presentations on transitioning to EVs in the Macedon Ranges and discover lots of models and options including a classic Land Rover that has been converted by guest presenter David Budge (pictured).

Bookings and more information can be found at mrsg.org.au/slf

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



Cool-ER Changes collaboration for climate change

Thank you to everyone that attended Council's Cool-ER Changes Launch at Kyneton Town Hall on 2 March. Around 150 people attended the event, showing a collective commitment to climate action here in the Macedon Ranges.

The Cool-ER Changes project will result in Council's inaugural Climate Emergency Response Plan, outlining our key strategic approach to enacting our Declaration of Climate Emergency.

A highlight of the night was the premiere screening on 'Bridging the Divide', a short film with climate conversations between our younger and older communities, which can be

viewed at mrsc.vic.gov.au/BTD

During March, Council also hosted the first two of six themed Cool-ER Changes workshops, which allowed collaborative conversations between community members, Council and local agencies. A big thank you to all who attended the 'Nurturing Nature' and 'Climate-ready Communities' workshops.

The next two workshops are:

Workshop 3 – Post Fossil Fuels

Thursday 20 April, 6-8.15pm, Gisborne Community Centre

From electric vehicles and sustainable transport, to neighbourhood batteries and community-owned renewables, what does a post-fossil fuels world look like in the Macedon Ranges?

Workshop 4 – Health & Wellbeing

Thursday 4 May, 6-8.15pm, Romsey Hub

From future-proofing community sport, to strengthening our mental health. Let's be a community that prioritises its physical health and wellbeing in a climate crisis.

A light vegetarian dinner will be provided at each workshop.

Join us to help address the climate emergency in our own backyard. For more information and to register, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/Cool-ER-Changes

Let's talk about climate change and health and wellbeing

Council has also developed two handy factsheets about health and wellbeing and climate change, plus conversation cards to use at home, school or work. For copies, email environment@mrsc.vic.gov.au

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN, MRSC



Keatings

Real Estate



View to Mount William taken from property (Please note the dam in the photograph is not on the property)

Lancefield

Lot 4 Grahams Road

**8.28 Ha (20.4 Acres)
with Planning Permit**

An excellent small acreage hobby farmlet featuring very productive red volcanic soils, excellent views in all directions from elevated position, good pastures, seasonal creek, fully fenced and only 4 kms from Lancefield town centre.

This could be your opportunity to build your dream tree change residence with a planning permit recently issued by the Macedon Ranges Shire to build a dwelling on the property.

The land is suitable for a variety of uses including cattle, sheep, horses, horticulture or viticulture etc.

Price \$965,000
Terms 10% deposit, balance 60/90 days
Zone Rural Living Zone schedule 1 (RLZ1)
John Keating 0419 880 444



Goldie (Lancefield)

Pyalong Road

**48.1 Ha (119 Acres)
with Planning Permit**

A large farming acreage with great character located 9 kms from Lancefield town centre and featuring stunning long uninterrupted panoramic views to both the Macedon Ranges and to the north and with a recently issued planning permit from the Macedon Ranges Shire to allow a dwelling on the property.

The land rises from its sealed road frontage and the topography varies from undulating to very steep at the back of the property.

Other features include excellent soils suitable for a variety of farming activities and could be ideal for a vineyard, good pastures, some attractive mature native trees, a small dam, and an electricity supply available along the Pyalong Road frontage.

Price \$1,650,000
Terms 10% deposit, balance 60/90 days
Zone Farming Zone (FZ)
John Keating 0419 880 444

Tackling food insecurity locally: Woodend Neighbourhood House launches new Community Food Bank

Community members facing hardship now have improved access to pantry staples and frozen meals, thanks to a new food bank in the undercroft of the Woodend Neighbourhood House.



The new location helps Woodend Neighbourhood House better respond to the increasing demand for food relief.

Melissa Baker, manager of Woodend Neighbourhood House has seen first hand how important this service is to the local community.

“We first set up a community food swap at the end of 2021, with the idea that people could take what they need or leave what they could. Very quickly, demand outstripped supply, so we knew we needed to do more,” she said.

Thanks to the support of Woodend Men’s Shed, Gisborne Food Bank, CareWorks Sunbury, Bunnings Sunbury, Givit, and after several generous donations from members of the community, the Woodend Neighbourhood House has set up a dedicated space in the undercroft to better serve those in need.

“Our clients come from all walks of life and there is no shame in asking for help. Life happens to all of us, and the new food bank, just like the Woodend Neighbourhood House, is here for everyone,” said Melissa.

The service is staffed by volunteers and offers a range of food and personal hygiene items.

“We’re now calling on our community to consider how they can support this vital service. There are collections bins in both Coles and IGA in Woodend for extra items in your shopping trolley, and cash donations can be made in person at the Woodend Neighbourhood House between 9am – 3pm Monday to Friday.”

“We’re also asking anyone who can spare a couple of hours a month to get in touch to add their name to the roster. Shifts are two hours long, training is provided, and you will be paired with another volunteer each shift,” said Melissa.

The Woodend Community Food Bank is open on Mondays and Thursdays between 12.30pm and 2.30pm. Access to the undercroft is via the gates by the skate park, off Margery Crescent, Woodend.

SUBMITTED BY MELISSA BAKER

Photo Woodend Neighbourhood House volunteers Zonia and Sally at the Woodend Community Food Bank

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

WANTED

Farm/grazing land to lease

Located within the Macedon Ranges
Regenerative practices used for livestock
No fencing necessary

Matt - 0403 297 737

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HAY - round bales

This seasons cut, great horse hay
\$70/bale – discount for 10+ bales
Collection only from location at Rochford

Andrew - 0419 842 929

HELP NEEDED

Tylden/Woodend Uniting Church Op Shop is looking for Volunteers.

If you are interested contact Fiona Armour
0492 932 610

Must have or be willing to apply for a
Working with Children card.
Training will be provided.





Amazing Activities for the school holidays

The Easter school holidays are here very soon, and as always, the library has several fun activities lined up, including:

- Write Like an Egyptian – crack the code and learn how to write your name in hieroglyphs
- Autumn Leaves – come in and decorate an Autumn leaf to put on our special tree
- Green screen sessions with David

While some of our activities are available on a walk-in basis, for some, bookings are essential. To find out more, come in and pick up a copy of our School Holiday Program brochure, head to goldfieldslibraries.com or phone us on 5427 2074.

Poetry as a Memoir – Saturday 22 April, 10–11.30am

In this friendly workshop, meet the hosts of Heathcote's monthly original poetry event, the Pizza Box Poets. In the session, you'll explore modern poetry

and its role in telling personal stories, then learn a variety of easy and fun techniques to create the beginnings of your own memoir poem.

For adults. No previous poetry writing experience necessary.

Bookings essential – head to goldfieldslibraries.com or phone the library directly on 5427 2074.

Curious Kids in the Library – Friday 5 May, 10–10.45am



Woodend Storytime again welcomes special guest Angela from the Discovery Science & Technology Centre. Angela will show how we are all scientists in our own way, with stories, songs, and a take-home activity! For ages 3 to 5 years.

Macedon Ranges Libraries on Facebook and Instagram

Looking for Library news and events online? Did you know we have moved

to the new Macedon Ranges Libraries pages on Facebook and Instagram?

These new pages combine news and events from the four libraries in our area: Woodend, Gisborne, Kyneton and Romsey. We know many Woodend Library patrons already take an interest in events and activities at our neighbouring libraries and vice versa, so it makes sense to let people know what's going on through one combined page.

Find our new Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MacedonRangesLibraries and our new Instagram page at www.instagram.com/macedonrangeslibraries

Most Wanted List – New Mysteries coming out in 2023!

Reserve your copy on our website: goldfieldslibraries.com using your membership number and password.



SUBMITTED BY EMMA KEENAN



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- Personal Injuries Litigation
- Powers of Attorney, Guardianship & Administration of Estates
- Retail & Commercial Leases

A cleaner, greener way to keep your bathroom sparkling!

Macedon Ranges Glass have invested in the technology and training to take the hard work out of cleaning your new shower screens, mirrors and splashbacks. Macedon Ranges Glass is now the only accredited EnduroShield suppliers and applicators in the Ranges and can offer this service to new shower screens in-house.

EnduroShield eliminates the need to use harsh and often toxic cleaners, making it an environmentally responsible low-maintenance solution for glass surfaces. A recommended regular wipe down with vinegar and water solution is all that is required, meaning less water, energy and chemicals are required over subsequent years.

The permanent* easy-clean protection of EnduroShield means that the use of harsh chemicals is eliminated, and because you clean less often, you use less water. Not only do you use less of this precious resource, but by not having cleaning chemicals going down your drain, you are helping to protect the waterways and oceans of the world. The benefit to the environment is cumulative and ongoing, a small way of making a change for all our futures.

Contact the team at Macedon Ranges Glass in Gisborne or Kyneton to discuss your options.

*Based on 10 years of simulated normal use and certified by TÜV Rheinland, Germany.

SUBMITTED BY NIKKI BARKER ON BEHALF OF MACEDON RANGES GLASS



Woodend – Burke Unit Cub Scouts making a difference

Recently, Cubs from Woodend Scout Group participated in Clean Up Australia Day, focusing on the area around the Scout Hall. Here are some comments from the Cubs.

Vivi – We collected rubbish around the Scout Hall. I wanted to do the activity because I wanted to make a difference in our environment. The amount of litter we picked up in 20 minutes was worth being horrified about. It was hundreds of pieces of rubbish. I hope people will litter less and protect our environment.

Walter – It was very disappointing to see how much rubbish was around the hall when we went looking. It's a real shame the number of people that simply don't care about the beautiful countryside we live in.

Charlie – Collecting the rubbish showed me how careless we can be and how much waste we produce, in the bin, and worst of all, with littering.

Hudson – It's good to pick up litter, as it makes our town look nicer and more inviting, plus litter can be harmful to animals, who could get caught in it or eat it if they mistake it for food.

SUBMITTED BY CHRIS EAGLE

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Lions Art Show impresses for another year

The 'Show' is always a blast, and this last long weekend was no exception. The experience of three days of showing hundreds of works created by local artists, to a constant and appreciative audience wandering through is exciting, and a warm contact with the people of our village and interested drop-ins. The works spanned many media, many subjects and a cornucopia of styles. Both experienced artists and people in the early years of their creative output hung together. The growing Junior section is full of talent and telling insights.

The judges, Adam Cusack and Amanda Marburg, faced a daunting challenge. An accomplished water colour by Carolyn Marrone 'Trash and Treasure' was designated Best in Show. A local icon John Walsh won the best oil/acrylic with 'Evening Light Hanging Rock'. Judy Perfect's piece 'Winter Light Guildford' took out the best watercolour. Freya MacLaren's 'Artichoke #4' stood out for the judges in the broad field of Other Media. The piece 'Portrait of My Father' was awarded best photograph. In the dynamic field of the Junior awards, Eliza Ransome with 'Tiger's Eye' and Sam Ransome's 'Night Snowman' took out the honours. Julia Bajcsi with 'Bohemian Feast' was seen as the best Local artist.

More than a third of all works hung were sold to a keen and enthusiastic community.

The YouTube clip 'Woodend Lions Art Show 2023', which recorded the judge's deliberations over each prize winner, was widely viewed and remains informative. That this event

takes place in St Ambrose Hall, generously offered by the parish, is a heart-warming testament.

A distinctive feature of this year's show is the number of community members that offered to help with transporting, setting up and packing down the display boards, accessioning art in and out and at the show itself. These willing gestures were of immense assistance to the Lions Club members, themselves volunteers, in pulling off the Show and we are grateful. It's how community is made, lending a hand.

During the Covid years, the Woodend Lions Club didn't ask local businesses for sponsorship, as we thought the times were tough enough. This year, Gordon at Gardener's Path Nursery generously offered to lend the many potted plants to decorate the hall and Delta V Experts, unasked, offered to sponsor the photography prize, in memory of John Blom. A welcome act from long-time friends of the show.

So, the money raised from this show will fund the many projects that Woodend Lions are involved in and is achieved by volunteers, with no admin costs.

SUBMITTED BY LINDA HEALY



Travelling for learning

The massive Messe Stuttgart in Germany plays host to the world's leading trade fair for roller shutters, doors/gates and sun shading systems, and every three years – give or take a pandemic! – companies present their innovations and demonstrate their solutions for the central themes in the sector. R+T is considered a meeting point, a barometer for trends; and a platform for innovation that Michael and Kate feel fortunate to have been able to attend in recent years.

Travelling abroad also makes it possible to visit international partners like Verosol in Eibergen, Netherlands; Markilux in Emsdetten, Germany and Somfy in Cluses, France – even fabric houses in Paris!

The next planned travelling expedition is a bit closer to home – the SuperExpo in June, hosted in Queensland!

Whatever the destination, Michael and Kate love travelling to learn and to bring back ideas and innovations to the Ranges for beautiful, functional and high-quality solutions for their customers.

your place



Photo: the Markilux company history at a glance

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A message from your local police sergeant

Hi, I thought I'd start my monthly article on a brief rundown on what's occurring across our region, as well as what we have planned in the coming months in the Woodend area, from a policing perspective. But first, I'd like to thank everyone who has taken the time to speak to me upon my return, and the positive feedback about my writing in The New Woodend Star.

There have been the usual reports of theft within the area, and it would be fair to say that most, if not all, of these have been thefts by opportunity. This typically happens for things that haven't been put away, have been left in the open, or are in unlocked garages and/or sheds.

These are generally preventable by just taking the precaution of putting something away in a locked shed/garage, locking the bike up to a post when you are up the street or not leaving the car unlocked in the driveway at night. Locking things and putting things away is far better than having to report it to the Police Assistance Line (PAL - 131 444) and battling with your insurance company.

Easter can be a challenging time for policing and the other emergency services, as it is historically a period of more collisions/injuries occurring on our roads. As such, we are tasked to undertake a number of enforcement measures in an attempt to curb this. It's no secret that we will be doing a lot of random breath testing and enforcing speed limits, and we are always looking at distraction-type offences, for example being on your mobile phone.

I hope you have a safe and enjoyable Easter, that you have some time off with the people you want to spend time with. But please remember we will be out in force on the roads to ensure not only your safety, but that of everyone else.

SUBMITTED BY DAVID ARNOLD, SERGEANT, WOODEND POLICE



Woodend CFA Royal Children's Hospital Appeal

The Woodend CFA will once again be collecting on behalf of the Royal Children's Hospital on Good Friday, April 7. Volunteers will begin collecting at around 9am and will cover as much of the Woodend area as they can during the day. The Hesket-Kerrie and Newham CFA brigades will also be collecting at the same time.

The Macedon Ranges community is normally very generous, and we're sure this will continue.

DONATE ONLINE NOW AT THE WOODEND



VIRTUAL TIN SHAKE

If you are not going to be home on Good Friday, we miss you on the day, or you would like donate at your convenience online, you can visit the Woodend CFA Virtual Tin Shake and donate online: <https://fundraise.goodfridayappeal.com.au/fundraisers/Woodend>

Or you can drop donations off at the CFA stations in Urquhart Street on any Sunday morning.

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DANAU, WOODEND CFA



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Cate Kennedy inspires at Chamber Poets #86

On the sunny Saturday of the Labour Day long weekend, a collection of wordsmiths gathered at the Woodend RSL for the 86th Chamber Poets spoken word event.

Despite being a more intimate group than the previous month's tenth anniversary celebration, there was a wide variety of poets and musicians from the Macedon Ranges and beyond, who shared their words in the Open section to start off the afternoon.

The poems and songs performed spanned a variety of topics, such as an analysis of diacritics, reflections on the war in Ukraine; lyrics of journeys, death and hope; as well as quirky tales of body bags and witches.

To honour International Women's Day, which took place earlier in the week, award-winning Victorian poet Cate Kennedy was chosen as the featured speaker of the day.

Kennedy generously used the poems and songs from the performers in the Open Section as inspiration for which of her own works to share. She read from her collection, *The Taste of River Water*, and from a collaborative project titled *Return*, with photographer Helga Salwe, and also several unpublished poems from her upcoming collection, which is yet to be titled.

Myron Lysenko, the founder of Chamber Poets, says, "Cate would be an amazing Poet Laureate. Her words move the audience and somehow make us feel like better people just by listening to the way she spins her compassionate, empathetic poetry webs around us. Her choice of metaphors is perfect, and her poetry resonates."

Cate chose Woodend writer Steve Lagerway as the Poet of the Month, admitting it was a difficult task due to the high calibre of the Open Section participants.

As with every Chamber Poets event, the poignant and whimsical house band Black Forest Smoke entertained the crowd at various intervals throughout the afternoon with original classics such as "Famous Last Words" and "Chernobyl Dead Zone".

Kat Buttigieg says, "What an amazing and inspiring afternoon I had at Chamber Poets chatting and listening to other poets and musicians. Cate's poetry was incredible and accessible in equal amounts. Her carefully crafted phrases provoked images and introspection from the audience, evoking tears, smiles and laughter. My creative cup is full. I can't wait to read her poetry collections".

Poets, musicians and the general public are warmly invited to the April event on the 15th from 1pm at the Woodend RSL, featuring Melbourne haiku group Fringe Myrtles who will help the audience celebrate International Haiku Day.

Chamber Poets is usually held on the second Saturday of the month, but will be on the third Saturday next month owing to the Easter holiday weekend.

Come for an entertaining afternoon celebrating words and music for a small donation at the discretion of the attendee.

Queries: Myron Lysenko myronpoet@hotmail.com

SUBMITTED BY KATRINA BUTTIGIEG



Photo: Cate Kennedy, the featured poet, awarding the Poet of the Month to Woodend writer, Steve Lagerway.

Another successful Lancefield Macedon Ranges Relay For Life

Those little flames, those candles placed with such care and love are the memory I cherish from the Relay For Life (from the poem by Robyn Poletti)

The 2023 Lancefield Macedon Ranges Relay For Life has been run successfully, raising over \$50,000 for the Cancer Council, on a warm 32 degree day.

The Relay was preceded by local Gisborne resident, Associate Professor Jane Oliaro from the Peter MacCallum Hospital, who spoke about the importance of the research she does in extending the lives of many sufferers. She spoke of real people who had been helped by immunotherapy and various drug trials now available as a result of research funded in part by Relays.

Walking then began in perfect sunny and warm conditions. Fourteen teams registered, with many walkers in each team.

During the day, lots of fun and activities entertained the kids and adults alike. Local musicians played hours of live music, all voluntarily, showing the immense talent that can be found in the Macedon Ranges.

The Newham Primary School choir, together with the Gisborne Singers' performance of *Amazing Grace* and *Ave Verum*, brought to an end the day as we watched those little flames around the oval; each one placed with care and representing an individual loved by us.

To all those participants at the Lancefield Park in our Relay For Life, held for the 20th year on Saturday, 4 March, 2023, you can be rightly proud of the wonderful sum of money raised for the Cancer Council. Over the 20 years we have raised over \$1.7 million.

Without you, our volunteers and of course our generous donors, these funds would not be available to fund researchers and clinicians to keep up the fight against cancer. The funds also assist the programs that support sufferers and the advocacy work of the Cancer Council.

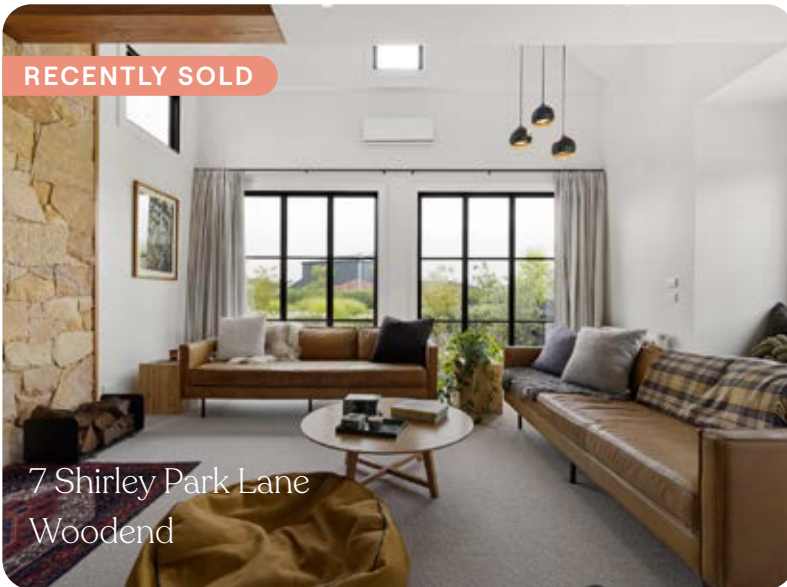
To all those involved including the volunteers, the sponsors, the Teams, the participants and the donors a sincere thank you.

SUBMITTED BY MAUREEN WILTSHIRE

Photo: by Rob Stenson.



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Supporting your community. Happy to be a 'support act' – 2023 Tylden Primary School Fair

Community investment is at the heart of the Community Bank Trentham & Districts' model. Giving back is more than just a financial contribution, it's an extension of the good that banking locally offers your community, and this year is no exception.

We are pleased to have been part of the 2023 Tylden Primary School Fair, sponsoring the First Aid Station under the Community Bank Marquee, with our beloved 'Wombat' mascot making an appearance at the Kids' Activity Table. There's no doubt this was a standout community event that had something for everybody.

Congratulations to everyone involved in making the day a huge success. Being part of the bigger picture and supporting our districts are yet again tangible examples of the good that banking locally can offer and in return, strengthens communities for the long term.

For a better banking experience, call us on 5424 1608 or drop into the Trentham branch.

SUBMITTED BY CHARL PARRIS



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Delivering first aid within the Macedon Ranges since 2015!

Are you worried about the increase in high electricity bills and want to switch to a clean and renewable source of energy?

Solar power might just be the answer you're looking for! But before you rush to install solar panels on your roof, you need to know that not all solar panels are created equal. High quality solar panels can make a big difference in terms of efficiency, lifespan, warranty, and environmental impact. So, why settle for less when you can have the best?

Here's why high quality solar matters:

- **Better efficiency:** High quality solar panels are designed to capture more energy from the sun. That means you can produce more electricity. This not only saves you money, but suits our Macedon Ranges climate.
- **Better for the environment:** High quality solar panels are made with better materials, technology and manufacturing processes. At Bluegum we recommend REC solar panels, because they are manufactured in Singapore with sustainable processes from start to finish, and built to last.
- **Longer lifespan:** High quality solar panels are built to last. They can withstand extreme weather conditions, like hail and snow, and they won't break down easily. That means you'll have reliable and efficient solar power for many years to come.
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Are you interested in installing high quality solar? Book a consultation with Bluegum today! Scan the QR code below or call us on 1300 306 342 to get started.

Bluegum is a local solar company that can help you choose the right panels for your home and install them quickly and efficiently. Don't wait - start enjoying the benefits of high quality solar power today!

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Steve Petersen - Woodend

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Environment and Healthy Landscape events in April

Council's autumn calendar of environment events is full of exciting opportunities for you to get involved:

Creatures of the night - spotlight events

Our biodiversity monitoring program includes surveying for night animals that are found by the roadsides within our biolink areas. Five spotlight evenings will be held in the following areas:

- 4 April – 7pm, Bullengarook
- 6 April – 7pm, Newham
- 11 April – 7pm, Kyneton
- 13 April – 7pm, Lauriston
- 18 April – 7pm, Riddells Creek

To find out more about this event and to register, visit www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/environment-events

St Mary's Knit and Natter monthly meeting

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

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

For further information, contact Sylvia on 0488 776 645.

SUBMITTED BY JANE FRAZER



FIRE DANGER PERIOD ENDING

By the time this edition is printed, the FDP may have been lifted, and some residents will be able to burn off again. Please check the Woodend CFA website to see the actual dates.

Change your clock, change your smoke alarm battery

Sunday 2 April is the end of daylight saving. While you're changing your clock is the perfect time to also change your smoke alarm batteries.

The message is quite simple: only working smoke alarms save lives. If there's no sound from your smoke alarm, there's no warning.

It is smoke inhalation, not flame or heat, that kills the majority of fire victims. When asleep, our sense of smell is largely diminished, and we're unlikely to smell smoke. The smoke may also put occupants into a deeper sleep, so a smoke alarm actually helps wake you.

Smoke alarms are compulsory in every home

Victorian law states that smoke alarms (complying with Australian Standards) must be installed in all homes, units, flats and townhouses. It is the responsibility of all owners and landlords to install working smoke alarms.

Homes constructed after 1 August, 1997 must have smoke alarms connected to 240-volt mains power. These smoke alarms must also have a backup battery installed, in case there is a loss of power, and these batteries should be replaced regularly.

Newer photoelectric smoke alarms with lithium batteries can last for up to 10 years without the need to change the battery. Please note, ALL smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years to ensure optimum safe operation.

Special smoke alarms are also available for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. For further details visit the Expression Australia (formerly VicDeaf) website: <https://www.expression.com.au/services/smoke-alarm-subsidy>

For further information, contact the Woodend CFA on 5427 2356, email woodendcfa@gmail.com or visit the station in Urquhart Street.

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

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, EX-CAPTAIN WOODEND CFA



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The best of regional CWA of Victoria Branches on show.

The CWA Central Highlands Group Creative Arts Exhibition is back, and we hope that this year's exhibition, to be held in Lancefield, is bigger than ever!

Creative Arts Convenor Bev Goodman (Sunbury Stars Branch) and her volunteers are eagerly awaiting a flurry of entries from members of the 11 branches across the group, which range from Craigieburn to Heathcote, and from Gisborne to Romsey. The CWA Woodend Eves Branch, part of the Central Highlands group of branches, will be participating too.

Whether craft or cookery, this year's exhibition is bound to be the best one yet, so come along to the Mechanic's Institute in Lancefield on Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 April. Members, friends, family and all of the communities in and around the Macedon Ranges are welcome to see the skills and competitive spirit on show across 222 entry categories. The announcement of winners and presentation of trophies will take place at 1.30pm on the Sunday of the event.

It wouldn't be a CWA event without some home-style catering, and this year is no different, with the branches cooking up a storm to provide lunch, and morning and afternoon teas.

There will be craft demonstrations and of course, a raffle or two! Can't wait to see everyone in April!

The CWA Woodend Eves branch meets every 3rd Tuesday at 7pm at the Woodend Neighbourhood House. All women are welcome. Visit our Facebook or Instagram pages for more information, or email cwawoodendeves@gmail.com.



SUBMITTED BY MEL PRITCHARD, VICE PRESIDENT OF CWA WOODEND EVES BRANCH




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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

— APRIL —

- 1..... Woodend Farmers' Market
- 1..... E-Bike Expo at Woodend Neighbourhood House
- 1..... Meet & Three Veg Action group at Library
- 1-2..... Phoenix Macedon Ranges Art & Craft Sale
- April 2..... Daylight Saving ends
- 2..... WWAFF Launch Concert Joseph Tawadros
- 6..... Rotary Dinner Meeting, Vic Hotel
- 7..... Good Friday
- 9..... Easter Sunday
- 10..... Easter Monday
- 13..... Rotary Dinner Meeting, Vic Hotel
- 14..... Macedon Ranges Film Society
- 15..... E-Vehicles expo Malmsbury
- 16..... Lions Sunday Market
- 19..... Knit and Natter, Norma Richardson Hall
- 20..... Rotary Dinner Meeting, Vic Hotel
- 22-13..... Open Studios, Macedon
- 25..... Mt Macedon Dawn Service
- 25..... Anzac Day Service RSL
- 28..... Melbourne Int Comedy Festival Roadshow
- 30..... Woodend Landcare Working Bee
- 30..... Deisel, Kyneton Town Hall

— MAY —

- 6..... Woodend Farmers' Market
- 6..... Spudfest Trentham
- 17..... Knit and Natter, Norma Richardson Hall
- 21..... Lions Sunday Market

— JUNE —

- 3..... Woodend Farmers' Market
- 9-12..... Woodend Winter Arts Festival
- 12..... King's Birthday public holiday
- 18..... Lions Sunday Market
- 21..... Knit and Natter, Norma Richardson Hall



Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow

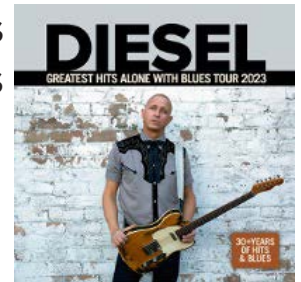
7.30pm, Friday 28 April



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

Diesel: Greatest Hits Alone with the Blues Tour 2023

7.30pm Sunday 30 April



An intimate two-set solo concert performance designed especially for theatres.

"This show is arguably the most encompassing concert performance and song collection I've curated to date. It makes for an uplifting experience for both the audience and myself. I feel they are getting ALL of me with this one. I simply

Bird walk for beginners – Jacksons Creek, Gisborne

Thursday 20 April, 9-10am, Jacksons Creek Gisborne.

Join bird enthusiast and Biodiversity Project Officer, Tanya Loos, along Jacksons Creek for an hour with the birds. Learn to identify the little birds, practice using Birddata to record your sightings. Monthly walks will be held on the third Thursday of each month.

Horses – How to graze them in a sustainable way, Gisborne

7 May, 10-11.30am, Gisborne

Horse owners are invited to discuss how the changing of paddock grazing has impacted the horse, owner, grasses and soil.

Cultural Heritage Community Information Session

26 May, 10am-2.30pm, Lauriston Hall

This session with Dja Dja Wurrung is designed for land managers covering topics such as:

- Identifying cultural heritage, artefacts and living heritage (trees, food and fibre)
- What to do when you have identified cultural heritage and the different ways it can be protected
- The role of fire in the landscape.

To find out more about all of the above events and to register, visit www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/environment-events

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN, MRSC

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Macedon Ranges Film Society

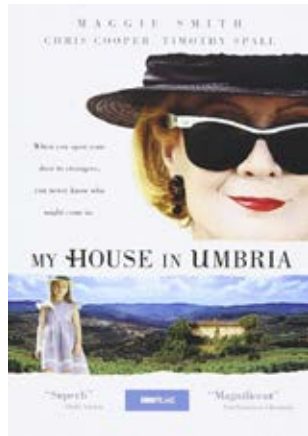
The March screening of the Irish film *The Quiet Girl* was preceded by the AGM of the Macedon Ranges Film Society. The Society goes into a new year with a healthy bank balance and strong membership numbers.

Our screening for April is the acclaimed film 'My House in Umbria' starring Maggie Smith, Chris Cooper and Ronnie Barker. The countryside of Umbria, Lazio and Tuscany provide sumptuous settings for the camera and the acting keeps the viewer engaged.

The meeting is on Friday 14 April at our 'home' in the Norma Richardson Hall in Woodend. We gather at 7pm for 7.15pm and members may enjoy a beverage during the film. Supper and wine are offered after the screening, providing an informal opportunity to discuss the film, the weather or any other matters of mutual interest.

New members are always welcome. Enquiries can be made by emailing mrfilmsociety@gmail.com, Further information, including the year's full program, can be obtained from the MRFS website: www.mrfilmsociety.org

SUBMITTED BY NEIL APLIN



Open Studios Macedon 2023

Macedon artists are opening their studios to the public on the weekend 22- 23 April between 10am and 4pm.

Ten artists from the group will welcome visitors to their studios, set in their gardens, to share their particular artistic expressions, processes and working environments. There is an amazing range of skills that will be shown – including pottery, painting, drawing, photography, textiles and printmaking. The studios are within a short distance from each other and marked on the map in the Open Studios brochure. There is also a display at Top of the Range Tearooms at the summit of Mt.Macedon.

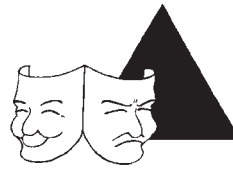


Photo: Jo Hoyne at her garden studio

So come and enjoy autumn in the Macedon area, combining art and food from the nearby cafes. All works are for sale. Look for brochures at The Gallery Mt Macedon, Trading Post Mt Macedon and local cafes and businesses in the Macedon Ranges. We are on Instagram @openstudiosmacedon.

SUBMITTED BY SUE ANSON

The Mount Players Happenings



The Mount Players

The Mount Players strive to support a local charity in some way at many of their productions, and Gisborne Foodbank was their choice during

The 39 Steps. Thanks to the generosity of our patrons and 50% of ticket sales from our Thursday performance, we were ecstatic to raise \$1,665! A huge amount of food and toiletry donations were also collected across all performances and presented to Foodbank, who of course will now use the donations to provide assistance to many people who really need it in our current economic climate. Thanks to all of our patrons who made this fund raiser such a success.

For many years now The Players have also supported the Macedon CFA by collecting donations for programs at every show. At the recent CFA family day in Macedon on 24 February, we presented a cheque to them for \$1,181.40! Another thank you for the generosity of our patrons. It's fantastic to know we are all part of a community that supports one another in this way.

Now in full rehearsal, the Mount Players' second production, *Buried Child* is an intense drama by Sam Shepard that takes a macabre look at an American Midwestern family with a dark, terrible secret. This play brought its author the Pulitzer Prize in Drama. Although dark in many respects, it is delivered with humour and pathos. Heavily atmospheric and challenging, the play will entrance its audience with questions of morality and its take on the disintegration of the American dream. There is hope however, as the final moments of the play suggest salvation with a surprise ending. The season runs from 12-28 May.

Book your tickets at www.themountplayers.com or call 5426 1892 for assistance. See you at the theatre!

SUBMITTED BY KAREN HUNT

Photo: Wally van Dort and Craig Lenaine-Smith



Board games and cards for over 55s

Meet, gather and keep connected with like-minded individuals in your community who are aged over 55, with casual rounds of cards and board games.

- Mahjong - Friday 28 April, Riddells Creek Neighbourhood House
- Chess - Friday 26 May, Gisborne Community Centre
- Scrabble - Friday 23 June, Lancefield Neighbourhood House – The Townhouse
- Backgammon - Friday 28 July, Romsey Co-op Café

From 10.30am-12pm, followed by light refreshments. Registration is essential. Call Abbey on 5422 0262 or email villageconnect@mrsc.vic.gov.au

For more information about all of the above events and the Village Connect program, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/village-connect

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN, MRSC

Autumn Festival 2023

Gather friends and family, and experience autumn in your own backyard from 1–30 April. A month-long program of curated trails and itineraries, foodie experiences, artisan workshops, autumn gardens, farmers markets and events is on offer across the shire.

Follow the popular Autumn Pie & Tart Trail, or vote for your favourite plant-based dish on the Macedon Ranges Edgy Veg Trail. Wet your whistle on a variety of Tipple Trails, where you'll get a taste of local wine, craft beer, gin and cider served up in our country pubs, distillery doors and breweries.

There will be so much to see and do across the shire during autumn! To plan your itinerary, go to: visitmacedonranges.com/autumn-festival



Autumn flower show back after an absence of four years



The Kyneton Horticultural Society is excited to once again host its annual Autumn Flower show at the Watts Pavilion, Kyneton Showgrounds, as part of the Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival.

The Autumn Flower Show will run from Saturday 1 April from 1pm to 5pm to Sunday 2 April from 10am to 4pm.

The show will highlight dahlias, roses, cut flowers, shrubs, pot plants, cacti and succulents, floral art, vegetables and a children's section. A range of plants and spring bulbs will be available for autumn planting.

This is a show for all who love gardening and gardens; with a growing presence of new gardeners due to the pandemic, President of Kyneton Horticultural Society, Nicholas Scott, encourages everyone of all ages to participate to show what you can grow.

Refreshments and raffle are available. Admission \$5

For more information including cost of admission, visit website www.khs1894.com. Or to enter, download the entry form. Alternatively, entry schedules will be available from the shire offices in Mollison street.

The Kyneton Horticultural Society Autumn Flower Show is proudly sponsored by Kyneton Garden Supplies.

SUBMITTED BY LINDA STEENHUIS

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The Great Spudfest.

The Great Trentham Spudfest returns this autumn, with the region keen to welcome visitors back to the annual harvest festival.

If you're a potato lover, (and who isn't?), it's a feast for the senses, with plenty to do, see and taste.

At Spudfest, farmers, small-scale organic vegetable growers, makers of jams, pickles and preserves, wines, cider and brewers, bakers, food trucks, cafes, and restaurants unite to showcase the best of the regional produce of Hepburn and Macedon Ranges shires.

To be held on Saturday, May 6, Spudfest offers historic minibus tours, horse and cart rides across the town, children's games, a petting zoo and face painting from 10am till 4pm.

There's also a music district to sit back, relax and enjoy the tunes as regional musicians and artists ply their craft throughout the day.

Feel free to bring your pooches along for the fun and make the most of the dog park and facilities.

As all festival committees know, however, it's the volunteers that can make or break an event. If you have ever considered volunteering for a couple of hours, this could be your chance.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of all community events and with only weeks to go, now's the time to jump on board the Great Trentham Spudfest and become a Spudbuddy.

For more details, contact belindatynan2@gmail.com or go to the website: trenthamspudfest.org.au

SUBMITTED BY MERRILYN HUNT





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Get your Flu Vaccine

Our Flu Vaccine Crew will be ready to vaccinate you after Easter!

If you are not eligible for a Government Funded Influenza vaccine, Ranges Medical can still supply you with your vaccine, but it will incur a fee.

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The EDIE experience

The last few weeks have been extremely fulfilling for Woodend Lifestyle Carers Group, not only because we now have a planning permit for Macgregor's Farm Day Care Cottage, but we also joined with Dementia Australia and the MRSC's Village Connect project to present the dementia virtual reality experience for carers of family members or friends diagnosed with this insidious disease.

The EDIE experience allows the wearer to understand some of the disorientating effects that those diagnosed with dementia often have on a daily basis and to see the world through their loved one's eyes.

The event, which took place on 9 March 2023 at the Woodend RSL, was aimed at members of the public who care for someone at home, rather than as a professional, and was attended by some 20 people (sadly only one gentleman). The two-and-a-half-hour session also gave participants the opportunity to discuss matters of concern with representatives from My Aged Care, as well as the three organisations that worked jointly to achieve an extremely interesting and educational event.

Attendees also had a chance to chat over a cuppa, and check out the model layout on display of Macgregor's Farm.

SUBMITTED BY CHERRY SERVIS



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Photo: by Cherry Servis, caption: Cr Janet Pearce giving EDIE a try



**An Event by
 Woodend
 Lifestyle Carers
 Group**

Macgregor's Farm
 78 Old Lancefield Rd, Woodend North
 (cnr Barkers Road)

When: Saturday, 1st April 2023
 10 am – 3 pm

If you are interested in participating on the sales side call our Secretary: on 0418 638 791 to book your spot.

Pathways for Carers

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

The next dates are Fridays 14 April and 5 May. Meet at 9.45am at Barry Doyle Memorial Rotunda, 2 Campaspe Crescent, Kyneton.

This is a free event. Registration is required. Contact Abbey on 5422 0262 or visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/village-connect

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN, MRSC



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Tuning in to Kids

Would you like to make a positive difference to your child’s development? Tuning in to Kids® is a free, six-week group program for parents and carers of children aged 3 to 5 years. The program focuses on the importance of teaching children emotional intelligence – the ability to use your emotions to navigate the world. The sessions will provide tips on how to help children manage their anger, conflict, relationships with others and their social interactions. The program can help parents communicate with and better understand their child and prevent behavioural problems.

Children with greater emotional intelligence have been shown to have greater success making friends, have better concentration and are more able to calm themselves when upset or angry.

Tuning in to Kids® will be held on Mondays, 9.30am to 11.30am, from 1 May at Sunbury and Cobaw’s Woodend office at 49 Forest Street.

If you have any questions regarding the program, or would like to register, call Emily Stapleton or Cathy Jones on 5421 1680, or email cathy.jones@scchc.org.au.

SUBMITTED BY SARAH TURNER

Article from The Woodend Star April 1923

Excerpt from a poem about Woodend, by “Anonymous”, printed in the Woodend Star a century ago. We at The New Woodend Star wonder if our readers can recognise in the poem parts of the Woodend they know!

*... Where the Slaty Creek waters flow gently along
A serpentine course broad acre among;
Where sleek kangaroos and wallabies browse,
In consort with Ryan and Conolly’s cows;
And hungry foxes nocturnally prowl,
Augmenting the worries of Donald and Sproule,
Whose lambkins and “poddies” are never secure
From those crafty marauders; but now, to be sure,
Time will not allow us to dwell on the pest.
So here, for the present, we will let them rest,
And view with delight the arboreal scene
That encompass the humpies of Parry and Green –
Both veteran toilers that earned their pay
And spent it like men in the old-fashioned way:
Much more could be said of this excellent pair,
Had we but the time and the talent to spare;
But the muse is insistent on runaway speed,
Therefore, by the way, we are bound to proceed
At a galloping pace o’er the beautiful soil,
Surrounding the homesteads of Myrick and Coyle –
Two pioneer settlers by fortune endowed
In a liberal way, like the brothers Mcleod
Who have spent all their years in the beautiful glade
Close up to Woodend and the “lovers’ parade”
We now must away before it gets dark
And stake Pegasus at Lyndhurst Park,
Until we are ready to shell out the tale
That chiefly concerns the Evergreen Vale*



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Local Law review

Macedon Ranges Shire Council is reviewing its General Purposes Amenity Local Law No. 10 of 2013.

From permits, to rubbish, to pets – our Local Law covers a wide range of activities that impact our community. Council has a legislative obligation to review and prepare a new Local Law every ten years.

To learn more about the review and the draft new Local Law visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/local-laws or call 5422 0333 to register your interest.

Council Grant workshops coming soon

Council will be running a series of workshops to support community

groups interested in applying for funding through one of the Macedon Ranges Shire Council's grant programs.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Community Funding Scheme or the Small Project Grants programs, this is an opportunity not to be missed.

Workshop Dates:

Session 1: Grant Information session, Wednesday 26 April, 10am-12pm, Woodend Community Centre

Session 2: Grant Information session Wednesday 26 April 6.30-7.30pm online via Zoom.

Session 3: Troubleshooting Clinic Wednesday 24 May, 10am-12pm, Romsey Hub.

This will be an opportunity to bring in your partially completed applications and seek support on any sections you may be struggling with.

These sessions will also cover how to use the Smarty Grants platform, as applications for all three grant programs are now through Smarty Grants.

Please note, there have been a few updates to the Community Funding Scheme since the last round, so we recommend everyone interested in applying to come along to at least one session.

Bookings are essential. For more information, call 5422 0333, email grants@mrsc.vic.gov.au or visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/grants

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN, MRSC



Macedon Ranges Shire Council flood recovery update

It has been over five months since severe flooding impacted Macedon Ranges residents, and Council has been working hard behind the scenes to advocate, investigate and repair damage since the floods.

Council has appointed a Flood Recovery Coordinator, Leah Rushford, whose role it is to support the community with recovery and make sure everyone impacted by the October 2022 floods has the support they need.

The Flood Recovery Coordinator liaises with various community organisations, State Government departments and agencies about the impacts and recovery of our towns and residents.

Council has been working on a number of key activities to support recovery from the floods:

- There are now only two roads closed in the shire from a peak of 41 roads initially. Works will continue to be carried out over the coming year to repair all roads that were damaged.
- Council has installed 15-tonne load limit signs on Darraweit Valley Road bridge, and has informed the Department of Transport and Planning to remove it as a heavy vehicle route.
- Drainage concerns across the shire are being investigated by Council. This is expected to be a lengthy process, but is a priority for our staff.
- Waste levy reductions have been extended by the Victorian Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) until 2 May 2023. Residents in the shire with flood waste can take it to Sunbury Landfill or any Macedon Ranges Shire Council transfer stations free of

charge.

- Some exclusions apply for this, including the amount you are offloading. Macedon Ranges Shire Council transfer stations are unable to accept commercial quantities. This would need to be taken to Sunbury landfill.

- The information, visit www.vic.gov.au/supporting-flood-waste-management or call Council on 5422 0333

- Dangerous trees that were identified by an independent arborist in parks and reserves after the floods are being addressed by contractors. Not all trees will be removed completely but will receive the treatment they require to remain healthy in the long term.

If you have questions or require support from Council for your flood recovery, please call 5422 0333 or email recovery@mrsc.vic.gov.au

Curious about modern cloth nappies?

Council is bringing back modern cloth nappy workshops in 2023, to help support households in reducing waste and exploring the world of reusable nappies.

Leesa from Darlings Downunder will take you through everything you need to know to get started with cloth nappies. Leesa is a resident of the Macedon Ranges, a cloth nappy enthusiast and a mother of two toddlers. Her passion for cloth nappies has led her to run the Darlings Downunder store in Kyneton.

Each participant will also receive a \$20 gift voucher to spend on reusable cloth nappies as well as entry into the lucky prize draw to win \$200 worth of nappies!

Bookings are essential. For information, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/nappies

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN, MRSC

A message from your West Ward Councillors



Yes, it's April already and time for the beautiful change of colours during this autumn season.

We know this is a peak time for visitors during the Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival (which took out top spot in the Festivals and Events category at the 2023 Victorian Tourism Awards), and each year, we review how to improve events, transport and promote the food, wine, arts and culture scene, in addition to the beautiful gardens and landscapes across the whole of our Shire. Remember, we have three beautiful Botanical Gardens in our Shire to visit.

The Autumn Festival runs until 25 April, so we hope you all take the opportunity to attend some of the various trails (such as the Garden Trail, and the Pie and Tart Trail), events and workshops. More information on: visitmacedonranges.com/autumn-festival/

Voting is open for the Telstra Macedon Ranges Community Choice Awards. Thanks to everyone who firstly nominated businesses. The next period from 1 April until 2 June is the chance to vote and help recognise and celebrate those who go above and beyond in their day-to-day business. We know how much these businesses of all sizes contribute to our local economy. There are five categories (Agribusiness and Primary Production; Health and Wellbeing; Hospitality and Accommodation; Retail and Service; Trades and Manufacturing) and it is an extension of the Business Excellence Awards program. Voting is open to residents and visitors.

Congratulations to everyone involved in the Dementia information session held last month at the Woodend RSL. Representatives from Council, the Woodend Lifestyle Carers, Dementia Australia and My Aged Care were present. The session provided the chance to chat and get information on a range of services, and to try the Educational Dementia Immersive Experience (EDIE), to see the world through the eyes of a person living with dementia. Now that the planning permit application for the proposed respite centre in Woodend (which is to support carers of loved ones living with dementia) has been approved, we look forward to the project progressing. We thank the group for their years of work in this area.

The launch of the Cool-ER Changes Program that we mentioned in the last edition of The New Woodend Star was very successful, with a great turn out (150 registered) and many contributed their thoughts to creating a shire-wide Climate Emergency Response Plan for Council and the community.

We also launched a short film made by Council on climate conversations between our younger and senior residents called "Bridging the Divide". We hope to keep that momentum and interest going and people participating in the themed workshops, which will run until June

www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/Live-Work/Environment/Climate-Change/Cool-ER-Changes

Council's website has a lot of information on the latest Council news, including details of public notices and consultations, also upcoming events, workshops and entertainment. We have also mentioned it before, but the regular e-news and newsletters are full of information (Aquatic and Leisure; Arts and Culture; Doing Business in the Macedon Ranges; Environment; Healthy Landscapes; Macedon Ranges Kids; Over 55s Connect and the Shire Life newsletter that has just been released). We hope you will consider subscribing

www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/About-Council/News/Newsletters

The Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) program has expanded and been successful, with a strong uptake of people collecting free RATs. They are available at the Kyneton and Gisborne Administration Centres, Romsey Hub and Woodend Community Centre, Goldfield libraries within the shire, and at Gisborne and Kyneton Toyota Sports and Aquatic Centres, Resource Recovery Centres (Transfer stations) at Romsey, Kyneton and Woodend.

Councillors and Officers are busy working on the upcoming budget. There is always much to consider and we appreciate that some people already took the opportunity last year to contact Council and let us know what areas they felt were important. There is a process and we hope that the Draft Budget and Council Plan will be approved to go to community consultation at the Scheduled Council Meeting this month. As you may be aware, there is then a period for written submissions and then verbal presentations to Councillors and Officers. We hope many of you participate.

Best wishes,

Janet, Mark and Jennifer

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It's the Autumn Festival – get voting on your favourite veggie dish!

The last edition of The New Woodend Star featured an article about the owners of Sizzler Restobar. Did you know they are also competing in the Edgy Veg Awards this month?



They have entered their Saag Methi Mushroom – have you tried this dish, is it one of your favourites? Or maybe Sizzler Restobar is a favourite restaurant but you haven't tried their Saag dish. Try it and vote for them to win!

The Edgy Veg Awards run from April 1–30, and there are a whopping 42 dishes competing, across 26 cafes, pubs and restaurants. The event is an initiative of Veg Action to encourage people to eat more veg. We all know eating more veg is important – for our health, and the planet's. Reducing your meat and dairy intake helps cut methane gas and nitrous oxide emissions.

The Edgy Veg Awards give you the perfect opportunity to try new dishes made by the best chefs in the Macedon Ranges, and to add a little more veg to your day.

Voting in the competition is easy – each participating café will display the competition QR code that you can scan to rate your dish online. You can find out more about the Edgy Veg Awards from the competition website: veg.mrsg.org.au/edgy-veg-awards or scan the QR code in this article. The awards are funded by the Macedon Ranges Shire Council, as part of the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group's Sustainable Living Festival series.

SUBMITTED BY LUCY CAMPBELL, VEG ACTION MRSG

Photo: Saag Methi Mushroom dish from Sizzler Restobar, photography by Bridget Scott




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Sunset gin cocktails and canapes at Big Tree Distillery

This April, Big Tree Distillery will be serving up indulgent gin-based cocktails and canapes at sunset, as part of the Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival.

Autumn is truly the most beautiful time in the Macedon Ranges; there's something about the calm warm days with long shadows that accentuate the beauty of the undulating landscape. To celebrate this magnificent time of year, Big Tree Distillery is holding two ticketed events on Saturday 15 and Saturday 22 April, between 4.30 and 6.30pm. Tickets are \$95 and include three amazing cocktails that showcase Big Tree Distillery's premium award-winning gin. Each cocktail will be paired with delicious canapes to complement the flavours of the gin. There will also be live music performed by talented classical guitarist Alejandro Aguanta, who will set the scene with acoustic covers of classic and contemporary songs.

Located in Newham on a farm off a winding dirt road, Big Tree Distillery has uninterrupted views of the stunning Cobaw Ranges. So, if you can picture yourself with a cocktail in hand overlooking this amazing vista with the sun slowly sinking to the gentle vibes of acoustic music, then this is the event for you! Ticket numbers will be capped at 40 people per session so best to book soon so you don't miss out. For telephone enquiries please call 1300 040 573. Tickets are available for purchase at www.bigtreedistillery.com.au

SUBMITTED BY DIANA DEVINE



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Another chapter for the Premiers' Reading Challenge

Children can go 'wild about reading', as they embark on the annual Premiers' Reading Challenge for another year.

Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas, said the 2023 Premiers' Reading Challenge was now open and supported students and families to get behind the initiative that promotes the importance of reading for children and students from early childhood to Year 10, while encouraging families to be more involved with supporting reading at home.

This year's theme is 'wild about reading', with the accompanying artwork designed by Kate Isobel Scott, a talented Victorian-based illustrator known for her colourful, quirky and endearing hand-made characters.

The Premiers' Reading Challenge encourages students to read a set number of books over the year, depending on their Challenge level, with their reading efforts recorded online. Picture books, short stories, poems or non-fiction books in any language can be part of the Challenge.

Children who have not yet started school are challenged to experience 40 books with the help of their families, as part of the Premiers' Reading Challenge for the Early Years.

Most of the books are from Challenge book lists, while the remainder can be of the reader's choosing.

The Challenge was launched in February 2005 to support children and young people's reading skills, highlight the importance of reading for literacy development and help more Victorians fall in love with reading.

In 2013, the Challenge was expanded to include young children from birth to five, in recognition of the strong evidence showing that reading to young children from birth promotes brain development and language learning.

Minister for Education Natalie Hutchins said, "Reading is one of the most vital skills our children and young people can learn from an early age, and it's also a wonderful pastime. The Premiers' Reading Challenge is a fantastic way of supporting this."

Since the Challenge began in 2005, more than 4 million students in Victoria have read 57 million books. For more information, visit vic.gov.au/premiers-reading-challenge.

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

Neighbourhood House to help Casuals access sick pay

Casual workers will benefit from a new Victorian Government partnership with Neighbourhood Houses Victoria.

Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas, announced recently that the Woodend Neighbourhood House will provide free assistance to help community members sign up for the Victorian Sick Pay Guarantee.

The Woodend Neighbourhood House is one of up to 100 neighbourhood houses around the state ready to help eligible casual and contract workers sign up for sick and carer's pay. Participating neighbourhood houses and community centres can provide access to in-language support, computers and the internet, and help workers understand and sign up to the scheme.

Eligible casual and contract workers can sign up for 38 hours a year of sick and carer's pay with direct support from a participating neighbourhood house. This community-based approach will make the Sick Pay Guarantee more accessible for workers who may face technology or language barriers.

"We're making it easier for casual and contract workers to access sick and carer's pay. I encourage all eligible workers to sign up today, whether it's online or through our local Woodend Neighbourhood House," said Ms Thomas.

The \$245.7 million two-year pilot is fully funded by the Victorian Government until March next year.

Casual and self-employed contract workers who want to check their eligibility and sign up are encouraged to contact the Woodend Neighbourhood House, visit www.nhvic.org.au or sign up at vic.gov.au/sickpayguarantee. Eligible workers can apply for sick and carer's pay from the day they sign up.

Information is available in 19 languages on the Sick Pay Guarantee website. To speak to an interpreter, call the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask for the Victorian Sick Pay Guarantee hotline.

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

Energy news for households

Several energy initiatives by the State Government are planned to help save money on energy.

Since the current round of the \$250 Power Saving Bonus launched on 1 July 2022, more than 1.7 million households have received the nation-leading cost of living support. Applications for the payment can be made through the Victorian Energy Compare website.

Another free service provides energy consumers who are experiencing hardship with one-on-one assistance through the new Energy Assistance Program.

Victorians struggling with power bills can be helped to navigate the energy market, apply for eligible grants and concessions, find and switch to better offers, and address billing errors.

The program is being delivered in partnership with community partners Anglicare Victoria and Community Information & Support Victoria.

The \$1.3 billion Solar Homes Program helps households save on their energy bills through rebates for the installation of solar PV systems, batteries, solar hot water and heat pump costs.

To access the \$250 Power Saving Bonus, visit [compare.energy.vic.gov.au](https://www.compare.energy.vic.gov.au) or call 1800 000 832. To speak to an Energy Assistance Program advocate, call 1800 161 215. For further information about the Solar Homes Program, visit <https://www.solar.vic.gov.au/apply>

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

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Mary-Anne Thomas MP

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

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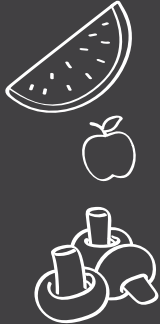
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New greens starting to take shape

The Woodend Bowling Club was badly affected when the floods last October destroyed our synthetic green, leaving it unplayable since, but we are hoping that work on its replacement will be starting some time in April when the new surface has finally arrived. Our grass green was also badly damaged when the fast-flowing water washed away all of the work that had been done to it just prior to the flood. The Club Board recently approved funding for the grass green to be replaced by an all-new grass surface, with work to commence following the installation of the new synthetic green and due for completion in 12 months' time. When finished, the Woodend Bowling Club will have two brand new greens.

The pennant season finals completed

All of our teams completed a very competitive season with our Saturday and Midweek Division 3 teams both making the finals, after some strong performances. Unfortunately, they were unable to make either Grand Final in either division. Congratulations to all players during the season and through the finals.

You could be ready for next pennant season

If you are thinking of taking up bowls and may be interested in being part of one of our teams next season, which starts in October, please get in touch, and come on down for a free trial. We can provide everything to get you started ... the bowls and the coaching. However, if you are not interested in the competitive side and just want to have a friendly social bowl, it's a great way to get out and about with a low impact activity.

Woodend triples sure to be a triumph!

The annual Woodend Tilley's Triples Tournament, named in honour of club legend Bill Till, was played on March 24, with ten teams from across the Macedon Ranges competing for some good prize money. Due to the deadline for this issue of the Woodend Star, we were unable to have the results in time. So, we will publish them in next month's edition. A huge thanks to our major sponsors Brad Teal, Woodards Real Estate and Brooke Street Medical Centre for their support.

Check out our website and Facebook page

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

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, PRESIDENT WOODEND BOWLS CLUB



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shire news

Active Kids sports program

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

Sessions are held from 10-10.45am on Wednesday mornings at Buffalo Sports Stadium in Woodend for children aged 3-5 years. Parent/guardian participation is required.

This program is casual, no need to book. Parent participation is required.

For more information call 5427 3411 or email buffalo@mrsc.vic.gov.au

Dance classes for children

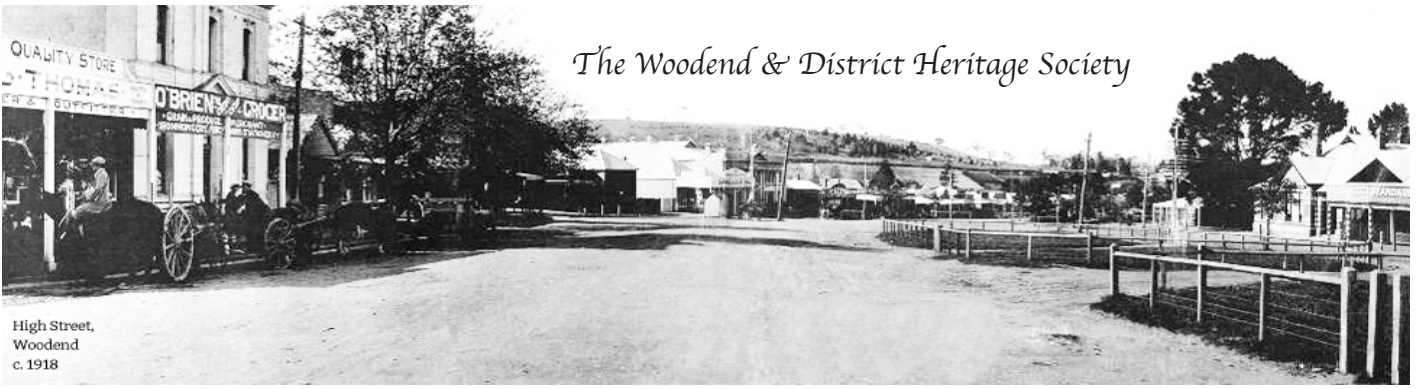
Dance classes are held at Buffalo Sports Stadium in Woodend and the Gisborne Community Centre. We currently have spaces available in the following classes:

Tiny Tackers dance classes Monday mornings in Woodend. For pre-schoolers aged 2-5 years and include ballet, tap and jazz (only ballet and jazz for two-year-olds).

Studio2 MIX dance classes Tuesday afternoons in Gisborne. For school-aged students from 6-12 years with a mix of ballet, tap and jazz in the one-hour class.

For information, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/dance

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN, MRSC



High Street,
Woodend
c. 1918

The Flemings of Fleming Road

Many country roads are named after early residents, such as Fleming Road in Ashbourne. Joseph Fleming was born in Kilkenny in Ireland in 1832 and emigrated to Melbourne in the late 1860s. Ellen Treacy was born in Kilkenny about 1850 and emigrated to Melbourne in 1868 with her father Thomas, brother Denis and sisters Mary and Johanna.

Thomas and Denis took up land in the Woodend district, and Joseph began farming in Ashbourne, on the north-west corner of Chambers Road and Porkers Lane. Before long Joseph met Ellen, and they were married at St Mary's Catholic Church in Kyneton in April 1872. Potatoes were their main crop, but they also grew many fruit trees, including blackcurrants, apples and cherries.

Photo 2344; In 1915 Margaret Fleming, a daughter of Joseph and Ellen, marrying Richard Bourke

The couple had a family of ten children, but, as was fairly common in those days, some of them only enjoyed a short life. The eldest, James, died of bronchitis when 20 years old, a daughter Mary died aged eleven and Thomas died from pneumonia when only a few months old. Ellen, born in 1878, married Bennett Chambers, after whom Chambers Road is named, and they lived on the Flemings' property.

Photo 2345; in about 1910, the Fleming family picnicking, possibly in Ashbourne. Back row, L to R: Ned Fleming, Ben and Nell Chambers, unknown, Dick and Maggie Bourke, John and Kate McAuliffe (nee Fleming). Front row, Ellen and Joseph Fleming, Agnes Fleming, unknown, Tim and Katie O'Grady, unknown,



Another son, Michael Joseph, lived at Ashbourne for some time until he went west to work in gold-mining areas before returning to northern Victoria. He was a keen horseman and spent much of his youth mustering stock in the Black Forest.

Joseph lived at Ashbourne until his death in 1916, and he is buried in the Woodend cemetery. In 1918, when all his children had left Ashbourne, the farm was sold to A.F. Daniel, who is remembered in Daniels Road nearby.

After his death, Joseph's wife Ellen moved to live with her daughter Catherine at Bamawm where she died aged 92 in 1942. After a Requiem Mass in Rochester, her body was taken to Woodend for a service at St Ambrose's Church, and then burial. She left three sons, four daughters, sixteen grandchildren and one great grandchild.

SUBMITTED BY JANE HOLT



Are you interested in local family histories, road names, Woodenders who went to war and much more about Woodend? Buy a book at the W&DHS any Wednesday and choose another of your choice, free.

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