

The New Woodend Star

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'Birds of a Feather'

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Your community diary GET YOUR EVENT LISTED ON OUR CALENDAR
 Just send the details to content@newwoodendstar.org.au

DUE TO THE CHANGING NATURE OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC YOU SHOULD CHECK WITH ORGANISERS ABOUT ANY EVENTS LISTED HERE

— SEPTEMBER —

- 4 Woodend Farmers' Market
- 4-5 Kyneton Spring Flower Show
- 11 Don Watson at Norma Richardson Hall for MRRAR
- 15 St Mary's Knit and Natter
- 18 Hanging Rock Market
- 18-19 Rotary Club of Yea Garden Expo

— OCTOBER —

- 1-2 Be Kind to Animals Week
- 2 Woodend Farmers' Market
- 30 Hanging Rock Market

— NOVEMBER —

- 6 Woodend Farmers' Market
- 12-14 Wine Retreat at Lancemore

Send in your stories and photos; we would love to include them in the New Woodend Star. You can also advertise your business on these pages. Send an email to content@newwoodendstar.org.au and we will help you through the process.

Woodend's Rain report

We endured a very soggy July, with 115.6 mm falling on 26 out of the 31 days. This compares to the long-term July average of about 90 mm. After a very wet June, we almost reached 300 mm for the two months of June and July (299.2 mm to be precise) Should be a great spring this year. Peter

Month	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	av 5yr
January	27.8	80.0	9.8	73.6	92.6	56.8
February	26.5	3.8	12.0	67.8	32.4	28.5
March	23.7	31.7	12.2	79.6	47.0	38.8
April	165.0	31.0	7.6	139.8	15.2	71.7
May	38.6	115.6	114.8	79.0	83.0	86.2
June	10.6	78.2	168.2	80.1	183.6	104.2
July	60.0	73.3	63.2	49.3	115.6	72.3
August	119.6	91.3	78.1	93.0		
September	55.2	26.2	38.3	56.3		
October	45.8	69.0	29.4	99.5		
November	77.4	55.5	64.8	54.4		
December	77.2	91.0	10.0	42.4		
Total mm	727.4	746.6	608.4	914.8	569.4	

Newham Primary School Wins National Junior Landcare Award



Newham Primary School was the winner of the 2021 Woolworths Junior Landcare Team Award at the National Landcare Awards Gala on 5 August 2021.

Newham Primary School, a small rural school with 106 students that sits in the shadow of Hanging Rock, has achieved great results with its environmental and sustainability programs.

Newham students have planted indigenous vegetation along a tributary of Deep Creek that abuts the school, creating a nature corridor for local wildlife that connects with the Cobaw Biolink, and have been involved in propagation projects. They also designed and built a frog bog to provide an alternative breeding ground for frogs, which ten southern brown tree frogs now call home.

The School and Sustainability leaders were delighted to accept this National Landcare Award on behalf of all the students, teachers and community members that have worked on the wetland forest, frog bog and propagation projects at Newham Primary School over past years.

The School and Sustainability leaders thanked and acknowledged classroom teachers, and in particular, the previous sustainability teacher Sam Harrison, who was the main instigator and provided expertise for environmental

Photo: by School Principal

Photo Caption - The attached photo is of our 4 school leaders (standing) and our 4 sustainability leaders (sitting). They are holding the award in front of one of the revegetated areas for which the award was achieved.

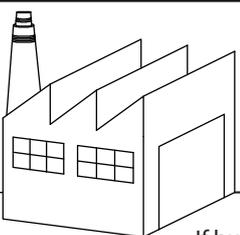
projects and 3/4 teacher Sue Hiland and her students who worked on the frog bog.

They also made special mention, thanking the members of the Newham and District Landcare Group for their leadership, support and mentoring, and in particular, Penny and Hilary Roberts, Jim Sansom and the late Jenny Waugh, the Newham Propagation Group and Newham Garden Club.

Lastly, past and current students and families of Newham Primary School and community members were thanked for their hard work on the projects.

The students at Newham Primary School are inspired to continue working with Landcare and the local community on future projects.

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE SZENTKUTI



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Photo – Julie (2nd from Right) – Lido – Champs-Élysées

From Paris to Maison Maloa, Woodend

Woodend residents and visitors are fortunate to have many good cafe choices, and it's of interest to this reader to hear from those who operate these businesses and keep serving quality coffee week in and week out, through lockdowns and 'Covid normal' times.

Maloa House was started in 1996 by Denise Grantham, who ran this cosy café and homewares business for over twenty years. It became known as Maison Maloa in 2018, when Julie Robinson purchased the business.

Julie's career has been fascinating, having lived and worked across several continents before making Australia and Victoria home. Growing up in Zimbabwe, Julie studied ballet, and, when her family moved to England, she decided she would prefer to live in Paris. Julie landed a much-coveted job with Le Lido, the famous cabaret show located on the Champs-Élysées in Paris. The Lido, open since 1946, is known for its exotic shows including dancers, singers, and other performers. Julie joined a long list of performers that included Shirley McLean, Edith Piaf, Marlene Dietrich and Eartha Kitt.

From Le Lido, Julie then worked on cruise ships as a dancer, finishing up on the QEII. At the age of 29, having danced fulltime for many years, and with the inevitable injuries of a dancing career, Julie hung up her dancing shoes. She moved to the US and, looking for another adventure, Julie and her husband started the first commercial, fully-insured bungee business in the States. They even jumped 'The Fonz' (Henry Winkler) at the Florida State Fair and went on to a very successful show at Seaworld, Ohio, featuring the Canadian freestyle skiing team and the famous Flying Wallendas, a world-renowned highwire walking act. Julie, clearly not afraid of new tricks, was a stunt jumper in this show.

Having visited Australia's Gold Coast, Julie liked what she saw, and in 1992 she moved to Australia, and Julie quickly felt this would become her home. From the sea to the air, Julie then started an 8-year career as a flight attendant with Ansett, until that unforgettable week in Australia's aviation history. "I remember the day I turned on the radio and heard that Ansett had gone into receivership, and that was the end of my flying days," said Julie. Never one to stand still, the year Julie's airline career ended, she and her husband bought a 2,000 acre merino property near Seymour. Julie immersed herself into farm life, entered a 2-year apprenticeship and reinvented herself yet again.

Julie was led to Maloa House after selling the farm, and being not yet ready to retire. Keen to bring a little of Paris to Woodend, Julie renamed this popular café Maison Maloa.

In 2019, Julie achieved a career highlight when she returned to Paris and to join the Lido performers reunion, and the Champs-Élysées was closed for the occasion!

WRITTEN BY ROSEMARY GUYATT

Walking for Suicide Prevention in Macedon Ranges

Creating hope through action

Things might look a bit different this year but we can still come together to remember those loved and lost to suicide, and we can still walk as a beacon of hope to those who are in distress or who have a lived experience of suicide.

Following our online walk opening at 10am, we invite you to walk for suicide prevention and awareness in your local area. Why not ask family members, friends or neighbours to walk with you?

As part of commemorating those who we have lost to suicide, you can request the name of a loved one to be read out during the online walk opening at 10am.

To register a name please email suicidepreventionwalk@mrspag.com.au

For more information on resources and support services for those bereaved by suicide and keeping mentally well, visit the MRSPAG website www.mrspag.com.au/other-support

If you need help now call Lifeline on 13 11 14 or text 0477 13 11 14 (6pm-midnight).
Suicide Call Back Service 1300 659 467.



MRSPAG
Macedon Ranges Suicide Prevention Action Group

12 September, 2021
10am, Online live opening at
www.facebook.com/MRSPAG/



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Light on a path of darkness

Every single suicide statistic speaks of immeasurable loss: somebody's life lost; hopes and dreams lost; love and connection lost. And those who are left to grieve live with a loss as personal as the story of the one whose life has ended.

As our community continues to be impacted by suicide, Macedon Ranges Suicide Prevention Action Group believes we can all play a role in supporting people experiencing a suicidal crisis and those who are bereaved.

On Sunday, 12 September MRSPAG is hosting a Community Walk accompanied by this year's World Suicide Prevention Day theme, 'Creating Hope Through Action', and it aims to inspire confidence and light in all of us; that our actions, no matter how big or small, may provide hope to those who are struggling.

In keeping with Covid-19 restrictions for public events, the MRSPAG event will promote walking in small groups at locations in the shire chosen by participants.

At 10am, the event will have an online opening, during which there will be an opportunity for names of people who have died by suicide to be read out. Participants are invited to light a candle in their homes at 8pm on

Friday, September 10.

MRSPAG chairperson, Steve Power, said the annual event held a special place in calendars across the Macedon Ranges and beyond.

"We are hopeful this walk will not only provide an opportunity to remember those lost to suicide, but will also bring people together, even if online. It is a challenging time for many people, with so many community events and milestones being cast aside as we grapple with this pandemic.

"We hope this event will give people an opportunity to participate, wherever they are, in a Covid-safe way."

Through listening to other people's stories, we become part of the commitment to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and promote action to reduce instances of suicide.

In gaining an understanding of how others who have lost a loved one through suicide find their new normal, people can make sense of, and cope through, their own devastation.

Personal stories of suicidal thoughts or attempts, and experiences of recovery, can inspire hope in others that they too can move through the period of distress or crisis, while their insights can help others understand what it means to feel suicidal and how they can support their loved ones in a crisis.

CREATING HOPE THROUGH ACTION

- Notify your participation on the Facebook event page. www.facebook.com/MRSPAG/
- Like and share this event with your friends and family on social media.
- Join people worldwide in lighting a candle to remember a lost loved one at 8pm on Friday 10 September.
- Tag pictures of yourself walking on Sunday 12 September to @mrspag
- Wear blue.
- Wear a badge (badges can be collected from Macedon Ranges Health in Gisborne, or one of the Neighbourhood Houses in Kyneton, Woodend, Lancefield and Riddells Creek.
- Request the name of a loved one who died by suicide to be read out during the online walk opening at 10am. To register a name please email suicidepreventionwalk@mrspag.com.au

For more information on resources and support services for those bereaved by suicide and keeping mentally well, visit the MRSPAG website www.mrspag.com.au/other-support

If you need help now call Lifeline on 13 11 14 or text 0477 13 11 14 (6pm-midnight).

Suicide Call Back Service 1300 659 467

SUBMITTED BY NADINE HARTNETT

What to do in a mental health emergency?

In support of Mental Health Awareness Week, PS My Family Matters and Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health are hosting a community forum to address the issue- 'What to do in a mental health emergency?'

"For people calling 000 in a mental health emergency, it can be a real step into the unknown," said Tamara Yeend, president of PS My Family Matters. "People often ask us, what will happen when emergency services come to my house? Who will come to the house? Should I ask for a CATT [Crisis assessment and Treatment] team? What is a CATT team? These issues can add a high level of stress to an already difficult situation," Tamara said.

There will be short presentations by speakers from Victoria Police, Ambulance Victoria, Emergency Mental Health



and Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health, followed by a facilitated Q and A.

The forum will also focus on strategies for developing a mental health safety plan and a simple template will be available on the evening.

The Community forum will be held on 12 October 2021 at the Hume Global Learning Centre, 40 Macedon Street, Sunbury.

Light refreshments will be available after the event.

The event is free. Bookings are essential.

Please call 0475 269 965 to reserve a place, or go to TryBooking at <https://www.trybooking.com/BTBBB>

For further details/information, please contact Mike Hamer on 0411 549 432

SUBMITTED BY MIKE HAMER

Want to improve the health of your horse and your land?

The Practical Regenerative Agricultural Communities program is being delivered as a partnership between Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Hepburn Shire Council, the City of Greater Bendigo, A Healthy Coliban Catchment project (North Central Catchment Management Authority and Coliban Water), Melbourne Water and the Upper Campaspe Landcare Network.

To find out more, and to register for any of the below courses, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/healthylandscapes

Holistic Grazing Management Short Course

Are you keen to improve the productivity and health of your pastures? This course is designed to help large and small landholders improve their skills in grazing livestock. Learn about how to build healthy soils, increase soil carbon, maintain ground cover all year round and build your resilience to climatic and market volatility. This course is open to land managers in Macedon Ranges Shire, Hepburn Shire and the City of Greater Bendigo.

Places are limited, so please register your interest before 5 October.

The "other" 23 hours webinar

Tuesday 12 October, 7.30pm – 8.30pm

On average, we spend about one hour a day or less interacting with our horses. What do horses do with the rest of their time, and how can we improve their lifestyle? How can these improvements also benefit the owners and their land?

This webinar will be delivered by world-renowned equine experts, Jane and Stuart Myers.

Discussion group on-farm in New Gisborne

Sunday 24 October, 10am – 12noon

Come along to a meeting for horse owners that want to improve their land, pastures and soil and the health of their horses. The New Gisborne property hosting the event has drawn on central point yard and track systems and is

using planned grazing to develop strong, healthy, diverse pastures.

Grazing management strives to contribute to biodiversity and healthy waterways, while efficiently managing the horses and their health.

Online equiculture course – discount available

Equiculture – short for equine permaculture – is a holistic horse property management program that promotes sustainable farm and pasture management techniques, designed with your horse's welfare and natural behaviour in mind.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council and Melbourne Water are offering a \$100 discount on the online course from renowned equine experts, Jane and Stuart Myers. The discount is available to land managers in the Macedon Ranges.

Grass identification Webinars and Field days

Late October, date to be confirmed

Do you want to be able to identify the plants in your paddocks? Are they native or exotic or are they a weed?

Join Graeme Lorimer for a webinar in late October, followed by a field day in late November.

SUBMITTED BY MONICA HILL




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Storm Recovery Assistance

A new service is being offered by Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health for Macedon Ranges residents impacted by the June 2021 storms. A dedicated case manager has been employed to work with locals to help coordinate the various supports available as part of the clean-up, and they will be able to tailor their assistance according to the needs of individuals.

“There is still so much to do to get properties back to what they were like before the storms,” says Justine Maher, team leader of the storm recovery program. “The recovery after an event like this takes time, and it can be overwhelming. It’s not just the removal of trees or the repair of structures; the mental distress and the financial implications can take their toll on people, especially as the weeks and months go by.”

The storm recovery program can help with advice on what services are available, including health and wellbeing support, financial counselling and information on payments that can be accessed to help with the clean-up. Call the Storm and Flood Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760.

SUBMITTED BY SARAH TURNER



What to expect after a storm

Dr Rob Gordon, a clinical psychologist and expert in mental health, first aid and supporting people affected by natural disasters is working alongside Bushfire Recovery Victoria (BRV), and offers the following advice and support for storm-affected communities.

Understanding different emotions

Following a disaster like the June 2021 storm and floods, you might experience a range of emotions, and how you respond to them may differ from someone who experience the same event – and that’s okay.

There are various reactions – fear and anxiety, exhaustion, anger and frustration that life is not returning to normal. These reactions may be experienced after dramatic, traumatic or painful events. Understanding the various reactions helps to work through them and to continue recovery instead of bringing back the painful past.

Strong reactions and triggers

Strong reactions are common when the conditions associated with the storm occur again, so we may become upset when we experience heavy rains, strong wind, power outages in the future. But reacting strongly strengthens the link.

Everyone who went through the storm will not know all their triggers until they find themselves in the situation again. But it is essential to change the reaction by remembering how the present situation is different to the storm instead of repeating the emotions. Thinking of how this situation is different separates emotion of the past from the present. It helps to put it in the past and helps us be ready for the present situation instead of rerunning the last event.

Healing takes time

It will take several years without a bad storm to get this one into perspective. But if we allow the triggers to reactivate the emotions without understanding them, it will take longer.

Thinking about what has been learned, what was not known, and what could be done differently if it happened again all allow us to process the past to help us prepare for the future.

SUBMITTED BY LAURA PAPA

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Wash trough excitement?



You might wonder why any child would get excited over seeing a wash trough. If you have never seen one before, you could imagine the excitement when the children of the remote Vanuatu village school of Mwast arrived one morning to see a new wash trough installed at their school.

The result of the Rotary Club of Woodend's initiative, the wash station includes three double troughs and six automatic closing taps, as well as a five thousand litre tank connected to a metal roof.

Until this installation took place, there was no running water at the school, or even flushing toilets. Basins of water for each classroom were filled by a dripping pipe in the school grounds. Through this initiative, the school children will have clean running water for drinking and washing.

Funding for the wash station was provided by a partner Rotary Club of Wendouree in Ballarat and the installation was made possible through the co-operation of our partner club in Vanuatu, the Rotary club of Santo.

The supply of regular flowing water to the nearby village and school is a major concern for sanitation purposes. So our club will investigate the possibility of supplying flowing water to allow the future installation of a gender separated toilet building with flushing and washing facilities.

SUBMITTED BY ALAN CANN ROTARY WOODEND INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR



Warming effort from Woodend

Woodend Rotary completed another successful blanket collection and would like to thank everyone in the community who donated to this wonderful cause to support the homeless.

The generosity of the local community is amazing. Donations of blankets, sleeping bags, coats, hats and scarves were all gratefully accepted. We would particularly like to thank everyone involved with the collection at Woodend Primary School.



Thanks once again must also go to Mort & Pestle for being the collection point for donations.

The items were delivered last week to the Living Room (Youth Projects) in Hosier Lane, Melbourne and will be put to immediate use for those doing it tough this winter.

The Living Room is a primary health service that provides free healthcare and support to improve the physical, mental and social well-being of individuals who are, or are at risk of, experiencing homelessness. The Living Room is the only service of its kind in Melbourne, and focuses on the social determinants of health, to look beyond disease or illness to see a person's overall situation.

Find out more about The Living Room at <https://www.youthprojects.org.au/the-living-room>

Woodend Rotary looks forward to running this project again next year.

SUBMITTED BY GRANT HOCKING.



Photo: Rotarians Michael Lishman (L) and Deidre Willmott (R) pictured with The Projects Volunteers.



Rotary Club of Woodend

At Rotary one of our top priorities is to grow and diversify our membership so that we reflect the communities we serve and are inclusive of all cultures, experiences and identities.

Rotary International (RI) has made a commitment for Rotary throughout the world:

At Rotary, we understand that cultivating a diverse, equitable and inclusive culture is essential to realising our vision of a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change.

RI recognises that in the past individuals from some groups have faced barriers to membership, participation and leadership and commits to advancing equity in all aspects of Rotary including in community partnerships.

In Victoria, District 9800 has adopted a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) policy to include an Acknowledgement of Country at events and meetings along with an Inclusion Statement to celebrate diversity and promote an inclusive organisation.

To formally recognise the importance of Diversity and Inclusion Woodend Rotary has appointed new Board member Deidre Willmott to be its DEI Champion.

Woodend Rotary meets upstairs at the Victoria Hotel on Thursday evenings from 6.45pm and welcomes visitors and guests.

If you would like to know more about your local Rotary club please call Josephine on 0407 271 628.

SUBMITTED BY DEIDRE WILLMOTT



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Save Your Mascot – A Green Sport Action

A lot of team mascots are iconic species that characterise qualities we want our club or players to have, like speed, strength and persistence. Mascots help clubs establish brand identity within the community and provide a point of emotional connection for players and fans.

A lot of these animals are also at risk of extinction. Imagine if, while playing for your team the Tiges, the Lions, the Bears, the Lynxes, became like saying “I play for the Dodos”. Imagine if your team mascot became extinct on our watch!

There are easy, innovative and fun ways that you can protect your mascot. For your action to be species-specific, you will need to do some research. However one of the biggest threats to wildlife is habitat destruction. Here are a couple of actions that can help protect habitats. Every effort counts for #TeamPlanet

- Recycle mobile phones: Visit Zoos Victoria for information about how recycling phones protects wildlife, and host a phone collection day at your club - www.zoo.org.au
- Start planting: Could your club help the local

Landcare with a planting day? Are you a large Green Space club like a golf club, able to plant pollinator and wildlife corridors on course? Can you raise money through gate takings or a new club membership option, a Mascot Membership, and make a donation to a reforestation for wildlife fund?

- Support a threatened species day: Most threatened species have a day in the sun each year. For example, World Tiger Day. Shout to the rooftops that your mascot needs saving and the things you are doing to help; put it on socials and tell the local paper or your national sports body about it. Be a voice for change.
- Make the Switch: Switch your club’s power provider to renewable energy

I believe that when sports teams make an effort to save their mascots, we create a culture in sport that becomes an accelerator for positive climate action.

A World of Sport for A World of Change.

#GreenPlanetSport #noplanetnoplay #SaveYourMascot
Need more ideas? Contact me at annabel.greensports@gmail.com or follow me @a_bella_life.



Working Bee Sunday 26 September

Our Sunday working bee will be held on the 26 September

from 9am till 12pm at the Envirofund paddocks on the South bank of the creek. Park at the end of Wood St near the gym. Look for the working bee sign and the blue works trailer. This is an area where Woodend Landcare has undertaken significant rehabilitation work and it is time for a maintenance visit.

Wear sturdy footwear, full length protective clothing, and bring along own eye protection, gloves and secateurs. Please check our Facebook page for any late cancellations or restrictions due to weather or Covid. To register your attendance, please email woodendlandcare@gmail.com.

A Box of Habitat



In 2020 Woodend Landcare partnered with Tree Project to offer 'A Box of Habitat'

to Woodend residents. Each box of native plants was carefully selected to suit the Woodend area. They included

a range of grasses, ground cover, shrubs and a few trees, and ensured recipients received a really interesting and diverse box of habitat.

We were thrilled with the level of interest from local residents. In total, we received orders for 95 boxes from 34 Woodend residents. Following the storm of 9 June, we sourced an additional 500 plants to create a further 16 boxes. This latter group was mostly distributed to local properties that had severe tree loss.

If you are keen to plant some habitat in 2022, please email woodendlandcare@gmail.com to express your interest in our Box of Habitat program. We need to know your name, address, contact details, number of boxes (max 6) and a short description of where you are going to plant.

Note that there will be some adjustments to the 2022 program including the price and timing which we are currently finalising. We want to ensure we get plants at the best time for planting and that we cover the costs involved.

Community Grant Success! Five Mile Creek Masterplan



We are pleased to share that Woodend Landcare has been successful in obtaining a Macedon Ranges Shire Council community grant for the development of a Masterplan for Five Mile Creek.

A masterplan will help Woodend Landcare and Council work together to enhance the public land along Five Mile Creek. It will guide habitat restoration projects, support grant applications and inform infrastructure needs to improve passive recreation and access to the creek for a broad range of users. Most importantly for Woodend Landcare, the masterplan will ensure future actions have the best ecological outcome for the creek environs and that this work is supported by the local community.

Development of a masterplan for the creek was a key action in the recent community climate action plan developed for Woodend, and in the broader Five Mile Creek project being developed with North Central Catchment Management Authority.

We are keen to get started on this exciting project and will encourage lots of community input when the time comes. So please, *watch this space*!

SUBMITTED BY WOODEND LANDCARE

Have your say on Council's updated Environment Strategy

Macedon Ranges Shire Council invites the community to share their feedback on the updated Environment Strategy between 6 August and 10 September.

The updated Environment Strategy outlines Council's commitment to acting on climate change and sets out priorities for creating a more sustainable shire.

The new suite of emerging priorities highlighted in the updated strategy include:

- Responding to the climate emergency
- Sustainable transport
- Waterway health
- Biolinks and habitat links
- Private land conservation
- Waste minimisation
- Community engagement and partnerships

To have your say, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/yoursay

Copies are also available to view in person at any of our customer service centres (subject to COVID restrictions)

Comments can be submitted via an online feedback form or emailed to

environment@mrsc.vic.gov.au or posted to PO Box 151, Kyneton VIC 3444

If you have any questions or would like more information, call 5422 0333 or email

environment@mrsc.vic.gov.au

SUBMITTED BY MONICA HILL



**Macedon
Ranges**
Shire Council

your place

Have it all! (With bonded blinds)

Bonded Roller Blinds are a curtain fabric bonded to a blockout base-fabric. This combination means you don't have to sacrifice beauty and originality for practicality and energy efficiency. You really can have it all!

Roller blinds sit neatly inside the window frame. So, if timber or painted framing is a feature of your house, you get to admire it rather than cover it up. The rolling mechanism is simpler and lighter to use than many other systems and is contained in the unit. To boot, the blockout back provides



a buffer between the heat or cold of the seasons.

But it's the effect on the inside that's to die for. The choice of patterns, styles and colours is vast, and can blend in with your existing décor or add vibrant highlights.

Note of caution: the bonding technique doesn't work so well with embroidered or woven fabrics. So, choices are limited to designs with patterns printed into the fabric itself.

But that didn't stop this Wood-ender going for her 'splash of red'



with a casual poppy in the kitchen adjacent to these wide stripes in the lounge and dining rooms. The options for mixing, matching, contrasting and complementing are (almost) endless!

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Spring has sprung, and it's free mulch month!

Get your garden summer ready with free mulch from Council transfer stations.

During the month of September, residents are encouraged to head to their local transfer station and claim up to one cubic metre of free self-loaded mulch.

The mulch is produced from garden organics dropped off at Council's transfer stations and is available to residents living in the Macedon Ranges Shire. Residents will need to provide proof that they live in the shire, such as a driver licence or rates notice.

This is a first-come, self-load offer. Residents should bring their own shovel, containers or trailer, and protective clothing.

The amount of mulch available at transfer stations varies and is available for free for the month of September, while stocks last.

For more information contact Council on 5422 0333. For locations and opening hours, visit mrcs.vic.gov.au/transfer-stations

SUBMITTED BY MONICA HILL

Greater Western Water, supporting communities



Greater Western Water has awarded \$33,000 to 16 not-for-profit groups across the region, to help support community events that raise awareness of the value of water.

The funding is delivered as part of Greater Western Water's ongoing community programs, which also include free educational workshops, environmental projects, and water saving initiatives like Choose Tap.

Greater Western Water's General Manager of Strategy and Planning, Richard Smith, said sharing community values and interests is at the heart of the new organisation.

"Our role goes beyond providing an essential service, we're also partners in the life of our community and are committed to supporting events that bring people together," Mr Smith said.

Funding is available for a range of COVIDSafe events to be held until December 2021. Preparations are currently underway for another round of funding to support events to be held next year.

Greater Western Water is also inviting primary school children from across the service region to enter the National Water Week Poster Competition. Artwork should reflect this year's theme, 'Caring for Water and Country'. Monetary prizes are offered across several categories, and all winners will qualify for a chance at the national prize.

Visit gww.com.au for more information.

SUBMITTED BY JESSICA JORQUERA

Storm and Flood Clean-Up Program

Bushfire Recovery Victoria (BRV) is supporting the clean-up and recovery work for the owners of private property damaged by the storms and floods that occurred on 9–10 June 2021. To request support:

- You must be a private property owner
- The private property must be in one of the 39 local government areas (LGAs) impacted by the June 2021 storms and floods.
- The damage to your property must have occurred as a direct result of the storms and floods on 9–10 June 2021.

Clean-Up Program – structures on private property

To be eligible for the Clean-Up program on private property, the affected property must contain structure(s) destroyed or damaged beyond repair.

Structures will be cleared and removed, along with any hazards cleared to access a structure. The Clean-Up program is fully-funded by the Australian and Victorian Governments, and is provided at no cost to eligible property owners, regardless of whether they were insured or not. BRV is partnering with Johns Lyng Group to undertake the Clean-Up program.

Trees on private property that are still standing but have become hazardous

BRV is accepting registrations for the assessment of trees on private property that are still standing and pose a risk to a place of residence or personal safety.

Trees standing on private property that were made hazardous because of the June 2021 storms and are within falling distance of a structure or access to a structure can be professionally assessed and recommendations made for their treatment.

If someone's life is in danger call Triple Zero (000).

For more information about the Storm and Flood Clean-Up program, visit www.brv.vic.gov.au/cleanup or phone the Storm and Flood Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760.

Storm and Flood Recovery Hotline

The Storm and Flood Recovery Hotline is a single state-wide number that Victorians impacted by the June 2021 storms and floods can call for help or assistance.

Operators can assist you with registering for cleanup of structures on private property, or with accessing your own Recovery Support Worker, for mental health and wellbeing support, financial counselling

and information on available payments.

The Recovery Hotline 1800 560 760 is open from 8am to 7pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) and 9am to 1pm on weekends.

SUBMITTED BY LAURA PAPA BRV

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30th of October

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ARTISTS PIVOT IN LOCKDOWN!

The Macedon Ranges Art Trail, a network of local and regional artists, have been unable to exhibit together since June 2020. Ever resourceful, they have put together a website to bring you a visual feast from artists, something to spread a bit of joy in these difficult times! This is also an avenue for them to promote their work and for the community to support original local art. You might find the perfect gift for that special someone.

Visit <https://macedonrangesarttrail.weebly.com>

SUBMITTED BY NADINE HARTNETT

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Putting Woodend on the Map



An exciting project by Woodend Traders has been launched to support local businesses to thrive and survive moving into 2022 and beyond.

Local digital artist, Chris 'Roy' Taylor and local agency Monroe Marketing + Design have been engaged by Woodend Traders to create a digital presence for Woodend's business community. Funded by the State Government through grants for Business Chambers and Trader Groups, the aim of the project is to empower local businesses and help members to transition to their new Covid normal by creating a digital presence for their local businesses.

The project will centre around a stylised map created by Chris 'Roy' Taylor in his unmistakable style. The map will be used in various mediums including a website that will be created to inspire locals and visitors to engage in local events, support local business and initiatives and strengthen business to business relationships across the Woodend area.

Chris' map will also feature on new shopping bags for traders, along with a large scale centrally located feature in our High Street.

All businesses within the 3442 postcode area will be eligible for inclusion in the project, including our many home-based and online businesses, tourism, retail, services, health, community groups etc.

The website will be more than a business directory and will be used not only by visitors to our area but for local residents to explore and become 'tourists in their own backyard'; it will feature an events calendar along with information about local activities and attractions.

The current pandemic has changed the way in which people travel because of uncertainty, and day-trip destinations such as ours are ideally placed to capitalize on the coming boom in domestic tourism.

The whole project will be supported by a marketing and PR campaign that aims to engage our local businesses and encourage locals and visitors to support our businesses and each other.

For more information, or to have your business included, go to woodendvictoria.com.au

SUBMITTED BY NIKKI BARKER

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Be Kind to Animals Week

Friday 1 – Thursday 7 October

Started back in 2010 and run by Edgar's Mission, a not-for-profit sanctuary for rescued farmed animals, Be Kind to Animals Week is a time to reflect on the importance of being kind to all animals and to demonstrate the impact that simple acts of kindness have on all the furred, fleeced and finned beings we share this planet with.

This year, Edgar's Mission is hoping to exceed 5,000 pledges and, to support participants through the week, the NGO will be sending out free Kindness Kits, along with daily emails filled with plant-based recipe inspiration and other kindness tips.

The events of the last 18 months have made us all take a moment to reflect on how we can better support each other; during this time, Edgar's Mission rescued 196 animals in need, including orphans like Kiki – one of the



tinest lambs Edgar's Mission has ever rescued.

During the week, founder and director of Edgar's Mission, Pam Ahern, will be doing a series of library talks around Melbourne and virtual talks for anyone around the country to tune in to (details attached).

Families can also download a colouring-in competition for kids from the Edgar's Mission website.

Founder and Director, Pam Ahern is available to discuss:

Why it's important for humans to be kind to animals

- The stories of Kiki and other rescued animals
- What different animal behaviours can mean, such as winking or poking out a tongue
- The different ways people can be kind to animals

To make your pledge and for more information, free fun resources and a downloadable colouring competition for kids, please visit bekindtoanimalsweek.org.au.

SUBMITTED BY CLAUDIA FREDERICK





**42 Mitchell Street, Kyneton
Wormwood House and Studio**

Superbly positioned in one of the most enviable locations in Kyneton, you'll fall in love with this inviting blend of period style and contemporary elegance. Beautifully set amongst established gardens, this charming original cottage also features separate fully self-contained studio, ideal as the modern home office or beautiful guest accommodation. Circa 1900s & retaining many period characteristics, this tastefully renovated home offers a warm combination of high ceilings, polished floorboards, clawfoot bath & an open fireplace, plus gorgeous country kitchen, central lounge and rear north-facing dining/sunroom with French doors to courtyard.

Enjoy the leisurely stroll to historic Piper Street's boutique shops, farmers' markets & award-winning eateries, or take the scenic route along the picturesque Campaspe River Walk to the botanic gardens. Plus, you'll only be an hour away from Melbourne's CBD by road or train should the need arise.

Estimated Price Guide \$775,000 - \$825,000
Rick Lander 0408 571 485 | Jodie Alcaraz 0448 852 803



**21 Shirley Park Lane, Woodend
One Of The Best Addresses In Town**

Boasting over 50 squares approx. on 4038sqm approx corner allotment. Comprising 4 bedrooms, main with WIR and ensuite, large study, family bathroom, powder room and north facing open plan living, meals and kitchen. The entertainer's kitchen flaunts a large island bench and walk-in pantry, marble look stone bench tops, stainless steel stove with gas cooktop. A fully enclosed alfresco area adjoins the kitchen/meals area creating the perfect space for entertaining. Impressive finishes include, gorgeous light fittings, plantation shutters, polished concrete flooring, double glazed windows, fire resistant flyscreens, gas ducted heating, evaporative cooling, heated flooring in bathroom and ensuite, Illusion wood heater in alfresco area, CCTV and alarm security system, NBN, automated integrated triple car garage and large American style barn. The barn features 20 panel solar with WiFi module to gauge electricity use. Water is in abundant supply with 4 x 10,000 Lt water tanks fed by both rain and bore water and an extensive irrigation system.

Price: Contact Agent
Beverley Higgs 0442 271 222 | Rick Lander 0408 571 485



**141 Blackhill Road, Kyneton
Mount View**

With a superb family home at one end of the property and the most gorgeous, contemporary 'granny flat' at the other, this is a rare find in a much-loved pocket of rural bliss. Featuring high-quality kitchen with prep gallery, WIP & stone benchtops, the 3 1/2 year-old main residence boasts large open plan living area with beautiful views to the north, parents' lounge with Jetmaster fireplace & vaulted ceilings, plus separate kids' rumpus. Plus, you'll love the fantastic covered alfresco entertaining area featuring outdoor kitchen & overlooking the dam with jetty across to Mt Alexander. The large master bedroom has dual walk-in robes and a gorgeous ensuite, plus the further 4 generously proportioned bedrooms all have built-in robes. One even has its own ensuite which would make a perfect home office for remote working. Integrated double garage, gas ducted heating, evaporative cooling & double-glazed windows all complete this stylish, contemporary home for today's family. The second dwelling, for family only under current council laws, is an equally stylish abode with 2 bedrooms with BIRs, stunning kitchen, incredible views, fabulous entertaining deck & single carport.

Price: Contact Agent
Rick Lander 0408 571 485 | Jodie Alcaraz 0448 852 803



**48 Greig Court, Woodend
Charming Mud Brick Country Cottage on 3.96 acre bush block**

This charming country rendered mudbrick cottage on 3.96 acres is only 3 km from the heart of Woodend. Filled with character and many period features including dormer windows in the high-pitched roof, bespoke spiral staircase, leadlight windows, Castlemaine slate floors and exposed timber lintels. The spacious kitchen boasts granite benchtops, glass splashback, double wall oven and generous storage. The living and dining rooms have a soaring vaulted, straw lined ceiling taking in the mezzanine area above. This creates a wonderful open space serviced by a combustion fire settled in a delightful stone fireplace as well as two split systems to meet all your heating and cooling requirements. There are 3 bedrooms, central bathroom, second lounge area adjacent to the entry, 2 separate toilets, a generous sized laundry and a landing on the mezzanine level which would be ideal as a study nook or library. NBN is connected to the premises.

Estimated Price Guide \$1,150,000 - \$1,250,000
Helen Sankey 0438 563 519 | Patrick Franklin 0439 478 195

Get the Job Done! What you need to know about COVID-19 vaccines

Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Central Highlands Rural Health, Sunbury Cobaw Community Health and Hepburn Shire Council have joined forces to share the latest COVID-19 vaccination information so you can make an informed decision around getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Council is not a COVID-19 vaccination provider.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has provided provisional approval of the Moderna vaccine for use in Australian adults, and a total of 10 million doses will be dispatched to Australia in 2021.

To check if you can book a COVID-19 vaccination yet, visit the Australian Government Eligibility Checker covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/eligibility

We encourage you to stay up to date with the latest COVID-19 vaccination information via official government websites:

- coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine
- health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines

Council reminds residents of the need to continue COVID Safe behaviours – check in everywhere, every time, wear a face mask when required, maintain good hand and cough hygiene and, most importantly, continue to get tested immediately if you have any symptoms at all.

These are all important steps to ensuring the effects of any outbreaks are limited.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council's COVID-19 Recovery Operations Centre continues to respond to community requests for help and information. For local information and support, call Customer Service on 5422 0237 or email recovery@mrsc.vic.gov.au

SUBMITTED BY MONICA HILL



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'Get the Job Done'

Central Highlands Rural Health, Hepburn Shire Council, Macedon Ranges Shire Council and Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health have all endorsed this campaign, which communicates the clear message that vaccination will keep our community safe.

Central Highlands Rural Health CEO Maree Cuddihy said, "It's been great working on this campaign with our colleagues in health and community services and we hope it will help encourage our community to 'get the job done'."

Hepburn Shire Council Mayor Cr Lesley Hewitt said:

"The more people vaccinated, the greater the protection our Shires will have against COVID-19. Both the Hepburn Shire and Macedon Ranges are popular tourist destinations for visitors, and we want to be able to welcome people back to our region with open arms. The COVID-19 vaccine is our best shot at making this happen."

Macedon Ranges Shire Council Acting Executive Manager People, Culture and Performance Nathan Upson said:

"The COVID-19 vaccine will protect you, your loved ones and your community. We encourage everyone across our region to roll up their sleeves and 'get the job done.'"

COVID-19 vaccines are free, safe and voluntary. They have been approved by Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration, meeting strict standards after being thoroughly tested for safety. All vaccines carry a very minor risk of adverse reaction, however the risk from contracting or spreading COVID-19 is much greater.

Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health CEO Phillip Ripper said:

"We know that some people in the community have concerns about possible adverse reactions from the COVID-19 vaccine. The Government's coronavirus website is a good source of quality vaccine information however your GP is the best person to talk to if you have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine and existing health conditions."

The COVID-19 vaccine is available through vaccination centres across our state and a full list can be accessed here: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-centres>.

GP clinics also carry a supply of the COVID-19 vaccine. Please speak with yours directly.

Central Highlands Rural Health will be running a COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic at Kyneton Health; however, the opening date has been delayed. Please continue to monitor the Central Highlands Rural Health website and social media channels for updates.

SUBMITTED BY TALETHA RIZIO



With lockdowns and openings, U3A Kyneton has had a very dislocated month. When locked down, members have been supportive of each other and kept lines of communication open, and when we jump out of lockdown, we are off and racing.

We are so fortunate to live where we live and have more freedom than others. Our thoughts go out to all those in Covid hot spots and trust that this strain will be contained.

It has been necessary to cancel and restart courses, and our Christmas in July will be rescheduled. The AGM has been rescheduled for 3rd September 2021.

We encourage everyone to roll up those sleeves and get vaccinated, as it will be our passport to a little more certainty.

For further information about courses and activities available, take a look at the U3A Kyneton website: <https://u3akyneton.org.au/>, email: info@u3akyneton.org.au or call the Secretary, Roni on 5422 2552, President Peter on 0439 360 763 or view our Facebook page www.facebook.com/u3akyneton.

Unfortunately, due to the volatile nature of the pandemic, some information may be subject to change.

SUBMITTED BY JAN MCCOLL

The Mount Players Postpone Love Song



The Mount Players have been forced to make the call on again postponing the season of Love Song. Opening night was to have been on 2 September, however, due to lockdown and severe restrictions on seating capacity we have no choice but to reschedule. At the time of writing this article, no dates could be confirmed, so we ask patrons to go to our website for information and updates.

Furthermore, The Vortex, our last show planned for 2021 has been cancelled. In doing this, it allows Love Song, well into rehearsal and with the set almost complete, to have room to be staged at a later date.



These are difficult, uncertain and challenging times. However, on a positive note, maintenance and improvements continue. We are very pleased to say that our front stairs at the theatre have been

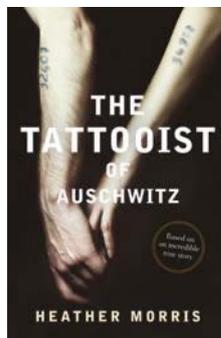
replaced, thanks to a grant from Bendigo Community Bank. We look forward to welcoming our patrons up these stairs in the not-too-distant future!

For full details and updates on Love Song please go to www.themountplayers.com or call 5426 1892.

SUBMITTED BY KAREN HUNT



Author Talk with Heather Morris – Tattoolist of Auschwitz Series



Heather Morris, author of the hugely popular 2018 novel The Tattoolist of Auschwitz will be joining us for an author talk on Friday, October 8 to celebrate the release of the third and final book in the Tattoolist trilogy, Three Sisters. Heather will talk about her journey in uncovering the remarkable people and life stories her novels are based on, and

the incredible interest and success which has followed. Signed copies of the book are available for purchase. For bookings, please go to goldfieldslibraries.com/woodend-events/ or phone us on 5427 2074

Edgar's Mission – Be Kind to Animals Week

On Saturday, October 2 – Farmers' Market day and the last Saturday of the school holidays – come into the Woodend Library to learn about the Lancefield animal sanctuary Edgar's Mission from its

founder, who will be giving a family-friendly presentation at 10.30am.

To avoid disappointment, please book your place at goldfieldslibraries.com/woodend-events/ or phone us on 5427 2074.

BeConnected Session

Introduction to Android Tablets and Phones, 10am Thursday, September 16

Do you have questions about your Android phone or tablet? Trying to attach a photo to your email? Want to get rid of those annoying notifications? Need to install the Service Victoria app to sign in with QR codes? Join us in this friendly question and answer session aimed at beginners. Groups are small and follow-up help is also available.

To book, please visit goldfieldslibraries.com/woodend-events/ or ring us on 5427 2074

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See you in the library!



As we write this article, we are still in an uncertain situation regarding COVID. We hope that you and your families have navigated the recent lockdowns and are managing the current restrictions as well as possible. We congratulate all members of our community for doing their part and helping to keep the Macedon Ranges as COVID-free as possible. We continue to encourage everyone to get vaccinated as soon as possible and continue to get tested if you have any symptoms.

With the confirmation of this year's Council budget, we are particularly excited by the fact that council was able to fund a broad range of proposals and capital projects across the shire; many of which were in response to representations made from community members and groups to the draft budget. In fact, the success of many groups and individuals in obtaining budget support for their suggestions emphasises the importance of community members participating in the budget process and taking the opportunity to have input into the various drafting and consultation stages.

At its July meeting, Council endorsed the recommendations for the Events & Festivals Grant Program, the Community Funding Grants and COVID Support – these grants will be welcomed by community and sporting organisations right across the shire and once again highlight the importance of community making representation to council.

On a lighter note, you may have seen the Connecting Communities board game in the Midland Express at the end of June. The game consists of artwork and images contributed by our community that highlight favourite places and activities around our shire. There is a Connecting Communities Facebook page that is linked to the game (and recently provided a forum for residents offering assistance to one another as an outcome of the recent storms) and the game is also available to play as an activity in our libraries.

For those of us still impacted by the recent storms, storm recovery information (including the range of support available) is updated regularly on the council website. There has been a huge response to council's offer to residents of free firewood that has been sourced from storm debris. Details for obtaining wood are also available on the website.

Macedon Ranges participated in Victorian Youth Week 2021. We held a well-attended retro gaming event in Woodend. As part of Youth Week, the Youth Services team worked closely with young people in designing a series of workshops and events across the shire celebrating and showcasing the skills and talents of young people to the community.

We will be seeking community feedback on the Environmental Strategy Update and the Health & Wellbeing and Disability Plans through September. The Shire's draft Council and Financial Plans are also expected to be available for community consultation in September. For those interested in the outcome of the Community Satisfaction Survey conducted earlier this year, the results are expected to be made available on the council website from the end of September.

Please take care of yourselves and continue to look after one another.

SUBMITTED BY YOUR WEST WARD COUNCILLORS: MARK, JANET AND JENNIFER



Woodend CWA Winter Update

We can't believe that it's been three months since our last update! how time flies!

Unfortunately, due to the various lockdowns we have endured, our state conference was an online affair for the second year in a row, but we were still able to hold our state photo competition. A few of our branch members entered for the first time, and I am very pleased to announce that member Penny won a Highly Commended award in the Sunset category with a beautiful shot of a Bali beach. A huge congratulations, Penny!

Our members have also been putting the new CWA cookbook (From Our Kitchen to Yours) through its paces, and trying out various recipes. If you follow us on social media, you may have seen some of our efforts, including herb and corn fritters, warming winter soups, Cornish pasties and carbonara (which was a particular hit!). Of course, there are also lots of sweet treat recipes in the book, and our members have made the honey roll and ginger and macadamia biscuits among other things. If any of these sound like your cup of tea, grab yourself a copy. We can definitely recommend it!

Please keep in touch by following us on Facebook and Instagram, sending us an email at cwawoodendeves@gmail.com or just come along to one of our meetings (COVID restrictions permitting). We'd love to meet you. Third Tuesday of the Month, 7pm, Woodend Neighbourhood House.

SUBMITTED BY SUSIE WYATT



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Winemakers panel and **5-course wine-matched tasting menu dinner** by Executive Chef Travis Ray (formerly Lake House Daylesford).

Book & info woodendwinestore.com.au/wine-retreat

(03) 5427 2228 or caz@woodendwinestore.com.au

Strictly limited to 30 guests.



Proudly supported by the Macedon Ranges Vignerons Association.

Please note: Due to Covid this event will now be held on the new dates of 12-14 November 2021



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Introduction

The growing season for 2022 is almost upon us, and after a cold and wet winter, we will see vineyards spring back to life in September/October as the weather warms. In other exciting news for the region, Place of Changing Winds won Best New Winery, and Michael Dhillon from Bindi won Winemaker of the Year. This is a wonderful achievement and continues to build the profile of the region as one of the most exciting in Australia.

NV Macedon Ridge Sparkling

A light to golden yellow wine, with a nose that gives white peach and lemon zest with some faint brioche notes in the background. There is a subtle sweetness to the palate, with stone fruits that are etched with Granny Smith apple. Lemon peel influences the finish and combines with new season pear. A well-made aperitif style sparkling.

Rating: 89 | Price: \$30 | When to Drink: 2021 - 2023

2019 Little Folly Pinot Noir

A wine that belies its price point; you would be hard-pressed to find a wine that is so expressive of the variety and region for under \$30. Information on the vineyard is sparse, but the wine is made by the talented Rob Ellis at Hanging Rock.

A vibrant and youthful red in the glass, with a nose of earth, nutmeg and dark cherry. The palate is medium bodied with a suppleness of dark cherry fruit and spice. Acidity is beautifully balanced and gives drive as well as underwriting some further development over the next 3 - 5 years.

A young wine, with time sure to be kind.

Rating: 92 | Price: \$25 | When to Drink: 2021 - 2027

SUBMITTED BY PATRICK ECKEL



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Our Premium/High-end Sales

In the 2020/21 financial year our single office Woodend based agency sold forty-eight \$1m+ properties in the Macedon Ranges.

Seventeen of these sales were above \$2m with six sales above \$4m (at an average price of \$5m).



Where do the buyers for our premium/high-end properties come from?

The above bar graph shows the locality of where the buyers for our \$1m+ premium/high-end properties came from in the 2020/21 financial year.

If you are considering selling, please call
John Keating 0419 880 444 or Peter Wood 0408 866 774

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Some great shows coming to the Macedon Ranges in September



We have a bit of everything happening at Kyneton Town Hall.

For those who love passion-filled wicked comedy/drama, then *The Hunter. The Hunted* is the perfect show. *Desire* can be wonderful, can drive you crazy and even get you killed.

Think *Frankenstein* meets *Downton Abbey* and everything in between.

Saturday 11 September, 7pm



For the music lovers, especially guitars, then Daniel Champagne is a must see. Australian-born, Nashville-based Daniel Champagne has been touring across Australia and New Zealand and selling out shows wherever he plays. Featuring songs from his five studio albums, this show is certainly not to be missed.



Friday 17 September, 8pm

Damien Leith brought the house down the last time he visited. This time he is teaming up with Darren Coggan in the *Two of Us: The Songs of Lennon and McCartney*.

All the classics like *Hey Jude*, *Let It Be*, *Here Comes the Sun* and so many more!

If you love *The Beatles*, then this will be the best sing-along of all time!

Saturday 18 September, 7.30pm

Finally, our last KTH Kids for the year, with *Electronic Music Adventure* these September school holidays. This will get the kids off their phones and creating their own soundtrack!

This workshop is a highly immersive and interactive creative music making experience.

Participants will learn how to collect and manipulate sounds using intuitive apps on tablets and iPads.

Tuesday 28 to Thursday 30 September, 10am and 1.30pm each day.



All these shows are at the Kyneton Town Hall.

For bookings

- Phone: 1300 888 802
- Website: mrsc.vic.gov.au/arts-events

SUBMITTED BY MONICA HILL

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Spring is coming to Trentham and District Life Activities Club

Blossoms will have begun to appear, and baby ducklings will be seen on our lakes and dams.

Warmer days encourage us all to get out and about, and by joining *TrenthamLife Activities*, you will be able to do just that at

All our outdoor activities can be enjoyed just that little bit more, when the sun is shining. Walking, pétanque for ladies and men, and gardens will wake up and begin to fill with colour for the garden group to restart their local garden visits. Horse riding is also available on request.

Our indoor activities, Mahjong, Foodies, and Craft Groups are well supported, as are the Chinese Exercises/Qijong. Scrabble, Jigsaws, Music Lovers and Ballroom Dancing are also enjoyed by those who are involved.

All activities operate under Covid safe protocols.

For more information, please contact the President/Activities Co-Ordinator Di Clausen on 0425 008 763 or the Secretary Gaye Lovelock on 0411 150 114.

SUBMITTED BY WENDY REDMAN



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Creating a dementia-inclusive community

People with dementia can continue to live successfully within their communities, when those around them follow a few simple tips on ways to help with communication. People with dementia visit our shops, community centres and facilities and are an important part of our community. It is important that they be treated with dignity and respect and that we are inclusive of them. Here are some simple tips on how to improve your communication with a person who has dementia:

What to do! 55% of our communication is non-verbal via our body language including things like posture, facial expressions, pitch and tone of voice (Lynn Kacperck, "Non-verbal communication: the importance of listening", British Journal of Nursing 6(5), Dec 2014). To communicate more effectively:

- Face the person so they can see non-verbal communication.
- Use positive, caring and supporting body language such as hand gestures, nodding of head, smiling or pointing to objects.
- Demonstrate how a task is completed or what you mean to help them understand.
- Don't talk too fast.
- Explain things in short and simple sentences, focusing on one idea or issue at a time.
- Always allow plenty of time to allow the person you're speaking to to understand what you have said
- Give them a chance to reply.
- Signage helps with independence and helps locate things such as the toilet.
- If worried about missing an appointment, provide a note with the details written on it for future reference.
- Have a clock with the date and day on it.



- Be patient. Be calm.
- Speak respectfully at all times. This helps maintain self-esteem and confidence and promote independence.
- Focus on what a person with dementia can do, not what they can't do.

What not to do!

- Don't use endearments or 'elder speak' such as 'pet' or 'love' or 'darl', or 'good boy'
- Don't argue. This may cause distress.
- Don't order a person around or tell them what to do.
- Don't force a person with dementia to remember things they cannot remember.
- Don't be condescending – your tone will be picked up on.

Remember:

No two people with dementia are the same.

The symptoms and experience are unique for each person with dementia.

People with dementia are your family, friends, colleagues, volunteers, community members and neighbours.

There is support available.

More information is available at Dementia Australia website: <https://www.dementia.org.au/>

SUBMITTED BY IRIS SIMPSON DEMENTIA SUPPORT / ADVOCATE

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Unpacking the Man Box

Anyone interested in supporting the wellbeing of men and boys in the Macedon Ranges is invited to join Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health this month, as they welcome Paul Zappa from Jesuit Social Services, as he presents “Unpacking the Man Box”, and the findings of a survey aimed at improving the wellbeing of men and boys.

The Man Box survey found that young Australian men who believe in outdated masculine stereotypes were at significantly higher risk of engaging in behaviours harmful to themselves and others, such as online bullying, sexual harassment, physical violence and risky drinking. They were also more inclined to experience negative feelings and emotions.

The presentation will compare the Man Box findings to #thehumancode, a similar survey which explored the pressures on men and boys in the Macedon Ranges, and will look at how we can work together to improve their health and wellbeing and that of the broader community.

There are two opportunities to join the seminar, either online on Wednesday 1 September, 6.30–8.30pm (<https://bit.ly/3rUMNLq>) or in person on Monday 13 September, 6.30–8.30pm (<https://bit.ly/37sZeVqat>) at the Norma Richardson Hall, 15 Buckland Street, Woodend. Light refreshments will be provided.

Registrations are essential. Email Kathryn Chai on kathryn.chai@scch.org.au for more information.

SUBMITTED BY SARAH TURNER

Birds of a Feather

There is a new lunchtime social event for the calendar starting next month in Kyneton. ‘Birds of a Feather’ is a quarterly luncheon open to adults who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex. The initiative of Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health’s Country LGBTI Inclusive Program (CLIP) is providing a new opportunity for connection and support for all members of the rainbow community, including those living in residential aged care.

“It is well known that older LGBTI people are more likely to be single, live alone, be isolated and distanced from their families, and for older community members living in residential aged care, it can be challenging to live openly and feel accepted and supported,” says Belinda Brain from CLIP. “That’s why the notion of birds of a feather flocking together is representative of the diverse range of sexual and gender orientations, life stages and capabilities found in the LGBTI community, and is at the heart of our luncheons.”

The CLIP team has been championing the health and wellbeing needs of the LGBTI adult community in the Macedon Ranges for the last two years, responding to the need for differentiated support services and providing increased options for people to develop a greater connection to their community and widen their support network. This has become even more important since the beginning of the pandemic and through periods of lockdown.

“Birds of Feather lunchtime gatherings will be a safe, inclusive place where people can ‘flock together’, be themselves, put on a bit of a fanfare if they want, but most importantly, make some new friends. We believe that regardless of age, life experience and capability there is much to be gained from coming together and enjoying the company of others,” says Nathan Allwood, CLIP Volunteer and luncheon organiser.

The inaugural luncheon will take place on Friday 17 September, 12pm – 2pm at the Shamrock Hotel, Kyneton. RSVPs are essential. For further information, or if cost or transport are an issue, contact Belinda Brain on 5421 1666 or email belinda.brain@scchc.org.au.

SUBMITTED BY SARAH TURNER,



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Hanging Rock Master Plan on track with consultants announced

The Hanging Rock Master Plan is on track as master planning consultants, Tract, have been appointed to deliver the Draft Hanging Rock Master Plan. The draft master plan is expected to be completed at the end of the year, for approval by June 2022.

Tract is a leader in the master planning process for significant cultural heritage, environmental, and community projects across Australia, with extensive experience working on community-based projects for local and state government.

The master plan will reflect current best practice in planning for major public open spaces and be consistent with the vision, objectives, initiatives and acknowledge the identified values of the Hanging Rock Strategic Plan. The Hanging Rock Strategic Plan will guide the future use of the rock and its immediate surrounds from 2018-2068, and will also provide direction and certainty for the long-term improvement and management of Hanging Rock. for stakeholders, including Traditional Owners, user groups, the tourism community, and the wider community, Macedon Ranges Shire Council and State Government. "There will be extensive engagement with Traditional Owners, key stakeholders and the wider community on the development of the master plan," Ms Thomas said. There will be a range of opportunities for interested stakeholders and community members to be involved in the master planning process, including online engagement and workshops, as well as a period of formal public exhibition for review and feedback.

The expected outcomes in delivering this master plan are to be consistent with the iconic nature of Hanging Rock and be realistic, with a deliverable scope of initiatives based on a firm evidence base and credible cost estimates.

SUBMITTED BY KATE LEE

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Supporting Victorian Veterans and preserving their legacy

The Victorian Government is supporting the welfare of veterans and their families and ensuring their sacrifices are remembered by future generations.

Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas has announced grant applications are open, thanks to the ANZAC Day Proceeds Fund and the Victoria Remembers Grant Program.

Under the ANZAC Day Proceeds Fund, organisations that support the wellbeing of the veteran community can apply for funding for a range of welfare support activities – including health and wellbeing programs, education expenses and transport for shopping, social activities and welfare needs.

Previous recipients include Soldier On Victoria, who in 2020 received \$50,000 to help veterans secure a future career through employment and education support.

The fund is generated through proceeds of sporting events held in greater Melbourne on ANZAC Day, along with a proportion of the tax the government collects from wagering and betting companies in April.

Grants of up to \$30,000 are also available through the Victoria Remembers Grant Program, supporting projects that honour or commemorate veterans' service or inform the community about the significant contributions veterans have made.

Last year, the Australian Commando Association Victoria received more than \$16,000 to create a digital oral history archive, recording the experiences of Victorian veterans.

Ex-service organisations, local government authorities, not-for-profit organisations and educational institutions are all encouraged to apply.

Applications for both grant programs close at 5pm on Monday 23 August 2021.

For more information about the ANZAC Day Proceeds Fund and to apply, visit vic.gov.au/anzac-day-proceeds-fund

Further information on the Victoria Remembers Grant Program, including how to apply, is available at www.vic.gov.au/victoria-remembers-grant-program

SUBMITTED BY KATE LEE



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Mary-Anne Thomas MP

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

Braemar student honoured in Premier's VCE Awards

A Braemar student has been recognised alongside the state's best performing VCE students in the Premier's VCE Awards.

Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas congratulated Madeline Condron on her outstanding achievement. "I congratulate Madeline on this fantastic achievement. Madeline's success is a credit to not only her hard work and abilities, but also to the support of family, friends and our school community."

Ms Condron was recognised with an award in Australian History.

A total of 297 Victorian students received 323 awards across 90 subjects, including 297 Study Awards, 23 Top All-Round VCE High Achiever Awards and three Top International Student Awards.

The Top Allround VCE High Achiever awards recognise those students who achieved study scores of 46 or higher out of 50 in at least five VCE subjects, while Study Awards recognise the best performers in individual VCE subjects.

Every government school now has a high-ability practice leader to coordinate their school's participation in these programs and to support their high-ability students.

A full list of the Premier's VCE Awards recipients is available at education.vic.gov.au/vceawards

SUBMITTED BY KATE LEE





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Helping low-income households stay comfy and save money

The Andrews Labor Government will help thousands of low-income Victorians upgrade their inefficient heating and cooling systems – improving the comfort of their homes, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, and saving households up to \$300 per year on their energy bills.

Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas has announced that the Victorian Government will begin providing \$1,000 rebates to support 250,000 low-income households to replace their old heaters with energy-efficient reverse-cycle systems that can warm their home in winter and cool it in summer.

The rebates are open to owner-occupier households with an approved concession card or a combined household income of less than \$90,000 and could cover more than half of the typical efficient reverse-cycle system. Additional rebates of \$200 are available to cap old gas heaters, and \$500 to upgrade electrical switchboards.

The HHCU Program follows the \$250 Power Saving Bonus, which provides immediate bill relief for eligible concession card holders; the Victorian Default Offer, which sets a fair price for energy; and Victorian Energy Compare, an independent energy price comparison website that could save households \$300 on their energy bill.

By replacing outdated, unsafe or inefficient electric, gas and wood-fired heaters, access to energy is improved, and the cost of living lowered, and it builds climate resilience. “This program will help local people replace their old heaters with new, energy efficient models that will save them money on their power bills and improve their comfort and wellbeing,” said Ms Thomas.

More information, including instructions on how to apply for the rebate, is available at heatingupgrades.vic.gov.au.

SUBMITTED BY KATE LEE

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Photo: Paul Quinn, birdseye view of Woodend

Vale Willem (Bill) van Smeerdijk

21 Feb 1932 to 17 May 2021

Wim grew up in Amsterdam during the Nazi occupation. He knew the war had started when he heard a bomb fall nearby. People were fleeing, but Wim ran towards it – curious, adventurous and self-contained.

The Jews in his neighbourhood had to wear the star of David; arrests began and Wim's neighbour went into hiding. Wim recalled with horror witnessing an elderly Jewish couple being picked up off his street, beaten and thrown in a truck.

Dozens of prominent local citizens in Wim's local park were executed in reprisal for a resistance action; the whole neighbourhood had to file by. But the resistance only strengthened; Wim played his part by sneaking into the railyards at night to try to sabotage the engines.

Wim lived on a farm for part of the war, sharing a room with Simon, a Jewish man in hiding. The brother of the farmer was the head of the local resistance and would thrill Wim with stories of his escapades. A German officer was also billeted at the farm: the Gestapo raided, looking for the farmer's brother, and Simon hid in the roof. Wim was put up against the wall with a gun to his head; he thought he was going to die. Suddenly, the officer returned and after a huge argument the Gestapo departed.

Wim returned to Amsterdam for the grim last year of the war, unusually cold with little food and fuel. The weekly ration was one loaf of black bread per family. People fell dead in the street. Wim took an old bike with rope for tyres to the countryside in search of food.

One of his uncles had joined the Dutch Nazi party and received food parcels. His baby sister Cobie saw cheese and asked for a taste, but the uncle refused. Cobie took



ill and weakened by malnutrition died soon after.

Amsterdam was still occupied when the war ended. Wim joined the crowd in Dam Square cheering and singing, when the Germans started shooting into the crowd. Hundreds were killed and injured, but Wim escaped.

Wim dreamt of being a marine engineer; he won a scholarship to college, and finished as Dux. He also discovered jazz, which he called the 'sound of freedom'. In the 1950s, he sailed from Japan to India and from Singapore to Australia. He sailed through typhoons, tying himself to his bunk to sleep. The officers would invite the nurses at Sydney Hospital onboard to parties. This was how Wim met Robyn; they married, and, after a world trip, settled in Australia.

Wim made a major contribution to the development of the chemical industry in a long career with ICI. He led the development of Australia's first fully-computerised chemical plant at Laverton and managed Australia's largest chemical complex at Botany. He also had a lifelong commitment to the community, including in his retirement at Cobaw and Woodend, as a member of Woodend Rotary and as a volunteer with the CFA.

Wim is survived by Robyn, four of his five children, eight grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

SUBMITTED BY JAMES VAN SMEERDIJK (SON)



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FEM helps the Woodend CFA



Fire Equipment Maintenance (FEM) is a simple and effective way that you can support your local CFA, so that we can

continue to more effectively serve our community.

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

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

We'd like to thank the many businesses who have supported the Woodend CFA through FEM work and look to continuing this valuable

service for them into the future.

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

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

If you would like more information, please contact the brigade's FEM manager Kate Daniel or our new FEM Assistant, Patrick Bradfield-Smith.

Vehicle update

In recent years, much of our fund-raising appeals have been in favour of upgrading our vehicle fleet, and 2021-22 looks like a significant time of progress in this area.

The Woodend CFA operates with five vehicles, of which only two are fully funded by the CFA. The remaining three are either fully or partially funded by the brigade and our community.

The two CFA-funded vehicles are three-year-old Tanker 1 and our ageing Pumper, which will hopefully soon be replaced.

Our twenty-two-year-old Tanker 2 will be replaced in the coming months, following a grant from the government – although the brigade will still be making a significant contribution.

Our ten-year-old forward command vehicle (FCV) is planned to be replaced in the near future, fully funded by the brigade and the community.

While our seventeen-year-old support vehicle is currently in the process of being reconfigured as a Rehab vehicle.

We thank our community very much for your valuable donations over the years. In many ways, they are just as important as the work that our volunteers do, and we look forward to your contributions in the future as there will always more equipment and upgrades that we need to make.

For further information, contact the Woodend CFA on 5427 2356 or visit the station in Urquhart Street. Follow us on Facebook, or you can visit our website: www.woodendcfa.org.

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, CAPTAIN

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Locals named finalists in Victorian Training Awards 2021

Andrew Jan, studying plumbing, has been named finalist for Apprentice of the Year, and Steven Hull, studying agriculture, has been named finalist for School-Based Apprentice of the Year.

The 67th Victorian Training Awards recognises the achievements of apprentices, students, teachers, trainers and employers.

“It’s great to see Andrew Jan and Steven Hull will represent Macedon at this year’s Victorian Training Awards for excellence in plumbing and agriculture. I congratulate them as finalists and know they will do Macedon proud,” said State Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas. “We had a record number of nominations for this year’s event – which goes to show successful the Victorian TAFE and training sector is.”

A pool of 44 finalists have been named across six award categories for individuals, four for employers and four for training organisations, as well as the Industry Collaboration Award.

Other finalists include Federation University TAFE nursing student Samantha Brown, who worked as a hotel manager before re-training as a nurse, and Yorta Yorta and Wiradjuri

man Stephen Cranage, who took up cybersecurity at GOTAFE as a mature-aged student.

The finalists represent all parts of metropolitan and regional Victoria.

Institutions and businesses in the running include South West TAFE, Wellsprings for Women, Master Builders Association of Victoria, Terra Firma Laboratories and Mansfield Armchair Cinema.

Award recipients receive \$5000 prize money and a selection of award recipients will have the opportunity to represent Victoria at the Australian Training Awards.

This year’s awards received the highest number of nominations in more than a decade, with individual award categories proving most popular among nominees.

The event is supported by principal partner Apprenticeship Employment Network (AEN) and the Global Apprenticeship Network (GAN Australia).

Winners of the Victorian Training Awards will be announced at a gala event on Saturday, 16 October 2021. Find out more at education.vic.gov.au/vta.

SUBMITTED BY KATE LEE



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More information can be found at:

<https://www.consumer.vic.gov.au/housing/renting/repairs-alterations-safety-and-pets/keeping-the-property-safe/smoke-alarms-and-fire-safety>



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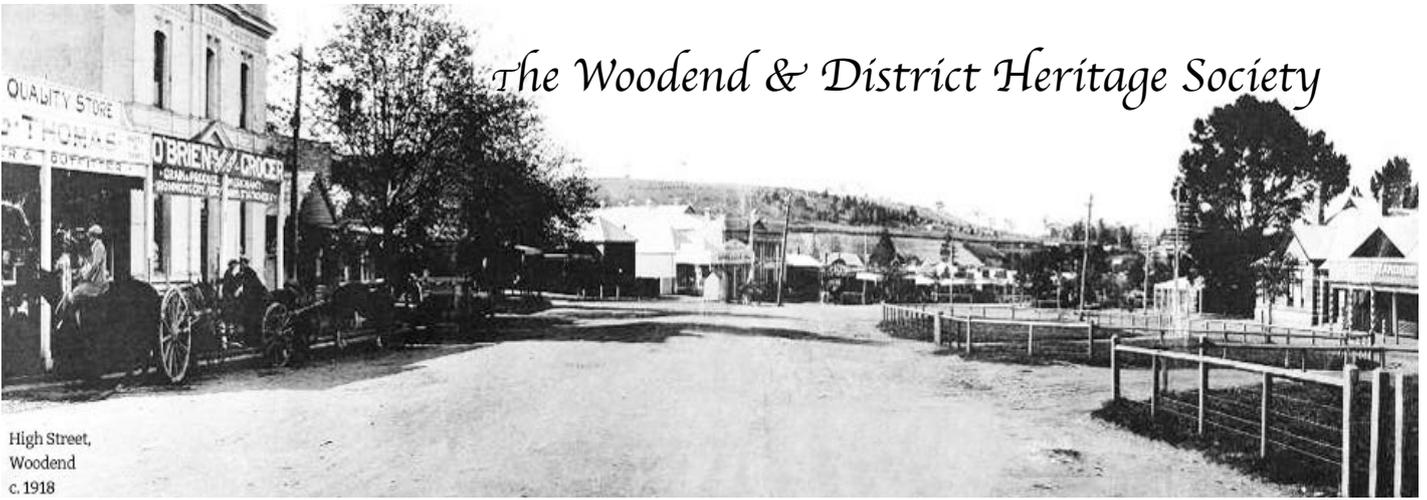
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Fulfilling a Dream



Aged 54, Jean Gale fulfilled a long-held dream when she bought four acres in Woodend and started planning to build a house and buy a horse.

Jean was born in Maidstone and lived there with her parents, brother and sister until the family went to

Scotland for eighteen months while her father supervised work on a new battleship. On their return to Australia, the children resumed their schooling at North Footscray State School. In those days, sheep and cattle grazed in paddocks nearby, and when rodeos and a circus camped there, Jean would make friends with the horses. By the age of 10, she was dreaming of owning her own.

Jean did well at school and went on to a business college to learn the calculator machine and the bookkeeping machine. Jean found jobs easily and excelled in her work.

After many years of marriage and having four children Jean suffered mental health issues and left the family home. She learnt woodworking and made furniture for her house in Woodend and also did a course in photography. Once installed in Woodend, she found her dream horse Amy – a Connemara pony mare.

Joan became well-known around Woodend after she started riding Amy into town. One day when she was outside the newsagency, some tourists arrived and went into the shop. Jean thought Amy would like to go in also so, with the permission of the owner, Jean led her inside. Word spread, and a photographer arrived to capture the scene and publish it in the local paper.

Later Jean put Amy in harness in a small cart, and she was often seen driving out to the Wombat State Forest, flying a small pennant to enable motorists to see her more easily.



Photo: Jean with Amy in a borrowed cart

In 2017, Jean published her memoirs for her friends and family. They reveal an intriguing picture of her hard-working and enterprising life.

SUBMITTED BY JANE HOLTH

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Macedon Ranges team wins top honours at Country Championships to gain entry to National Junior Classic



For the first time, the Macedon Ranges were Division 1 champions at the Basketball Victoria Country (BVC) Championships in April.

The Macedon Ranges Basketball Association's (MRBA) Under 14 Boys' squad took top honours winning ten games straight over three days at the round robin tournament in Traralgon; becoming the top ranked country basketball team for their age group in Victoria.

After the win, Head Coach John Maxwell from Gisborne said "our main focus this weekend was our defensive intensity. From games one to ten, we were able to maintain a very high standard, which is a credit to the team's depth and fitness."

"The Macedon Ranges should be extremely proud of the boys' achievement in winning Division 1 at the Country Championships. It is a testimony to the hard work of all the players, coaches and committee for such a small association to achieve the Division 1 Victorian Country Championship flag," said David Huxtable, General Manager, Member and Community Services for Basketball Victoria.

The Country Championships are held each year for U12, U14, U16 and U18 representative teams from across Victoria. Each association fields its strongest team to take on the best from across the state from as far afield as Swan Hill, Wodonga and Warrnambool.

The MRBA sent its congratulations to all involved in this major achievement, including Head Coach John Maxwell, Assistant Coach Chris Tarrant, Team Manager Anthony Woodcock and all the players – Christian Beecroft, Rhys Garrahan, Alex Gray, Noah Hanegraaf, Ruben Hewitt, Sonny Maxwell, Finn McGinty, Luke Laird, Ben Taylor and Joel Zoch.

As Division 1 Champions, the MRBA squad has gained automatic entry to the National Junior Classic in September, where they will take on the best metropolitan and country teams from across Australia.



Photo: The Macedon Ranges Under 14 squad with their Division 1 Country Championship medals

SUBMITTED BY MELINDA ROLLINSON

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Woodend Golf Club upgrade – seeking community partners



Woodend Golf Club is seeking community partners to support the renewal of our club facilities and our course.

Golf has enjoyed a resurgence in popularity in recent times with the club attracting lots of new members in the last year or so.

Our proximity to Melbourne, beautiful natural setting in heart of the Macedon Ranges and reputation for being a welcoming environment means that we continue to attract many visitors.

Our course also a wonderful asset that our club maintains as high-quality open space for the benefit of our local community.

Through the hard work of our Course Superintendent Grant and his team, the course is in excellent condition around the year despite the Woodend weather, with real improvements delivered in recent years.

The club has also established a junior program and we are keen to promote our sport and our club to our local community.

With a commitment from the Macedon Ranges Shire Council towards the upgrade of our club house, the next few years will be exciting as we continue to improve our course and provide an excellent value golfing experience for members and visitors alike.

Further support through community partnerships will help us invest in further improvements to our club, which is particularly important as we recover from recent storm damage.

If you are interested in becoming a community partner for our club, please contact James O'Brien - jjobrien74@gmail.com

The club also has a new member special to get more people playing our great game – go to www.woodendgolfclub.com.au for details.



SUBMITTED BY JAMES O'BRIEN



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

10 reasons to play bowls

1. It's family-friendly. There are a lot of reasons why bowls is fun. One is that the whole family, including the very young, can play!
2. It's easy to learn. There aren't many sports where you can get the hang of it in a few minutes.
3. It's social. Bowling clubs are a great social place to meet new friends or catch up with current ones.
4. Just about anyone can play. Bowls is for everyone, regardless of age, gender, or ability.
5. There is a club near you. There are more than 520 bowls clubs throughout Victoria, so there will be one within easy distance of home or work, including Woodend.
6. It's cheap. Far cheaper to play or join a club than many other sports, plus drinks at crackerjack prices!
7. You don't need much equipment to start. Flat soled shoes and a set of bowls. Woodend has bowls to loan, and even without the right shoes, there's barefoot bowls.
8. There are lots of different ways to play. You can play alone, or with a team. For a long time, a short time, socially, against mates or with the whole family.
9. It's active and outdoors. It's a great way to stay active, fit, healthy and get outdoors.
10. Bowls is a Commonwealth Games sport. There are heaps of opportunities to represent your state and country.

Looking for new members for the coming season

The new Pennant seasons (Midweek and Saturday) are not far away. If you are a player with some experience, the Woodend Bowling Club is looking for some new players. If you believe you have what it takes to be a competitive bowler or a keen social bowler, please give us a call.

Come on down for a free trial.

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

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

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

For more information, please call our NEW phone number 5407 9220, visit our website at www.woodendbowlsclub.weebly.com.

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, PRESIDENT WOODEND BOWLING CLUB INC.

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Career Pathway Options at SHC

Sacred Heart College Year 12 student Tyrone Hargreaves is currently completing a Senior VCAL Certificate, balancing a two day per week apprenticeship in horticulture, working onsite at the College, with the formal demands of a Senior Certificate within the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) program. As the completion of his compulsory education nears, Tyrone spoke with Sacred Heart College's Principal, Dr Darren Egberts, about his chosen secondary pathway and future plans.

What led you to choose the VCAL pathway leading up to Year 11?

I had been studying Horticulture in Year 10, as well as a unit called 'Paddock to Plate' earlier in Year 9 and realised that this could lead to a future career pathway. The VCAL stream, along with a Horticulture focused school-based apprenticeship, provided the best fit for this pathway.

Tell me a little about your original work placement and school-based apprenticeship.

During Year 11, I completed one day a week in work placement as a gardener, assisting a family friend, while working on my VCAL subjects at school. I realised that developing and maintaining a garden was really enjoyable, rather than the landscaping approach of creating a new design which would then be left for someone else to care for.

When/how did you hear about the possibility of an opportunity at Sacred Heart?

At the start of Term 1, 2021 I was approached by a staff member, who let me know that the College was advertising an opportunity for an apprentice gardener. At that time, I had been working for a local nursery, but was starting to realise that the learning opportunities in this workplace may not cover the breadth of experiences required by TAFE.

How was the transition from student to staff member?

The transition to staff member has been pretty smooth, and I feel I'm managing the dual roles well. The biggest change is learning to call all the teachers by their first names when working at the College. My friends have responded well to the change, but sometimes they enjoy calling me Mr Hargreaves, for a bit of fun.

What sort of work have you been doing?

I've completed a broad range of work – leaf blowing and path cleaning, pruning the College's roses, helping with the construction of new horticulture sheds as well as the tree and plant register, which has helped me learn a large variety of plant names.

Six months in, how is it going, and how will it feel once your SHC studies conclude?

The school-based apprenticeship is working really well for me. I will finish the year with a Cert III in Horticulture, and once my studies are complete, I will be working full time at the College and plan to commence my Horticulture apprenticeship in 2022.

School-based apprenticeships offer wonderful career opportunities for students in Years 10, 11 and 12 who wish to enter the workforce via a part time apprenticeship while still at school. Students are able to complete VCE or VCAL while developing skills in a particular industry through working and training.



Photos: Tyrone enjoying his current dual role at SHC, seen here discussing his studies with Dr Egberts and also working in the College's heritage garden during the work days of his school-based apprenticeship.



SUBMITTED BY JENNIFER BALDWIN



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Year 7 2023 Enrolments

The deadline for Year 7 enrolments has been extended.

Want to learn more about College life? Join one of our Virtual Conversations for an opportunity to talk to College Principal, Dr Darren Egberts and students. Details and bookings via the College website.

Contact the College Registrar for enrolment enquiries.

