

The New

Woodend Star

Rotary Club of Woodend



May 2022
Volume 26 | Issue 4

Fine weather ensures large turnout for ANZAC Day March in Woodend

After two years of interruptions due to Covid-19, the Macedon Ranges community turned out for the Dawn Service at the Memorial Cross, and the High Street March and service at the Woodend RSL.

More pictures pages 5 and 34.



ANZAC Day March Photo credits: KGMG Creative. More photos inside.

First published 1997 – by the community, for the community

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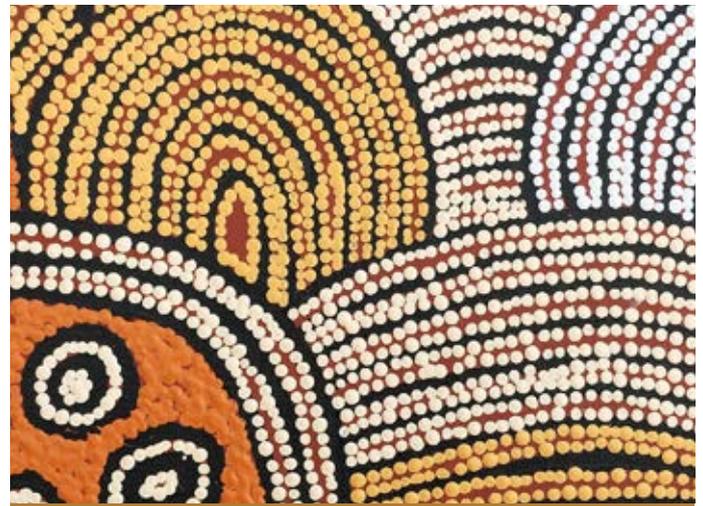
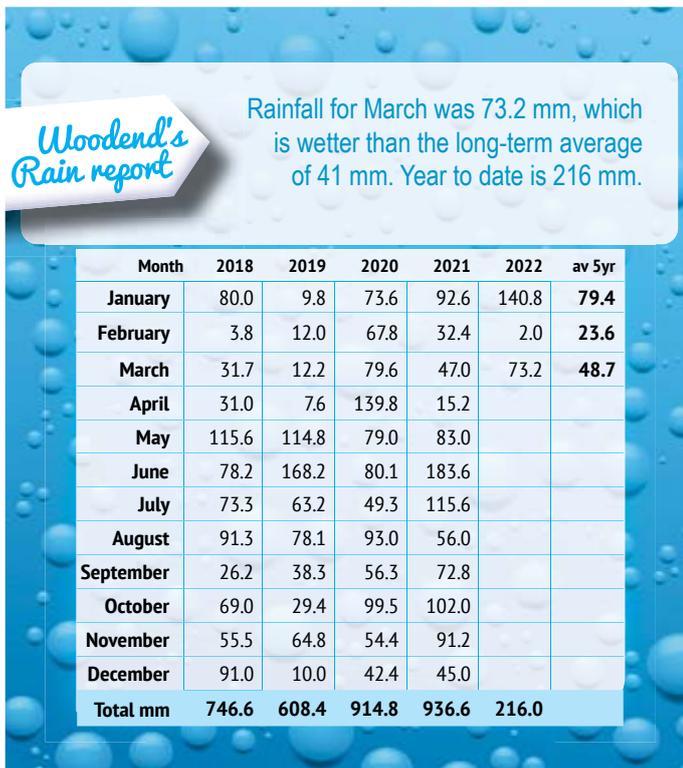
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Vale James Darryll Crozier

Darryll, as we all knew him best, was a charter member of Woodend Rotary, which means he was there at the formation of the club in 1987.

He remained a member of Woodend Rotary until several years ago, when his health started to impact his capacity to attend meetings and help the club.

The Crozier family have lived in Woodend for over a century, and the Crozier name is represented many times on the Woodend clock tower memorial plaques, with his family having served and sacrificed in wars over the last century.

Darryll was a quiet and gentle person; reserved, but always eager to lend a hand and do his bit to support Woodend Rotary and the community.

Woodend Rotary recently celebrated its 35th anniversary and the 25th anniversary of *The New Woodend Star*, and there were many photos of Darryll in the presentation.

Of note was one particular photo of Darryll who one night arranged a visit to St Paul's Kyneton and allowed us the privilege of witnessing his skills on the church organ and hearing about its history.

We know he played at church for many years, contributing to many church services and special occasions. This is another example of Darryll's commitment to our community.

In recent years, as his health declined, Darryll was cared for by the staff at RM Begg nursing home here in Kyneton. Woodend Rotarian Jim Noy has kept in touch with Darryll and supported him in many ways, and every now and then would tell us how he was.

Woodend Rotary has a tradition where the serving President for each year nominates a member to receive an award as the best club person. This is awarded to the member that is active and supports Woodend Rotary in many areas of the club projects and activities and is often not the most visible.

For several years now, this award has been named in honour of Darryll Crozier and presented at the club annual changeover event each year.

This means that we will continue to remember and honour Darryll Crozier each year.

We will remember Darryll with fondness, as a special person who dedicated his life to support his local community.

Rest in Peace Darryll.

SUBMITTED BY GRANT HOCKING



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FOR ENQUIRIES

Support born out of necessity

Exactly ten years to the day Woodend Lifestyle Carers Group enjoyed a delightful 'picnic' at the Woodend RSL to celebrate its 10th anniversary since the volunteer carer support group began. Back in 2012, it was thanks to the help of Bendigo Health Carers Support that a small group of Macedon Ranges seniors got together to enjoy afternoon tea and the opportunity to chat about their undoubtedly mixed feelings about looking after a loved one living at home with dementia.

By the end of that first year, the numbers had swelled to 32 couples who met at Woodend Neighbourhood House twice a month. These meetings enabled them to feel less isolated for a few hours while enjoying the company of new friends who understood their feelings of frustration, despair and often anger at the lifestyle changes forced upon them by this insidious disease. Meetings also became an opportunity for fun and laughter, education and acceptance of what it means to love someone whose personality was changing through no fault of their own.

Since 2012, WLCG has helped over 200 families in and around the Macedon Ranges. In 2015, it became a charity, and in 2020, was awarded Deductible Gift Recipient status, meaning that anything over \$2 is tax deductible to the donor.

The work of the group has also impacted strongly on many in the health profession who had not previously appreciated the problems being faced on a daily basis. So many carers belong

to a generation which refuses to become a 'burden' and thereby continues to struggle without complaint, often at a time when they are experiencing their own health problems. By advocating for 'the invisibles' WLCG has, in its own way, helped to bring about community awareness and the need for government support.

The celebration in March included not only group members, but a number of those who had been among the many professionals who over the last decade had been invited to speak at group meetings. A celebratory cake was cut by the group's benefactor, Mrs Janet Hawkins OAM. Janet's generosity and understanding of what it means to be a carer promises to ensure that WLCG will eventually be able to support members on a daily basis through the establishment of Macgregor's Farm Day Care Cottage, a project on which more information will be available in future.

In the meantime, WLCG's fund-raising schedule now includes (weather permitting) a Car Boot Sale on Saturday, 7 May at Macgregor's Farm in Old Lancefield Road. If you would like more information on this event, please call 0418 638 791 or email: cherry03@bigpond.com

We look forward to seeing you there. Just think – 'declutter and bargain hunt'!

SUBMITTED BY CHERRY SERVIS

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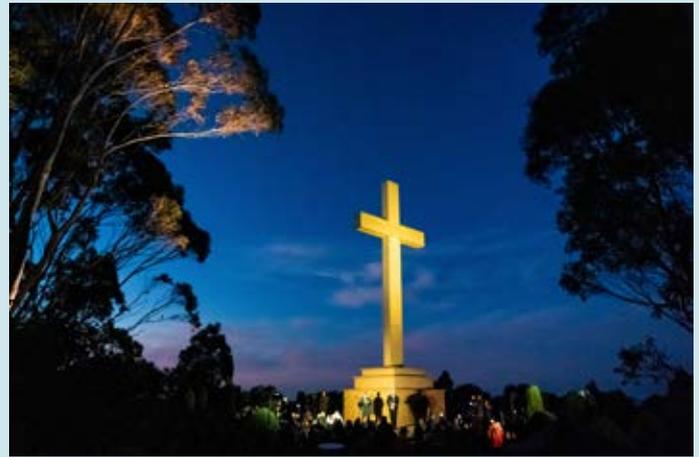
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Photo: Janine Vincent from JD's Hair and Barber Studio in Romsey opened shop for Shane Jacobson and other local celebrities filmed as part of the 'Cut the Silence' men's mental health campaign. Gisborne Men's Shed made the promotional scissors. Photo credit: Paul Rovere



Crowds were back at the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Mt Macedon this year after two years of absences. Thanks to KGMG Creative for these wonderful images.

It's time to get men talking

Did you hear about the creative crew who took a bunch of actors to a barber shop for a chat?

'Cut the Silence' is a mental health initiative aimed at giving men safe places to talk, namely barber shops. Affable Australian actor Shane Jacobson, who lives locally with his young family, is fronting the video campaign being organised by Macedon Ranges Suicide Prevention Action Group, with funding from North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network (NWMPHN).

Shane has interviewed other high profile local men for Cut the Silence in the lead up to Men's Health Week in June.

"It's no secret that men aren't always great at expressing their feelings or seeking out help when they need" he said. "I've done a couple of TV shows encouraging blokes to look after themselves, but Cut the Silence was a chance to get involved at a local level and tackle the issue in my own backyard, the Macedon Ranges. Let's hope it gets men talking and saves some lives."

Gisborne resident and advertising creative Mat Garbutt produced the campaign concept after MRSPAG sought advice on how to engage men in personal conversations.

"It's not necessarily about prompting a deep and meaningful conversation, but more about barbers being able to recognise the signs that somebody may be struggling," says Mat, who enlisted creative contacts in the Macedon Ranges including Tim Lane, Rodney Lowe, John Power, Ben Mix and Paul Rovere to deliver the Cut the Silence videos.

The Macedon Ranges has a higher suicide rate than the state average, with men accounting for four in five deaths.

In 2021, #thehumancode research project, funded in 2021 by NWMPHN, found that nearly half of those surveyed in the shire said boys and men were not comfortable seeking out health services when they needed them. One in five men said they had experienced shame in asking for help. And over half agreed that men would not be comfortable talking about their mental health before they reached breaking point.

SUPPORT SERVICES

- Lifeline – 131114 or text 0477 131 114 (6pm–midnight)
- Suicide Call Back Service – 24/7 free professional phone and online counselling 1300 659 467
- MensLine Australia – family and relationship concerns 1300 789 978
- headtohealth.gov.au
- beyondblue.org.au
- mycompass.org.au



SUBMITTED BY NADINE HARTNETT

Fun approach to important life lessons

Macedon Ranges resident and now children's author, Paula Jewell knows a thing or two about the importance of befriending the body. As a former Premier League netballer and member of the Adelaide Thunderbirds national league squad, there was once a time where her future looked to depend upon her physical abilities and certainly, it had gotten her far.

Unfortunately for Mrs Jewell, a series of injuries and many rounds of surgery in her late teens and early twenties put paid to a burgeoning netball career but planted the seed for her latest piece of work, a children's book written and designed by Mrs Jewell that makes the link between the body and feelings.

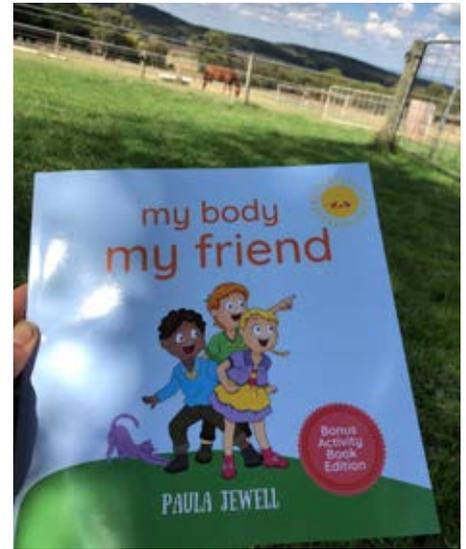
The book, *My Body, My Friend* introduces the idea of feelings as information in a fun and experiential way and gently guides children to build healthy relationships with their bodies, in a way that supports emotional development. This, Mrs Jewell says, paves the way for both physical and mental wellbeing, resilience and a healthy sense of self later in life.

Mrs Jewell, owner of Sunshine Hill Equine and Nature Assisted Learning, says it was through some deep personal

development work that she realised the disconnect between her own body and her emotions and the impact this had upon her in every aspect of her life. Through her professional counselling training, Mrs Jewell learned how common this disconnect is and how early in life it can form. Having experienced it for herself, she became determined to provide a resource that introduced the topic in a way that was accessible and easy for children to understand and that, she says, "normalised emotions within families and other key systems in which children grow and develop."

Every element of the book has been considered, from the invitational language that allows children to have their own personal experiences, to the rhyming prose that supports emotional regulation for both children and adults when reading together.

The book, intended as a conversation starter between children and parents, caregivers, teachers or even therapists, was developed with the support of mental health professionals, early childhood educators and parents. It has already been used as a resource by psychologists and counsellors, receiving positive reviews about the book's ability to engage



children in a topic many find difficult to discuss.

The current bonus activity book edition offers interactive pages for children to put words to their own unique experiences and also introduces the concepts of healthy relationships and consent in an age-appropriate way.

My Body, My Friend is available online at www.amazon.com.au/dp/0645448109

For further enquiries, please contact Paula Jewell via email or on 0411 082 970.

SUBMITTED BY PAULA JEWELL



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The Odd Couple ready to provide plenty of laughs

The Mount Players are very excited about their second production for 2022. The Odd Couple opens on Friday 13 May, running till Sunday 29 May and is sure to provide plenty of laughs.

This timeless classic is set in the smoke-filled apartment of Oscar Madison (played by Darren Gregor), who lives like a slob. Felix (played by Adam Geihling), one of his regular weekly poker game guests, moves in, having been thrown out by his wife. Felix is a neat freak and the blokey poker nights change dramatically as the slob and his new roommate find each other impossible to live with.

Auditions for The Mount Players' third production will be held on 4 and 7 May. Reservoir Dogs (the iconic Tarantino thriller) has been adapted for the stage, with an all-female cast. If you would like to audition, we invite you to our website for full details on the play and director's details. The play will open in August.

Book your tickets and keep up with all things theatre at www.themountplayers.com or call 5426 1892 for assistance.

See you at the theatre.

SUBMITTED BY KAREN HUNT

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Another successful event supporting CKF

The 2022 Macedon Ranges Music Festival was an outstanding success as it celebrated 10 years of the festival on March 26. In its first year at its new site at Hanging Rock, over 1,000 attendees were treated to the return of live music to the Macedon Ranges. Kicking off with performances from young local acts Sage Roadknight and Hannah Cooper, the day rolled into the evening with sets from Aussie blues powerhouse Ash Grunwald, The Seven Ups and the Macedon Ranges' very own Taylor Sheridan bringing his 7-piece band.

Patrons relished the opportunity to attend an intimate live music event at one of Australia's most iconic live music sites and were treated to a perfect day of sunshine, music, local food vendors and drinks. There was also the chance to see some intimate acoustic performances at the festival's one-off second stage inside a renovated bus turned 'Bus Stop Stage'.

While there were many highlights throughout the day, the festival also managed to raise a record amount for the Cambodian Kids Foundation. With 100% of ticket sales donated to the Macedon Ranges-based charity, over \$25,000 was raised to help CKF provide free education, healthcare and employment opportunities to a rural Cambodian community.

This community event wouldn't have been possible without the support of our very special sponsors. With thanks to major sponsors Gisborne & District Community Bendigo Bank, Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Proglazed, Music Victoria and Greater Western Water.

SUBMITTED BY JIMMY O'HARE



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Art Bombing for Mental Health

The Art Bomb Project showcases the work of four artists from Romsey, Gisborne and Kyneton who have all experienced challenges with their mental health and find art a useful strategy for dealing with the ups and downs of trauma and recovery.

Project artists – Aimee Timpson, Fiona Farrugia, Lachlan McKenzie and Mark Ingall – have very different styles, but they share a common bond; they use art to bridge the gap between the broader community and those who have confronted thoughts of suicide or struggled with their mental health.

Artworks are currently on public display at four different locations in the shire until mid-April, and information on how to purchase them is available through the MRSPAG website www.mrspag.com.au/art-bombing-for-mental-health

SUBMITTED BY ANDREA MACDONALD

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SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE

A man with a mission

Woodend resident Greg Clark is a man on a mission – he wants young people to gain a better understanding of the lives and experiences of refugees and asylum-seekers in Australia. The publication of a new book by the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre gave him the opportunity he needed.



Photo: Greg Clark with Woodend Library Manager Emma Keenan.

Seeking Asylum: Our Stories, is an illustrated collection of first-hand accounts by asylum-seekers – sharing stories of resilience, courage, love and hope. Contributors tell of their harrowing flights from fear and the challenges faced as they struggled to gain a foothold in an alien world. Growing up in a refugee camp, building friendships, breaking down barriers through sport, enduring the hurt of bigotry and racism – all are recorded in moving personal testimony. Through them, we learn something of the impact of Australia’s immigration policies on these displaced and often traumatised people.

Armed with copies of the book, Greg Clark approached libraries and schools in the Macedon Ranges to add it to their collections. Encouraged by the response, he has so far found willing recipients of the book in Woodend Library and Sacred Heart College, Kyneton. Other schools in the area have expressed interest in the project, and he hopes to hear from more who might like to come on board.

Greg is an executive member of the Macedon Ranges Rural Australians for Refugees and a passionate advocate for the rights of refugees and asylum-seekers. “These people have come to us seeking protection, risking their lives only as a last resort, fleeing their homes in fear of persecution or death. Under international law we are obliged to help,” he says.

Greg encourages all who would like to know more about the work of his group to email an enquiry to: mrrar.refugees@gmail.com

Copies of *Seeking Asylum: Our Stories* are available at shop.asrc.org.au/products/seeking-asylum-book

SUBMITTED BY ANDREW GRIMES



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A celebration to remember

Woodend Rotary celebrated two major milestones this month – the 35th anniversary of the club charter and the 25th anniversary of *The New Woodend Star*.

Many members, past and present, and friends helped us celebrate at Glen Erin Winery. Notable guests included District Governor Dale Hoy and Maureen, Past District Governor John King and Elaine (John was the District Governor when the club chartered in 1987) and Immediate Past District Governor Philip Archer.

Our guest speaker was Mark Balla – a Rotarian and an author who is well known as The Toilet Warrior.

Mark told us his story of when, in 2012, he made a friend while travelling on a local train in Mumbai, who took him to Dharavi, one of the largest slums in the world, and this new friend's home.

There, Mark came across an eye-opening reality that turned his understanding of the world upside down: that many teenage girls in India leave education because there are no toilets for them to use at their schools. So affected by this fact, he was set on a mission, and by 2015, had raised the money and support to build five toilets for girls in a school of 500 students. Since then, hundreds more toilets have been built for girls in India by The Toilet Warrior.

We also heard from charter member Adriaan Adolph and PDG John King OAM with stories of the 1987 Charter of the Woodend Rotary Club and for *The New Woodend Star*, we heard from the original committee member Barry Napthine and from radio presenter David Mann.

Two members of our club received letters of congratulations from Rotary World President, Shekhar Mehta: Jim Noy for 40 years of service to Rotary, and Allan Cann 30 years of service to Rotary.

There were lots of laughs and smiles, especially when we held our egg auction, which raises money for Operation Cleft, a project that funds corrective cleft palate repair surgery for children in Bangladesh, and is a feature of our regular weekly dinner meeting. The club was pleased to present a cheque for a total of \$3,500 from this year's fundraising to Operation Cleft Australia chair Bruce McEwen, who accepted it on behalf of the project.

SUBMITTED BY JOSEPHINE FALZARANO

Photos credit: Paul Quinn



Rotary Woodend welcomes new members Steve and Lesley-Anne Simpson

Rotary Club of Woodend's newest members, Steve and Lesley-Anne Simpson moved to Woodend in January 2022, having lived in Essendon for eight years, and Gold Coast and Perth prior to that.

"We really enjoyed our time in Essendon. On weekends, we used to go for drives only to discover and fall in love with the Macedon Ranges. In 2021 during a short break from Covid lockdown, we discovered a house in Woodend that we loved ..." They purchased it, only to go back into lockdown. "We ended up selling our Essendon home on a Zoom auction – an experience we'd not recommend!"

Steve and Lesley-Anne are delighted to be in' Woodend, which they describe as a "beautiful village which has so much to offer." While still running a consulting business on workplace cultures, the couple thought it was time to give back – so they say they're very pleased to join "a wonderful group of people at Woodend Rotary."

SUBMITTED BY JOSEPHINE FALZARANO



Blanket, coats, underwear and socks for the homeless

Over the past seven years, Woodend Rotary has coordinated a blanket drive and had great support from you, the Woodend Community.

You would have noticed it getting a little colder recently. Many Woodenders have already started the wood fires burning or turned on their heating systems so they and their family can stay warm.

The community's support is requested again this year as Woodend Rotary coordinates the collection of blankets and coats so that families in need can stay warm too. Blankets, coats, scarves, gloves and hats are all gratefully accepted. Darker colours are preferred. Items must be clean and in good condition.

This year we are also seeking support in the form of new underwear and socks

This extra request follows a recent visit by Woodend Rotarians to The Living Room in Hosier Lane Melbourne (see photo above); part of Youth Projects, a free primary health service offered to the homeless in and around the city. New underwear and socks for men and women are needed and in short supply.

Items can be dropped off at Mort & Pestle who continue to be a great support to the community and to Woodend Rotary.

Collection will continue until the end of June.

Items will be transported to those in need and will make a real and immediate impact to improve the conditions for so many people.

We look forward to being overwhelmed by the generosity of spirit shown by the Woodend community.

Even though it's getting cold, donations to this cause will give you a guaranteed warm glow.

SUBMITTED BY GRANT HOCKING



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Rob Mitchell, your Federal Member

FEDERAL Member for McEwen, Rob Mitchell will continue to make himself available to residents of the Woodend community right through the campaign for the upcoming federal election.

Since COVID restrictions were lifted, Rob has been out at listening posts and visiting community groups and clubs right across McEwen, including Woodend.

"After the lockdowns, it has been great to be back out and about. Issues such as mobile phone blackspots and the NBN continue to dominate conversations and I have continued to advocate on these issues," Rob said.

"I want to thank every person who has stopped and spoken to me and showed their support for Labor's commitment to such issues as aged care and climate change."

Keep up with Rob on his Facebook page at www.facebook.com/RobMitchellMP, where upcoming visits and listening posts are listed. Alternatively, contact his office on 03 5716 3000 or via email on rob.mitchell.mp@aph.gov.au with any queries.

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




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Authorised by C McQuestin, Liberal Party of Australia (Victorian Division),
Level 12, 257 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

Take the CFA home safety quiz



The official Summer Fire Danger Period has ended, but that does not mean the fire danger period is over. While we attend most of our bush, grass and scrub fires over the warmer months, the CFA attends more structural fires (such as houses and sheds) in

the cooler months. This is the time when people start using their fires, heaters and electric blankets again.

Answer these 20 questions.

- Is there a smoke alarm in your home? Do you test it every month?
- Do you replace the battery annually or when the low battery alarm activates?
- Is your house number easy to see so emergency vehicles can find you?
- Do you know the Emergency Response phone number?
- Has your household made and practised a home fire escape plan?
- Have you planned a safe meeting place outside?
- Do you have a fire extinguisher in your home?
- Is your home protected by an electrical safety switch?
- Are the keys kept in or near exits with deadlocks?
- Do you always have electrical repairs, alterations or renovations done by a qualified electrician?
- Do you avoid overloading power points?
- Are flammable liquids stored away from heaters, hot water service pilot lights and other naked flames?
- Do you avoid pouring flammable liquids in high-risk areas – such as when refuelling a lawn mower near a hot water service?
- Is your electric blanket switched off before you get into bed?
- Do you always use a fire screen with an open fire?
- Are heating appliances kept safely away from laundry, curtains and furniture?
- Are matches kept out of the way of children?
- Do you clean the lint filter of your clothes dryer after each load?
- Does everyone know the cold water first aid treatment for burns?
- Is there clear access for CFA trucks to get close to your house – at least 4 metres wide x 4 metres high?

How did you score? Every YES scores a point!

Less than 10 – The potential for fire in your household is dangerously high. You need to be more than fire aware. 10 to 15 – Not bad. But there are still several things you can do to decrease the likelihood of a fire. 16 to 20 – Well done! You are giving yourself the best chance of protecting your life and property from house fire.

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

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, CAPTAIN WOODEND CFA



Community planting days – calling for local involvement

The Jocks Gully Restoration Project creates a 2 km Biolink running upstream along Jocks Gully, from its confluence with the Campaspe River to connect to the Wombat Forest. This important project will restore habitat and connectivity for wildlife and flora along a degraded water course.



Running through three properties, these biolink sites will be ready for planting this early May. We need to plant 3000 native tubestock – grasses, shrubs, trees – carefully selected to re-establish lost local habitat.

Three planting days are planned to involve the wider general community, Ashbourne Landcare members, and local schools – Woodend Primary School, and Melbourne Grammar Camp. This DELWP grant seeks to engage and educate local communities about biodiversity, sustainability, protection of wildlife, flora and fungi, habitat and many beneficial flow-ons.

Planting day dates:

Saturday 7 May – Community Planting Day, barbecue lunch, MRSC speaker, Traditional Owner’s Welcome and Smoking Ceremony. All-day event.

Wednesday 11 May – Woodend Primary School student involvement, ALG members, local speaker. Morning or afternoon event.

Sunday 15 May – Melbourne Grammar student involvement, ALG members, local speaker. All-day event.

Please join us in contributing to this rewarding community project, which will be informative, productive and fun. Every offer of assistance welcome!

Please contact Libby Peck 0419 396 641 and epeck2@telstra.com for further information.

This project is funded by DELWP, Victoria, and supported by MRSC.

SUBMITTED BY LIBBY PECK, ASHBOURNE LANDCARE GROUP

Rabbit control workshops

Are you having problems with rabbits on your property? You are not alone.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council is hosting two community workshops to address recent community concerns about the increasing rabbit populations in the shire.

Rabbits are a known environmental pest, damaging land, destroying vegetation and competing with native wildlife. The devastation caused by rabbit populations erodes the soil, and can cause flooding and weed infestations. Not to mention the impacts to local residents’ vegetable gardens!

Free workshops will be held in Gisborne on Wednesday 4 May and Lancefield on Thursday 5 May. Both workshops will run from 6–8:30pm and will outline how to control pest rabbits on your property. We will discuss:

- Control methods for best practice rabbit management including integrated pest management
- How communities can work together to manage rabbit infestations for effective and efficient rabbit control
- Information on biological control methods

Register online at mrsc.vic.gov.au/events or call Josh Gomez on 0408 964 473.



SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN

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5 simple steps to check for water leaks



If you think you might have a water leak at home, Greater Western Water (GWW) has five easy steps so that you can check for yourself.

Fixing leaks can save you water and money and help to maintain your pipes.

To check for a water leak:

1. Turn off all taps in and around your house. Ensure evaporative cooling and appliances are off, and no sprinklers are scheduled.
2. Find your water meter and record the numbers on the dial.
3. Don’t use water for several hours – preferably overnight.
4. Check the water meter dial again. If the numbers have changed you may have a leaking pipe, tap, toilet cistern, solar hot water service or appliance.
5. If you think you have a leak, call a licensed plumber, who can find and repair it.

If you have a known water leak or inefficiency at home requiring general repairs, you may be entitled to assistance with GWW’s WaterTight program. Contact 13 44 99 to discuss your eligibility.

Find out more about keeping track of your water usage at gww.com.au

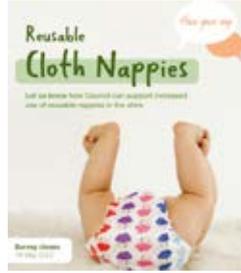
SUBMITTED BY JESSICA JURY



Being resourceful – waste management news

Have a little one in nappies?

We want to hear from all types of nappy users – whether you are using disposable nappies, you have tried reusable nappies and decided they aren't for you, you are using both, or you are a reusable nappy loyalist.



Let us know how Council can support increased use of reusable nappies by taking our short survey before 10 May at mrsc.vic.gov.au/nappies

Soft plastics trial update

The six-month soft plastics recovery trial, which started in October last year, has turned out to be a huge success! So far, we have prevented 50 cubic metres of soft plastics from going to landfill. Council is looking at options to make the service permanent to support recycling and reduce waste to landfill. Stay tuned for more to come!



Burning off – what you need to know

The Fire Danger Period for the Macedon Ranges Shire has ended, meaning that with the easing of restrictions, residents can now burn off branches and debris and clean up their properties through autumn and winter.

To comply with Council's local laws, if the property is less than 4000m² (1 acre), landowners must obtain a permit and follow the conditions outlined in it. You should also have an adequate water supply on hand and ensure the fire is extinguished before leaving the site.

Residents are asked to also notify Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA) on the day of the burn on 1800 668 511.

In addition, whilst burning your debris, please keep an eye on changes in weather conditions throughout the burn, watch for overhead branches before ignition, and ensure that smoke doesn't cause a nuisance to neighbouring properties.

Application for a permit should be made at least five days prior to the day you intend to burn, and there is no cost for the permit. Permits can be obtained online at mrsc.vic.gov.au/burning-off

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN

Renewable boost for Newham CFA

Newham CFA brigade is a grateful beneficiary of a five-kilowatt solar power system installation, thanks to a grant from MRSG's Renewable Energy Fund. MRSG President, David Gormley-O'Brien, says that MRSG is delighted to support the important work that the Newham CFA volunteers do to protect our region during fire season and hopes that more funds will become available to expand the installation to include battery storage in the future, providing some resilience in an emergency event, in case of cuts to the electricity grid.

In addition to Newham CFA, MRSG has used its Renewable Energy Fund to enable several local community groups to benefit from the solar installations, saving electricity costs and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, including Woodend Primary School, Woodend Neighbourhood House, and Kyneton Caring Community. MRSG's Sustainable Malmsbury action group also helped rally local support for the solar and battery installation at Malmsbury CFA last year. If your community group in the Macedon Ranges would like to explore going solar and being supported by either an interest free loan or a matched grant, please contact MRSG on reag@mrsg.org.au

SUBMITTED BY DAVID GORMLEY O'BRIEN



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Community Access Hub officially opens

Residents in the Macedon Ranges and surrounding communities now have better access to a range of vital health, family and community services under one roof, after the opening of the Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health Hub in Kyneton.

Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas last month officially opened the \$9.7 million hub, which will serve as a specialised health and wellbeing precinct for the Macedon Ranges community.

“This hub is a welcome addition to the region’s infrastructure and will mean our local community has access to the health and wellbeing services they need, closer to home,” Ms Thomas said.

Located next to the Kyneton District Hospital, the Hub provides a purpose-built ‘one-stop-shop’, which brings together a range of health and wellbeing services coordinated by Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health.

The Hub includes 14 consult rooms for allied health, counselling, paediatric and family services as well as new e-health technology to provide clients in remote areas with the health care they need, when they need it.

The site also provides dedicated areas for youth and children’s services and meeting spaces for the community to use.

The contemporary building was designed with significant input from local community representatives and reflects the natural and built environments of the Macedon Ranges. Its design also focused on staff safety and amenity, with secure work and reception spaces, plus additional car parking spaces.

The work was funded as part of the government’s \$490 million Regional Health Infrastructure Fund (RHIF), which provides investments in regional health services so they can continue to provide safe and efficient care to local communities.

SUBMITTED BY KATE LEE



Staff members representing Mary-Anne Thomas and their doggos: L to R Miranda, Emma and Georgia (holding Robbie, who was pleased to be out and about!)

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Mary-Anne Thomas MP LABOR MEMBER FOR MACEDON

As your local Member of Parliament I am keen to hear from the community and assist with any State Government matter.

Mary-Anne Thomas



A: Shop 14, Nexus Centre, 9 Goode Street, Gisborne, VIC 3437

P: 5428 2138 **E:** maryanne.thomas@parliament.vic.gov.au

W: www.mary-annethomas.com.au

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Macedon Ranges Celebrates Inaugural Puppy Pride in The Park

Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas is celebrating the inaugural Macedon Ranges Puppy Pride in The Park in isolation, with her beloved pooch Robbie.

“I am so disappointed that I am currently in isolation and cannot attend this fantastic event,” Ms Thomas said. “I support our LGTBIQA+ community and everyone involved in the inaugural Puppy Pride for the Macedon Ranges.”

“Robbie is very proud to wear his rainbow flag, for special occasions and every other day too,” Ms Thomas said.

Puppy Pride 2022 is a project from Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health’s (SCCH)’s CLIP – Country LGTBIQA+ Inclusion Program and WayOut program that continues a longstanding commitment to connect the LGTBIQA+ community and allies, increase LGTBIQA+ visibility, champion positive health and wellbeing outcomes, and celebrate PRIDE in the Macedon Ranges.

SCCH hopes that Puppy Pride will be added to the annual LGTBIQA+ calendar of events in Central Victoria. In partnership with Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Puppy Pride will also form part of SCCH’s broader response to the Healthy Heart of Victoria 2019 Active living Census results that showed that people who identify as LGTBIQA+ were less likely to meet the national recommended guidelines for exercise and physical activity.

Beginning with a dog walk from Kyneton Velodrome to the Botanic Gardens for the official launch, the community walked to celebrate the event and show their support for the LGTBIQA+ community in the Macedon Ranges.

SUBMITTED BY KATE LEE

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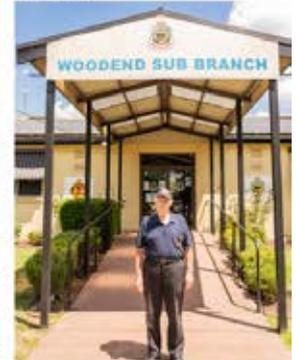
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An enduring legacy

With a rich family history in the area that stretches back to the gold rush era, real estate business-owner John Keating describes it as a 'privilege' to live in Woodend.

There was a time, back in the 1930s, when the Keating name was literally everywhere in Woodend.

To some, it was known as Keatingsville, but as John Keating tells it, this was in large part a remarkable coincidence.

"The Keating name was attached to several business shopfronts at the time – but what some people might not realise is that the owners weren't all from the same line of Keatings." Two unrelated families, both named Keating, came to the area in the 1850s, when gold had started being discovered in central Victoria. John Keating, who owns and manages Keatings Real Estate, is from a family of Irish Catholics, and at the time they owned the newsagency and an electrical goods shop. The other Keating family, who came from England, owned two hotels—one that is now Holgates—a general store known as Daniel & Keating, and a drapery shop.

"My great grandfather was a blacksmith at a business in High Street, next to Islay House. My grandfather was a train driver on the Melbourne to Bendigo line, and my father, JJ Keating Jnr, who had worked at Daniel & Keating's Macedon shop, started his own general store in Woodend in 1935, on the site of the current Woodend pharmacy."

In 1949, John's father added a real estate licence to his business and started selling houses in Woodend and Macedon. John's father retired from the general store in 1965 and sold the business to Ivor Johnson. His father passed away in 1966, and John's mother M.V. (Vera) Keating then carried on the business and re-located Keatings Real Estate to its current site in 1968, a site which was formerly Daniel & Keating's general store!

John started working full time in the real estate business in 1970, and, when he had obtained his full licence, he purchased the family business from his mother in 1975. John is passionate about ensuring a fair buying and selling process for his prospective buyers and client vendors.

As a member the Real Estate Institute of Victoria (REIV) Member's Council for 41 years, he became a strong advocate for reforming the codes of conduct and rules that regulate auctions.

"I formed a view early in my career that dummy bidding was grossly unfair to buyers. In the 1980s it was common practice for agents to organise false or dummy bids to push the price up."



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John's advocacy over many years led to the introduction of Victorian legislation in 2003 to ban dummy bidding, and to require agents to openly disclose 'vendor bids'. John was also the first agent in Victoria to openly disclose vendors' reserve prices prior to auction.

According to John, Woodend and Macedon Ranges real estate has been through many ups and downs.

"The initial tree change started in the early seventies, following the opening of Tullamarine airport in 1970 and a surge in real estate prices generally. Woodend was a popular spot to move to."

"In the early eighties, a string of unfortunate events put the brakes on things: an increase in petrol prices, the country's recession, a severe drought when Woodend ran out of water, and then the Ash Wednesday bushfires.

"There was a housing boom in the late eighties, but this was quickly followed by the deep recession of the nineties, when interest rates skyrocketed. It was a difficult time; we conducted around 65 mortgagee auctions from 1991 to 1996, many involving people we knew.

"When the Calder Freeway was opened in 2001, it gave the town back to the residents and, contrary to some people's fears, the town thrived."

Throughout the years, John has been an active member of the local community.

"I've been with the CFA for over 50 years, including during the Ash Wednesday fires in 1983, when seven lives were lost, and over 400 homes, most in Macedon and Mount Macedon. That was a terrible night. Everyone knew someone who had been affected. It took a long time for the community to recover."

John was a member of the Macedon and Mount Macedon Reconstruction Advisory Committee.

He was also on the committees for the new Woodend CFA fire station and Buffalo Sports Stadium, and he has long been involved in the local St Ambrose Church, including being a driving force for the establishment of the St Ambrose Parish Primary School.

"Woodend has a golden future. It is one of the best places in Australia to live. We've got clean air, negligible crime, a beautiful environment, a lovely village atmosphere and great camaraderie. Our location is absolutely prime, with easy access to the Melbourne metropolitan area, Melbourne Airport and Central Victoria with all its heritage. It's a privilege to live here and a greater privilege to be able to work here."

SUBMITTED BY TERRY LONGTON





Keatings & Woodend

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Mr. J.J. Keating (Jnr) the founder of Keatings Real Estate was the caretaker of the Woodend Town Clock from soon after it was built in 1928 until he passed away in 1966.

Your community diary

— MAY —

- 6.....Month of Madness mini launch, KTH
- 7..... Woodend Farmers' Market
- 7..... Trentham Spudfest
- 7..... Community Planting Day, Ashbourne Landcare
- 7..... Ana & Friends puppet performance, Woodend
- 8.....Mother's Day
- 8..... Gisborne Singers perform Dido and Aeneas
- 11..... Community Planting Day, Ashbourne Landcare
- 11.....Melb International Comedy Festival Roadshow, KTH
- 13 Game Boys Cinematic Universe, KTH
- 14 Urban Sea Shanties Community Choir, KTH
- 15 Community Planting Day, Ashbourne Landcare
- 15 BLUE: Songs of Joni Mitchell at KTH
- 13 MR Film Society, Norma Richardson Hall
- 13–29.....The Odd Couple, Mountview Theatre
- 15 Woodend Lions Club Market
- 22.....Kutcha Edwards at Kyneton Town Hall
- 26..... Daniel Champagne at Kyneton Town Hall
- 27.....Echoes of Pink Floyd at Kyneton Town Hall

— JUNE —

- 4..... Woodend Farmers' Market
- 10 WWAFF Fireworks, Forest Street
- 10 MR Film Society, Norma Richardson Hall
- 10–13 Woodend Winter Arts Festival
- 13 Queen's Birthday

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

content@newwoodendstar.org.au

Woodend Winter Arts Festival 10–13 June 2022

WWAFF is pleased to announce the 2022 program! Our Festival will be going ahead in a scaled-back form this year. In addition to a vibrant fireworks display (Friday night 10 June), it will include two incredible concerts by world-renowned ensembles, a fascinating discussion with a best-selling author and a screening of an award-winning film. Please join us for one or more of our events over the Queen's Birthday weekend.

Visit www.woodendwinterartsfestival.org.au for information and tickets.

SUBMITTED BY VICTORIA BROWN



Kutcha Edwards – Circling Time

Kyneton Town Hall – May performances!

Kyneton Town Hall (KTH) is headlining some inspiring artists and presenting more stunning performances this season.

Spring into action with some well-deserved laughs with some of Australia's very best Comedians hitting the road in the Melbourne International Comedy Festival roadshow, 7.30pm Wednesday 11 May.

If your family love attending theme parks like Movieworld or Universal Studios, then we have the family show for you. Experience all the fun and excitement of a Hollywood backstage tour, where you can be part of the movie magic that is Game Boys Cinematic Universe! 7.30pm Friday 13 May.

We had huge success with Archie Roach playing on a Sunday afternoon last year. We are following it up with two quality and inspirational performances. BLUE: The Songs of Joni Mitchell is a beguiling afternoon of melancholic songs, poetic storytelling and haunting vocals – 3pm Sunday 15 May. Kutcha Edwards will be singing upcountry on Sunday 22 May at 3pm, with his award-winning show and release, Circling Time – Songs & Stories!

Wrapping up the month is a fantastic weekend of live music. Kicking off with acclaimed guitarist Daniel Champagne, who has been selling out shows across Australia and overseas. Daniel will be playing a selection from his five studio albums at 8pm, Thursday 26 May. This is followed by Echoes of Pink Floyd on Friday 27 May, who will be recreating all the Pink Floyd classics with an amazing light show and performance – not to be missed!



Purchase tickets on 1300 888 802 or mrsc.vic.gov.au/buytickets

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN





Sing 'til your heart's content!

Join the Urban Sea Shanties community choir

Come and experience the thrill and connection of singing in a choir!

We are calling out to existing local choirs and the singing community to join a temporary community choir, learning a repertoire of songs during a four-month period, culminating in a performance at Kyneton Town Hall in September 2022.

Participation is free, and open to people aged 12+. Rehearsals will be held on Saturday mornings from May through to September.

To get involved visit: mrsc.vic.gov.au/get-involved or call Andrea on 0429 605 619 to find out more.

Kyneton Town Hall launches 'Month of Madness' this May!

Kyneton Town Hall will really come alive with a 'Month of Madness' – a packed program of quality comedy, theatre and music to delight.

It all kicks off on Friday 6 May, with a celebration of what lies ahead. The 'Month of Madness' mini launch will include a Smoking Ceremony and Welcome to Country, an introduction to the program on offer, open bar, free food and light entertainment with The Sounds of Silent playing live accompaniment to short Buster Keaton and Charlie Chaplin movies.

Tickets purchased on the night will also receive a 15% discount (please note some exclusions apply)!

The 'Month of Madness' mini launch will be held at 5.30pm Friday 6 May 2022 at Kyneton Town Hall. Bookings are recommended.

For more details visit: mrsc.vic.gov.au/See-Do/Arts-Culture or call Andrea on 5422 0333 to find out more.

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN

The Gisborne Singers present Dido and Aeneas

The Gisborne Singers have made a triumphant return to practice for their first concerts since May last year. They are presenting Henry Purcell's immortal opera *Dido and Aeneas* on Sunday 1 and Sunday 8 May at the historic Bluestone Theatre, 28 Hutton St, Kyneton. There will be two performances (1pm and 3pm) on both Sundays.

Dido and Aeneas is the oldest English opera, having been written in 1688 during the Baroque period. A world of triumph and tragedy comes together in a semi-staged production featuring Kristen Leich in the title role of Dido. The program also features alternate casting, providing the opportunity for small solo parts from within the choir.

For enquiries, please go to www.gisbornesingers.org.au or phone 0408 156 263.

SUBMITTED BY ALISON KINGHORN

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Youth Space Program – now in Newham and Woodend

Youth Services are opening two new Youth Spaces this month. Youth Spaces provide a safe and supervised space for young people to connect with their peers through a range of activities, events and excursions.

- Woodend Youth Space: 4–5.30pm at Woodend Neighbourhood House, 47 Forest St, Woodend. 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month.
- Newham Youth Space: 4–5.30pm at the Newham Mechanics Institute, 1292 Rochford Rd, Newham. 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month.

Music in the Sticks

Music in the Sticks is hosting a live music event at the Woodend Community Centre on Saturday, May 21. The event will be drug, alcohol and smoke free, and feature local young artists from the Macedon Ranges. Please check www.facebook.com/MacedonRangesYouth for more information.

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN

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Meet Ana and friends in the Macedon Ranges!

A chance for kids (and the young at heart) to learn from professional puppeteers. Imaginary Friends Puppetry engages audiences in fun and interactive performances that foster a love for creativity and magic, for the planet and each other.

The performance is accompanied by live musicians. After the performance children are encouraged to interact and play with the puppets.

- Saturday 7 May, 10am at Malmsbury Botanical Garden
- Saturday 7 May, 2pm at Woodend Children's Park
- Saturday 14 May, 10am at Romsey Lions Park Children's Playground
- Saturday 14 May, 2pm at Lancefield Reserve Children's Playground
- Saturday 21 May, 10am at Riddells Creek Lions Park
- Saturday 21 May, 2pm at Gisborne Adventure Playground

Free admission. No booking is required.

SUBMITTED BY ANDREA MACDONALD

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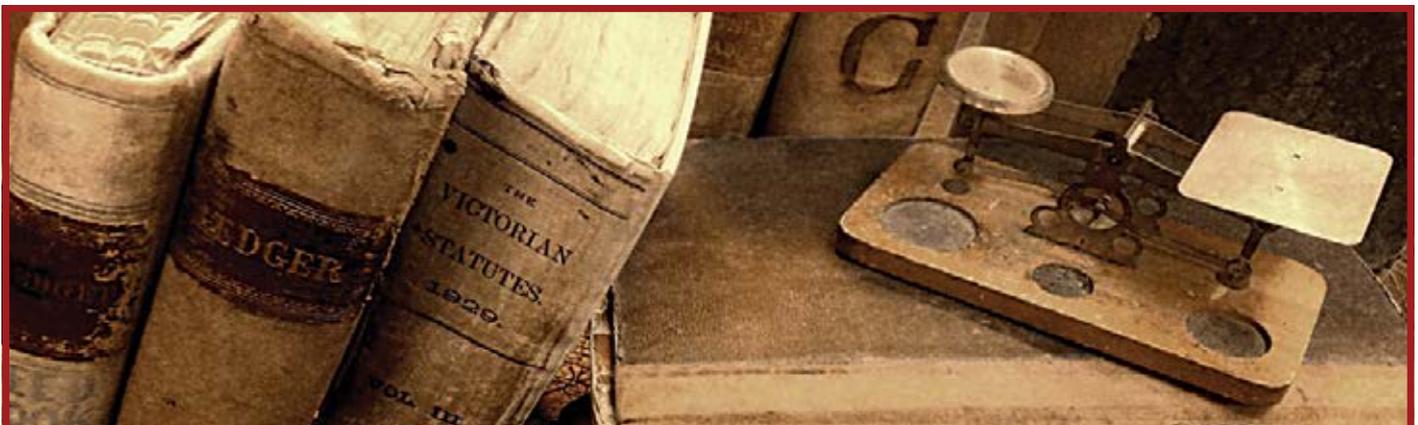
- Landscape projects
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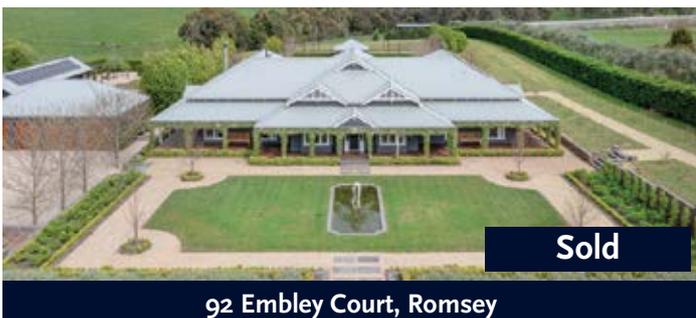
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Woodend Library News



Come and join the library for Diversity Storytime with performer Em Chandler. Enjoy the bright colours and rainbow magic as Em tells stories about all types of families and belonging just as you are!

Tuesday, May 17, 9.30-10.15am (Please note the early start time.)

Aimed at ages 3-6 years, everyone is invited to wear vibrant colours!

Delivered in partnership with the Macedon Ranges Shire Council, in recognition and celebration of the LGBTIQ+ community.

Work weekdays? Saturday Storytimes are for you!

In 2022, the Woodend Library will be running monthly Saturday Storytimes to make these fun and educational sessions accessible to even more families.

Come along, listen to the librarian tell a story, join in the activities and meet other families!

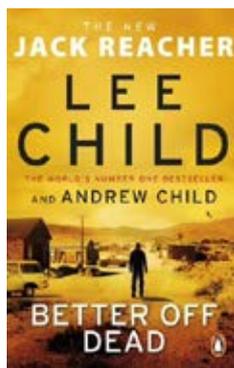
Woodend Library Storytimes are 100% free and 100% welcoming. You don't need to be a library member to join in, and there is no obligation to attend every session. Saturday Storytimes will be held on Woodend Farmer's Market Saturdays – the first Saturday of each month, at 10am.

Love reading... but struggling to just read?

The Woodend Library's Large Print collection might be just what you need. With clear typefaces double to triple the normal height, these books can really take the pain out of reading.

Woodend Library has hundreds of popular contemporary titles on the shelves right now, and access to thousands more across our Goldfields Library network. Recent additions include:

- *Apples Never Fall* by Liane Moriarty
- *Better Off Dead* by Lee & Andrew Child (#26 in the Jack Reacher series)
- *Daughter of the River Country* by Dianne O'Brien & Sue Williams
- *The Book of Two Ways* by Jodi Picoult
- *When You are Mine* by Michael Robotham
- *The Dark Hours* by Michael Connelly (#4 in the Ballard-Bosch series)



Not convinced? Why not give it a try anyway? After all, borrowing a library book is free!

Learn Languages with our eLibrary!

Did you know your Goldfields Libraries membership includes free access to the language learning web apps Languagenut and Mango?

Languagenut is a great resource for school students (and older people too) who need to build up core vocabulary. It features a variety of quizzes and activities, covering a range of world languages including several Pacific languages. Best of

all, the straightforward interface makes it easy to dive in without clicking through endless account setup screens.



Mango features over 70 languages including Mandarin, Spanish, French and Arabic. With voice recognition technology and adaptive exercises, Mango is ideal for adults and teenagers looking to take their language learning to the next level.

For more information, visit ncgrl.vic.gov.au/elibrary

See you at the library! 5427 2074, woodend@ncgrl.vic.gov.au

SUBMITTED BY EMMA KEENAN

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Village Connect and support for older residents

Macedon Ranges Shire Council's Village Connect project aims to bring shire residents 65 years and over together, both online and in their community, for activities that support good mental and physical health, and to enable better connections in community.

Feedback collected from more than 140 residents during consultation conducted earlier this year will guide activities and events for the next two years of the Village Connect project.

It is estimated that around one in five older Australians are socially isolated. Older people have been particularly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and feedback from residents indicates that many are still cautious about returning to activities they enjoyed previously. Village Connect will attempt to support older people to safely participate in community activities that meet their needs and interests, to connect them with services and supports, and if appropriate, offer some new options.

To find out more, or to participate, contact Village Connect events and activities Project Officer Abbey on 5422 0262 or email abbrown@mrc.vic.gov.au.

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN

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An adventure to be told

1st Woodend Cub Scout Burke Unit have certainly been out and about in Term 1 of this year.

Outdoor adventures have included bushwalking, cycling along the Campaspe River Walk in Kyneton, hikes around Woodend carrying our back packs containing the beginnings of a hike pack for longer walks. These events have been building on skills already learned in Stage 1 of the Outdoor Adventure Skills.

Recently, we participated in individual Patrol Activities with the Joey Unit and a Scout leader, one of which was a hike up Camel's Hump with our Scout Leader, Matthew, building on navigational and bushcraft skills that we completed during the term with the Scout Unit.

Our final adventure for Term 1 was a joint Burke Unit activity with Wills Unit and 1st Romsey Cub Scout Unit. We all met at the Woodend train station and had a "Train hike" to Bendigo, where we had a sleepover at the Bendigo Discovery Science and Technology Centre. From our visit, many of the Cub scouts began one of their Special Interest Badges in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). During our visit, we discovered many of the inventions by Leonardo Di Vinci that are in use today. This gave those attending several topics to choose from.

We also congratulate Hayden and Flynn on achieving their 100 km Walkabout badge.

1st Woodend Scout Group offers Scouting for youth between 5 and 25 years of age. The Joey Scout section (5–8 years) currently has a waitlist, however there are vacancies at all other age groups (Cub Scouts 8–11 years, Scouts 11–14 years, Venturers 14–18 years, Rovers 18–25 years).

Adults interested in getting involved in Scouting are always welcome – we have vacancies for volunteer Leaders to work with all age groups, as well as positions on our support committee. No previous Scouting experience is required – just a passion for fun and an interest in helping youth develop. For more information, visit scoutsvictoria.com.au/location/1ST-WOODEND/ or email gl.woodend1st@gmail.com.

SUBMITTED BY ELAINE YOUNG



On top of Camel's Hump

News from the Woodend Neighbourhood House



Neighbourhood House Week Morning Tea

This year the House is celebrating Neighbourhood House Week with a Morning Tea! This year's theme is 'Building resilience by bringing people together.' So we're bringing people together for a cuppa, morning tea and good conversation on Tuesday 10 May at 10:30am (RSVP is required for catering purposes).

Food Relief at the Woodend Neighbourhood House

The Woodend Neighbourhood House relies heavily on donations to keep its food pantry well-stocked. Over the last few months, there has been a significant increase in the number of locals accessing food relief, including our frozen meals and food pantry. Unfortunately, demand is exceeding supply so please consider adding a few extra items to your shopping basket when you're next at the supermarket, if you can afford to do so.

Items in demand include breakfast cereal, tinned soup, pasta, rice, tinned tomatoes, pasta sauce, baked beans and pulses, tinned meat, tinned vegetables, tea/coffee, tinned fruit, biscuits and UHT milk. We also welcome toiletries, sanitary products and baby basics.

Our food pantry is in the Woodend Neighbourhood House garden, to the side of the house. Donations can be dropped off at any time – and of course, everyone is welcome to come along and take what they need.

Term 2 Brochure Out Now

The term 2 brochure is now available – and is full of activities and programs on offer at the House, including new activities for the autumn, from yoga, meditation, and art classes to social groups in the garden, over a cuppa or at the House's regular community lunch! This term, the House is pleased to offer workplace training, including barista skills, food handling and first aid. Stop by the house to pick up a copy of the brochure – or download it from our website.

Woodend Youth Space – Spanner in the Works

Spanner in the Works is a brand-new Youth Space for all young people aged 12–17 years. Through a fortnightly program of events, activities, mentoring and workplace training, young people can connect with each other, with youth services and with the greater community. The program is youth-led and can include movie and game nights, excursions and workshops (parkour, dance, DJ-ing, photography, cooking and much more) and workplace training (Barista, RSA, resume writing). Spanner in the Works is a collaborative project between Macedon Ranges Shire Council and the Woodend Neighbourhood House that runs every second Wednesday between 4pm–5.30pm at the Woodend Neighbourhood House (dates for May are Wednesday 4 and 18 May).

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

SUBMITTED BY MELISSA BAKER

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Macedon Woodend Scouts are on the move

Cubs and Scouts at our local branch have been loaded with outdoor activity in the past month. Mountain biking at night was a highlight, as were lessons in scuba diving.

The Scout Anglesea Camp taught the kids surfing, hiking in the dunes and camping under the stars. Eumeralla Cub Camp involved a great deal of rope obstacle course work, long hikes along the coast, camp craft cooking and more surfing. Having our Scout Hall adjacent to the Macedon Reservoir has ensured the kids are getting plenty of evening canoe experience as well, a magnificent lagoon in our backyard that we are so fortunate to have across the road.

State government funding has allowed for improvements to our Hall to commence, improving our facility and the reimagine of a new ceremony amphitheatre that is sympathetic to the rural bushland setting.

Our Group is growing strongly this year, with families keen to be a part of this vibrant program and Group. We are due to grow to 100 participants by mid-year. For enquiries, please see us on www.macedonwoodendscouts.com

SUBMITTED BY JANE WALDUCK



Photo by Leaders James Ryssenbeek and Simon Walliss.

U3a Kyneton – diverse and vibrant In the Macedon Ranges

U3A Kyneton is all about continuing learning, physical activity, and social and community interaction, achieved by drawing upon the skills, ideas and resources of members.

U3A primarily caters for members in the third age of life – no educational qualifications are required or given. A desire to learn, have new experiences and join in social activities are the main requirements.

Social activities include a weekly coffee morning and chat, a fortnightly film club and a monthly lunch group. Outdoor courses include bushwalking and cycling.

There are over 40 courses to choose from. For the mind – poetry, the book circle and current affairs are popular and frequently controversial. In May, a course in Propaganda is starting, as well as a class in Railways and Australian History.

Weekly Friday afternoon sessions (Friday@U3A) are held at 2.00pm at the Red Brick Hall, 23 Yaldwyn Street West, where presenters are invited and visitors always welcome – an opportunity to sample U3A Kyneton before you join.

Further information can be found via the U3A Kyneton website u3akyneton.org.au, by email at info@u3akyneton.org.au or by calling John or Roni on 0439 360 763.

SUBMITTED BY RONI TAUBMAN



Community talk – truth-telling and reconciliation

Macedon Ranges Shire Council will host a community talk at the Kyneton Town Hall on Tuesday 31 May as part of Reconciliation Week.

Brent Ryan, Yoorrook Justice Commission Assistant Director Education and Nicole Findlay, CEO Reconciliation Victoria, will be special guest speakers on the night. Brent will talk about the work of the Yoorrook Justice Commission, with a focus on the importance of truth telling for reconciliation, while Nicole will give an insight into the work of Reconciliation Victoria and get the audience thinking about the path of reconciliation in the Macedon Ranges.

It's set to be an insightful and thought-provoking night. The talk will commence at 7pm and bookings are essential for this free event. For more information, call 5422 0333, email comdevadmin@mrsc.vic.gov.au or visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/events

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN

Official Announcements! from MRSPAG



Source: MRSPAG newsletter

Following nominations at the AGM, we are delighted to confirm that Melanie Jorgensen has been elected as Chair MRSPAG. Mel is the founder and President of Lachy's Reach (formerly known as Laps for Lachy) a registered charity raising money to connect young people to alternative and holistic services to support their mental health, such as Equine Therapy, Equine Assisted Learning and Art Therapy.

Mel told us "I started Lachy's Reach over four years ago because I was so aware of the potential impact Lachy's death could have on his friends and others in our community. I didn't want anyone else to lose their Lachy. I am honoured to be Chair of MRSPAG; I have always had great respect for the work they do.

They are well known in our community and beyond. I believe by working together we can have the biggest impact. I'm looking forward to seeing what we can achieve as a group."

Shelly Lavery at Central Victorian Primary Care Partnership will sit in the Deputy Chair role, and Fiona Farrugia, a local community member, will continue as MRSPAG Treasurer. Macedon Ranges Shire Council will provide Secretariat support to MRSPAG.

A warm welcome to all those taking up these positions. Thank you for stepping forward and helping us to keep this valuable work in community going!

A very big thank you to Steven Power at Hope and Assistance Local Tradies (our outgoing Chair of MRSPAG) for all his hard work and leadership over the last 18 months.

MRSPAG Project Updates

MRSPAG would also love to hear from you if you are hosting a community event and want us to come along and talk to community members about our work. To arrange this or find out more about any of the projects and activities, please contact info@mrspag.com.au

Regular meetings

On the 2nd Monday of every month (even public holidays) from 7pm–8.30pm, people gather at the Newham Mechanics Hall (1292 Rochford Road) to find a space that is specific to the complex grief of suicide. People are free to come and go as they need. The night is conducted by trained peer support members of our community who have also been bereaved by suicide. Want to find out more? Contact us at info@mrspag.com.au

SOURCE MRSPAG NEWSLETTER

FREE fitness classes to celebrate launch of new fitness program in Kyneton

Join us during the week of Monday 2 to Saturday 7 May and enjoy FREE live and virtual fitness classes.

An exciting and fresh new way to work out is launching at Kyneton Toyota Sports and Aquatic Centre. LesMills Virtual Fitness brings world-class fitness instructors into the studio to provide users with a range of fun and exciting classes on the big screen.

This virtual fitness technology is the first of its kind in the Macedon Ranges!

Whether you like to work out in a group or solo, our LesMills Virtual Fitness timetable offers something for all ages and abilities.

Please note: Aqua aerobic classes are not included in this promotion. Participants must complete appropriate pre-exercise paperwork. Medical clearance may be required.

Classes available include:

- RPM: low-impact, high-energy indoor cycling
- LES MILLS CORE: build strength, stability and endurance in your core muscles



- BODYPUMP: total body strength workout using barbells and plates
- BODYBALANCE: yoga-based class that can calm mind and strengthen body
- BODYCOMBAT: high-energy martial arts inspired cardio workout
- SH'BAM: a crazy, fun dance workout. No dance experience required.

We are so excited to see the community get involved with Virtual Fitness and look forward to hosting a launch event for all to come down and give it a go!

For more information or to book a class, please contact Kyneton Toyota Sports and Aquatic Centre on 5427 3411 or visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/KTSACfitness

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN



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Where did the month of April go? With all the festivities of the Autumn Festival it has flown by. One of the highlights for the opening of the Autumn Festival was the launching of Council's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). This occurred in three locations, in recognition of our three traditional owner groups; the Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung. Bunjil the Eagle's spontaneous attendance at the last event in Gisborne sent shivers down everyone's spine. Thank you to everyone who participated in the festival. Please make sure you provide our events team with feedback, to ensure the festival can remain a success.

Congratulations to Woodend Rotary on 25 years of compiling, folding, and distributing *The New Woodend Star*. Thanks so much for the invitation to help you celebrate this milestone achievement.

Congratulations also to Council staff and our partners for our win in the Local Government Professionals (LGPro) Active Aging and Wellbeing Award in the Outstanding Program or Project- grant based (externally funded) category.

May is the month where we rely heavily on all residents and business owners to look at Council's proposed Council Plan year 2 action items and the annual draft budget, which will be adopted at the scheduled Council meeting on Wednesday 27th April. If you see things you like and want to ensure funding remains, let us know. If you think we have missed items that are important to you, ensure you make a submission. Every submission is seriously considered, and often if we can't afford to do something this year, or it requires more strategic work in other areas first, it may be considered again at the mid-year budget review or in subsequent years' annual budget process. Staff have been working hard since late last year, and we thank those who answered our early call for submissions in November/ December 2021. Councillors have had multiple workshops, both with and without staff, to determine what has been able to be included this year. Don't forget if after making a submission you feel passionately about wanting to further expand upon it, there is an opportunity to provide a follow-up verbal submission to all Councillors.

Our Scheduled Council meetings are now open to the public physically attending again, although they are still recorded and live streamed, so you can continue to watch them in the comfort of your own home if you prefer.



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SECURE SELF STORAGE UNITS

Meetings that require public submissions, such as planning delegated committees, and submissions on the budget, Council plan, and in response to the possibility of the sale of the East Paddock to the state government will still be held online until further notice, to ensure anyone who may be well enough to make a submission, but isolating due to Covid, are still able to present.

We will continue to be guided by directions from state government regarding access to Council facilities and services due to Covid restrictions. Please check out our website or call our friendly customer service team on 5422 0333 if you want to obtain information prior to attending a council venue or activity.

During the first half of May, you still have time to contribute to our inaugural Asset plan, reusable nappy consultation and compost distribution survey. Check out the "Have your say" section of our website.

On May 14, budding singers can attend a workshop in Kyneton and consider signing up for the Urban Sea Shanties Community Singing project.

Lastly, we would like to acknowledge and thank both the federal Labor Party and national Coalition government for their announcements on their commitment to funding \$15million towards stage 2 of the Macedon Ranges Sports Precinct, located in New Gisborne. These commitments are unlikely to have been made if it were not for the tireless efforts of community members working together with staff and Councillors on advocating for the project. Congratulations for all your hard work, which is continuing to pay off.

Best wishes for the last month of autumn, where we can look forward to June and the Woodend Winter Arts Festival.



Share your storm story, photos or videos



Macedon Ranges Shire Council is collecting residents' photos, videos and stories from the June 2021 storm to create a record of the event and acknowledge the experiences and resilience of our community. If you have photos or an experience you would like to tell us a little or a lot about, we would love to hear from you.

For example: What are your recollections of the storm? How did you tackle clean-up on your property? Is there any advice you would share (either with your past self or a new resident)? What impacts on plants and native animals have you noticed?

You can tell us your story by emailing Monica Hill, Community Engagement Officer at mhill@mrc.vic.gov.au or if you would like to share your experiences over the phone you can also call Monica on 0499 369 728.

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN

Community Funding Scheme – grant applications open!

Applications for Macedon Ranges Shire Council's annual Community Funding Scheme grant program open Monday 23 May.

The Community Funding Scheme provides funds to local community groups and not-for-profit organisations for programs and initiatives that benefit the shire and meet local needs in line with the Council Plan and Community Vision.

Applications will be accepted online until Monday 27 June via the grants administration system SmartyGrants.

Council's Community Development team will be providing a face-to-face workshop in Woodend on Wednesday 11 May and an evening online information session via Zoom on Thursday 12 May to go through more details about the grant and how to apply using SmartyGrants. Bookings for these workshops are required.

For more information or to register for a workshop, call 5422 0333, email grants@mrsc.vic.gov.au or visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/grants

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN

Macedon Ranges Business Awards 2022

Macedon Ranges Shire Council is celebrating business excellence in 2022!

Is your business doing amazing things? Share your stories by entering the Josh's Rainbow Eggs Macedon Ranges Business Excellence Awards.

This is your opportunity to share your business story or the story of an individual who works in your business and tell us how they have contributed to business excellence in the shire. The awards celebrate businesses of all types and sizes, offering a platform to showcase what you do.

Self-nominations open Monday 2 May and close Wednesday 10 August 2022.

Would you like some assistance with your submission? Free mentoring sessions are being held at three locations across the shire:

- Monday 30 May 2022 at 6.30pm
Council Chamber – Macedon Ranges Shire Council
40 Robertson Street, Gisborne
- Wednesday 1 June 2022 at 6.30pm
Kyneton Mechanics Institute
81 Mollison Street, Kyneton
- Monday 6 June 2022 at 6.30pm
Romsey Community Hub
96 Main Road, Romsey

Find out more at mrsc.vic.gov.au/business-awards

Contact: 0429 932 191 or businessawards@mrsc.vic.gov.au

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN

'Green means go' – support for youth in the Macedon Ranges

Macedon Ranges Youth Services aims to provide a safe, inclusive and equitable space for young people aged 12 to 25 within our community, by providing a range of capacity-building, mental health and social support programs and initiatives within the Macedon Ranges.

These initiatives include:

- Live4Life – A mental health program targeting secondary school students, designed to reduce stigma and promote awareness around mental health within our shire.
- Youth Ambassadors – A leadership program offering a range of supports, including financial assistance, to young people who are interested in amplifying their voices within our community.
- Music in the Sticks – A skills-building program that aims to provide industry-based experience for young people who are interested in the music industry, by supporting young people to facilitate a range of social and cultural events around the shire.
- Engage – An initiative which aims to increase the social and mental wellbeing of young people by creating peer-to-peer connections via a range of activities, including regular youth spaces, the production of a youth-led magazine and other activities.
- Green Means Go – an initiative in which young people can seek support and funding for their own projects.

All of the programs and initiatives are free and are available to all young people living, working, studying or recreating within the Macedon Ranges.

For more information, contact Youth Services at youth@mrsc.vic.gov.au or call (03) 5422 0333.

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN

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Introduction

The wines this month come from one of the most consistently good producers of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay in the region, Curly Flat. The wines set a benchmark within the region and they are one of a key group of producers that are leading the charge to establish the Macedon Ranges as the premium cool climate wine region in Australia.



Wine Review

By Patrick Eckel

2020 Curly Flat Chardonnay

A classical rendition of cool climate Chardonnay, with even more restraint and finesse in 2020. The nose has the unmistakable lift of new French oak that is paired with just-ripe nectarine, a touch of flint and citrus zest.

The palate has a Chablis-like minerality that is driven by citrus and taut, tightly bound stone fruits. Embellishments come in the way of understated lees-induced mealy notes, grapefruit-like grip and final layers of spice. A wine destined for a long life ahead.

Rating: 96 | Price: \$48 | When to Drink: 2022–2033

2020 Curly Flat Pinot Noir

The consistency of Curly Flat is almost metronomic; 2020 wasn't the easiest of growing seasons, however this is a deeply varietal and elegant release that has power and finesse, and is an earlier drinking proposition when compared to the '19 but is probably a moot point as we are still talking about a wine that will evolve over 8–10 years.

A vibrant and glossy red in the glass, with red cherry and wild cherry contrasted by finely filamented spice and understated earth. The palate showcases an exceptional site with fruit moving from red to black cherry and brown baking spices melding with earth and the characteristic lines of acidity that set the Macedon Ranges apart. Fruit, savoury influences and the generous impact of oak provide a complex and lingering finish.

Rating: 95 | Price: \$58 | When to Drink: 2022–2030

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Kyneton Health's hospital 'in the home patients' receive from the Zonta Club of Kyneton

The Zonta Club of Kyneton has been making breast care cushions – provided to people in the post-operative phase of breast surgery – since 2001. The Club has made and distributed approximately 500 cushions in total, including locally to doctors' surgeries and Kyneton Health.

Central Highlands Rural Health's CEO, Maree Cuddihy, said: "The cushions provide physical and emotional comfort to our community nursing clients who are undergoing breast cancer treatment. We are very thankful for the ongoing support from members of the Zonta Club of Kyneton."

Donna (President), Margaret and Nancy were presented with a certificate of appreciation today by Maree during their visit to the hospital with Alison Lowe (Community Nursing – Nurse Unit Manager) and Susan Jennings (Executive Director of Clinical Operations).

Central Highlands Rural Health's Community Nursing team at Kyneton receives referrals from metro and regional health services for their hospital 'in the home' program, post-mastectomy.

Every donation helps to improve the health and wellbeing of our community. Can you give a gift to Central Highlands Rural Health? Donation and fundraising enquiries from individuals, community groups and businesses are always welcome. Please contact Kathryn Kosloff, Fundraising Manager, on (03) 5321 6555 or via giving@chrh.org.au

SUBMITTED BY KATHRYN KOSLOFF



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Front: Margaret Lynch, Donna Fabris & Nancye Peucker.
Back: Susan Jennings, Maree Cuddihy & Alison Lowe

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Dr Georgina Huggon

General Practitioner, MBBS, Membership of the Royal College of General Practitioners (MRCGP)

Languages spoken – English

Areas of interest:

- Woman's health
- Medical Education
- General practice medicine
- Preventative and lifestyle medicine



Dr Faith Drew

General Practitioner, Female, AMC, MD, Fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (FRACGP)

Languages spoken – Tagalog (Filipino) and English

Areas of interest:

- Mirena insertion
- Aboriginal health
- Chronic disease management
- Implanon insertion & removal
- Paediatric care
- Women's health
- Mental health



Dr Lozwelo Nyathi

General Practitioner, Female MBBS, BMedSci, PGradDipSurgAnat

Languages spoken – English

Areas of interest:

- Preventative health
- Mental health
- Adolescent health
- Woman's health
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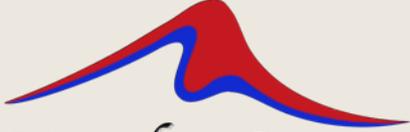
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ANZAC Day – High Street March & RSL Service, Woodend.
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Parent-Child Mother Goose

Parents and carers of pre-school children are invited to discover the benefits of sharing songs, rhymes and storytelling as the Macedon Ranges sees the return of Parent-Child Mother Goose. Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health has been running the program for about ten years, holding it at different venues across the shire, and when restrictions prevented the groups meeting in person two years ago, staff kept families connected by sharing music and storytelling videos and a fortnightly interactive newsletter. The group is currently being offered in Kyneton and Romsey.

"We are so happy to be able to get back together in person," says Tracey Thiele, Child and Parent Project Facilitator. "The pandemic has affected everyone and for those with young children, groups like these where parents can spend time connecting and having fun with their children are an important foundation for a child's development."

As well as being a fun activity for pre-schoolers, the Parent-Child Mother Goose program enhances the bond between child and carer, connects families in the community and allows for the opportunity to share tips and ideas on parenting. The use of songs, rhymes and stories can also have a positive impact on language and literacy development and school readiness as children get older.

"The program is particularly beneficial for those parents or carers who are new to the area or who don't have a support network close by," says Tracey. "Parent-Child Mother Goose provides a caring environment where parents can meet each week and gain the skills and confidence to connect to their children and have the support from other parents in the area – plus children benefit from their exposure to language and communication."

Parent-Child Mother Goose is in Romsey on Wednesday mornings and from Thursday 19 May will also be held in Kyneton. Registrations are essential so please contact Tracey Thiele on 5421 1666 or email tracey.thiele@scchc.org.au.

SUBMITTED BY SARAH TURNER



Fun for Kids at the Buffalo Sports Stadium Woodend!

Active Kids Sports

Children will learn a variety of ball games to improve motor skills and techniques on how to play sports, while interacting with other children. This program is casual, so no need to book. Wednesdays, 10–10.45am, 2-5 years. 45-minute sessions, parent participation is required.

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Fun casual program, learning gross motor skills in a relaxed environment. The program is casual; no need to book. Fridays, 10–11am for 1–3 year olds and 11am–12pm for 4–5 year olds.

For more information, please call 5427 3411.

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN

Jahne Hope-Williams

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The Australasian Yoga Institute, led by Jahne Hope-Williams (and Established in 1976), rests on the foundational premise that seekers and practitioners of modern day yoga need strength in both body and mind in order to evolve spiritually, and survive with joy in this troubled period we are living through.

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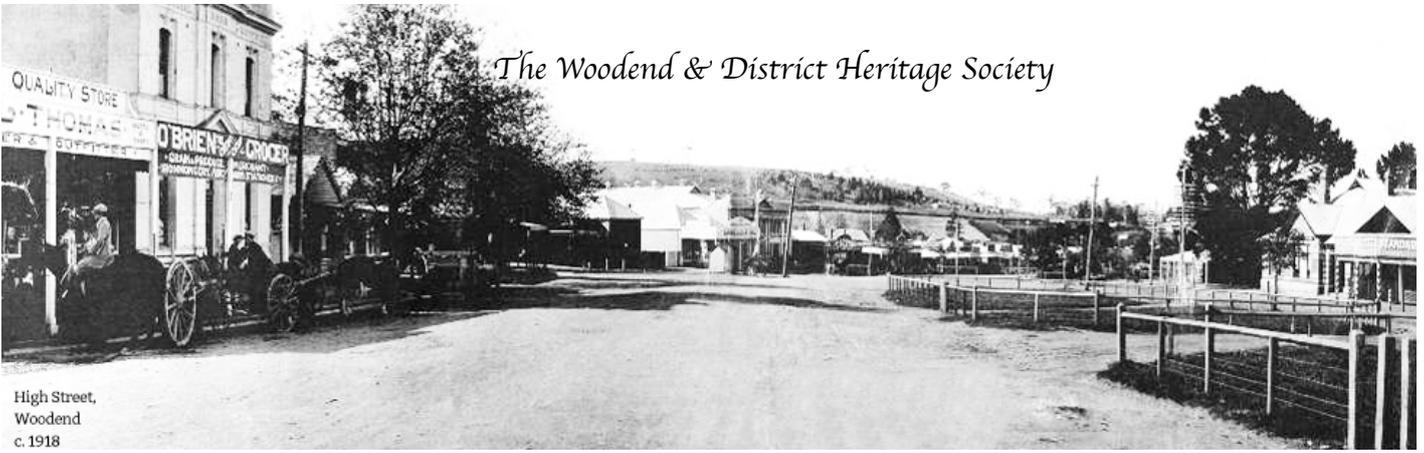
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c. 1918

The Enterprising Thomas Fitzsimmons

The *Enterprising Thomas Fitzsimmons: Adventure and Survival in Colonial Australia* focuses on the pioneer and his family who arrived and settled in Woodend for twenty years from 1852. The book traces their origins and movements in the colonies of Moreton Bay, NSW and then Victoria and covers their involvement in local issues such as the railway, Thomas's trial for manslaughter and women's financial vulnerability. Thomas was irrepressibly energetic and entrepreneurial, or 'enterprising' as they would have said, and reinvented himself a number of times.

His first occupation was blacksmith and wheelwright, and if you look closely at the drawing above, you can see on the right his first workshops and home, bordered by Adelaide and Edward Street, Brisbane, originally called Moreton Bay. The drawing was created in 1851 by Conrad Martens, an artist famous for his landscape painting and recording of the scientific expedition with Charles Darwin on the Beagle in 1834 and 1835. He must have met Thomas and offered to paint his

portrait, but without success. While the absence of any likeness of him is a loss for his biography, at least we have this recording of his first business and ... he might even be one of those little figures examining the drays at the front of the workshop.

There is an underlying issue in the book, which explains the motivation of many colonists and that is the competition for land. The question of land has very much concerned all Australians and the book tracks some of the early legislative attempts to establish equity. The Fitzsimmons family were participants in the various projects that emerged from the Land Acts and illustrate the consequent benefits and limitations of each.

Buy in person, by email or post from the Woodend & District Heritage Society at the Old Courthouse, 42 Forest St, Woodend, P O Box 124 Email: woodendheritage@outlook.com

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Young Voices perform at Kyneton festival

Young Voices of Macedon were proud to be part of the Kyneton Contemporary Art Triennial Hold the Circle, performing in the Kyneton Botanic Gardens, along with the choir of the Kyneton Primary School. Held in the beautiful late summer afternoon of Saturday 26 March, this event commenced under the historic bluestone bridge by the gardens, with the learning and singing of a beautiful round composed by conductor Polly Christie. Both children and adults took part. Everyone then moved to the gardens where each of the choirs sang separately; then together they performed the stirring environmental song I am the earth. Seated on picnic rugs and basking in the late afternoon sun, a large audience enjoyed the short but beautifully presented programme, which was followed by a picnic meal. For

our children this was a successful and very enjoyable first performance for 2022.

Young Voices are now preparing for a performance in Macedon during May and for major events later in the year. New members are very welcome to join either the Vivo group (5–8 years) taught by Jess Demare or the Cantabile group (9+) taught by Polly Christie. Repertoire features fun songs, but there is also a strong commitment to providing youngsters with quality music education through choral singing.

Rehearsals take place at the Norma Richardson Hall, Buckland Street, Woodend on Thursdays during term time from 4.15 to 5.45 pm. For further information visit yvmacedon.org.au.

SUBMITTED BY JESSICA DEMARE



Demand for curtains

'Right from the word go, there was a demand for curtains,' Jim Bradley says.

All around Victoria in the 1970s, family homes were being planned, built and lived in. Woodend was no exception. Among other areas, the land south of Woodend that became Garner Quadrant and Shannon Court was subdivided into small rural holdings. As these new homes were constructed and completed, they needed curtains and blinds.

Even before their shopfront opened, Bradley's first big job came from local man, Ken Thompson. He'd built a 100-square house in the area between South Road, Washington Lane and Quarry Road called Thompson's Estate. (This estate didn't include High Street, which had been developed over the previous century as the town built up along the main road.) The first blocks to be

subdivided were those around Kathryn Crescent, Patricia Way and Peter Godden Drive.

Ken asked Bradley's if they'd supply the curtain tracks and curtains for his new home.

They most certainly would!

The Thompson order was a mighty big job, and complicated, with round windows and glorious pinch-pleated, gold velvet curtains for the lounge and dining rooms. The account came to \$2500 and spanned 'three bits of paper', according to Jim.

At this point, Jim and Rhonda weren't making the curtains in Woodend. They engaged a firm in North Melbourne to make them. But it wouldn't take long before demand rose so high that the Bradley's would start making the curtains on-site.

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Woodend bowling

Woodend triples a triumph!

The weather cleared on March 17 for the annual Woodend Triples Tournament, with ten teams from across the Macedon Ranges competing for some good prize money.

The winning team was from Romsey, with Bernie Groom, Hazel Rose and John Beaumont the only three game winners. Runners-up were the Woodend team of Clarrie Brett, John Fisher and Judy Condon, with third place to the Gisborne team of Ron Formica, Tony Hedley and Vicky Noble. Best last game to the Woodend Team of Cliff 'Arthur' Staggard, Pat Morgan and Bev Muir.

There were five Resting Touchers on the day, with the first two winning prizes -- Bernie Groom and Macedon's Margaret Cameron.

A huge thanks to our major sponsor, Brooke Street Medical Centre, and also to Woodend's Black Forest Meats and Bourkie's Bakehouse for their support.

The pennant season finals completed

Our Saturday Division 2 team put in a strong season and finished on top of the ladder. Unfortunately, we were beaten by Romsey in the Preliminary Final, who subsequently lost to Kyneton Golf in the Grand Final.

Congratulations to all players during the season and through the finals.

You could be ready for next pennant season

If you are thinking of taking up bowls and are interested in being part of one of our teams next season (starts in October) please get in touch, and come on down for a free trial. We can provide everything to get you started ... the bowls and the coaching.

However, if you are not interested in the competitive side and just want to have a friendly social bowl – it's a great way to get out and about with a low impact activity.

Check out our website and Facebook page

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

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, PRESIDENT WOODEND BOWLS CLUB

Celebrating Women at the Nest



On Saturday 14 May from 2pm – 5pm at Gilbert Gordon Oval, the Woodend Heskett Football Netball Club will be hosting an event Celebrating Women at the Nest.

Previously known as Ladies Day, this event will showcase and celebrate the role girls and women play in the club, whether as a player, volunteer or supporter. Supported by the Victorian Government's Change our Game Community Activation Grants Program and the WHFNC, the Hawaiian-themed event will have live music, delicious food, drinks, games, raffles and more.

The club is excited to announce two guest speakers for the event, women who have excelled at the highest level in their sports. Madi Browne, former Diamonds netball player and Chloe Molloy, current Collingwood AFL player. We are sure Madi and Chloe will be able to share many insights of their careers and what support they have required to make it to the top. Follow up discussion will include how the club can be more inclusive of women and girls and how we can encourage more participation from women and girls.

The event will also see the announcement of the inaugural 'Celebrating Women at the Nest Awards'. These awards will recognise an up-and-coming netballer from the Woodend Junior Football Netball Club, milestone awards for senior netball players and the Club Woman of the Nest Award.

It's sure to be a great afternoon of entertainment, and we encourage all past and present players, members and supporters of the club to join us on the day. Entertainment will continue into the evening and tickets are available from try booking: www.trybooking.com/BYTDJ.

SUBMITTED BY ANNE-LOUISE LINDNER

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The ongoing partnership between home and school

Four years ago, Sacred Heart College identified that living on the outskirts of Melbourne, albeit in the beautiful Macedon Ranges, was limiting in terms of opportunities to hear quality speakers on current educational topics. The College has always organised presenters for students and staff, but parents didn't really get to experience them. When you consider how important it is for the relationship between all three to be strong, having access to the same resources and information about Learning and Wellbeing makes sense.

The College's Parent Engagement Program has presented quality, well-known guest speakers on current areas of importance to our students. These events are open to not only the parents of Sacred Heart students, but to anyone in the Macedon Ranges. Our students are not just members of the Sacred Heart community, or even just the Kyneton community. As a regional school, our students come from far and wide across the Ranges. They mix with students from other schools, and

many families have students in more than one school. The messages that our speakers are presenting are valuable for everyone, and our hope is that by building knowledge and skills for all parents around specific areas of young people's lives, we will ultimately have a more informed regional approach to issues, that supports young people wherever they are, in a consistent way.

The next guest speaker in our program will be David Vinegrad, Managing Director of Behaviour Matters. The session, scheduled for 24 May, will explore the philosophy and principles of Restorative Justice and how they can be applied in the home when having conversations with your children about relationships and behaviour. Implementing Restorative Practices can:

- Promote and strengthen relationships to improve learning and productivity
- Take a proactive approach to prevent conflicts, tensions and disciplinary problems
- Improve communication among students and families

expert – Managing Stress and Anxiety, Therese Joyce: Positive Psychology, Police & Paramedic representatives: focusing on keeping teens safe beyond the school gates, Wayne Schwass: Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing and many more.

A list of scheduled presentations is provided in the Save the Date notice, with further information and booking links available on the Parent Engagement Partnership page of the College's website – use the QR code to access. We hope you may be able to attend one of our future presentations on a topic that interests you.

SUBMITTED BY JULIE MORTIMER, DEPUTY PRINCIPAL STUDENT WELLBEING



Photo: David Vinegrad of Behaviour Matters, guest speaker at our approaching free Parent Engagement presentation.

Free Educational Parent Presentations

Save the Date

24 May Presenter: David Vinegrad - Behaviour Matters

2 Aug Presenter: Andrew Fuller - Raising Boys to be Respectful Gentlemen

9 Nov Presenter: Maria O'Shannessy - The Parent Coach Workshop
6.30pm – 8.30pm Limited to 30 people



Scan to learn more

Guest speakers we have hosted as part of this program include: Michael Carr Gregg: Adolescent Psychologist, Andrew Fuller: Adolescent Psychologist and Behaviouralist, Brian Jeffreys: Mental Health



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