

The New Woodend Star

Rotary  Club of Woodend

MAY 2024
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*"Every leaf speaks bliss to me,
fluttering from the autumn
tree." - Emily Bronte.*

Photo: Catherine Chapman

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Third Wednesday of the month from
11am, Norma Richardson Hall next to
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See you there, Sylvia Mathews

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Woodend's Rain report

March saw just 2 mm of rain, making it the
driest March on record. Year to date is
148 mm.
Peter Yates

Month	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	av 5 Yr
January	73.6	92.6	140.8	17.7	134.2	91.8
February	67.8	32.4	2.0	27.4	11.8	28.3
March	79.6	47.0	73.2	47.0	2.0	49.8
April	139.8	15.2	89.6	92.5		
May	79.0	83.0	39.4	56.0		
June	80.1	183.6	84.8	121.8		
July	49.3	115.6	52.4	57.8		
August	93.0	56.0	130.8	47.8		
September	56.3	72.8	150.2	28.8		
October	99.5	102.0	234.6	70.4		
November	54.4	91.2	107.0	74.8		
December	42.4	45.0	37.6	120.2		
Total mm	914.8	936.4	1142.4	762.2	148.0	

NB: averages vary due to rounding

The New Woodend Star and the Rotary Club of Woodend acknowledge the Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Peoples and their Ancestors as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands of the Macedon Ranges on which we meet, work and live. We recognise their living culture and continuous connection to the land and waters in our area and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Festival brings authentic experiences to the Macedon Ranges

Fresh on the heels of a successful sold-out Launch concert in March, arts lovers from throughout Victoria have wasted no time in booking tickets for the Woodend Winter Arts Festival, to be held in June over the King's Birthday long weekend.

2024's festival will be the 19th in over 21 years of operations! And this year, more than 100 performers and speakers will bring the arts to the Macedon Ranges, in what is now widely considered to be a sustainable and authentic approach. Despite the downward trends of other festivals, WWAF is selling wonderfully well at pre-pandemic levels, so don't leave buying your tickets to the last moment – and the same goes for accommodation. If you have visitors coming up from Melbourne, suggest they visit www.visitmacedonranges.com and book soon!

Each year, the Festival committee and volunteers work tirelessly to bring a wide range of music, arts and discussions to the local community. The Festival prides itself on bringing excellence and originality to local audiences, with a program of Baroque delights, artistic endeavours and a curated Words & Ideas program that includes science and music discussions.

Following the community fireworks, the festival starts with a rich concert of Spanish Flamenco guitar and dance, featuring Paco Lara and Deya Giner.

Musical delights include Bach's St John's Passion – a monumental work of baroque instruments and outstanding soloists – which will be performed on both Saturday and Sunday. Throughout the weekend, music lovers will find Piers Lane on piano, Accademia Arcadia performing early Baroque pieces, Paul Grabowksy on piano performing from his own jazz works, Fiore Vocal Ensemble and Schubert Lieder with the Macedon Ranges' own Daniel Thomson and John O'Donnell. To finish the festival, a special concert from Nat Bartsch with her jazz quartet performing pieces from her ARIA-nominated album will feature on Monday afternoon.

Interspersed throughout the music events are a rich tapestry of panels and book discussions with Elizabeth Finkel, Andrew Ford, Jacky Ogeil, Peter Doherty, Gideon Haigh, Robyn Williams, Jenny Graves, George Megalogenis, Don Watson and Sally Warhaft.

Organisers are delighted with the sponsorship and support of Macedon Ranges Shire Council, local businesses and accommodation providers – their contribution to the festival assists in many ways and helps to keep ticket prices as affordable as possible.

How can you find out more? Tickets are available at www.woodendwinterartsfestival.org.au. And for those who are interested in volunteering opportunities, you're invited to email woodendwinterarts@gmail.com for information.

Follow the festival on Facebook and Instagram for the most up-to-date news from Festival organisers.

SUBMITTED BY THE WWAF COMMITTEE

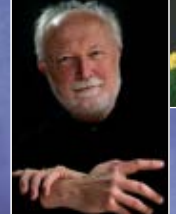
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WOODEND winter arts FESTIVAL



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woodendwinterartsfestival.org.au



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Thank you from St Ambrose



On behalf of the Fete Committee and St
Ambrose Primary School, I wish to thank you,
our wonderful community and local businesses for your amazing
support of this year's St Ambrose Community Fete.

Our primary goal this year was to create a community event that all
the family and community members could enjoy.

It's wonderful to know that while our focus was on providing free
activities for families and to enable some good old-fashioned fun,
we were still able to raise enough funds to purchase a much-needed
portable PA system that is effective outside, as well as to contribute
to adding colourful interactive games in our playground. We aim to
see the new playground markings ready for use by our students by
the middle of this term. We hope to have our new PA system by then
too!

Comments like, "It was such a relaxed day where I could connect
with family and friends and enjoy the lovely surroundings and stalls
on offer", "It was great that I didn't need to keep saying no to my
children, that the activities were affordable and the children could
go back for as many turns as they wanted", was the experience
of many that volunteered or participated in the day in one way or
another.

Your generosity, support, donations, sharing of resources, and time
given to our fete day made it a beautiful celebration of community
and indeed a day to remember.

We are truly grateful and humbled by the kindness and generosity of
YOU ALL.

With a thankful heart

Bronwyn Phillips, Principal St Ambrose Primary School



A new Probus Club in Woodend.

A new Probus Club has been formed in
Woodend following its initial meeting on 19
April.

The purpose of the inaugural meeting was
to gauge the community interest in a new
club and to select a management committee.
Chris Gilman was appointed as president,
Patricia Morgan as vice president, Shane
Doyle as secretary, and Jennifer Ryan was

elected treasurer.

Michael Ransom, chair of the Board of
Probus in Australia and New Zealand
convened the meeting, and members of
the Woodend Rotary Club and the Jacksons
Creek Probus Club were present to help
explain the benefits of Probus membership
to those present.

Michael Ransom said, "Probus is a wonderful
organisation for people who are retired or
semi-retired. When you retire, sometimes
you don't have a lot of friends because work

has been your life, you don't know a lot of
people in your local community, and it can
be a lonely time."

The new club will meet monthly at the
Norma Richardson Hall in Buckland Street
Woodend, on the third Friday of the month
at 10am. As well as meeting on a monthly
basis, the club plans to encourage members
to have a wide range of other activities, such
as regular coffee mornings, and visits to
areas of interest.

There are over four hundred Probus Clubs
in Victoria. They have a history of going on
bus tours, having meals together, going
to the theatre; there are a wide range of
opportunities for members.

Michael said that the club is still finding
its way and welcomes new members who
can help in the development of a wide and
varied program of activities.

The club is looking forward to more people
joining and encourages all those interested
to come along to their next meeting on
Friday 17 May at the Norma Richardson
Hall. For more information, head to
probussouthpacific.org.

SUBMITTED BY MICHAEL RANSOM, PROBUS
AUSTRALIA



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Meet a local resident – James Ryssenbeek



“Life on board is a challenge. The crew is usually made up of twelve sailors, rotating with three hours on top deck, and then three hours’ sleep in between. The space is limited, so everything is shared, including bunks. A third of the crew gets seasick and medication doesn’t work, and to help you cope there is also a morale officer!” James said. “There can be 52 sail changes in three days, and you really put yourself against nature. It is an expensive hobby, where the crew pay for all their expenses, including splitting the food bill.

James has sailed the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race on three occasions – it is 630 nautical miles and viewed as one of the most challenging yacht races in the world. He has used this race to train for entering the Melbourne to Osaka yacht race.

“The Melbourne Osaka Cup is a unique and challenging ocean yacht race. Previous competitors call it their pinnacle of racing, and it attracts sailors who enjoy the distinctive satisfaction of short-handed sailing. This ocean race requires significant preparation for crews and boat alike, and a long lead time is necessary to get to the start line in March 2025.

“The average elapsed time for the race is 35 days, with the record of 21 days set in 2018 by the Sydney yacht Chinese Whisper. A staggered start over three weeks brings the boats of differing speeds together towards the finish line, with results calculated from handicaps applied to their elapsed time. The race is a substantial test of the crews’ skill, courage, and endurance through eight weather patterns, in potentially extreme conditions. It is the longest, most challenging ocean race to start in Australian waters and is the equivalent of nine Sydney to Hobart Yacht Races continuously sailed.” James finished by saying that sailing into the Derwent River harbour is spectacular and then coming home around the West Coast of Tasmania can be relaxing (depending on the weather).

We will definitely invite James back to speak about his sail in the Melbourne Osaka.

WRITTEN BY SALLY DELL, ROTARY CLUB OF WOODEND

The Rotary Club of Woodend had the pleasure of welcoming James as a guest speaker at our regular meeting, and he gave us a very entertaining insight into his passion; sailing. James is a local resident and the son of Joop and Jenny Ryssenbeek, members of the Rotary Club of Woodend.

James started his sailing career with dinghys and catamarans and he and his father Joop both went to the oldest sailing school in the Netherlands. Watching some of the short videos James showed us, we wondered why anyone would entertain doing the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race! Of that event, James said that every race must have a safe crew, with many doing courses such as first aid, navigation etc. Nothing is done by an individual, and you do have to know what the person next to you is responsible for. It is quite dangerous and everyone must be tethered at all times they are on deck. James showed us his waterproof clothing, including jackets, boots, trousers and other equipment he needed to wear while sailing. A total kit costs around \$3000 to \$4000.



Photo: Jenny and Joop's grandchildren Sam and Hugh were delighted to win the egg auction, an activity unique to the Rotary Club of Woodend that raises money for Operation Cleft in Bangladesh. From its beginnings we have paid for 150 operations for children in Bangladesh who would otherwise be ostracised from their community or die from starvation.

Call for donations for the homeless— creating a warm glow this winter

You would have noticed it getting a little colder recently and many of you may have already started up your heating systems so you and your family can stay nice and warm. This is not possible for many of our fellow Victorians doing it tough and sleeping rough.

Over the past decade, Woodend Rotary has coordinated a blanket drive and had great support from you, the Woodend community. Your support is needed again this year as Woodend Rotary coordinates collection of the following items:

- Blankets, sleeping bags (no doonas please)
- Coats
- Belts
- Underwear and socks (must be new/all sizes/men and women)

All items must be clean and in good order. The basic rule is if you wouldn't give it to a friend then don't give it to us.

Items can be dropped off at Mort & Pestle (during business hours only); with the collection continuing until the end of May. Mort & Pestle continue to be a great support to the community and to Woodend Rotary.

Items are collected and delivered to The Living Room, located in Hosier Lane in Melbourne to make a real and immediate impact to those in need.

The Living Room is part of Youth Projects and offers a wonderful service to the homeless in and around the city by providing free healthcare and support to improve the physical, mental and social well-being of individuals who are homeless, or are at risk of experiencing homelessness. It is a safe place for people to not only to receive health care but also wash and dry clothes, use computers, and have a meal and a shower. They also provide Night Nurses and employment support to help break the cycle of disadvantage. Find out more at www.youthprojects.org.au/the-living-room

I know the Woodend community will again get behind this project, and I look forward to once again being overwhelmed by the generosity of spirit shown by so many in our community and creating the warm glow that comes from helping others in need.

Contact Grant Hocking on 0429 802 722 for more information or questions.

Find out more about Woodend Rotary and the great work we do at www.woodendrotary.org.au

SUBMITTED BY GRANT HOCKING

Inclusion, diversity and equity at its best!

It was a privilege for Rotary SAFE Families Inclusive Communities Initiative's Peter Berg (Rotary Melbourne) and Dorothy Gilmour (Rotary Hawthorn) to be part of the Changepreneurs International Women's Day event recently at Hoppers Crossing.

Rotary SAFE Families works in partnership with Changepreneurs in empowering young women through outreach, education and mentorship.

Dorothy was asked to provide an activity around coercive control and its dangerous impact. So much noise and conversation was generated. Chocolate was promised to the winning tables, but Dorothy explained after the scoring that Rotary focuses on inclusion, diversity and equity, so in respect of this, chocolate was given to everyone, with much enjoyment.

Along with the Mayor of Wyndham Jennie Barrera, three members of Parliament and presidents of many multicultural organisations, Dorothy and Peter met the most articulate, inspirational young women. Connections and friendships were made which will create the ability for our Inclusive Communities Team to reach out to many more diverse communities to work together in the prevention of family abuse in culturally and linguistically diverse Australia.

The Inclusive Communities Initiative is also working with the East African Women's Foundation and Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria, and has commenced, with the assistance of Rotary Caroline Springs' Ron Moss, and Rotary Richmond's Lookman Lawal, a project of connecting and working with African Youth. Watch this space!

FIRST PUBLISHED IN "ROTARY DOWN UNDER" MAGAZINE, APRIL 2024 EDITION. ARTICLE BY PRESIDENT ELECT DOROTHY GILMOUR, ROTARY CLUB OF HAWTHORN.



Photo: Members of Parliament, Mayor of Wyndham and Chair of Changepreneurs (centre front) Dr Abiola Akinbiyi with the Changepreneurs' Board at their International Women's Day 2024 event.



Photo: Chair/Creator Rotary SAFE Families Dorothy Gilmour (left) and Chair Multicultural Association of Community Empowerment Deepti Alurkar JP

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WEAAD & The Tree of Life

Purple is the colour given to World Elder Abuse Awareness Day; purple is a colour associated with rarity, insight and wisdom, all to be found in elders.

The United Nations gave the world WEAAD in 2011 as the day where individuals and organisations highlight the importance of older people, their rights and the value they bring to society. The act of remembering their value , showing kindness and respect, helps prevent the mistreatment and harm occurring to older people in their communities.

We have long relied on elders to fulfil essential roles such as volunteering, caring and providing for other vulnerable members of the community. With their guidance and by giving our time, we can learn new ways for a better world, becoming enlightened and inspired through them.

On WEAAD, Saturday 15 June, join the Girl Guides and Scouts from the Macedon Ranges Shire for a show of kindness and respect as they host ‘Stir a Cuppa with an Elder’ at Jubilee Hall, Smith Street, Macedon from 10.30 am. The event is proudly supported by the CWA and Mens Shed; everyone is welcome to participate in this day of praise for elderhood.

Cakes, cuppas, bbq, stalls and entertainment until 3.30pm.

Contact co-ordinator Lynda Cameron for further information on 0418 770 366

SUBMITTED BY LINDA MCCLURE

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Shout-out to our Woodend CWA Eves

The Rotary Club of Woodend recently assisted the MRSC with catering for 110 students, teachers and staff at the Youth Summit held at the Community Centre in Woodend. Due to a lot happening around that time for my Rotary Club, I was short of bakers for the afternoon tea. A call out to CWA Woodend Eves returned a positive reply from Catherine, the treasurer of this wonderful organisation, and she delivered 50 serves of the most delicious muffins and slices. Thank you Catherine and the Woodend Eves!

SUBMITTED BY JOSEPHINE FALZARANO



Woodend Library News



National Simultaneous Storytime: Bowerbird Blues

Wednesday 22 May, 11.45am

Come and join us for this year's National Simultaneous Storytime! The same book will be read across Australia and New Zealand at the same time. No bookings required.

Regular Storytimes

Don't forget we also run Storytimes throughout the school term and on the first Saturday of the month. This month we also have our special Curious Kids Storytime, run by the Discovery Centre in Bendigo on 3 May at 10am.

- Upcoming Saturday Storytimes (all ages): 4 May and 1 June, 10.30am
- Regular Storytime (2-5 years): Tuesday and Friday 10am
- Baby Rhyme Time (0-2 years): Tuesday and Friday 11am
- Sydney Writers Festival – Saturday, 25 May

Woodend Library will again host some livestreamed sessions of the Sydney Writers Festival in May. Stay tuned for more details!

Craft and Chat

First Wednesday of the month, 2pm onwards

Bring along your current craft project and share ideas and skills with fellow craft lovers. Beginners welcome! Our next sessions are on Wednesday June 5, July 3 and August 7 from 2pm. Exact times may vary from month to month, so please call us on 5427 2074 to confirm.

Keep an eye out for our winter program too!

For all bookings, please head to our website or give us a call. See you in the Library!

5427 2074 | woodend@ncgrl.vic.gov.au | www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au

SUBMITTED BY EMMA KEENAN

Another great 'Good Friday' collection.



Once again, the Woodend, Newham and Heskett-Kerrie CFA Brigades conducted the annual Good Friday Collection for the Royal Children's Hospital Appeal.

A special thanks to all residents and visitors who donated so generously, raising a NEAR-RECORD TOTAL OF \$15,724 – including \$12,467 for Woodend, \$1,795 for Heskett-Kerrie and \$1,462 for Newham.

A big thank you to all of our collectors, and also to the catering crew of the Woodend CFA who ensured that all were well fed and watered, and those who helped with sorting and counting on the day.

Of course, thank you to our local communities, who continued their amazing generosity. Unfortunately, we were not able to get to every home on the day, so if we missed your house, you can drop your donation into your local Brigade on any Sunday morning.

You can still donate online right now by visiting the Woodend CFA Virtual Tin Shake at: <https://fundraise.goodfridayappeal.com.au/fundraisers/Woodend>.

It's so easy to do, and your donation will add to the Woodend total. We have until the end of May to send donations to the Hospital Appeal.

A special thank you also to the team at the Bendigo Bank in Kyneton for the final money count.

Woodend CFA families add to Good Friday collection

A special mention to the increasing numbers of families who were involved: It is great to see family and friends joining Woodend CFA volunteers for the collection! The Callaghans raised \$1,864, the Bradfield-Smiths \$973, and the Selbys collected \$817. A special mention to Team Theo Tullio, which raised just over an amazing \$4,000. A great effort by everyone involved.

Fire restrictions ended on April 15

The Fire Danger Period ended in the Macedon Ranges on Monday 15 April. However, fires can only be lit in the Macedon Ranges Shire under certain conditions, depending on when you want to burn off, the size of your land and the amount of vegetation you need to burn. Please check the Macedon Ranges Shire Council website for the details.

If you are able to burn off, please remember a few simple rules: always clear an area around your fire, don't locate it too close to trees or bush, make sure someone is always present and make sure you have the means to extinguish a fire should it spread.

Remember, you can dispose of your green waste for free at the Shire Transfer Stations.

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

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, FORMER CAPTAIN WOODEND CFA



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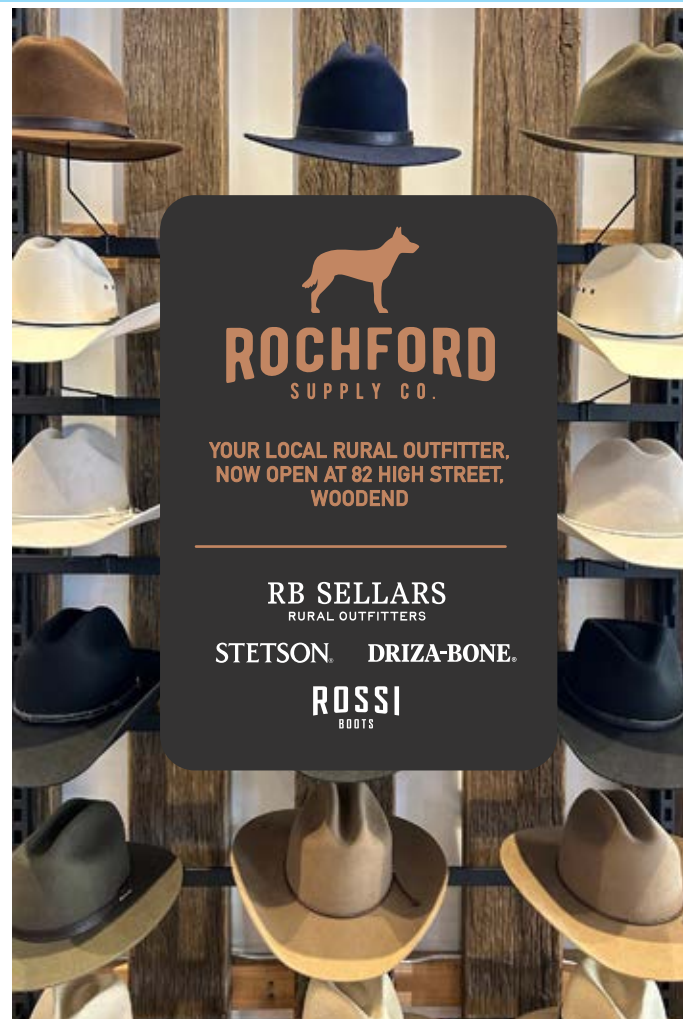
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What's on at the Woodend Neighbourhood House

Cooking Demonstration

Learn to cook simple meals on a budget using seasonal, everyday items, then stay for lunch with the prepared foods. This session will be run by a Macedon Ranges Health dietitian and Woodend Neighbourhood House volunteers. There is no cost to attend, however bookings are required to help with catering. Wednesday 22 May from 12 noon.

Happy, Healthy Minds

Our meditation class for children aged 5–11 is back in Term 2. Children and their parents will explore meditation techniques to develop attention while encouraging kindness, compassion, and self-knowledge. This four-week course costs \$40 per participant and will run on Wednesdays after school between 4.15pm–5pm (1–22 May).

Creative Sewing Workshop

Do you have old favourite clothes that need TLC and repairs? Learn a variety of mending, stitching and patching techniques to recreate your wardrobe. This workshop costs \$65 and will run on Sunday 12 May between 11am – 2pm. Bookings essential.

Woodend May Community Lunch

Everyone is welcome at the Woodend RSL on Tuesday 14 May for the Woodend Community Lunch. Bookings are essential and a \$5 donation is welcome to cover costs, but by no means necessary.

Chatty Cafe

Pop in for a cuppa, sweet treat and good conversation on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Our next Chatty Café is on Tuesday 28 May at 10am. No bookings required – just turn up!

Blacksmithing

Blacksmith Rob Nansen is back to teach you the basic techniques of blacksmithing. Each participant will make their own fire poker to take home. Blacksmithing workshops are tailored for people from age 10 (dependent on skill and maturity) to adult. Children under 16 must be accompanied and supervised by a responsible adult. Saturday 25 May 1pm – 4pm. \$140 per participant.

Gentle Yoga, Qi Gong and Guided Meditation

Join Yong for an introduction to qigong therapeutic breathing exercises and mindful yoga postures and prepare for meditative state of mind. This monthly workshop will take place between 2.30pm - 5pm on Sunday 28 April, 26 May and 23 June. Registration is required. Each workshop costs \$45 to attend.

Banking Safely Online

With scams rating so high, join Community Bank Trentham & Districts for this quick information session on how to mitigate your online risk. Tuesday 4 June between 5.30pm–6pm. Registration is preferred. FREE.

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

SUBMITTED BY MELISSA BAKER



What does CWA do?

It is hard to quantify what our branch the Woodend Eves has achieved in a year. When asked, “What does the CWA do other than bake scones?” it is often an insurmountable task to summarise. Lucky for our Branch, we have an amazing secretary who summarised our year in her award-winning secretary report. Like all CWA branches, the Woodend Eves is part of a group; we belong to the Central Highlands Group. Congratulations to Megan Sharkie our secretary for summing up our year at the Group AGM by poem. Thank you for all the work you do, the hours of volunteering you contribute and the light in every respect you bring to our CWA community.

Woodend Eves Secretary's Report: 2022-23 (Short Form)

Prepared by Megan Sharkie, Branch Secretary

Oh, we're a group of women, true and bold,
In Woodend town, where hills unfold,
We gather 'round, our hearts aflame,
The Woodend Eves is our name.

We've had a year filled with fun and delight,
Post COVID, our members did reunite.
Our events myriad, community connections refound,
With Woodend's support, our strength unbound.

For three young girls, with dreams so bold,
We offered scholarships to ease the toll,
To pave the way for futures bright,
Rewarding hard work and inner fight.

At Christmas time, the town aglow,
With markets bustling, the spirits grow,
And in the Eves Christmas Light Trail's gleam,
Woodend shines, a festive dream.

We visited BUPA, where elders reside,
Sharing stories and hearts open wide,
Scones were baked, jams spread sweet,
Crafts shared in companionship's heat.

Creative souls, with talents rare,
Exhibited their crafts with love and care,
Photos, preserves, knitting needles clicking away,
The Junior Eves triumphed on the day

For Disaster Relief we cooked fine tarts,
We baked for bereaved mothers to ease their hearts,
We filled Woodend pantries with scones, curd and jam,
And bonded at Disco Bingo – although cameras were banned!

To the Woodend Eves women I pay homage true,
For all they give, for all they do,
In unity, strength, we stand as one,
The Country Women's Association, our work not done.

For more information visit our Facebook page CWA Woodend

Eves, or at group level, Central Highlands Group - CWA of Vic Inc. The CWA Woodend Eves meet on the third Thursday of the month. Every woman is welcome, message us via Facebook or email cwawoodendeves@gmail.com and say hi.

SUBMITTED BY CWA WOODEND EVES



Photo: Megan Sharkie (left) presented the honour book by our state president

Woodend Senior Citizens

Another lovely day on the bus trip to the Ballarat Tramway Museum in April. It was very interesting to see the many lovely, restored trams, including a horse-drawn carriage. After a nice meal at the Ballarat Bistro Sports Club, we headed to the Gordon Hat Shoppe to browse the hats, shoes, scarves and collectables.

The May Bus Trip is on Thursday 9 May to the Western Treatment Plant and Wetlands. Please check conditions of entry to the treatment plan on your itinerary for the day. We have not been there for ten years so it will be interesting to see the development in that time and what birds and animals will be on the wetlands. Booking is to be made and deposit paid to Margaret by Wednesday 1 May.

Come and join us on Tuesdays between 1pm and 3pm for Button Bingo and a cuppa and Fridays 1pm and 4pm for a game of cards.

New members are always welcome, so if you are interested in joining, please call Margaret (0458 272 767), Irene (0417 676 843) or Alma (0400 134 478).



Community Bank ·
Trentham & Districts

BANK LOCAL

Making good things happen in our community.

Bendigo Bank

Woodend appointments available

Community Bank

ph 5424 1608

Community Banking supporting the Woodend Community

Community banking core principles are to provide meaningful benefits through local partnership, local decision making, local investment and local ownership. A maximum of 20% of profits are paid to shareholders and the majority of funds allocated for community projects and sponsorships.

We proudly support many Woodend Community Groups including the Woodend Winter Arts Festival, Lions Club, Woodend Hasket Football Netball Club and both Woodend Golf & Cricket Clubs.

Woodend events

Lions Club Skin Check Bus Success

The Lions Club had an overwhelming response with over 200 people screened over the 2 weekends in April. On average about 28% of people checked are referred for further detailed checks. Attendees were also resourced with take-away skin care and self-checking techniques.



Banking Safely Online

We would love to see you at our Banking Safely Online session to be held at Woodend Neighbourhood House on 4th June between 530-6pm. With scams and fraud becoming more prominent & sophisticated, now is the time to be updated on current information. Join us for a quick information session and stay for a cuppa and chat afterwards. Bookings are through Woodend Neighbourhood House ph: 5427 1845.



Bank news

Biggest Morning Tea

Our branch is hosting a Biggest Morning Tea on Wednesday June 5 at 11-1pm at Trentham Neighbourhood Centre. The entry fee is \$5, there will be a door prizes, games and raffle prizes, and of course a delicious morning tea. Our target this year is to raise \$1000. Everyone is welcome to come along and all funds raised go directly to Cancer Council Victoria.

We will have more information on our Facebook about how you can donate and details of fundraising activities to be held at the branch. For more info contact Trentham branch on 5424 1608.

Board Director required

Do you have some time to invest into our board? We are seeking a community minded professional who can lend their business strengths to the team. Expressions of interest please forward to Board Support Anjee Anderson at aanderson@tccce.com.au or phone Brian Hood Director & Chair on 0411 139 004.

Mobile Lending

Did you know you can book an appointment in Woodend? Our Branch Manager Edyta Wyatt can come to you, your time, your place, your convenience, we bring the expertise to you. Edyta is an experienced Mobile Lender and Banking Specialist who can assist you with home loans, term deposits, insurance and other banking products.

Hello from MRSPAG

It's been a while since you have heard from us in our newsletter, but we've been working hard behind the scenes. Like other volunteer organisations, MRSPAG saw active volunteer numbers dwindling with only the four executive committee members regularly active, along with our peer support group, and no Project Officer at one point. However, our efforts to attract new volunteers are paying off, with 2024 shaping up as a year of rejuvenation, growth, and new initiatives to raise community awareness about suicide and reduce stigma. Please take a moment to read on and learn what's in the pipeline..

MRSPAG would like to hear from you

Community is at the heart of MRSPAG and your insights are invaluable to us as we strive to continually improve and grow.

Please take a few moments to complete the below survey, your feedback will help us identify areas for enhancement and ensure that our goals meet your expectations.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WZQND65>

Mindful Moves – Empowering Health in the Ranges

We are currently seeking an expression of interest from qualified personal trainers from the Macedon Ranges to help facilitate our project Mindful Moves.

MRSPAG's proposed monthly integrative fitness, well-being, and mental health program aims to embed physical activity deeply within its framework as a prospective intervention. We plan to host training sessions on the first Saturday of each month, and will offer trainers complimentary Mental Health First Aid training and pay for the duration of the fitness session. To find out more please email: info@mrspag.org.au

Peer Support (Support After Suicide Macedon Ranges)

The second Monday of every month (even public holidays) at 7.00–8.30pm, people gather alternating months online and in person 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. For details please contact peersupport@mrspag.com.au

Volunteer Opportunities

MRSPAG is currently seeking volunteers, If you have a passion or interest in the mental health space and suicide prevention, we would love to hear from you. Some ways you can volunteer are:

- Event Organiser for our annual walk on World Suicide Prevention Day in September 2024. for more details please visit: <https://www.volunteer.com.au/volunteering/209581/Events-Coordinator-Annual-Suicide-Prevention-Walk->
- Assisting with the planning and running of our current community project to run monthly fitness workshops across the

Macedon Ranges, for a period of 12 months, for all ages and all abilities on a Saturday.

- Assisting with events in any capacity that matches your skillset and available time.
- Join our committee and become an active voice for change in our community. for more details please visit: <https://www.volunteer.com.au/volunteering/207489/General-Committee-Members-Macedon-Ranges-Suicide-Prevention-Action-Group>
- Assisting with social media communications, and website design and maintenance.
- Liaising with media regarding MRSPAG and upcoming events.

Mental Health First Aid Training

MRSPAG coordinates a number of different training sessions to provide our community with the knowledge and skills to support each other when we are struggling with our mental wellbeing or having suicidal thoughts. Please email info@mrspag.com.au if you are interested in attending any of the training.

Thank you.

MRSPAG would like to thank individuals, community groups and organisations that continue to donate and support MRSPAG.

SUBMITTED BY PETER GRAY, PRESIDENT

Photo: Recent graduates of Mental Health First Training



Woodend Warblers perform at CresFest 2024

On Saturday 6 April in Creswick, the streets were alive with the annual CresFest celebration of music and arts, a weekend of dancing, busking, international musicians and a variety of choirs – including the Macedon Ranges' own much-loved Warblers. The Woodend Warblers have performed many public gigs before, but this one was considered by many to be their best ever. Sung to the crowd from the steps of Creswick's historic post office, their repertoire ranged from the gentle "Won't Let You Drown" to a lively performance of the Beach Boys' "Fun Fun Fun", which had audience members smiling and dancing. A particular favourite was "Freedom is Coming", a gospel song written by those committed to ending apartheid in South Africa.

One of the Warblers' original sopranos Trish said, "I immediately felt at home in Creswick on finding the pub full at ten in the morning, with the strains of an Irish jig flowing out onto the street!" Another soprano, Rachel, commented afterwards, "CresFest was such a special event for us. The crowd was so engaged and warm – just a delight to perform for!"

The Woodend Warblers have been in existence for six years now, growing from a small group of beginners who swore they couldn't sing and would definitely never perform in public, to a confident choir of thirty regular members who love nothing more than showing off their latest songs to anyone who'll listen.

A member from another choir commented: "The Warblers really are a cut above: so professional and solid in their songs". And an audience member expressed delight that a community choir could sound so good – "fabulous variety of songs and really good harmonies." These comments are a credit to the hard work that Andrew Price, choir director, puts into teaching the Warblers every week. They meet at 7.30pm on Wednesdays at the Norma Richardson Hall in Woodend. Andrew reassures new members that no singing experience is required, that "if you can speak, you can sing". Plenty of mistakes are made, but Andrew has endless patience



and is very encouraging: rehearsals are full of laughter and everyone is made to feel an important part of the choir.

Bass singer Max became quite poetic in his praise of the day: "Music in the country is the road to happiness, and singing is the highway to enjoyment". As a finale and a surprise to the audience, the Warblers "interrupted" another choir (run by Melbourne director Sue Johnson) performing a brand new song which the Warblers had been practising in secret. Singers were astonished to suddenly find a flash mob of Warblers joining them on stage for a dramatic performance of "Laid Bare", written by Sue only a few months earlier.

The Woodend Warblers have members from as far afield as Northcote and Castlemaine and welcome new singers. The first session is free, and term fees are \$10 per week (or \$12 for a single week). Ring Andrew Price for more information 0419 604 444 – or just turn up!

The final word goes to tenor singer Marina, who has been with the choir since its early days: "You couldn't find a better or friendlier mob of people to sing with. To be honest, Warblers literally changed my life."

SUBMITTED BY JENNY ZIMMERMAN,
WARBLER



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Please contact us on 5422 6500
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New Hours Announcement!

For the past 52 years, we've cherished our Saturday mornings with you.

As we move forward, we're adapting our approach to better serve your needs. Starting this Saturday, our showroom will be open by appointment only. While some Saturdays have been bustling and others quieter, we believe this change will help us optimise our time and better assist you.

Please also note that our weekday closing time has been adjusted to 5:00 PM.

We remain committed to helping you find the perfect solution for your needs! To schedule your appointment, please call us at 03 5427 2361 or visit our website at bradleyscurtains.com

Thank you for your understanding and continued support over the years. We look forward to seeing you soon!



Bradley's
Curtains + Blinds

72 High Street, Woodend 3442

t 03 5427 2361

e bradleyscurtains@outlook.com

w www.bradleyscurtains.com



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Sustainable, Local, Zero-Waste



Wash Against Waste



Farm Fresh



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Powered by Volunteers

Discover the Woodend Community Farmers Market: where sustainability and great food meet to support a healthier planet!

1st Saturday of every month



9am-1pm
mrsg.org.au

News and events from Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Council programs finalists in industry excellence awards

Two Council programs driving sustainable agriculture practices and waste reduction measures have been announced as finalists in the 2024 LGPro Awards for Excellence.

The Healthy Landscapes program and a suite of practical Resource Recovery initiatives have both been nominated in the Sustainability Initiative category as part of the annual awards, which recognise the outstanding work by individuals and teams working in local government in Victoria.

The Sustainability Initiative category recognises initiatives that demonstrate excellence in the delivery of environmentally sustainable processes or projects, ensuring present needs are met without compromising future generations.

Council's increased efforts to 'close the loop' in recent years have led to a range of initiatives being implemented, all aimed at helping residents recycle more and waste less; from being one of the first Victorian councils to implement a shire-wide four-bin system, to partnering with the Australian Food and Grocery Council on a soft plastic recycling trial in Romsey, and recently introducing polystyrene and textile recycling at resource recovery facilities.

The above initiatives have resulted in more than:

- 5,700 tonnes of glass, 28,900 tonnes of green waste (FOGO) and 8,400 tonnes of recycling being diverted from landfill
- two tonnes of soft plastic being collected and processed into reusable oil
- 300 m3 of polystyrene and 11 tonnes of textiles diverted from landfill.

In 2023, Council's landfill diversion rate was 72 per cent – much higher than the average Victorian municipal diversion rate of 48 per cent.

Council's CEO, Bernie O'Sullivan, said it was pleasing to see Council recognised for its proactive approach to waste management.

"Our Council is committed to implementing innovative recycling options and diverting as much waste from landfill as possible, reflecting a strong desire and commitment from our community," he said.

"The combined effort of these initiatives over the last few years has seen an increase in the recyclability of many items, as well as reduced contamination rates. This has enabled us to achieve some of the highest diversion rates from landfill when compared with other councils."

Separately, the Healthy Landscapes program was introduced to provide practical education to private land managers, enhancing property productivity, biodiversity, waterway health, and resilience to climate change. The program is tailored to diverse land managers with grazing livestock (such as chickens, cattle, sheep and horses) and cropping interests, offering localised information.

Since 2019, the program has accomplished:

- 22 webinars to more than 2,000 participants
- 29 field days with more than 630 participants
- six courses enabling environmental change across about 4,000 hectares
- 170 property visits. The program has now grown into a unique partnership funded by three councils – Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Hepburn Shire Council and City of Greater Bendigo – in addition to the North Central Catchment Management Authority, Coliban Water, Melbourne Water and the Upper Campaspe Landcare Network. Mount Alexander Shire Council has also recently confirmed it will join the partnership in July 2024, further expanding the program.

"Since its implementation, the Healthy Landscapes program has successfully engaged private land managers and encouraged changes that enhance their resilience, benefitting the broader community," Mr O'Sullivan said.

"We are very excited that these two initiatives have been recognised for the positive impact they have had on our community and the environment, and we look forward to seeing the outcome of the awards."

The winner will be announced at the 2024 LGPro Annual Conference Awards Dinner, to be held on Thursday 2 May at the MCG (Melbourne Cricket Ground).

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN



Platypus sighting in Five Mile Creek

We know that there are platypus in the Campaspe River just downstream of Woodend, and we also know that on rare occasions, one will travel upstream to visit Woodend.

Native water rats (rakali) are also sometimes seen in the creek and can be identified by the white tip on their tails. When they are swimming, they can easily be mistaken for platypus, but in early 2008 there was a definite sighting of a platypus in the pool immediately downstream of the High Street bridge.

Landcare obtained a small grant and we planted 500 trees and shrubs in November of 2008 to celebrate the sighting of the platypus and enhance the habitat in the vicinity.

Recently there was another platypus sighting in the creek in another location. That was after a long dry period, so it must have made the journey up the creek from the Campaspe and up Five Mile Creek in part by water, and overland. They are known to be happy to travel over land, sometimes for up to one kilometre, but they are very vulnerable to predators when they are in the open. This platypus may have been a juvenile looking for its own territory.

Obviously, the water quality in the creek is reasonably good, even in the heart of the town, at least this platypus seemed to think so! Platypus mainly feed on aquatic insects, worms, water snails and even yabbies, which tend to move downstream if water quality deteriorates, due to things like silt from soil disturbance or pollution. Platypus also need a reliable water depth if they want to settle and plenty of creekside shelter in the form of vegetation for shade and protection from predators.

If you are lucky enough to see a platypus, please contact Woodend Landcare or the Platypus Conservancy, which is based nearby in Campbells Creek.

SUBMITTED BY PETER YATES, PRESIDENT , WOODEND LANDCARE



Photo: Winners are grinners: Students Xavier (front) and Alex (foreground) from St Joseph's Primary School with their wonderful winning poster entries from last year's competition.

The National Water Week poster competition is back!



Let's get creative! Entries for this year's National Water Week poster competition are now open, and Greater Western Water (GWW) is inviting all local primary, kindergarten and early learning students to enter.

Students across our service area, which includes Brimbank, Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong, Melton, Moonee Valley, Wyndham and Yarra, and parts of Hume, Macedon Ranges, Melbourne and Moorabool are encouraged to apply for the popular competition.

Last year, GWW received more than 800 entries from 35 schools and early learning centres, across five age categories, with three local students going on to win statewide prizes.

This year, students are being asked to design, draw or paint a poster that reflects this year's poster competition theme, "Water for all, inspiring action" which highlights the important role water plays in bringing individuals and communities together.

First prize winners from GWW's local competition will automatically be entered into the state competition, with winners announced during National Water Week (21–27 October).

"The competition is a great opportunity for students to learn about the value of water in a way that's fun and engaging," GWW's General Manager, Strategy and Partnerships, Kessia Thomson said.

"We've seen some incredible entries over the years that promote water saving tips, highlight how water connects communities and the need to protect water as a precious resource."

"We encourage all local students to get on board this great competition again and do our area proud."

Students can win a voucher of up to \$100 for themselves or \$500 for their school to spend on a sustainability project.

There are categories for each age range, from early learning and kindergarten to Grade 6. Entries close 6 September. For more information, visit the National Water Week poster competition page <https://www.gww.com.au/about/community/national-water-week>.

GWW (Local) Poster Competition 2024

Categories

Prep/Foundation:

Year 1–2, Year 3–4, Year 5–6, Early learning/kindergarten

Early learning/Kindergarten Prizes (individual and collaborative entries accepted):

- 1st prize (individual) – \$50 gift card
- 1st prize (collaborative) – \$50 gift card
- Runner-up prize (individual) – \$25 gift card
- Runner-up prize (collaborative) – \$25 gift card

Primary school student prizes for each category:

- 1st prize – \$100 gift card
- 2nd prize – \$50 gift card
- 3rd prize – \$25 gift card

School prize :

- \$500 grant towards a sustainability project at their school, sponsored by Southern Rural Water.

SUBMITTED BY ROSANNA BONACCURSO

A Brighter Way to Live: Powered Entirely by the Sun

Hello! I'm Chantel, the CEO of Bluegum and a busy working mum of three. I recently had the privilege of showcasing my home and Bluegum's innovative work on Episode 5 of Channel 9's "Renovate or Rebuild." This segment highlighted our lifestyle powered by the sun and showcased how renewable energy supports a busy household like mine without sacrificing comfort.

As a big believer in using renewable energy to enhance lifestyles, I focus on maximising our capacity to use energy rather than merely reducing usage. Our home in Gisborne thrives on a 35kW solar system paired with a 44kWh battery setup that ensures everything runs smoothly day and night without grid reliance. This system powers dual ducted air conditioners to keep our home perfectly temperate, supports our electric car, and ensures a \$0 electricity bill, all vital for managing a hectic family schedule. It includes a heat pump hot water system timed for peak solar hours and a reliable backup battery for outages.

We've also integrated convenient solutions like an induction cooktop for quick, efficient cooking and underfloor heating in our bathrooms to keep them warm and dry—comforts that make all the difference in a bustling family life. Even our LED skylights are powered by mini solar panels, brightening our home naturally.

Want to discover 'The Real Secret to a \$0 Electricity Bill'?

Join me and the GREG group on May 5 for a FREE event, *'Installing Solar: The Real Secret to a \$0 Electricity Bill.'* We'll uncover the top five common mistakes people make when installing solar panels—which could cost thousands—and how to avoid them.

Simply scan the QR Code below to claim your FREE ticket. This event is designed to empower you with the knowledge to make informed decisions about your solar solutions, ensuring you can enjoy a sustainable, comfortable home just like mine.

Hope to see you there!

GREG Group FREE Information Session

Installing Solar: The REAL Secret to a \$0 Electricity Bill

SUN MAY 5, 11:00 AM
The Mechanics Institute Hall Gisborne

Presented by Chantel Gilbert, CEO, Bluegum

Revealed:

- The 5 common mistakes & how you can avoid them
- Local case studies
- How to prepare for the all electric future

★★★★★

"A necessity for anyone considering solar."
Gill & Alan, Gisborne



Scan the QR Code to get your FREE ticket








INSTALLING SOLAR: THE SECRET TO A \$0 ELECTRICITY BILL

FREE INFO SESSION WITH Q&A

Join us to hear from Chantel Gilbert, CEO of Bluegum Electrical Solutions as she explains all things solar, battery backup, 5 common mistakes and how to avoid them, plus local case studies.



11am, Sunday 5th May
Mechanics Institute Hall,
8 Hamilton Street, Gisborne

Scan for more information or to register your interest

Go Renewable Energy Group (GREG) is proudly supported by the Bendigo Bank and Macedon Ranges Shire Council.



GREG is a project of the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group.

Electrify 3442 Update

The Electrify 3442 Community Forum held on Sunday 21 April was an opportunity to share the results of the Community Survey, launch the Household Electrification Planner and test some ideas for future events.

The survey garnered responses from 2.5% of households through the 3442 postcode area. 75% of survey respondents already have solar at home. There is a willingness to explore home batteries, electric vehicles and other efficient electric appliances; and barriers to updating included existing functional appliances (no need to replace yet), cost, and a need for reliable information to support decision making.

The team launched a prototype of our Household Electrification Planner, which will be expanded over coming months to include information about each of the six electrification targets (home heating and cooling, hot water, cooking, electric vehicle, solar and battery). We are encouraging households to investigate their current household energy consumption and cost, and the age of their existing appliances as a first step to creating their own electrification plans.

Forum participants provided feedback on a "menu" of potential followup activities, ranging from individual reviews of electrification plans, to bulk buys of appliances. The Electrify 3442 team will analyse the results, formulate a plan and work on delivery over the coming months.

If you missed the Forum, drop in and see us at the Farmers Market, and we'll update you. We've kept the Survey open for those who haven't yet had a chance to complete it. See our website mrsg.org.au/electrify3442.

SUBMITTED BY SUE BARKER, ELECTRIFY 3442, MACEDON RANGES

How to give yourself the power to control your energy costs

Energy independence is going to become increasingly important to homes and businesses in our changing energy environment.

The Australian Energy Market Operator has reported:

"The risk of gas shortfalls each year from winter 2023 to 2026 in all southern jurisdictions remains under extreme weather conditions and periods of high gas-powered electricity generation, with those risks further exacerbated if gas storage levels are insufficient".

In other words: we could have gas supply issues when the weather is at its coldest and this might affect the supply of electricity as well. Then from 2027 onwards, unless something changes, we could have ongoing gas supply issues.

The thing that we can change is to move from gas to electricity as a source of energy. This move will save money, as electricity is a much more efficient energy source, as well as make our homes healthier places to live.

The Go Renewable Energy Group (GREG) project volunteers from the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group have carefully selected trusted partners to offer our community high quality: rooftop solar, home batteries, hot water heat pumps and reverse cycle air conditioners at sensible prices.

If you'd like to learn more about how you can reduce your household energy bills come to hear GREG's Guest speaker: Chantel Gilbert of Bluegum Electrical Solutions:-

Installing Solar: The Secret to a \$0 Electricity Bill

Gisborne Mechanics Institute, 8 Hamilton Street Gisborne – 11am, Sunday 5 May

There will be a Q&A session and information will be provided that can enable people with no available capital to get involved in the Renewable Revolution and save money.

Book your place by calling Stephen on 0415 821 481.

SUBMITTED BY STEPHEN PEPPER



Sustainable Home webinars

Council is excited to release our Sustainable Homes webinars which were hosted alongside Renew earlier this year.

The webinars cover the topics of:

- All electric homes
- Electric vehicles
- Designing and retrofitting our homes for resilience

These recorded webinars, plus Q&A sessions, are a great resource for those looking to electrify their homes and lifestyles.

Transitioning our households has the ability to save us money on energy bills while also playing a key role in addressing local greenhouse gas emissions. These webinars are available at mrsg.vic.gov.au/sustainable-living

Reducing the Wildlife Road Toll Community Forum

In February 2024, Council was pleased to host the Reducing the Wildlife Road Toll Community Forum. Council officers welcomed representatives from the City of Greater Bendigo and Hume City Council amid a crowd of about 60 people, including concerned residents and wildlife rehabilitators from as far away as Ballarat.

Guest speakers included:

- Lisa Palma, CEO, Wildlife Victoria
- Dr Kylie Soanes, wildlife ecologist, The University of Melbourne
- Linda Healy, Macedon Ranges Wildlife Network
- Eng Lim, Manager Engineering and Resource Recovery, Macedon Ranges Shire Council

The forum speakers combined to present a valuable overview of the problem, particularly here in the Macedon Ranges. Council is looking forward to working with our partners to progress a key action in Council’s Mobility and Road Safety Strategy 2023, namely Strategic Theme 5: Improving Wildlife Safety and Outcomes.

The forum also helped to drive a Notice of Motion endorsed by Council at the March 2024 Council Meeting. At the Australian Local Government Association’s National General Assembly in July, Council will submit a motion calling on the Australian Government to include wildlife trauma and fatalities metrics in Federal road safety funding models. Council will also write to a number of relevant Federal and State Ministers advocating this point.

Recordings and a forum report are now available on Council’s website at mrsc.vic.gov.au/living-with-wildlife



Webinars for small business owners

Local business, Sage HR Consulting, will provide a series of one-hours interactive webinars on current topics around issues that employers face. Receive valuable information, plans and tips for you to utilise in the day to day running of your business.

Reassess to Progress

Monday 3 June, 2pm

This will give you an understanding of the current position for business owners in relation to your needs and goals, what is currently effective and which areas require improvement.

Introduction to Emotional Intelligence

Tuesday 18 June, 10.30am

Learn about emotional intelligence and how emotions can influence thoughts, behaviours and interactions.

Cultivating clear workplace communication

Wednesday 10 July at 2pm

Gain an understanding of your current communication styles and channels and help create a positive communication culture.

To register visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/business-events

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN, MRSC COMMUNICATION UNIT



Did you know 3 and 4 year old kindergarten is free?

Register now for 2025 kindergarten and give your child the best start to their learning journey at one of Council's 8 kindergartens in the Macedon Ranges.

Our kindergartens have highly qualified and experienced early childhood Teachers and Educators and, with their beautiful natural features and outdoor play areas, are rich in nature-based and creative learning experiences.

Register online by 31 May 2024 and go into the draw to WIN a 6 month family swim pass or 12 months swimming lessons!*

Visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/kinder-rego or call our Enrolment Officer on (03) 5422 0239

*Terms and conditions apply.





Stand for Council 2024 sessions

Council Elections are on the horizon for October this year and to support potential candidates, Council is partnering with the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) to host a Candidate Information Session on Wednesday 15 May 2024 from 6.30pm to 8.30pm at Kyneton Town Hall.

The session can be attended either in-person or online, with registrations essential via the MAV website’s Stand For Council section.

If you are unable to attend the session on Wednesday 15 May, the MAV is delivering several other information sessions for the community and prospective candidates.

Council will also hold four informal candidate sessions that will include some recorded material from the MAV. These informal sessions will not be available online.

Dates and locations, along with other election-related information, are available on Council’s website (mrsc.vic.gov.au/Elections). This information will be updated as the year progress.

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN, MRSC COMMUNICATION UNIT

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Recognising our volunteers

In recognition of National Volunteer Week from 20 – 26 May, Council is showcasing volunteers with the aim of encouraging other individuals in the Macedon Ranges to participate in volunteer work within the shire.

We interviewed volunteers from five different villages working in varying roles, highlighting the different volunteer opportunities available in the Macedon Ranges.

You can read the interviews and learn about volunteering opportunities available through Council and at mrsc.vic.gov.au/volunteers.

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN, MRSC COMMUNICATION UNIT



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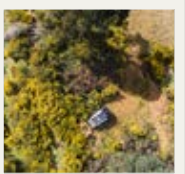


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Your community diary

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

— MAY —

- 4.....Woodend Farmers’ Market
- 4–5..... The Great Trentham Spudfest
- 5..... A Classical Celebration, Gisborne Singers
- 5..... GREG Information Session
- 10–26..... The Mount Players ‘Looped’
- 10..... MRFS: Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, Norma Richardson Hall
- 11.....Author Talk – Melinda Ham MRRAR
- 11.....Chambers Poets
- 12.....Mother’s Day
- 15..... Knit, Chat, Cuppa, Norma Richardson Hall
- 17..... Woodend Probus Club Meeting, NRH
- 17..... International day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT)
- 18.....Live4Life Annual Dinner
- 20–26..... National Volunteer Week
- 20–26..... Looped – Mountview Theatre
- 22.....National Simultaneous Storytime
- 24..... Healthy Landscape - Growing the Community, KTH
- 26..... Woodend Landcare Working Bee
- 27.....Reconciliation Week starts

— JUNE —

- 1.....Woodend Farmers’ Market
- 3..... MRSC Webinar - Reassess to Progress
- 3..... Reconciliation Week ends
- 3..... MRSC Business Webinar - Reassess to Progress
- 4.....Bank Safely Online WNH
- 5.....Biggest Morning Tea, Trentham Community Bank
- 7–10..... Woodend Winter Arts Festival
- 14..... MRFS: Queen of the North, Norma Richardson Hall
- 15.....World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD)
- 18..... MRSC Business Webinar - Intro to Emotional Intelligence
- 19..... Knit, Chat, Cuppa, Norma Richardson Hall

— JULY —

- 2–9.....NAIDOC week
- 10..... MRSC Business Webinar - Cultivating Clear Workplace Communication
- 12..... MRFS:The Secret Lives of Bees, Norma Richardson Hall
- 17..... Knit, Chat, Cuppa, Norma Richardson Hall

Read us online: www.newwoodendstar.com/view

Author Talk – In Conversation with Melinda Ham



Life changed for Melinda Ham when she was eleven years of age and her parents separated. Her comfortable life in a middle-class Toronto suburb was over. Together with her mother and three siblings she moved to the inner city – a world crowded with immigrants and refugees. She met people from across the globe and was, “swept up in the excitement of my friends’ cultures”.

A keen diarist, even at that early age, Melinda had found her purpose. She wanted to write and she wanted to travel.

Decades later, and the dream has been realised. She and her husband, Mike, have travelled extensively in Africa and India, reporting on natural disasters, civil unrest and refugee crises.

Now living in Australia, Mike and Melinda have never forgotten the suffering they witnessed amongst people displaced by natural and manmade disasters. Melinda’s response has found voice in The Lucky Ones, a narrative spanning four continents and seven decades, relating tales of survival from Poland and Tibet, Vietnam and Iraq, Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The people in these stories have endured trauma, terror and abuse along the way, in their journey to safety in Australia. They come from disparate backgrounds, yet they share common sentiments: gratitude for the country that gave them sanctuary, respect for the freedoms they now enjoy, and a determination to live successful lives.

Melinda Ham has drawn the threads of these separate stories into an entrancing and deeply moving testament to the power of hope and human resilience. She will be signing copies of her book and appearing in conversation with well-known local author and photographer, Kathy Mexted.

The event is sponsored by Macedon Ranges Rural Australians for Refugees. All door receipts will be donated for the support of refugees and asylum-seekers in Australia. Tickets are available through the Trybooking website.

Where: Norma Richardson Hall, 15 Buckland Street, Woodend

When: 2pm–4pm Saturday 11 May

Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/CQTRF>

Enquiries: Mary 0417 569 942

SUBMITTED BY ANDREW GRIMES, MRRAR



Designed for rural and regional communities

Live4Life is an award-winning youth mental health and suicide prevention organisation that was born right here in the Macedon Ranges. Now right across Victoria and starting in Tasmania, it is the only organisation of its kind designed specifically for rural and regional communities.

The Live4Life Annual Dinner is our major event for the year. It offers communities, partners and supporters the opportunity to come together for a night of celebration and stories, where we pay tribute to the courage, lived experience and strength of our young people. And it’s a load of fun too!

Every Live4Life Dinner has to have our host-with-the-most... So of course RockWiz legend Brian Nankervis will be there in all his glory! Sit back, if you dare, and let Brian take you on a ride with stories, games and maybe even a quiz!

And this year, we’re delighted to welcome award-winning musician and proud Mutti Mutti man Kutcha Edwards to the stage. Combining songwriting, performance and activism, Kutcha uses his music and stories to create connections across cultures, generations and spaces.

It’s a packed evening interspersed with canapés and a two-course dinner. You can even try your luck in our silent auction! Every dollar raised helps Live4Life empower rural communities to improve youth mental health and reduce suicide. It’s a truly special night and we would love you to join us on Saturday, 18 May 18 at the RACV City Club in Melbourne.

Tickets www.live4life.org.au/annualdinner

SUBMITTED BY ANGELA VAN DAM



From Manus Island to the Macedon Ranges

Behrouz Boochani is set to open RAR National Conference in Kyneton

The refugee who wrote his award-winning book No Friends but the Mountains on a mobile phone while imprisoned on Manus Island will be keynote speaker at the Rural Australians for Refugees National Conference to be held in Kyneton later this year.

Behrouz Boochani, a Kurdish-Iranian journalist permanently refused asylum in Australia, won both the Victorian Prize for Literature and the Prize for Non-Fiction at the 2019 Victorian Premier’s Literary Awards.

After travelling on a visitor visa to New Zealand, Boochani was later granted permanent residency there. He is now a senior research academic at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand.

Macedon Ranges Rural Australians for Refugees (MRRAR) is host organiser of the 2024 RAR National Conference, which is to be held on 11–13 October, and is being supported by the Macedon Ranges Shire Council (MRSC).

Behrouz Boochani will give the keynote address in person at Kyneton Town Hall on the opening night of the conference, which will also be open to the local community. He will speak on the conference theme – Communities Shaping Change.

Tickets will go on sale via MRSC event bookings in May.

SUBMITTED BY JEAN KER WALSH 0413 834 646

Live4Life 2024 Annual Dinner

A night of conversation, connection & celebration

Hosted by Brian Nankervis and featuring a special guest performance by Kutcha Edwards

Kutcha Edwards

Saturday 18 May

RACV City Club Melbourne

Buy your tickets today live4life.org.au/annualdinner

The Gallery Mt Macedon

April – Non-photographic portrait prizes



Photo: Bindi-Lee Byrne

The Gallery Mount Macedon is thrilled to announce the winner of this year’s non photographic portrait prize, Bindi-Lee Byrne. Bindi’s winning entry ‘Holly’ was the popular winner. Everyone agreed ‘Holly’ was a beautifully executed portrait of a young girl. Using charcoal, Byrne creates an air of mystery and won from a very strong field, showcasing various mediums, including for the first time in our competition, digital ‘painting’.

Highly Commended awards went to Nicolle Gallus, Rebecca Boulton and Geordie Gem Williamson. Ella Byass won the Paul McGrath Best on Canvas award.

The portraits are on display at the Gallery until Sunday 5 May

Congratulations to all who entered, and a big thank you to Community Bank Gisborne for once again supporting this event and sponsoring the prizes.

May at The Gallery – Photographic Portrait Prize



Photo: Rebecca Boulton

After our very successful non photographic portrait prize in April, The Gallery is hosting a photographic portrait prize in May. Simultaneously, Gallery members will display photographic portraits of themselves from various stages in their lives which highlight aspects of their practice and/or inspirations. This is a very different exhibition, introducing some of our artistic Gallery members. Both exhibitions will open on Saturday 11 May.

Gallery members are also preparing for our two big external events, the Woodend Winter Arts Festival in June and the Art to Wear Parade in July. Keep your eye out for more information on how to get involved with both of these events.

Community Bank Gisborne is again supporting this event by sponsoring the prizes. The Gallery is open 10am to 4pm, Friday to Tuesday, at 684 Mount Macedon Road, Mt. Macedon.

Sue Anson 0413 581 632 Jo Hoyne 041 848 582

SUBMITTED BY SUE ANSON



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The Mount Players presents **Looped** May 10 - 26 2024

Written by Matthew Lombardo
Directed by Peter Newling

The Mountview Theatre, 56 Smith Street, Macedon
Bookings: www.themountplayers.com or 5426 1892
By special arrangement with Broadway Play Publishing Inc

Read us online: www.newwoodendstar.com/view

Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Reconciliation Week events coming soon

Council will host and support several events and activities across the shire during National Reconciliation Week from 27 May – 3 June 2024.

“This year’s theme Now More Than Ever is a reminder to all of us that no matter what, the fight for justice and the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will —and must —continue. Reconciliation must live in the hearts, minds, and actions of all Australians as we move forward, creating a nation strengthened by respectful relationships between the wider Australian community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples” – Reconciliation Australia

Keep an eye on Council’s for details of events: mrsc.vic.gov.au/reconciliation-week

If your group is holding an event for Reconciliation Week, we’d like to hear about it and support you. Please get in touch with the Community Development team on 5422 0317 or email comdevadmin@mrsc.vic.gov.au

Keeping you ‘in the loop’ at The Mount Players in May

The Mount Players’ second production for 2024 opens 10 May and runs till 26 May. Based on a real event, *Looped* is a comedy by Matthew Lombardo that takes place in the summer of 1965, when an inebriated Tallulah Bankhead needed eight hours to redub or “loop”, one line of dialogue for her last movie. Though Bankhead’s outsized personality dominates the play, the sub-story involves her battle of wills with a film editor named Danny Miller, who has been selected to work that particular sound editing session. The playwright uses a great deal of theatrical licence, offering us a hilarious yet sympathetic guesstimation as to what may have happened in that room on that day. Fun, funny and seductive, this play is sure to appeal to so many.

A special Mother’s Day matinee on Sunday 12 May offers complimentary bubbles for all the mums and delicious treats at interval.

Tickets via our website.

Auditions – for *Jasper Jones* (our third production) will be held at the theatre on 4 and 5 May. An audition time must be booked with the director, David Runnalls. For full details about this beautiful Australian play and to book an audition time, go to our website www.themountplayers.com or call 5426 1892 for assistance.

See you at the theatre!

SUBMITTED BY KAREN HUNT



Photo: (credit the Urban Sparrow) Darren Gregor, playing the frustrated film editor Danny Miller, and Vicki Smith, playing Tallulah Bankhead .

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Shout-out for Scottish Terriers

Hello,

My name is Manda Appleyard. And I have lived in rural Australia for most of my life. I love my local community publications and always find something interesting to read in them. That is the reason I thought I would reach out to community publications like yours and hope that a little reminder article might inspire people to consider this blast from the past survivor, who is surely most relevant for modern lifestyles.



I am a Scottish Terrier fan and have had Scotties in my life since 1969. Scotties have brought me so much joy in my life, I struggle to understand why the Scottish Terrier has been listed as an endangered species. There has been a significant global decline in Scottish Terrier numbers. The Scottie was once very popular here in Australia. Everyone at least knew someone that had one of those funny little Scots with the big beard, big eyebrows and huge character.

Since the introduction of designer breeds developed by crossing smaller breeds together, it seems that everyone has forgotten what great family members and mates Scottish Terriers are.

The Scottish Terrier is a big dog in a little body. This compact, short legged, sturdily built terrier of good bone and substance is very intelligent and quite a sensible dog. They mature very quickly and are a lot less destructive than many other breeds. They are great guard dogs because they don't bark without reason. They have a deep bark which makes them sound like a much bigger dog. The Scottie is a robust breed requiring little or no veterinary intervention, and their versatility is unsurpassed. They adapt to any environment equally at home from the farmhouse to apartment living. They even make great travel companions and love caravan holidays. They are couch potatoes that suddenly spring to action whenever there is anything afoot.

The Scottish Terrier is loyal and does not suffer from separation anxiety. When left alone they will just laze about and wait for your return.

The Scottish Terrier is hypoallergenic as they do not shed hair. A medium level of grooming is required, but a good brush once a week and a trip to the groomers every three months is all that is required. They are truly worthy of consideration when you are next considering a new addition to your family.

I always say, "If it isn't a Scottie it is just a dog..."

SUBMITTED BY MANDA APPELYARD



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Maintaining tradition

The Marist Brothers came to Kyneton on Sunday July 25, 1926, and commenced teaching the next day, at St Mary's school, where a large classroom was placed at the Brothers' disposal. Later, their permanent building was constructed at the corner of Powlett and Hutton Street. The building is still standing and occupied.

To commemorate the Brothers' arrival, a 21st birthday celebration was held in Kyneton on 2-3 August 1947, when 150 past students gathered at a reunion dinner from many parts of Victoria, and later formed an Old Boys association.

The association continues as part of the fabric of Kyneton and each year holds an annual reunion. The seventy-seventh event came to pass on Sunday 28 January 2024, when 43 members and family attended a luncheon at the Shamrock Hotel. More than a dozen apologies were recorded, indicating that past pupils of the school maintain an interest.

With the passing of seven and a half decades, expecting the attendance to remain at 150 is unrealistic. Those originals identified as deceased are included in the Association web site on the Honour Roll, which numbers close to 400. Unfortunately, all records of the school were lost after the closure and determining the names of past pupils is a difficult task. Readers are encouraged to check kynetonmaristbrothersoldboyes.com.au/deceased-old-boys-honour-roll/ and provide any information that is not included.

The last year the Brothers taught at Kyneton was 1967. Brother Kevin Hoare and Brother Peter Howes, along with the late Brother Arnold (Leo McVeigh) saw in and out the final years. Brother Kevin, now living at Bendigo, again came to the luncheon and was busy networking.

The meals provided by the hotel catering staff were generous and delicious. Formalities of the day were limited, with a short address by President Roly Sandilands and a memorial address covering the six members whose deaths had been advised since our last assembly.

Covid markedly affected the fundraising activities of the Old Boys Association. Community support has continued, despite meagre resources.

July 2026 will be the centenary of the Marist Brothers coming to Kyneton, and after next year's reunion, which will be on Sunday 26 January, the Management Committee will consider if something special can be done for the momentous occasion.

SUBMITTED BY MICHAEL B HALLEY



Courage and trembling pages

Hosted by local poet Myron Lysenko, Chamber Poets is one of Victoria's best-loved poetry events, regularly attended by guests from Macedon Ranges and further afield. Those who come to read their poems can be acclaimed and awarded "real poets" or just local people who have something creative to say. We're proud to say that Chamber Poets is approaching its 100th session in June!

Regular attendee Helen McDonald talks about the experience of watching a new poet – whether young or old – get up to the microphone for the first time, often feeling vulnerable and frightened. They read from a page (or a phone or iPad) which is trembling in their hands, their voice breaking. But they push on and finish. "It can be quite moving to watch that brave determination," Helen commented. "They have something important to say, and they will find the courage to say it." Without exception, these new poets receive warm applause and friendly comments afterwards.

Russell Forster, who regularly attends with his guitar has this to say about Chamber Poets: "It's a deep draught of rich cultural air to stimulate the body, invigorate the mind and resonate with the soul". For those who can think of only poetry in dreary English lessons

in high school – we recommend coming along with an open mind to see what you make of twenty-first century poetry!

Entertainment is provided by local band Black Forest Smoke who have been playing their home-made songs – often poems set to music – since Chamber Poets first started on 16 February 2013. Eccentric, playful and often very moving, their songs are very popular with the crowd. A recent guest commented "Chamber Poets begins with us being gently rocked with music – then comes the laughter – and then a break for food and drink and reflection – it's always so enjoyable!"

Held on the second Saturday of each month, the next Chamber Poets session will be held at 1 pm on Saturday 11 May at the Woodend RSL in Anslow Street. Entry is \$10 (or \$5 concession) – we're a bit old fashioned and only take cash! The bar will be open, and hot drinks and delicious soups, cakes and snacks are available. After the always-popular Open Mic section, our featured reader will be Kyneton poet Anne Gleeson, whose gentle and often humorous poems have been widely awarded and admired. Come along and see what all the fuss is about!

BY JENNY ZIMMERMAN

Photo: Myron Lysenko (top right) and Helen McDonald (bottom right)



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Vale Norma Richardson

A life lived in service to her community

"She lived a life of charity and kind-heartedness, she was an empathetic woman filled with wisdom and strength, with the fragility of a heart that had loved and lost." – Rev Mel

The Woodend community came together to celebrate the life of Norma Richardson at St Mary's on the 10th of April. Norma was an icon of Woodend from her arrival in town as a 19-year-old bride in 1949 until her death on Easter Sunday 2024. She joined the parish of St Mary's and for over 60 years worked with the Guild of the church, cleaning and decorating the church with flowers each Sunday; she baked thousands of scones and nut loaves for street stalls, and you were truly blessed if you managed to procure one of her sponges, or the countless pairs of baby booties or cardigans she knitted.

In 2007, the new church hall was named in her honour for her countless years of dedication, an act that humbled her immensely. She was an active member of the CWA, the Kyneton Hospital Auxiliary, The Royal Institute of the Blind Auxiliary, The Red Cross and numerous other community groups; she volunteered at the local visitor information centre and was delivering meals-on-wheels until she was well into her 80s. Through her children and grandchildren she did voluntary work for the Air Cadets, Scouts Calisthenics and CFA. A Facebook post announcing her death to the community garnered over 340 comments, many of them sharing stories of acts of kindness of which the family were unaware, but that was Norma, a quiet, unassuming woman who lived a life of service to her family her god and her community, never seeking recognition or accolades, just reaching out and helping in every way she could.

SUBMITTED BY PAULINE RICHARDSON



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Rotary District Conference Highlights Inspiring Efforts to End Polio



At the People of Action Rotary District 9800 District Conference in Bendigo we were privileged to hear from the wonderful Bev Watson of Polio Network Victoria about their ongoing work to ease the suffering of polio survivors.

Murray Verso Zone 8 End Polio Now Coordinator provided an update on Rotary International's ongoing campaign to end new polio cases that has seen numbers reduced from over 50,000 cases worldwide in 1980 to just four cases of wild polio so far this year. Thanks to Grant Hocking and Melissa Hocking we were able to learn first hand about iron lungs which were used to breathe by paralysed polio survivors. Much to inspire us all to keep going to End Polio Now





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Victorian kids set summer reading record

Over 16,000 children and young people across Victoria have set a new reading record in this year's Big Summer Read, supported by the state Government. Public libraries in Victoria are celebrating a 40 per cent increase in the number of kids registered in this year's challenge, with over 218,000 books read over the recent school holidays – a 63 per cent increase on last summer.

The Big Summer Read is held from 1 December to 31 January each year and aims to prevent a decrease in kids' reading during school holidays. Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas said of the program, "losing yourself in a good book is a great way to enjoy the summer holidays and develop reading skills, and it's exciting to see so many young people in our community getting involved in the Big Summer Read."

The Government's Premiers' Reading Challenge complements this effort by encouraging children and students to read books over the year and record their efforts online. Since it began in 2005, more than 4.3 million students have read over 60 million books. The Challenge is supported by the state Premiers' Reading Challenge Book Fund, which provides \$1.1 million for public libraries to purchase books and other materials.

Literacy is supported by free library services, including internet and cyber safe education, and the Government's Living Libraries Infrastructure Program provides funding for libraries to improve their facilities. More than \$47.1 million dollars over the last eight years into 120 library infrastructure projects, with a total project cost of \$345.8 million. These projects support libraries to provide services in metropolitan, regional and rural Victoria. For more information about the Big Summer Read visit plv.org.au/projects/big-summer-read

Support for disability self-help groups

Two community groups in the Macedon Ranges have been awarded grants that will help people with a disability in the region to get the peer support they need.

Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas last month announced that the Macedon Ranges Autism Network and PS My Family Matters are two of 72 groups set to receive a grant as part of the latest Disability Self-Help Grants Program funding round.

"This investment will support our local members of PS My Family Matters and the Macedon Ranges Autism Network to share their experiences and support each other," said Ms Thomas. The grants, valued at up to \$14,000 over two years, strengthen social, emotional and practical support provided to people with disability and their families or carers. The grants help disability support groups meet general expenses, fund minor works and purchase equipment, and for the first time, they can be used to support activities that celebrate pride and recognition or pay for guest speakers.

Self-help groups bring people with disability and their families together to share insights,



provide information, promote community participation and support networking.

Applications for the grants round were open to Victorian-based disability self-help groups, with a focus in this round of funding on groups supporting First Nations people, young people, women and girls, people from multiculturally diverse backgrounds, autistic and neurodiverse people and people who identify as LGBTQIA+, as well as those providing support to regional and rural members. Applications closed in December 2023.

Further information about the grants can be found at providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/disability-self-help-grants-program

SUBMITTED BY KATE-IDA LEE, OFFICE OF MARY-ANNE THOMAS MP

Photo, left to right: Mary-Anne Thomas, Member for Macedon, Shantelle Grant – Vice President, Macedon Ranges Autism Network, Fiona Le Nepveu – President, Macedon Ranges Autism Network, Lynda Ellis – Member of the Macedon Ranges Autism Network. Lizzy Blandthorn, Minister for Children and Disability

As your local Member of Parliament, I'm here to represent you and our community.

I'm keen to hear about the issues that matter to you.

Mary-Anne Thomas MP
Member for **Macedon**

5428 2138
mary-annethomas.com.au

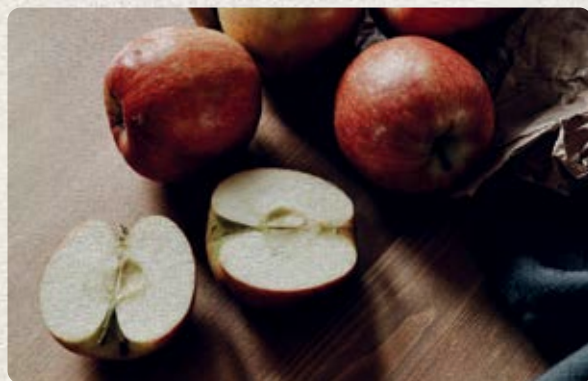


Authorised by MA Thomas, Shop 14, Nexus Centre, 9 Goodie Street, Gisborne





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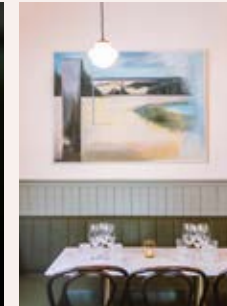
Organic foods promote more humane treatment of animals, as well as providing meat that is free from hormones and antibiotics. Organic farming promotes healthier and more sustainable use of natural resources by not using insecticides and other harmful chemicals.

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Photos: Costa Georgiadis, a keynote speaker and an enthusiastic participant of the recent Rotary District 9800 Conference held in Bendigo

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Photo: Explore24 Amazing Race



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Macedon Ranges Dog Club

Our April new members saw 10 new puppies join us.

We're over halfway through autumn and winter is coming ... does your dog prefer to sleep in front of the fire when temperatures drop, or does it love being outside in the cold, rain, hail or shine? As dog owners there are some important things we can do to make sure our four-legged friends stay healthy and safe. Lots of dog owners believe that dogs can tolerate the cold because they have fur; this is not necessarily the case. Here are some tips to make winter better for them:

1. Make sure your dog has access to shelter from the elements and warm bedding, like straw or blankets if sleeping or spending long periods of time outside.
2. increase their lean energy intake rather than fat content, so your dog maintains body condition rather than gains weight over winter
3. Ensure they have fresh water at all times to protect their skin from drying out
4. Whether they're an inside dog or an outside dog, your dog still requires regular exercise for physical and mental health. Twenty minutes daily will encourage good blood circulation and muscle tone.
5. Regular grooming will help them maintain a healthy coat. however, don't trim their coat, and remember, some dogs need to wear an extra jacket/coat/jumper to be warm enough.
6. Dogs are more susceptible to illness during colder months as their immune system is a little weaker ... like a human's immune systems can be.
7. Take care around fires, heaters, and other heat sources. Letting your dog sit or sleep too close to heat can cause burns, or dry out their skin.

Visit our website www.macedonrangesdogclub.org.au, Facebook page or email info@macedonrangesdogclub.org.au

Take care, stay safe ... a dog is family.

SUBMITTED BY CAROL. INSTRUCTOR MACEDON RANGES DOG CLUB

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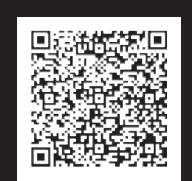
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Saturdays 10 am - 3 pm



Drug driving? The consequences will blow your mind.

Police are conducting drug tests across Victoria, which helps to keep our roads safe. Being caught with illicit drugs in your system could result in a minimum fine of \$577 and possible licence suspension. Drug driving? Chances are you will be caught. Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone.




Celebrating IDAHOBIT

Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health and Macedon Ranges Shire Council are calling on Woodend businesses to display the rainbow flag in the lead up to this year's International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT). Local workplaces have the opportunity to join thousands of organisations, schools and individuals across the country in a display of colour to celebrate the LGBTIQA+ community.

"We are encouraging businesses to decorate their shop windows in rainbow colours in the leadup to IDAHOBIT to show solidarity and to celebrate the LGBTIQA+ community," says WayOut Project Worker, Mez Lanigan.

Also being offered is an online education session for businesses on how to create a safe, welcoming and inclusive space for LGBTIQA+ staff and customers. The workshop takes place on Tuesday 7 May at 6.30pm.

IDAHOBIT is celebrated on 17 May each year around the world to raise awareness of the discrimination LGBTIQA+ members of our community face every day.

There will be a flag-raising ceremony at the Kyneton Mechanics Institute on Friday 17 May at 12pm featuring the Rainbow Voices choir, a free sausage sizzle and guest speakers.

"Our window competition and training session will form part of a broader collection of activities that will span the week of IDAHOBIT," says Mez Lanigan. "Look out for further announcements on how you can become rainbow inclusion ready."

To register your business to be part of this year's competition, or to join the training, go to www.sunburycobaw.org.au/idahobit-2024 or contact Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health on 5421 1666/email healthpromotion@scchc.org.au.

SUBMITTED BY SARAH TURNER

Youth Mental Health First Aid course

Learn how to help young people experiencing mental health problems by participating in Council's award-winning Youth Mental Health First Aid course commencing 15 May at Manna Family and Children's Centre, Gisborne

The four-week program teaches participants first aid skills to give initial help to young people who are in a mental health crisis situation or in the early stages of a mental illness and covers various mental health problems experienced by young people.

Participants must attend all four sessions to qualify as a first aider. Cost is \$31.50 for Macedon Ranges residents, and \$210 for non-residents. Bookings are essential. Visit, mrsc.vic.gov.au/youth-mental-health or call 5422 0333.



Stay Well This Winter

This winter, keep your kids well with a flu shot. Getting their flu shot every year is just as important as other routine childhood vaccines. The flu shot protects children from serious illness caused by the flu and can be given at the same time as other routine childhood vaccines.

If your child is aged between six months and five years, you can book them in to receive the flu vaccine for free via Council's monthly immunisation program.

In addition, Council will be holding some evening sessions for free vaccines under the National Immunisation Program (NIP). During these sessions, Council will offer infant vaccines for children aged between six weeks to five years, high school vaccines, and flu vaccines for individuals aged between six weeks to five years.

The evening sessions will be run from 5-7pm on Wednesday 8 May at Woodend, and Thursday 30 May and Thursday 27 June in Gisborne.

To book into one of Council's immunisation sessions at mrsc.vic.gov.au/immunisations



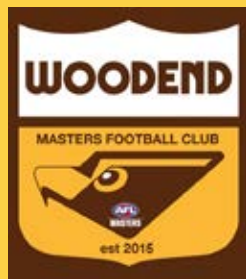
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A great warm-up for the season

The Woodend Masters kicked off the Vic Country Masters AFL season with our annual practice match against Ballarat last month, followed by a great after-party at our sponsor, the Pig and Whistle Hotel.

This was a great warm-up for the season, and a chance for all the new members to get a taste of Masters footy.

For Round 1, the Hawks hit the highway for a bus trip to Kerang for a great game against a club that continues to put on not only a proper Masters footy game, but one of the best after game functions in the league.

Mind, while our fellas put in a solid performance on the ground, it's the trip home where the highlight reel shines. The best part of playing in the country league is visiting towns around Victoria and enjoying the local entertainment along the way.

Our first home game at Gilbert Gordon Oval was against the Murray Crays who left the warmth of Wodonga for a tough match in the Woodend cool climate. We don't need suntan lotion down here, boys!

While there is rarely, if ever, a scoreboard in use during our games, you can be sure we know the score, and who has won. And while we give the best players on the day recognition with a six pack, the real heroes of the day are our Tool of the Game, as voted by the players for acts of stupidity. There's usually a lot to choose from.

Our next home match is on 18 May against Maryborough, which we all look forward to for the fun factor the Pumas bring to the game.

No doubt our boys will be well fuelled from our annual curry night at our game-day sponsor Sizzler Restobar on 16 May. Sammy, the host with most, always puts on a great spread for us.

A special mention must go out to our club legend, former team manager Tom "Scotty" Turley as he recovers in hospital. Scotty's presence around the club is sorely missed, not so much his sledging!

The club has seen many new players join the ranks this season, and our clubroom door is always open for anyone keen to join us for a kick, whether that be to just train or play games.

If you want to relive your past glories, we would love you to come down and join us. If your husband or partner is driving you nuts, we are more than happy to take him off your hands and give him an attitude adjustment.

However, he may just increase his social network by 50 blokes, but we'll take care of him.

Check out our Facebook page for more details.

Go Hawks!

For more information email
woodendmasters@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/groups/



Keatings
Real Estate

10 Tips if you are Selling in 2024

1. Be Positive

The world has changed a little but the market has not collapsed. Sure, the buoyant Covid19-driven boom conditions of late 2021, 2022 and early 2023 market are no more. Many buyers are worried about the cost of living, higher interest rates have reduced the amount people can borrow and the banks are applying very strict lending criteria particularly for rural-zoned properties, valuers are cautious, and then there's the wars in Ukraine and Israel etc.

However, be positive as good sales are still being made.

2. Be Priced Correctly

The market is very price sensitive. If properties are priced realistically they will attract good levels of enquiry and sell. Properties of vendors seeking boom-level prices will be ignored - except maybe for unique top end turn-key properties. Those who embrace the new market reality will sell. Some properties on the market are clearly overpriced. If their vendors really want to sell but don't make price adjustments to meet the market, their properties might still be unsold in 6 - 12 months' time.

Price correctly to sell sooner.

3. Be Pragmatic

Vendors had been riding an upward market for several years, when they could say, "Buyers are like buses; if you miss one, another comes along". A more pragmatic approach is now called for. There might well be another buyer - but they might arrive much later and at a much lower price. **Be pragmatic. Deal with the buyer you have now.**

4. Be Thankful

In the vast majority of cases, any "loss" a vendor might feel they are suffering is simply a paper loss. Most vendors who are selling during 2024, will sell for a healthy profit over what they paid even just a few years ago. **Be thankful for a sale.**

5. Be Philosophical

Markets go up and down. If selling for a little less than what you might have achieved a year or two ago is the worst thing that has happened to you in your life, you've led a pretty charmed life. And, if you sell today for a lower price, you will most likely buy your next home for less than what you would have paid a couple of years ago. **Be philosophical. See the bigger picture.**

6. Be Sensible

Avoid the clichés. "I don't have to sell" and "I'm not going to give my house away" are emotional reactions that don't advance the cause. Sure, you might not have to sell, just as buyers don't have to buy.

7. Be Prepared to Negotiate

Serious buyers will engage with serious vendors. Buyers will ignore vendors who are not serious about selling.

8. Be Resilient

Offers will come in at prices below your desired range. Don't be shocked. Don't be insulted. Don't take the view: "If that's all they're prepared to offer, they can jump in the lake". Rather, take the view: "The buyers are saying they would like to buy my house. This is good news. I'm pleased they have started negotiations. Let's do so". **Make the most of the positives. Be resilient.**

9. Be Patient

It might take longer to find a buyer and to finalise negotiations than you anticipated as buyers might lack a sense of urgency.

Between 2021-2023, many buyers had a "fear of missing out" (FOMO). This is not the current situation.

Some buyers now have a fear of over-paying (FOOP)!

10. Be Guided

At Keatings Real Estate, we have been through several boom and bust cycles, droughts and bushfires, recessions, the global financial crisis, the Asian financial crisis and the dot com crash etc. We have seen most things before.

It's in times such as now that wisdom and guidance becomes even more valuable.



John Keating

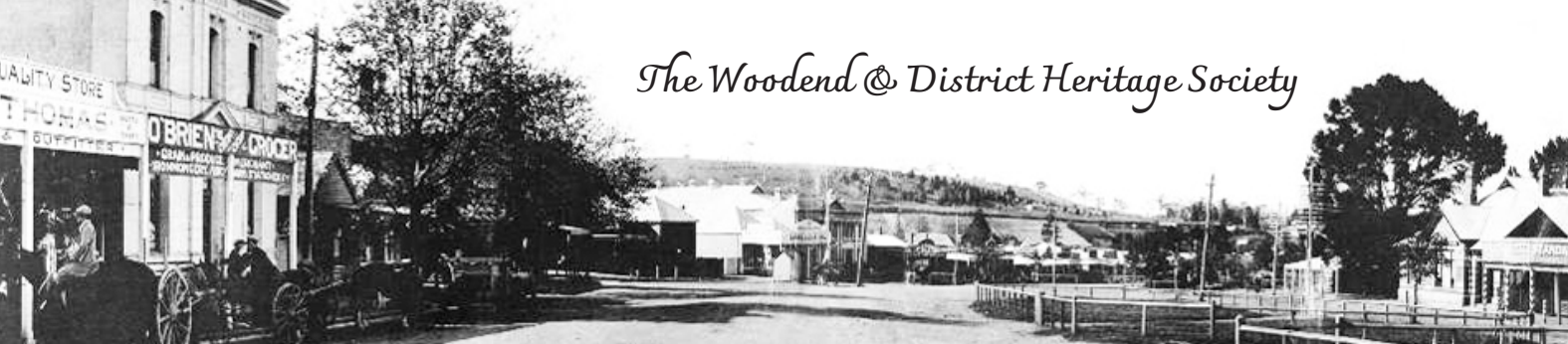
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An Enterprising Trio

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SUBMITTED BY JANE HOLTH

Photo 1096:

This passenger bus was built at Woodend by Matt Vallance and the McKenzie brothers.



Photo 812:

The fleet outside the McKenzies' garage.



Photo 813:

Outside the McKenzies' garage from left, Norman McKenzie, Harry McKenzie and Matt Vallance.



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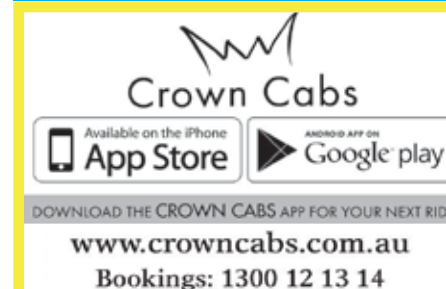
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Photo: St Ambrose Primary School Fete



New bowls greens nearly complete

After being destroyed by floods in October 2022 and resurfacing was completed before the start of the pennant season in September last year, Woodend Bowling Club's synthetic green has been receiving very positive comments from all visiting clubs and players.

The grass green, also badly damaged by the fast-flowing flood waters has been undergoing works to replace it with an all-new grass surface. The Club Board approved funding for the replacement, and work is to be completed on it very soon.

When finished, the Woodend Bowling Club will have two brand new greens – a modern synthetic and a traditional grass of the highest standard.

O'Brien Pairs

On Sunday April 14, we held the annual O'Brien Pairs Tournament in honour of club stalwarts Frank and Laurie O'Brien. Ten teams played in beautiful sunny conditions.

The winning team was Cliff Staggard and Gary Dryden (pictured with the new grass green in the background – 30–17), who finished ahead of other two game winners Mike Dornau and Jim Brook (29–14) in second place, followed by third-placed Norm Bickerdyke and Bev Muir (30–12) and Rob Smithies and Ruby Priede (27–12).

Woodend are winners ... again!



The Woodend Bowling Club had further success following our victory in the Midweek Division 2 Championship, with a win at the Trentham Tournament. The team of Chris Gillman, Judy Condon, Pat Morgan and Hazel (from Romsey) won on a count back from the team from Smeaton. They were naturally very pleased with their victory and with the prize money as well. It was a big week for Judy, who was part of the Division 2 Championship winning team.

Check out our website and Facebook page.

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

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, PRESIDENT WOODEND BOWLS CLUB

From beginner to champion!

Just over 12 months ago, Woodend resident Margaret Parker enrolled in a 'learn croquet' course being run by the Kyneton U3A at the Kyneton Croquet Club. This month, Margaret is representing the Northern District Croquet Association (NDCA) at the Regional Golf Croquet Championships at the Victorian Croquet Centre at Cairnlea.

Margaret moved to Woodend recently to be closer to her daughter. Always keen on sport, and wanting to get involved in something in the area, Margaret thought croquet seemed like a good opportunity. Both her mother and grandmother had played croquet in South Australia, although Margaret had no interest when she was young, preferring tennis and netball.

Margaret quickly picked up the intricacies of the game and joined the Kyneton Croquet Club at the end of the course. From there, it was a short step to get into competition and teamed up with Kyneton players Judy Aldred and Jenny Symons; late last year, the team won the Division 3 title of the NDCA Pennant season.

Keen to go a bit further, Margaret entered the Division 3 playoffs to represent the NDCA at the Regional Championships. At the end of the round robin games, Margaret was tied with promising young player Michael McLean from Golden Square; they were equal on wins and hoops scored but Margaret had won in their head-to-head clash, meaning she would be going to Cairnlea to take on players from the fourteen regions around Victoria.

Although the least experienced and lowest ranked player in the tournament and in her first experience at a major competition against players from right round Victoria, Margaret finished with five wins from twelve games and has increased her state ranking. No doubt, she will now be looking for more success in the future and has her sights in moving up to Division 2.

New players of all ages and abilities are welcome to learn croquet with the Kyneton Croquet Club. For more information, contact Graham Smith 0411 707 358, kynetoncroquetclub@gmail.com or look on our Facebook page.

SUBMITTED BY GRAHAM SMITH

Photo: Damien Hadfield (Div 1), Margaret (Div 3), John Murdoch (Div 2)



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WOODEND HANGING ROCK PETANQUE CLUB



What a busy month of March we had, with many tournaments taking place!

Starting with the Trans-Tasman Tournament in Perth against New Zealand and we, Australia, managed to bring home the cup! Our representative from the Woodend Hanging Rock Petanque Club was Shirley Marshall, a local of Woodend, with many years of petanque experience.

Many of our members travelled to Avoca for their annual Doubles Tournament, which has been running for over 20 years. It's a great two-day event attracting 44 teams from all over the state and beyond! We had new members Maria Eisel and Danny Simmonds, who made it to this their first tournament, and loved it!

Later in March, some members travelled to Camberwell Petanque Club to play in the Victorian Doubles Championship, with two of our members, Ruth Giddings and Rod Gell in the top three, 60+ category.

Over the Easter weekend, it was a trip to Adelaide for some of our members to play in the Australian National Championship. They all played well and love the experience of these big tournaments to put their petanque expertise into practice.

The season has formally finished now, until we start up again in October. But that doesn't mean there is now no more play. We have several tournaments with other clubs in the state in the meantime, travelling to Maldon, Avoca, Ballarat, the Mt Macedon Club in Gisborne and Smythesdale for the Golden Boule, during the months of June, July and August.

So, if you think you would like to join in the fun of petanque, think about joining us at the Old Racecourse and Hanging Rock, in the first week of October.

Ring Louise at any time 0438 302 218 for more information.

SUBMITTED BY LOUISE POTTER

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Active Kids Sports Program

Learn correct sporting techniques and skills to develop confidence and knowledge of sport.

Children use a range of equipment from soccer, netball, hockey, basketball and more. Children learn skills for catching, rolling and throwing in a relaxed, fun environment.

Sessions are held from 10–10:45am on Wednesday mornings at Buffalo Sports Stadium in Woodend for children aged 3–5 years. Parent/guardian participation is required.

Kindagym

Held in the stadium, this program is based on developing motor skills, confidence, balance and social skills. Kindagym is a structured class with free play options for children to explore the array of equipment on display. Parent/guardian participation is required.

Sessions are held on Fridays at Buffalo Sports Stadium in Woodend:

- 10–10:45am for 1–3-year-olds
- 11–11:45am for 4–5-year-olds

Both programs are casual, no need to book. For class cost and information call 5427 3411 or email buffalo@mrsc.vic.gov.au

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Exploring Digital Technologies in the Junior Years

This year our talented Year 7 and 8 Robotics students embarked on an exciting journey of engineering and innovation. Students built and programmed their Lego Mindstorm robots to move in the form of shapes and several students successfully used the sensors, which included distance recognition, to avoid any obstacles. Through this hands-on experience they gained invaluable skills in problem-solving, teamwork and critical thinking. Students also researched several robots of their choosing, looking at the key design elements of each, impact on the community, pros and cons of their use, and presented this information as part of a functional website.

Year 9 Accelerated Computing students learned how to build a home network for a client. This included the workings of hardware, software and how computers are connected to the internet. Students learned how to use common formulas and functions in Excel and how to develop a database using Access. In the VR space, students experienced a new virtual reality environment known as Avantis World, using a joystick controller to navigate streets, buildings and homes that were virtually created, to see how computers and networks are connected. They were also able to explore the inside of a mobile phone and a computer before completing a quiz to demonstrate their understanding of the technical language covered.

Year 9 Interactive Gaming and Coding students used GameMaker to create simple games such as space shooter, space rocks and extend a platformer game. They learned about algorithm and programming theory, exploring concepts such as flowcharts and pseudocode as part of program design. The essentials of good game design was also studied before being challenged to use software to design their own 3D Virtual Reality game, that could be played using the ClassVR headsets and joystick controller.

These subjects, offered in the Junior School, provide a hands-on introduction to Digital Technologies which can be further extended in the Senior School. Students in the VCE years have the opportunity to study Applied Computing and Data Analytics, which covers four key concepts: digital systems, data and information, approaches to problem solving, and interactions and impact. This exposure to the real-world applications of robotics, problem-solving, and coding sets a strong foundation for further exploration in technology-related fields.

SUBMITTED BY MELISSA SABO, LEARNING
INFORMATION LEADER, SACRED HEART
COLLEGE KYNETON



Photo: Screen view of exploration of Avantis World.



Photo: 4 Putting the student- designed 3D Virtual Reality games to the test using the VR headsets and joysticks.



Photo: Year 8 Robotics students with their Lego Mindstorm robots.



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Don't miss the next College Tours: Wednesday 8 May (Principal's Tour) and Tuesday 11 June.

Enrolments for Year 7, 2026 close on 26 July 2024.

Visit the College website for tour bookings or contact the Registrar for enrolment information.



Scan for tour bookings

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