

# The New Woodend Star

Rotary  Club of Woodend

February 2025  
Volume 29 | Issue 1



Photo: Thursday Crew members in 2013, clearing weeds and revegetating Lake Earnshaw. Left to right: Bernie, Doug, Mark, Barry, Howard, Joe, John, Dave, Eric, Brian, Don, Bill and Stewart.

**The Thursday Crew began in 2003**, when local residents in Quarry Road (Bert Dawson, Bernie Franklin and the late Arthur Howden) decided to clear the Quarry Road Reserve of dense thickets of invasive woody weeds (pine trees, gorse, broom and blackberries), to create a makeshift path into town and to the railway station. After 15 months of hard yakka, a nondescript pathway was completed. This path continues to be used today. The clearing of the area also created a firebreak for the residents.

The Quarry Road crew joined the 'Woodend and Five Mile Creek' Landcare group in 2005. Because of commitments on weekends, the Thursday Crew was formed to also assist in the restoration of the natural beauty of other areas within Woodend.

Major achievements of the Crew have been the clearing around Lake Earnshaw in 2013 and planting of numerous indigenous plants in the local environment.

At this time, the Crew were ably led by the late Stewart Olney and consisted of former forestry employees Bernie Franklin and Brian Christie. They were ably skilfully supported by such local luminaries as Bob Sullivan, Barry Clark, Paul Newman, John Newell, Jack Manning, Bill Hebb, Mark Horner, Doug Dalglish and the late Howard Jackson. Some of these members were instrumental in the foundation of the Woodend Men's Shed.

Other major works carried out by the Crew were the clearing of gorse along Ella's Way (southern boundary of Gemlife) and the construction of pedestrian footbridges to enable year-round access for people using that route.

Nowadays, 50 per cent of the Thursday Crew are women, but the group continues to carry out mainly woody weed eradication on the public areas around Woodend.

The Thursday Crew are always looking for volunteers to assist in their work. Contact details: Dave Bower, email [dvbower65@gmail.com](mailto:dvbower65@gmail.com) for enquiries and working bee details.

#### Next working bees:

9am–12pm Sunday 9 February – Five Mile Creek along Rotary Exercise Track near Jeffreys St. Join us for our annual ivy attack in the shade along this section of the creek.

9am–12pm Sunday 2 March – Clean Up Australia Day. Help us to clear weeds and rubbish along Five Mile Creek between Jeffreys and High Streets. Meeting location: north end Jeffreys St.

Details can be found on our blog – [woodendlandcare.org](http://woodendlandcare.org)

SUBMITTED BY NICOLE MIDDLETON



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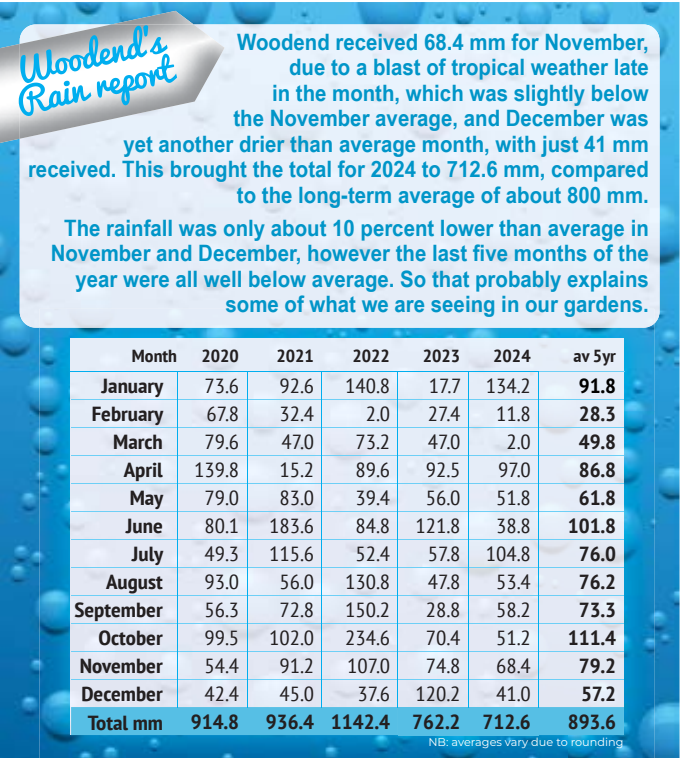
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The New Woodend Star and the Rotary Club of Woodend acknowledge the Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Peoples and their Ancestors as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands of the Macedon Ranges on which we meet, work 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.



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## SELL TODAY

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## Knit, Chat and Cuppa

Third Wednesday of the month from 11am, Norma Richardson Hall next to the Woodend Primary School.

Come along to knit your own garment or squares, which we make into knee blankets to be donated to various charities.

Yarn and needles provided if needed. See you there!

SUBMITTED BY SYLVIA MATHEWS

## Local cameraman making inroads at major events

2025 has started off well for Milton Amezcuita from Top Hat Productions.

Milton has been a regular cameraman at the Australian Open in recent years, and is again this year is spending time filming at the tennis.

Milton said, "It is a great honour to be part of the team at Kia Arena."

The cameraman has been part of many exciting productions during 2024, including the Robbie Williams concert, the Melbourne Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix, AFL-W, the rugby at AAMI Park with the Melbourne Storm, as well as Moomba, Equitana, the Spring Racing Carnival, and of course, many local productions around the Macedon Ranges. 2025 promises to be a busy year for this cameraman.

Photos: Rosalie de Ridder

SUBMITTED BY ROSALIE DE RIDDER



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## Don't let your campfire become a bushfire this summer

Fire authorities and public land managers have called on anyone camping in Victorian parks, reserves and forests this summer to check the conditions and brush up on campfire safety.

The Conservation Regulator, Parks Victoria, and Forest Fire Management Victoria are reminding campers to act responsibly and be campfire-safe to prevent bushfires, particularly as the weather warms up.

A total of 726 unattended campfires and BBQs were detected by the Conservation Regulator, Parks Victoria and Forest Fire Operations field staff on public land for the 2023/24 financial year.

Our authorised officers are increasing patrols across Victoria's public land to ensure campers are doing the right thing.

During the Labour Day long weekend last year, authorised officers patrolled campsites statewide and found more than 40 campfires still alight during a Total Fire Ban.

Many people try to put out campfires incorrectly with soil, or not enough water to extinguish them completely. Fires that haven't been properly extinguished can smoulder under soil for days and reignite in the right conditions.

Before you light a fire, check fire restrictions and for any Total Fire Ban restrictions. Download the VicEmergency app to stay informed.

- Plan ahead and consider alternatives for cooking such as a portable butane cooktop.
- Use a purpose-built fireplace if available; otherwise, dig a trench at least 30cm deep.
- Always follow the designated rules of your campsite. In national parks, fires can only be lit in purpose-built fireplaces unless marked otherwise.
- The campfire must not exceed one square metre, and three metres above and around your fire must be clear of flammable material.
- Branches and logs on your campfire must be no longer than one metre.
- Never leave a campfire unattended – an adult must always stay within a 50-metre line of sight.
- Campfires must be extinguished with at least 10 litres of water every time you leave the site, even if it's for a short while. If the remains of the campfire, including coals, are cool to touch, it is safe to leave.
- All rubbish must be taken home with you, not burned.

People who breach campfire regulations on public land face fines of \$577 or a maximum penalty of \$19,231 if the matter is prosecuted in court. The maximum penalty for lighting or maintaining a fire during a Total Fire Ban is \$46,154 and/or two years in jail. Report unattended campfires to 136 186 or call 000 to report a bushfire. For more on campfire skills go to: <https://www.vic.gov.au/campfires-stoves-and-bbqs>

Kate Gavens, Chief Conservation Regulator said, "Campfires are a cause of bushfires that are 100 per cent preventable. Ensure you know the rules and are up to date on weather conditions before you light any fire. Your fire is your responsibility."

SUBMITTED BY NICK TALBOT





L–R: Cr Pearce, Cr Kendall and Cr Anderson. Photo credit: Kate Kendall

## A message from your councillors

Happy 2025 to you all. Firstly, our thanks to all those who volunteered with emergency services, Council Officers and general community members who worked many long hours providing support during the recent fires in our Shire. We are grateful to you all. The fire risk season continues, and restrictions are in place until May, so it is important to stay alert. Congratulations to Grade 5/6 students at St Ambrose Parish Primary School for their Fire Prevention Expo held last December. We loved seeing your work and presentations. Councillors always appreciate being invited to events in the community.

There is a newly introduced mandatory training for the new group of Councillors which commenced last November 2024, and this continues. There is always a lot of information. Councillors and Executive Officers commence Tuesday Briefings again in February. The 2025/26 Budget workshops and discussions will begin, and we appreciate all who submitted your thoughts. You can continue to submit ideas (which are made available to all Councillors to read and consider) via email to:

Attention: Budget Submission, [mrsc@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:mrsc@mrsc.vic.gov.au)

Requests to present to Councillors on a briefing day can also be found on Council’s website: [www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/About-Council/Our-Council/How-Council-Works/Request-A-Meeting-With-Councillors](http://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/About-Council/Our-Council/How-Council-Works/Request-A-Meeting-With-Councillors)

An independently managed selection process has chosen a mix of people of diverse ages and backgrounds to form a Community Deliberative Engagement Assembly. They will gather in February. This is an important process to ensure we have a good representation of the Macedon Ranges community to provide input into the Council Plan, Financial and Asset Plans and it’s great to see people interested and apply to be part of it. This is a requirement under legislation for all Councils.

At the December 2024 Scheduled Council Meeting, Council endorsed a Notice of Motion to write to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety requesting an urgent written response regarding Council and the community ongoing daily safety concerns for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles at the intersection of High Street and Urquhart Street in Woodend (known to many as the Coles intersection), and when a recommendation for the treatment of the intersection will be made publicly available for community feedback. We hope this letter will receive a response shortly, as we would like this project to be fast-tracked.

West Ward Councillors will be launching our community catch-ups in February as well, so please keep an eye out for dates.

Best wishes,  
Janet, Jennifer and Kate.

SUBMITTED BY CR PEARCE ON BEHALF OF CR ANDERSON AND CR KENDALL

## November and December 2024 Council Meeting wrap

The new Councillor group held its first scheduled Council Meeting (following the earlier unscheduled meeting to elect the Mayor and Deputy Mayor) on Wednesday 27 November 2024 at the Gisborne Council Chambers, with the evening opened by a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony.

The following matters were considered and endorsed at the November 2024 Council Meeting:

**Contracts to be awarded:** Council noted the awarding of contracts by Council officers under delegated authority, for identified renewal works on the Bolinda Hall and for the replacement of the Clarke Street footbridge in Mount Macedon.

Delegated authority was also granted to the CEO to award contracts for two new netball courts at Gilbert Gordon Oval, as well as endorsing selected contractors to the supply panel for future asphalt works on roads across the shire.

**Quarterly Financial Report:** Council received a report detailing Council’s financial performance against the Budget 2024–25 for the first quarter of the financial year (as at 30 September 2024).

The income statement reports an initial operating surplus of \$61.99 million – exceeding the budgeted surplus of \$58.66 million – with this balance to decrease as the year progresses and expenditure is incurred to deliver various services and works.

**Audit and Risk Committee Councillor appointments/Council memberships:** Council appointed Cr Alison Joseph and Cr Christine Walker as Councillor delegates to the Audit and Risk Committee, with Cr Cassy Borthwick and Cr Daniel Young appointed as Councillor delegate substitutes.

Council also endorsed ongoing memberships to a number of important industry or advocacy bodies including:

- the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance
- Rural Councils Victoria
- the Municipal Association of Victoria
- the Victorian Local Governance Association
- the Australian Local Government Women’s Association – Victorian Branch.

The December 2024 Planning Delegated Committee Meeting was rescheduled to provide sufficient time for the consideration of any planning matters for the new Councillor group; it was held online at 7pm on Wednesday 11 December 2024.

The following matters were considered and endorsed at the December 2024 Council Meeting:

**Adoption of Amendment C154macr:** Council adopted Amendment C154macr with changes and moved to submit the Amendment and an associated planning permit application to the Minister for Planning for approval.

The Amendment seeks to rezone some of the last remaining parcels of Farming Zone (FZ) land within the Malmsbury township boundary, at 1 Wills Street in Malmsbury, to Neighbourhood Residential Zone. The planning permit application seeks a nine-lot subdivision with lot sizes from 2,000 to 2,182 square metres.

**Environment Group Support + Community Climate Action Grants 2024–25:** Council endorsed funding recommendations for successful recipients for the Environment Group Support Grant Program and Community Climate Action Grants 2024–2025.

The 2024-2025 Environment Group Support Grants enable just under \$70,000 to flow through to the shire’s Landcare and Friends groups across three grant categories: Group Support, Strategic Weed Partnership Program and Biolink Boost. The new Community Climate Action Grant stream is funding an additional \$33,000 in grassroots climate action projects.



L-R: Mayor Dominic Bonanno, CEO Bernie O’Sullivan, Deputy Mayor Kate Kendall

The new Community Climate Action grants and the Biolink Boost grant stream of the Environment Group Support Grants are co-funded in partnership with Macedon Ranges Community Enterprises (MRCE) and Community Bank Gisborne and District. MRCE will match Council’s funding to the amount of \$40,000.

PLN/2023/462 – Council endorsed a Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit for the subdivision of land at 104 Melton Road in Gisborne, which would enable 17 lots adjacent to an arterial road, and include removal of native vegetation and the creation of three conservation or drainage reserves.

In considering the application, Council noted a total of 10 objections received through the application process with concerns including overdevelopment, the extent of native vegetation removal proposed and a lack of pedestrian paths/connectivity. A number of these concerns are addressed within the meeting report.

**Contracts to be Awarded as at December 2024:** Council endorsed an amended motion to defer the item for consideration to the March 2025 Council Meeting, to enable more time for Councillors to be briefed on the proposed supply panel process for commercial builders and associated delegations.

**Council Meeting Dates 2025:** Council adopted a meeting schedule from January – December 2025, the schedule remained consistent with previous years. A Council Meeting to elect the Mayor was also scheduled for 25 November 2025 at 11am. Council also scheduled a Submitters’ Delegated Meeting to be held online at 7pm on Wednesday 19 February 2025 to consider budget submissions and other matters if required.

**Integration of the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, Disability Action Plan, and Council Plan:** Council approved that the Council Plan, Disability Action Plan and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan be integrated into a central plan for the community.

Community engagement and stakeholder consultation will be required to inform the development of these plans, with this process already underway in consideration of a refreshed Council Plan to be adopted by Council by 31 October next year (the year following a general election).



**Reconciliation Plan 2024–2027 Draft update:** Council received a progress report on the draft Reconciliation Plan 2024-2027, following further consultation with the three Macedon Ranges Traditional Owner groups: DJAARA (Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation), Taungurung Land and Waters Council (TLaWC) and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Aboriginal Heritage Corporation (Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung).

## Kindergarten Vacancies 2025

### Still thinking about kindergarten for 2025?

Council has places available for 15 hours per week of three-year-old kindergarten in 2025 (8:30am – 4pm, two days a week) at Woodend Kindergarten.

Register online at [mrsc.vic.gov.au/kinder-rego](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/kinder-rego) or call our Enrolment Officer on (03) 5422 0239.

Don’t forget to book your three-and-a-half-year-old Key Age and Stage developmental assessment with your local MCH nurse by calling 5422 0281.





## bagMUSTER has arrived in the Macedon Ranges

In January this year, bagMUSTER launched at Council's resource recovery facilities.

An extension of the drumMUSTER program also offered by Council, bagMUSTER recycles eligible single-use polypropylene (PP) agricultural plastic bags used for products like fertiliser, seed, grain (excluding silo bags), stock feed, and pet food.

Agricultural plastic bags typically range from 25kg format to over 1,200kg bulk bags. This program aims to recycle 100 per cent of the bags collected, ensuring they are transformed into new products rather than being sent to landfills.

Farmers, agricultural businesses, and anyone who has purchased single-use polypropylene (PP) agricultural bags, are encouraged to drop off their eligible plastic bags free of charge and support sustainable farming practices.

Registration is essential. To find out more visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/ag-waste](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/ag-waste)

## Telstra Macedon Ranges Community Choice Awards 2025

Macedon Ranges has many outstanding businesses committed to delivering excellent customer experiences. In recognition of this, we're inviting residents and visitors to nominate their favourite business or businesses for the 2025 Telstra Macedon Ranges Community Choice Awards.

An extension of Council's Business Excellence Awards program, the Telstra Macedon Ranges Community Choice Awards seek to recognise and celebrate those who go above and beyond in their day-to-day delivery of goods and services. Businesses can be nominated in the following five categories:

- Excellence in Customer Service – Agribusiness and Primary Production
- Excellence in Customer Service – Health and Wellbeing
- Excellence in Customer Service – Hospitality and Accommodation
- Excellence in Customer Service – Professional, Retail and Service
- Excellence in Customer Service – Trades and Manufacturing

You can nominate your favourite business until 24 March 2025. Voting will be open from 1 April 2025.

For more information on how to nominate a business and to vote, visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/community-choice](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/community-choice)

**BOUND**

# Happy New Year



We are excited to welcome Nichola Coultish to BOUND Real Estate as our Senior Property Manager!

With over 35 years of extensive experience in the industry, Nichola brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to our team.

For all your Property Management needs, feel free to contact Nichola via the details below.

Considering a change in property managers? Remember, you can make the switch at any time during a tenancy or lease term!

( NICHOLA COULTISH )

+61 479 068 838

[nichola@boundrealestate.com.au](mailto:nichola@boundrealestate.com.au)

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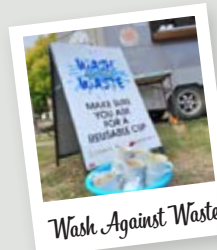
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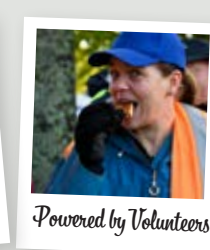
Wash Against Waste



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9am-1pm  
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## Renewable energy news from Go Renewable Energy Group

### How we can help support the grid's stability and our transition to a renewable energy future

Australia now produces enough electricity from renewable sources such as solar and wind to power about 75% of the country's electricity needs at midday. The nation's challenge now is to store this energy for use at times of peak demand (between 3 and 9 pm). Individual homes can store this energy in the form of hot water using electric hot water systems, or the more efficient hot water heat pumps. Households that own electric vehicles (EVs) can run their cars on sunshine by charging their car batteries when their solar panels are producing energy. Or homes can invest in a home battery and save their energy for the time when the sun goes down and peak electricity prices apply.

Up until now, only off-the-grid homes were allowed to run their homes off their large batteries on wheels (EVs), but the government is now changing the Australian Standards to allow households connected to the grid to feed their homes with energy from their electric vehicles.

This change has big implications for our grid as it allows the use of Virtual Power Plants (VPPs) using electric vehicle batteries, as well as home batteries to be drawn on when the grid demand peaks, to help support the grid's stability. VPPs have just become mainstream as Origin have introduced \$1 plus the normal FiT for each kWh the VPP operator draws down from your batteries. They will draw down a maximum of 200 kWh per annum and won't drain the battery.

### Changes in home rooftop solar feed-in tariffs

Up until October 2024, those far-sighted people who installed rooftop solar between 2009 and 2011 were receiving around 66 cents for each kilowatt-hour (kWh) they fed into the grid. This has now changed, and electricity retailers are offering between 3 and 8 cents per kWh (this is known as a "feed-in tariff" – FiT), reflecting the fact that renewable energy from wind and solar are now by far the cheapest way to generate electricity.

This now means that those households with rooftop solar should run their electric water heaters, washing machines and dishwashers while the sun is shining. Those early adopters who have invested in electric vehicles (EVs) will now also be charging their cars while their solar panels are generating electricity and running their cars on sunshine at no cost; or, if they pay for their EV charging energy from the grid, at between a quarter and a third of the cost of petrol.

Volunteers at the Go Renewable Energy Group's (GREG) community buy project can assist Macedon Ranges residents to transition away from gas and to more efficient electrical equipment that can be powered by renewables, by putting them in touch with carefully selected, trusted installers of rooftop solar, home batteries, hot water heat pumps and reverse cycle air conditioners. For more information, see [www.mrsg.org.au/greg](http://www.mrsg.org.au/greg) or call Stephen Pepper on 0415 821 481.

SUBMITTED BY STEPHEN PEPPER

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# How to Cool Your Home

## Exploring the Best Solutions for Comfort

**When summer hits and temperatures soar, keeping your home cool becomes a top priority.**

Whether you're in need of a cost-effective option for a single room or a solution for the entire house, there are a variety of cooling systems available to suit your needs. Let's explore the pros and cons of some popular options to help you find the perfect fit for your home.

### Affordable and Efficient: Wall-Mounted Split Systems

Wall-mounted split systems are cost-effective, energy-efficient, and easy to install. They offer targeted cooling and can be expanded over time, saving on energy bills while keeping your home comfortable.

### Comprehensive Comfort: Ducted Refrigerant Split Systems

Ducted systems provide whole-home cooling with consistent temperature control and zoning options. They are ideal for larger homes and are compatible with solar panels, making them an eco-friendly option.

### Budget-Friendly but Limited: Evaporative Coolers

A common choice in new homes for their affordability, evaporative coolers struggle on hot, humid days. They don't control temperature and become less effective as humidity rises. Many people find themselves hot and frustrated. If yours isn't cutting it, it's time to upgrade to year-round comfort.



REC: 20047 ARC: AU39146

### Personalised Advice

At Bluegum, we specialise in customising cooling solutions that suit your home and lifestyle. Whether you're looking for the simplicity of a wall-mounted unit or the convenience of a ducted system, we're here to help every step of the way.

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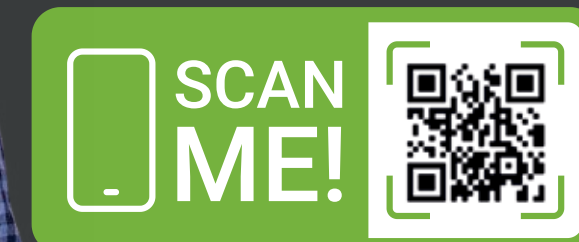
### "Everything They Did Screamed Quality!"

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## Electrify 3442 – Back for 2025



The Electrify 3442 team is recharged and back for 2025. Ready? Set? ... Electrify Everything!

We've researched the best support materials and tapped local experience to simplify your pathway to healthy, clean, comfortable and economical transport, home heating and cooling, water heating and cooking. We can also help you install rooftop solar and a home battery. During 2025, we'll be launching a planner to help you work through your options and get "future ready".

Join us for "Solar and Batteries 101" as part of the Changemakers Macedon Ranges Festival in March.

Get "up close" to a range of electric vehicles (and go for a spin!) at the Woodend Community Farmers Market on Saturday 1 March. Chat with owners about running costs, range, charging, and anything else you're curious about.

If you're already on the electrification journey and could spare a couple of hours to share your experience with others, we'd love to hear from you:

- EV drivers keen to display vehicles on March 1st, please contact [ralf.thesing@mrsg.org.au](mailto:ralf.thesing@mrsg.org.au)
- Householders who've installed home batteries and/or solar and are willing to share their experience in the Solar and Batteries 101 panel on 19 March, please contact [olivia.hedge@mrsg.org.au](mailto:olivia.hedge@mrsg.org.au)

For more information about Electrify 3442, please see our website: [mrsg.org.au/electrify3442](http://mrsg.org.au/electrify3442)

SUBMITTED BY SUE BARKER, MACEDON RANGES SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

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## Introducing 'Changemakers Macedon Ranges'



Macedon Ranges Shire Council is excited to be partnering with the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group to launch a week-long festival of fun and practical and interactive workshops all designed to help you try a new change.

Maybe you've been thinking about how to start a veggie patch? Or you're keen to learn ways to make your grocery shopping go further with zero-waste cooking classes? Perhaps you'd like to deep dive into how the neighbours planned for a new energy-efficient home? Maybe you'd like to discover how you can make your home more resilient to our changing weather? This week-long celebration of solutions can help you get started.

Changemakers Macedon Ranges will kick off with the Riddells Creek Enviro-Energy Expo hosting interactive stalls, expert keynote speakers and panel discussions on Saturday 15 March 2025 (more information at [mrsg.org.au/riddells](http://mrsg.org.au/riddells)) and will run through to Sunday 23 March 2025. All events are free and family friendly!

Workshops hosted throughout the week will include zero-waste cooking classes (on induction cooktops), edible garden tours, sustainable house tours, bike maintenance for beginners, the launch of a youth climate group, the launch of a backyard biodiversity program, produce swaps and many more.

Join us for one workshop, or all of them! More information on the full program is available at [mrsc.vic.gov.au/community-climate-action](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/community-climate-action)

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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](mailto:content@newwoodendstar.org.au)

—FEBRUARY—

- 1.....Woodend Farmers’ Market
- 1.....Lions Community Market
- 4..... Exhibition ‘Summer’ opens at The Gallery, Mt Macedon
- 9..... Woodend Landcare working bee
- 14..... Probus Meeting, Norma Richardson Hall
- 14..... Soweto Gospel Choir, KTH
- 14..... Valentine’s Day
- 14..... Mt Players AGM
- 21..... Opening of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Mt Players
- 22..... Artists’ & Makers’ Market

—MARCH—

- 1..... Macedon Ranges Relay for Life
- 1.....Woodend Farmers’ Market
- 1.....Lions Community Market
- 1, 2..... Charlotte’s Web, Lancefield
- 8–10..... Lions Woodend Art Show at St Ambrose Hall
- 10..... Labour Day Holiday
- 15–23..... Changemakers Macedon Range week of workshops
- 21..... AGM Woodend Probus Club
- 22..... Artists’ & Makers’ Market
- 29..... WWAF Launch Concert, St Ambrose Church

—APRIL—

- 1–30..... Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival
- 5.....Woodend Farmers’ Market
- 5.....Lions Community Market
- 6..... End of Daylight Saving Time
- 18..... Good Friday
- 20..... Easter Sunday
- 21..... Easter Monday
- 25..... ANZAC Day
- 26..... Artists’ & Makers’ Market

—MAY—

- 3.....Woodend Farmers’ Market
- 3.....Lions Community Market
- 11..... Mother’s Day
- 24..... Artists’ & Makers’ Market

—JUNE—

- 6–9..... Woodend Winter Arts Festival
- 7.....Woodend Farmers’ Market
- 7.....Lions Community Market
- 9..... King’s Birthday holiday
- 28..... Artists’ & Makers’ Market

—JULY—

- 26..... Artists’ & Makers’ Market

Read us online: [www.newwoodendstar.com/view](http://www.newwoodendstar.com/view)

ARTISTS’ AND MAKERS’ MARKET

Call for expression of interest from the local art community to show and sell your work

The market will be held on the 4th Saturday of each month at the Norma Richardson Hall and surrounding lawns, 15 Buckland Street, Woodend.

The visiting public will enjoy food, coffee, live music, and your delightful wares in our beautiful hall.

Hall space: \$45 per space per market day  
Outside on the lawn: \$35 per market day  
**Discount available for multiple month bookings**

Trading 10:00 am until 3:00 pm

**2025 Dates:**  
February 22; March 22, April 26, May 24, June 28, July 26, August 23, September 27, October 25, November 22.

To book your space or for more information  
**Email:** [woodendanglican@gmail.com](mailto:woodendanglican@gmail.com)  
**Attention:** Amanda Wilson, Norma Richardson Hall Manager

February at The Gallery

The Gallery, Mt. Macedon, is celebrating summer for its first exhibition for 2025. This will be an exhibition of members' art in the Focus Room titled "Summer" beginning Tuesday, 4 February.

"Summer" will reflect its various motifs through textiles, paintings, multimedia, jewellery, prints and photography to name a few of the amazing skills of our members.

The annual Art Competition begins with entries opening on March 1 and closing on March 31. The competition is open to all Macedon Ranges and Sunbury residents to present an artwork.

Information is available at [www.thegallerymtmacedon.com.au](http://www.thegallerymtmacedon.com.au) or on mobile: 0418 488582. The Bendigo Bank is again generously sponsoring the prize money.

You are invited to view "Summer" at The Gallery from Tuesday 4 February to Sunday 2 March. Please join our members for our opening at 2pm on Sunday 9 February. The Gallery is open 10am to 4pm Friday to Tuesday at 684 Mt. Macedon Road, Mt. Macedon (behind the Trading Post). Any enquiries – contact Sue Anson on 0413 581 632.

Events at Hanging Rock

You'll find details about upcoming events on the Council's events website. During February there are two events – Hanging Rock Night Walk on 14 February and Camp Out at Hanging Rock on 22 February. Bookings are essential.

Visit [www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/See-Do/Events-and-Awards/Events-at-Hanging-Rock](http://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/See-Do/Events-and-Awards/Events-at-Hanging-Rock)



Charlotte’s Web comes to Lancefield

GAB Theatre presents E.B. White’s beloved classic, *Charlotte’s Web*, written by Joseph Robinette and directed by George Benca.

Starring an ensemble cast of local talent in both adult and youth roles, the production will transport the audience into the life of protagonist Wilbur the loveable pig and his friend, wise Charlotte, who works to save his life, assisted by the young girl Fern and a team of barnyard animals in this timeless tale of friendship.

Lancefield Mechanics Institute:  
1 March – 2pm and 7.30pm  
2 March – 2pm

Seating is restaurant style and guests are encouraged to bring food and drink to enjoy. Tickets: [www.trybooking.com/CVYOS](http://www.trybooking.com/CVYOS) or contact Barbara on 0419 370 680.

SUBMITTED BY BARBARA SAPWELL, GAB THEATRE

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Save the dates!

The Woodend Winter Arts Festival 2025 program will launch following a concert at St Ambrose Church at 3pm, Saturday 29th March. Ensemble Gombert will perform *Choral Delights of 7 Centuries*. This year we celebrate 20 years of the festival and look forward to seeing you here on the King’s Birthday long weekend 6–9 June. Visit [www.woodendwinterartsfestival.org.au](http://www.woodendwinterartsfestival.org.au) for tickets and information.

SUBMITTED BY WWAF COMMITTEE



Woodend Probus Club

The first meeting for the new year will now be held on 14 February 2025. **Annual Meeting 21 March 2025 – All Welcome**

Future meetings: Third Friday of the month at the Norma Richardson Hall, Woodend.

For further information, contact Chris 0402 380 990 or Pat 0409 007 727

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## The Importance of Being Earnest

at The Mountview Theatre in February



The Importance of Being Earnest (A Trivial Comedy for Serious People) is a play by Oscar Wilde and will be The Mount Players' first show for 2025. This classic was first staged in 1895 and is widely regarded as one of the best theatrical comedies ever written. Full of high farce, dazzling wordplay and hilariously unlikely situations, it has delighted audiences across the world for well over a century.

Synopsis: Jack and Algernon are very close friends who are living double lives. In the country, they're respectable gentlemen but in the city, they're playboys without a care in the world. Their absurdly luxurious lifestyle is rudely interrupted when love enters the mix, and the pair struggle to keep track of who they're pretending to be and when. Silliness ensues with whimsical ingénues, jealous fiancées, indomitable dowagers, and the most famous handbag in theatre history.

The season runs from Friday 21 February to Sunday 9 March. For full details and to purchase tickets for the show go to [www.themountplayers.com](http://www.themountplayers.com) or call 5426 1892 for assistance.

Our AGM is being held at the theatre on Friday 14 February at 7pm for drinks and nibbles, followed by the meeting at 7.30pm. All welcome to come along and catch up with friends or indeed come and introduce yourself and make new ones! Also on the evening, two stalwarts of the theatre will be presented with their Life Memberships. Who, you ask? You'll need to attend to find out!

See you at the theatre.

SUBMITTED BY KAREN HUNT



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### Board Director Stan Falloon... farewell and thank you.

A passionate supporter of community and helping others, Stan was a Board Director with Community Bank Trentham & Districts for 7 years. Very sadly, after retiring at our recent AGM, Stan passed away.

Stan's contributions were powerful, and his work ethic was more than remarkable. Energy, commitment, integrity and creativity are all words that begin to capture our image of Stan.

We were fortunate enough to interview Stan at the end of 2024 regarding his achievements and highlights with the bank. He warmly recounted championing the Trentham branch Apprentice Awards, Scholarships and New Business Programs and how he enjoyed uplifting community spirit during Covid by actively promoting local businesses through interviews and video content.

Remembered for his personal sign-off, "Keep Smiling", Stan will be missed by many but never forgotten.

#### Local Community Banking

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Community Bank - Gisborne & District  
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ASIC 10401 007\_4208610 14/01/2025

### Community bank company achieves social enterprise status

Macedon Ranges Community Enterprises, operator of Community Bank Gisborne & District, is now a certified social enterprise – an acknowledgement of its 16 years of giving back to the local community. Social Traders' certification validates the company's contributions and elevates its "profit for purpose" model to the next level.

Having invested over \$3 million to local organisations and projects, this recent certification formally acknowledges the positive impact and effectiveness of the Community Bank model. It also reaffirms the valuable role community banking plays in building community prosperity.

Chair, Mal Carter highlighted the significance of this achievement: "Our Community Bank model is unique – research suggests there isn't a similar model anywhere in the world."

Branch manager Sarah Barton said: "This affirms our social enterprise operating Community Bank Gisborne & District is a business-for-good and that your banking choices can make a difference."

Social enterprises must (1) have a defined primary social, cultural or environmental purpose consistent with a public benefit, (2) derive a substantial portion of their income from trade and (3) invest effort and resources into public and community benefit that outweighs private benefit. These are also the core attributes that underpin the Community Bank model.

Photo: The Macedon Ranges Community Enterprises Board of Directors adopted a new Mission Statement to support its application for Social Enterprise Accreditation in October 2024. L-R: Dominic Andreacchio, David Power, Rachel Kemmis, Erin McKinnon, Rebecca Thorpe, Mal Carter (Chair), David Gormley-O'Brien, Sina Smale and Andrew Kincaid.





## Young Voices of Macedon look towards another year of wonderful singing

Young Voices of Macedon can look back on 2024 as a busy and very rewarding year of choral singing. Highlights included a performance at Choralfest@Montsalvat, workshops and performances with the Bendigo Youth Choir and Yarra Voices (from Fitzroy), and the annual concert in Macedon, at which the older children were especially privileged to perform Messe brève by 19th century French composer Léo Delibes with the Bendigo Youth Choir, string ensemble and pipe organ. This work was also sung at the 40th anniversary concert of the Bendigo Youth Choir at the historic Capitol Theatre in Bendigo. To conclude the year, the choir participated once again in the Service of Readings and Carols at the Church of the Resurrection Macedon, when the children had the experience of singing with a substantial adult choir that included singers from the Australian Chamber Choir.

This year promises to be equally exciting. Rehearsals led by teachers Jess Demare and Emma West assist children in developing vocal technique, part singing skills and general musicianship, and to learn a wide range of repertoire: popular, classical, folk and music theatre within a culture of enjoyment and inclusion. Rehearsals commence at 4.15pm with afternoon tea. Warm-ups for all follow at 4.30, after which the groups work separately on repertoire. Newcomers are welcome to try out a rehearsal on Thursdays from 4.15 to 6.00pm at the House of the Rock, 247 Station Road New Gisborne.

See [yvmacedon.org.au](http://yvmacedon.org.au)

SUBMITTED BY DIANNE GOME



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## Macedon Ranges Relay for Life

**Saturday, 1 March 2025**  
**11:00 am to 09:00 pm**

Cancer Council Victoria is delighted to be running another Relay for Life in the Macedon Ranges on 1 March 2025.

The Relay for Life will be held at Lancefield Park Reserve, Chauncey Street, from 11am till 9pm.

Relay for Life is a fun and moving experience that raises vital funds for cancer research, prevention and support services. It is a day to remember those we have lost to cancer, celebrate those who have survived a cancer diagnoses and to raise funds to research to find a cure.

Teams are encouraged to register as soon as possible to take advantage of the early bird registration (2 February) and get fundraising.

Information and registration: [www.relayforlife.org.au/event/lancefield-2025/home](http://www.relayforlife.org.au/event/lancefield-2025/home)



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## Woodend Library News

### Jane Gazzo in Conversation

Saturday 22 February, 11am

Celebrate the Aussie bands we loved through the 80s and their fates following the end of the decade. Includes interviews, photos and stories about the songs, excesses and break-ups from bands such as The Models, Machinations, Boom Crash Opera and more. Come along and enjoy Jane's insights on the Australian music industry in conversation with music journalist Ian McFarlane.



**JANE GAZZO I HEAR MoTion**

Celebrate the Aussie bands we loved through the 80s and their fates following the end of the decade. Includes interviews, photos and stories about the songs, excesses, and break-ups from bands such as The Models, Machinations, Boom Crash Opera and more. Come along and enjoy Jane's insights on the Australian music industry in conversation with music journalist Ian McFarlane.

**Woodend Library**

Saturday 22 February, 11am

Book here [goldfieldslibraries.com](http://goldfieldslibraries.com)

### Digital Balance

Mindful Tech Use for Families  
Wednesday 12 February, 11am

A hands-on workshop designed to help you and your family navigate the digital landscape. Discover practical strategies to disconnect and reduce unproductive scrolling, set effective screen time limits, and access sleep mode features on devices. Learn how to monitor your tweens' and teens' screen time while fostering healthy digital habits. Bookings required.

### Such Sweet Sorrow

Friday 14 February, 4-5pm

Join Desiree (Bendigo Regional Archives Centre) to explore both the bitter and the sweet in the world of chocolate and confectionery across the centuries through the archival collection. Hear surprisingly tragic tales of lost loves, suspicious deaths, and intrigue across northwestern Victoria, followed by a chocolate exploration and tastings from chocolatier Christina from Sisko Chocolates.

This presentation contains sensitive content and is recommended for mature audiences only. Bookings required.



**SUCH SWEET SORROW**

Explore how the archives tell stories of the bitter & the sweet in the world of confectionery while enjoying tastings with Sisko Chocolate

**Woodend Library**

Friday 14 February, 4-5pm

[ncgrl.vic.gov.au](http://ncgrl.vic.gov.au)

Book here [goldfieldslibraries.com](http://goldfieldslibraries.com)

### Storytimes are back!

Our regular Storytimes are back from Tuesday, February 4 and we have a new session for Toddlers!

- Tuesdays 10am – Storytime (ages 2-5 years)
- Tuesdays 11am – Toddler Time (ages 1-3 years)
- Fridays 10am – Storytime (ages 2-5 years)
- Fridays 11am – Baby Rhyme Time (ages 0-1 year)
- Saturday Storytime on the first Saturday of the month, 10.30am (ages 2-5 years)

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](mailto:woodend@ncgrl.vic.gov.au) | [www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au](http://www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au)

SUBMITTED BY EMMA KEENAN



## A message from our local police sergeant

As we look forward into 2025, I hope for those that had time off that it was a relaxing and enjoyable experience and that you return refreshed and rejuvenated for the year to come.

Woodend Police have continued to work across this period in a quest to try to keep the community safe. Most of us worked in some capacity during this period, and not just in Woodend, as we were also called upon to assist with the protracted fire in Bullengarook.

Two Woodend personnel have moved onto other duties in recent times, both moving to specialisations in the advancements of their careers. In the meantime, I have had a member from Kyneton working here and two more from Gisborne will be working from Woodend to support our community policing service. This will be the pattern for a while, until we secure permanent staffing replacements.

Macedon Ranges will again be undertaking a Neighbourhood Policing Forum – and this is where you can discuss policing issues that are important to you with police and senior Victoria Police management. This has previously been undertaken at Kyneton, where a broad range of policing topics, including questions from the audience were openly discussed. I would encourage you to attend this forum and put forward what you would like your Macedon Ranges policing service to look like. You can register your interest at [NHP-KYNETON-OIC@police.vic.gov.au](mailto:NHP-KYNETON-OIC@police.vic.gov.au)

This year it will be held at:

Gisborne Mechanics Institute Hall,  
8 Hamilton St, Gisborne  
on 20 February 2025 from 6pm.

By attending, this would be an excellent way of letting me and my bosses know what is important to you as a community, in the policing space.

SUBMITTED BY DAVID ARNOLD, SERGEANT WOODEND POLICE STATION

## Macedon Ranges Obedience Dog Club

Happy New Year, readers. By the time you read this we will have had our first new members’ day for 2025. I can’t wait to see all the new puppies – and their owners, of course. Hopefully the weather is not too hot and not raining, fingers crossed!

I know that all our Macedon Ranges Obedience Dog Club (MRODC) volunteers, including our instructors, will be well rested and ready for a new and exciting year. Remember, without them, we could not operate each Sunday morning from February to November. Each week, these people give up a good part of their Sunday to provide a safe and friendly environment for each member and their dog or puppy to learn and socialise.

It’s never too late to start training your dog or puppy. It may be a new addition over Christmas, or one that you have had for some time but would like to start training; if so, all the details for joining can be found on our website [www.macedonrangesdogclub.org.au](http://www.macedonrangesdogclub.org.au). Or contact us via our Facebook page or email [info@macedonrangesdogclub.org.au](mailto:info@macedonrangesdogclub.org.au), and a representative from the club will contact you.

Take care, stay safe and remember a dog is for life ... not just for Christmas ... or COVID.

SUBMITTED BY CAROL, INSTRUCTOR/TREASURER MRODC



## Another great year for movies in Woodend

The Macedon Ranges Film Society, which meets monthly at the Norma Richardson Hall in Woodend, is enthusiastically getting organised for another year of film entertainment. With a tried and true format, the committee has chosen eleven films from February to December with the usual mix of drama, comedy, classic and more.

Members can enjoy not only a carefully-selected film, but also film notes, a welcome glass of wine on arrival and another after the film while enjoying supper and allowing time for film discussion or indeed anything else on the agenda!

What began fifteen years ago with a few people interested in viewing films on a larger screen with a cinema-like atmosphere and a side serve of social interaction, has grown into regular events that Macedon Rangers now carefully mark into their calendars at the start of the year in order not to miss any. Many of the members have been attending for all of those fifteen years, citing not only their enjoyment of the film selection, but also the camaraderie that has grown up with the film society.

Our first film screens on Friday February 14. Films start at 7.15pm



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### 42 years since Ash Wednesday

On February 16, it will be 42 years since the devastating Ash Wednesday bushfires destroyed over 425 houses and claimed seven lives in the Macedon and Mt Macedon areas.

The 1983 Ash Wednesday bushfires also extensively damaged the Memorial Cross and gardens, and the area lay in disrepair till the mid-1990s when the Grollo Family and generous community members provided funding to reinstate the cross in its current form.

We will also pass 16 years since Black Saturday on 7 February, and five years since the infamous Black Summer, to remind us that we should never become complacent.

There is still one month of summer to go with some warm weather ahead, and our forests and grasslands are now well and truly baked from the recent dry spell.

This month remains a very dangerous part of the fire season, with history showing that most major grass and bushfires in the Macedon Ranges occur in February and March.

### Everyone needs a fire plan

One of the most important things we all need to do is prepare and practice a clear Bushfire Safety Plan, particularly whether you are going to stay or go.

Will you have time to leave the area safely? When will you go? Where will you go? What will you take? Who will you tell? What about your pets? Will you know in which direction the fire is travelling?

If you can see the fire, it’s probably too late to leave. You should not attempt to leave your home at the last minute, when radiant heat is at its peak. The vast majority of deaths in bushfire involve people caught in cars or on foot. Once the fire is close, visibility will be very poor and travel will be hazardous. Fallen trees, power lines, abandoned cars or even firefighting vehicles may block roads.

### Everybody needs good neighbours

One of the valuable lessons we learn from difficult times is the importance of being aware of those who live in our neighbourhood. One of the great lessons to come out of the recent fires, and especially Ash Wednesday and Black Saturday, is the amazing sense of community that exists. As well as the importance of developing a strong neighbourhood network. Now is the time you should work with your neighbours, before another fire or event threatens our area. Here are a few helpful ideas:

- Get to know your own neighbours and share your fire plans
- See if there are any elderly or disabled people in your area so that you can help them
- Start a phone tree so that people know who is home and who has gone

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

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, FORMER CAPTAIN WOODEND CFA

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## Theme set for 2025 Mount Macedon Anzac Day Dawn Service

Planning is underway for the 2025 Mount Macedon Anzac Day Dawn Service, and the theme for this year’s event has been unveiled by the volunteer organising committee:

‘The Unseen Wounds of Conflict’, which will explore the many impacts that war has on those who serve, from the physical injuries to the mental effects and the wider repercussions for families.

President of the Mount Macedon Anzac Day Dawn Service (MMADDS) Committee Leona Latcham said the impacts and sacrifices of service are not always obvious.

“Physical scars can be just a small part of what service people manage after their service period. The impacts can run far deeper and for many years after the time of service, often for life,” said Leona.

“We want to acknowledge what serving one’s country really entails and also celebrate the Australian strength of spirit that shines through as we explore stories of local service people.”

The Mount Macedon Anzac Day Dawn Service organising committee also farewelled a key member of the team, as Jamie Byron stepped down from his position on the committee.

Leona thanked Jamie for his many years of volunteer work helping to bring the Mount Macedon Anzac Day Dawn Service to life for the local community.

“We thank Jamie for his long-term involvement in the organising committee over two separate terms, during which he was instrumental in the planning of the event.”

To make a donation to the 2025 Mount Macedon Anzac Day Dawn Service, please visit [www.mtmacedondawnservice.org](http://www.mtmacedondawnservice.org) and click on the Donate button.

To keep up-to-date with the 2025 event, visit the website or follow on Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/MountMacedonAnzacDayDawnService](https://www.facebook.com/MountMacedonAnzacDayDawnService).

MMADDS thanks its sponsors including the Victorian Government through Victorian Veterans Council, Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Bendigo Community Bank Gisborne and Region, Public Transport Victoria, Gisborne Region Events Activities & Tourism and KGMG Creative.

SUBMITTED BY SARAH O’BRIEN

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## Lions' roar in 2024: Join our pride



2024 has rapidly rolled on for the Woodend Lions. We are regularly surprised and gratified by what a small group of people can achieve together. As with any group the membership evolves. Some members have suffered illness and are less active, others are relocating across the state, some have maintained their contribution and others have stepped up and taken on tasks. This sense of camaraderie and purpose is what keeps us going.

However, one thing remains clear: we could do even more if we had more hands on deck.

This is an unashamed ask. If you're thinking how you can contribute to this community, this could be it. Volunteer contribution helps builds community.

Meeting once monthly, on a Wednesday over pizza, we discuss our ideas and hatch our plans. We now hold our market on the same day as the Woodend Farmers Market and are delighted with how it's going. The Second Chance Art Sale in October went very well and we made a significant donation to the Woodend Foodbank to supplement our support of the Neighbourhood House community lunches.

We're at the beginning of presenting our annual art scholarships to the primary and secondary schools around us. It's important to acknowledge young people in this way.

Looking ahead, 2025 marks the 50th anniversary of the **Annual Woodend Lions Art Show**—a milestone we're excited to celebrate with an opening event and the usual rich palette of great art to see. Ensure you put the March long weekend 8,9,10 March in your diaries for this event!

In 2024, we've donated to the Community Chest, St Ambrose Care, the local Christmas toy drive, as well as a variety of medical research endeavours and hosted the Skin Check bus back in April.

We're always on the lookout for new ideas – be it addressing food security, meeting winter heating needs, environmental projects, or social initiatives. If you have a vision and the drive to help, we'd love to welcome you aboard.

Join us. Be part of something that builds community, connection, and lasting impact. Together, we can achieve even more. Call or drop a message to 0409 414 435 for more info.

SUBMITTED BY BARRY MCDONALD (WOODEND LIONS)



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The 50th Woodend Lions Art Show will be held this year, on 8–10 March at St Ambrose Hall.

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## Woodend Senior Citizens

Welcome to the new year 2025. Wishing all members and friends health and happiness.

Come and join us in playing Button Bingo on Tuesday, 1pm to 3pm and a game of cards on Friday, 1pm to 4pm. New members are always welcome.

BUS TRIP: Thursday, 13 February 2025 Cost: \$70

This trip we are taking the ferry from Docklands to Portarlington.

The trip is to be paid for by 1pm on Tuesday, 4 February.

The Club must pay for the ferry and provide the list of passengers on this day.

Please support the bus trips, as well as our other activities.

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## Paddock-to-Plate lunch showcasing local produce



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As a treat for food lovers, special guest chef will be Elise Pulbrook (Masterchef), who is "passionate about local food movements, community empowerment and working with beautiful produce", and is looking forward to cooking a summer feast "direct from the farmers... with the *terroir* in every bite."

Local producer, Madelaine Scott of Madelaine's Eggs says, "One of things I'm most excited about is that 95% of the ingredients will have been produced within 20 kilometres of where the diners will be eating lunch – and they will be able to meet the producers. Often diners can meet the chef at a restaurant, but rarely the person who grew their food. At our event, they can do both!"

With funding from the Vic-Grown Regional Activation Grants Program, this special lunch will also feature a DV Cider tasting, wine from Red Poppy Estate, a producers market and gift bag, live music from local singers Lucy Watson and Tasha Luke, and dancing into the evening.

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# Paddock to Plate







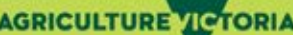
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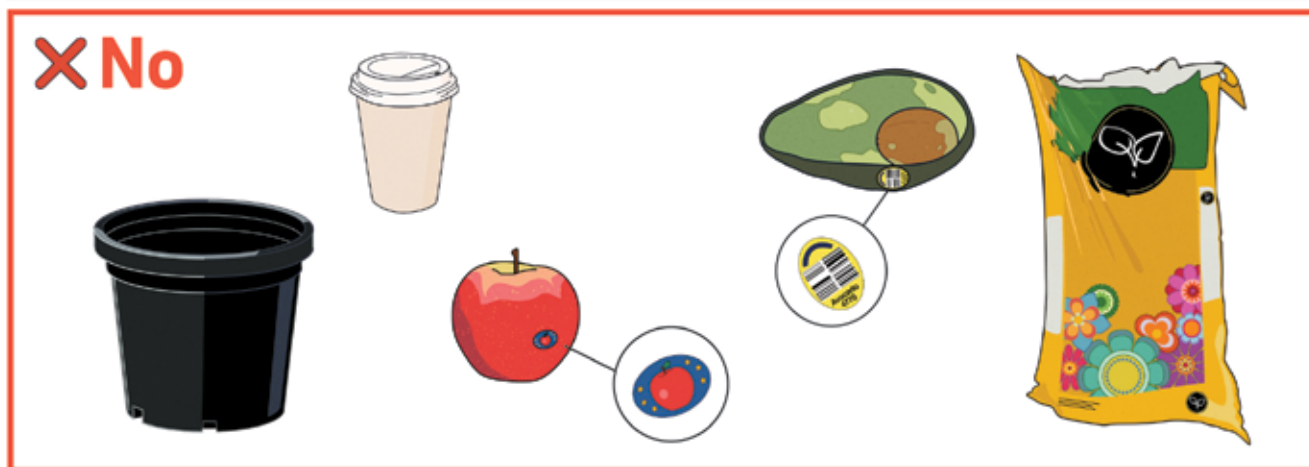


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Find out more: [mrsc.vic.gov.au](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au)



## Seasonal tips for painting in the Macedon Ranges!

When we ponder the cooler months' descent upon the Macedon Ranges, it's clear to see summer is the perfect time to plan those essential outdoor home maintenance and renovation projects – especially with the challenges that come with Victoria's unpredictable weather. From morning dew and fog to chilly temperatures, outdoor painting and staining requires careful timing and preparation to ensure a perfect finish.

At Colour Conscious Painting and Decorating, we're ready to tackle all your home improvement needs, with expertise in architectural, residential, and restoration works. We understand the impact of seasonal conditions, so we tailor our approach to account for drying times, moisture levels, and temperature fluctuations, ensuring your exterior surfaces get the care they require. Having lived in the Macedon Ranges for a number of years, I'm finally shifting my city-based business to this beautiful area to be closer to my family – particularly my daughter, Phoenix, who is training as my apprentice. Having been deeply involved in local sports, from netball to footy and cricket, and even cooking with our kids at Newham Primary School's Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program, I understand the importance of supporting the local community. Being a family-run business, we value quality and enjoy bringing a personal touch to every project.

Colour Conscious embraces environmentally friendly products like low-VOC paints and conscious disposal of site waste. Whether you're seeking a splash of colour or a full restoration, we're here to bring your vision to life, while respecting the natural beauty of the Macedon Ranges.

Whatever the season, feel free to follow our socials to see our work and cheeky coffee recommendations. [www.colourconscious.com.au](http://www.colourconscious.com.au).

Cheers, Mark Boon  
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SUBMITTED BY FRAN BOON



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## More support for sports clubs

The Allan Labor Government is backing local sport clubs with grants to help more people get involved in the sports they love.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence announced late last year that 875 grants will go to more than 740 clubs, who will share in more than \$1.2 million from the Sporting Club Grants Program. Among the grant awardees were:

Woodend Junior Football & Netball Club, which was awarded \$1,971 for first aid training and \$1,000 for a new defibrillator and first aid supplies; and

Woodend Hawks Basketball Club, who were awarded \$1,000 for new balls and first aid kits for young teams

The grants are intended for the purchase of uniforms and equipment, training of volunteers, coaches and officials, and to improve accessibility and engagement with local communities. Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas said, "This program is always popular amongst our local clubs and athletes, it supports them to have what they need, to take part in the sports they love."

For more information on the grants and a full list of recipients, refer to [sport.vic.gov.au](http://sport.vic.gov.au)

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

## Maintenance improvements for Woodend Primary School

Students will benefit from maintenance works set to be carried out at Woodend Primary School. Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas announced Woodend Primary to be one of 88 schools that will share in over \$19.9 million of funding from the Planned Maintenance Program (PMP) to undertake 90 maintenance projects between them. Woodend Primary will receive funding to completely rebuild three ramps and undertake minor works at five ramps. This is the latest round of PMP, which provides funding to address high-priority maintenance works across Victoria's government schools, including essential work in classrooms and other school buildings such as roof repairs and window replacement, ramp maintenance, painting, and floor resurfacing, as well as some external works like the improvement of pathways.

"Every student should have access to a great school, that's why we're supporting local schools in the Macedon Ranges with the resources they need to make a difference to the educational outcomes of students across the state," said Ms Thomas.

Works are determined by a rolling facilities evaluation process, which provides up-to-date information on the condition of schools to create a faster and more targeted allocation of funding. In 2024, 342 schools have received over \$99.9 million in total for work on 349 projects, including the projects announced today.

For a list of schools receiving funding under the Planned Maintenance Program, visit [schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/planned-maintenance-program](http://schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/planned-maintenance-program).

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



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



## Boost for food relief in Kyneton

Communities facing food insecurity will have increased access to healthy food through the state government's Community Food Relief program.

Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas announced a successful grant to Kyneton Community House, which will be upgrading kitchen equipment, and focusing on volunteer recruitment and training, community education and improving local partnerships.

She said of the program, "We know our wonderful community organisations have the local knowledge and connections to best understand and respond to local needs, and to provide food relief where it's needed most."

To see the full list of funded projects, visit [vic.gov.au/community-food-relief-program-local-grants](http://vic.gov.au/community-food-relief-program-local-grants).

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## Giving Macedon women and girls fair access to sport

The State Government's Fair Access Policy Roadmap is now state-wide, ensuring women and girls across Victoria have equal access to sporting facilities and opportunities.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence recently announced the policy's statewide adoption. All of Victoria's 79 councils and Alpine Resorts Victoria will now adopt the framework for their local communities, including the shires of Macedon Ranges, Hepburn, Mount Alexander, and Moorabool in Macedon.

Since its launch in August 2022, the Roadmap has been helping councils and their local sporting clubs create equal access and opportunities for women and girls so that all Victorians can participate in the sports they love.

As part of the Roadmap, councils must have policies in place to be eligible for community sports program funding. The policies are tailored to the local community and designed to achieve long-term change resulting in more equal participation for women and girls.

Examples include how women and girls will be considered when it comes to allocating community sports facilities, like ovals, changerooms and courts.

"This policy will make a big difference for the women and girls of Macedon, ensuring they get access to the sports facilities and opportunities they deserve."

Developed in partnership with Sport and Recreation Victoria and VicHealth, the Roadmap supports councils with obligations under the Gender Equality Act 2020.

Commissioner for Gender Equality in the Public Sector Dr Niki Vincent said, "For too long, women and girls have been overlooked in the design and delivery of public policies, programs, and services. Thanks to the Gender Equality Act and the role of the Fair Access Policy Roadmap in supporting councils, this is changing for community sport. This powerful change is to be applauded."

Learn more about the Fair Access Policy Roadmap at [changeourgame.vic.gov.au/initiatives/fair-access-policy-roadmap](http://changeourgame.vic.gov.au/initiatives/fair-access-policy-roadmap).

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



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# Fire Danger Period continues

The Fire Danger Period for the Macedon Ranges began on 25 November 2024 and will continue on 1 May 2025 unless otherwise advised. No fires can be lit in the open air without a permit during this period.



The Bureau of Meteorology forecast an increased chance of warmer than average days and nights across most of Australia during this summer.

Council’s CEO, Bernie O’ Sullivan, said several shire-wide fire prevention initiatives were already well progressed to slash grass along Council-managed roadsides, keep trees a safe distance away from powerlines and reduce fuel loads, such as unmaintained long grass, excessive woodpiles or other debris, on private properties.

“We know fire does not discriminate and so it is important for us to complete annual programs we’re responsible for, while working closely with the community to collectively reduce the shire’s fire risk,” he said. Mr O’ Sullivan encouraged residents to review their fire plan, or create one, drawing from the range of useful resources available online through trusted authorities such as the CFA.

For more information on:

- continuing to prepare for fire and heat – visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/fire-heat](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/fire-heat)
- Fire Danger Ratings and the Fire Danger Period – visit [cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au)
- applying for a permit – visit [firepermits.vic.gov.au](http://firepermits.vic.gov.au)
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## Get ready, get techy (Woodend)

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**New netball upgrades underway at Gilbert Gordon**

Work at Woodend to deliver new netball upgrades is now underway, to provide fit-for-purpose facilities and to support growing participation in the sport.

To replace the existing deteriorating netball court at Gilbert Gordon Oval in Woodend, two new netball courts are being constructed adjacent to the social room building, making them more visible and accessible from existing reserve facilities.

The works have been funded under the Victorian Government’s Local Sports Infrastructure Fund, a budget allocation from Council and a contribution from the Woodend Heskett Football Netball Club.

These works will affect access along the pathway near Five Mile Creek and the CFA track. While Council aims to minimise the impact to community, please be aware of route alterations and follow signage.

For more information, visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/Woodend-netball](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/Woodend-netball)

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THE NEW WOODEND STAR | 33 |





# “STILL GETTING A KICK OUT OF FOOTY”



## It's time to get fit and make new mates

With the silly season behind us it's time to dust off your runners and head down to Buffalo Stadium to burn off the summer excess with a friendly kick of the footy...

If you're over 35 and love the idea of playing footy with low-contact rules, then Masters footy (also known as Super Rules) is a fantastic way to continue playing.

Or maybe you just want to train, keep fit, and expand your social circle by having a kick at our weekly training sessions. There is no pressure to play a game; it's an open invitation to join our club.

Besides it's the cheapest fitness club membership you can get!

Masters football is "footy for fun". It's not the score at the end of the game that matters; in fact, more often, there is no scoreboard during the game.

It's about providing an environment for all men aged 35 and over to improve their physical and mental health by playing a sport most have grown up loving and for others, a new sport they now love.

Everyone is welcome regardless of skills. We have many recruits from overseas with rugby backgrounds who have embraced the game and our club.

Our club song's opening line is "We are grey, we are bald, and they say that we're too old, but we still get a kick out of footy..."

This year the Woodend Masters Football Club celebrates its 10th anniversary as a club, and our ninth season in the Vic Country AFL Masters League.

Our history is highlighted by successes on and off the field and supported by our amazing ongoing sponsors.

The Vic Country AFL Masters League sees us head off to play teams around Victoria, which includes fantastic bus trips.

Masters rules are about player safety and minimal contact – we all remind ourselves before each game that we all need to go to work on Monday.

This year we will celebrate our 10th birthday, which will occur during the season. Expect some celebrations.

Woodend Masters was born out of bar room banter between local dads who talked up our desire to put on boots again and play footy.

From a handful of blokes meeting every Friday night for a kick, we have now had over 100 fellas of all skills, shapes and sizes pass through the club to make it the success story it is today.

We continue our mission to provide a healthy (physical and mental) space for men in the community and support other

community groups through assistance and fundraising.

Anyone wanting to join in is encouraged to monitor the Woodend Masters Facebook page for updates or just join us for training on Friday nights from 6.30pm.

For more information  
woodendmasters@gmail.com



## Woodend Hanging Rock Petanque Club

Well, another year has flown by and here we are, a new year has begun!

Last year we had many activities involving petanque. We started off the year at Cleveland Estate in Lancefield, which always starts the year off well, with a good crowd happy to put their skills in order to show off our game. Then we finished the year with our annual Triples Tournament at the end of November at Hanging Rock.

On this rainy Sunday morning, we had over 100 players converging on Hanging Rock from all over the state. Of course, there were some winners and losers over the day, but considering the weather, which did not give up, it was all played in good spirits, with two of WHRPC teams in the top 15. Well done, Shane Wellington, Jill Shaw, Rod Gell, Rohan Dickson, and Darrelle and Bill Salathiel. It was a hugely successful event with everyone joining the camaraderie of the day.

We commenced this year in early January and would like to encourage anyone who wishes to give this game a try, to join us on Monday afternoons at the Old Racecourse Reserve from 2–4pm and/or on Thursday afternoons at the Hanging Rock Reserve from 3.30pm. We will play three games, which is then followed by a delicious BBQ, prepared by different members each week at Hanging Rock.

In March, we will hold our Doubles Tournament, (played with 3 boules, instead of two as in the Triples Tournament) at the Old Racecourse, and are expecting a good turnout.

SUBMITTED BY LOUISE POTTER







Photo: Judy Jewell (Left – JJ) and Judy Condon (Right – JC).



## Woodend Bowling Club

### Judy is Woodend Ladies Club champion

There was no other choice, because the Grand Final of the Woodend Bowling Club Ladies Singles Championship was played between Judy Jewell (Left – JJ) and Judy Condon (Right – JC).

The match is decided with the first to score 25, with JJ taking an early lead of 6-2 after six ends. JC then fought back with two consecutive threes to lead 6-8 after eight ends. It was then 12-all after fourteen ends, before JJ went away to lead 19-12 after seventeen ends. JC then again scored two consecutive threes to be just one point behind 19-18 after nineteen ends.

The final score was 25-19, with Judy Jewell winning over 24 ends. Congratulations to both players on a well fought out final in difficult windy conditions, and President Mike Dornau for umpiring/markings.

Judy will now go on to represent Woodend in the regional Champ of Champs event to be played in Ballarat in February.

### Stephen wins Men's semi-final

The First Semi-Final for the club Men's Singles was played between reigning champion Norm Bickerdyke and 2023 Champion Stephen Pickles, and it was indeed a champion match, with President Mike Dornau as marker/umpire. Stephen shot out of the blocks with a 4 and 3 start, before Norm fought back to 10-all after ten ends. Stephen then moved ahead to be 18-11 after fifteen ends, before Norm fought back again to 21-16 after nineteen. Stephen then played solidly over the remaining five ends to win 25-18.

### Gary wins Men's semi-final

The Second Semi-Final of the Men's Singles championship was played between Gary Dryden and Mike Dornau. Mike made a strong start to lead 9-3 after seven ends, before Gary fought back to level 9-all after ten. Gary then had a hot streak with two fours, two threes and a pair to take a strong lead, before Mike came back with a 3-2. But Gary was too strong overall to win 25-15 after 21 ends. Thanks to John Geyer for marking.

Gary will now meet Stephen Pickles in the Grand Final to decide who will represent the Club in the forthcoming Champ of Champs. This match had not been completed at the time of writing this article, and will be published in next month's edition of The New Woodend Star. Congratulations to all players who competed in the Singles over recent months.

### Check out our Website and Facebook page

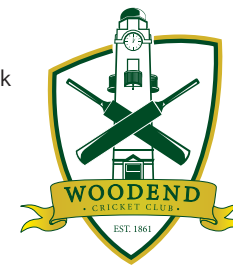
For more information please call 5407 9220, visit our website at [www.woodendbowlsclub.weebly.com](http://www.woodendbowlsclub.weebly.com). You can also follow us on Facebook.

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, PRESIDENT WOODEND BOWLING CLUB INC.

## Woodend Cricket Club

### Pink Stumps Ladies' Day

Woodend Cricket Club will be hosting a Pink Stumps high tea on Saturday 15 February in support of the McGrath Foundation. The McGrath Foundation's mission is to ensure that no one goes through breast cancer without the care of a breast care nurse. The money raised will help support people with breast cancer by providing specialist McGrath Breast Care Nurses where they are most needed across Australia. The day is open to ladies and girls of all ages and includes a scrumptious high tea, guest speakers, games, silent auctions and raffles, plus some live music! It's a great excuse to get the girls together and raise money for a fantastic cause! The Woodend Cricket Club has been supporting the Pink Stumps Day since it started in 2011, and donated almost \$50,000 to the McGrath Foundation.



Tickets can be purchased for \$40 through Trybooking [www.trybooking.com/CYERJ](http://www.trybooking.com/CYERJ), or if you would like to make a donation towards the McGrath foundation you can do so by the link [www.pinkisthecolour.com.au/s/7686/8315](http://www.pinkisthecolour.com.au/s/7686/8315). If you have any questions or would like to support this amazing event you can contact Tegan Eastley on 0423 920 242 or via email [Teganfinch93@gmail.com](mailto:Teganfinch93@gmail.com)

### Second annual community Christmas Party

The Woodend Cricket Club held a free outdoor cinema and invited the whole community to come along to Gilbert Gordon Oval and celebrate Christmas together. What a night! More than 300 people came along to watch 'The Grinch' and enjoy some real family fun. Those kids who weren't playing Mario Kart on the big screen before the movie, or playing cricket and footy on the oval, were having fun playing in the huge pile of sand! The kids even got to meet Santa, who arrived thanks to the wonderful support from the Woodend CFA! The event is building into something really special, and we can't wait until next Christmas!

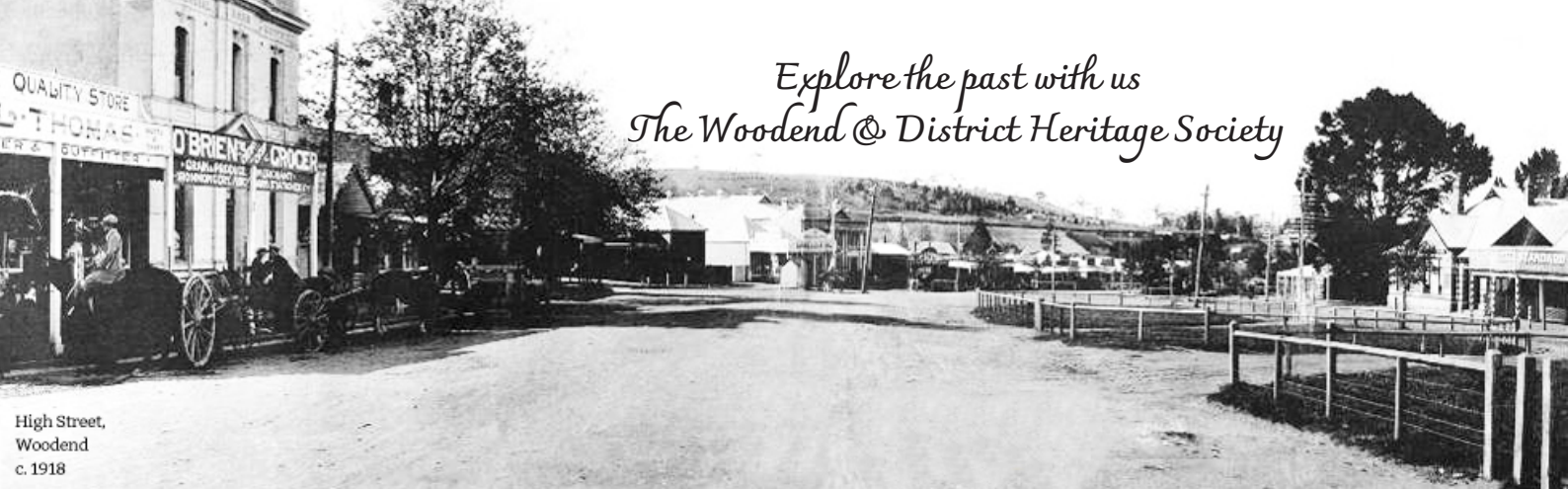
### Cricket

What an exciting season of cricket this season is shaping up to be! With four of our senior teams in finals contention, its hard to know where to look. We've had impressive batting performances throughout the grades with centuries from Brett Gardner (157\*), Alistair Gray (100\*), Jamie Walker (100\*), plus two from our First XI Captain Marcus Stewart (120 and 121). In the first round back after the break, we were treated to a Ben Thompson Hat-Trick against Eastern Hill! Over the break we had a number of our juniors represent the GDCA playing against neighbouring leagues – we are really proud of all our boys and girls! You also may have seen eight of our lucky Cricket Blast kids out on the MCG on Day 2 of the Boxing Day Test – thanks to Cricket Victoria, the kids (plus one lucky coordinator) were able to show their skills in front of 80,000+ spectators!

SUBMITTED BY DANIEL HEANEY







Explore the past with us  
*The Woodend & District Heritage Society*

High Street,  
Woodend  
c. 1918

## Recollections of Early Woodend

In Woodend's early days, the sound of axes chopping wood rang through the forest. Men felled logs with an axe and snigged them with horses or bullocks to a sawmill nearby. Timber was in great demand for fencing, railway sleepers and buildings. Even in the 1930s Depression, Paddy Cocks and his brother Jack boosted their income as timber cutters. Their parents William Cocks and his wife Mary raised their family of

three girls and four boys on their mixed farm in Woodend.

William also earned money as a blacksmith and a farrier and mowed the fairways of the Woodend Golf Club.

His grandson, Donald Humphrey, remembered spending his holidays on the farm and watching horses being shod. He said he would never forget the ring of the hammer on the anvil as his grandfather shaped a new piece of iron from the forge.

He also remembered how William fitted a new iron tyre to the wooden-spoked wheel from a dray, first removing the old tyre, then heating the new tyre to a dull redness, the careful lifting of the new tyre over the wooden rim and the quick quenching of the flames on the rim. Donald loved pumping the bellows of the forge and the smell of the blacksmith's shop was unforgettable.

Visit [woodendhistory.com](http://woodendhistory.com)  
and [www.facebook.com/woodendhistory](http://www.facebook.com/woodendhistory)

for more information about the  
**Woodend & District Heritage Society**

SUBMITTED BY JANE HOLTH



**Photo 1463:** Mary Agnes Bradley and William Anthony Cocks, who were married in 1899.

**Photo 578:** Paddy Cocks outside his camp. During the 1930s he and his brother Jack worked as timber cutters and on road gangs around the Macedon Ranges. Note the use of old corrugated iron, hessian bags and kerosene tins.



### ARBORIST



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# Sacred Heart College Kyneton – a commitment to excellence

Students at Sacred Heart College experience an education defined by three equally important principles – the school's Catholic identity informed by its rich Mercy heritage; a commitment to excellence in learning and teaching; and, finally, supporting the wellbeing and growth of each young person in our Sacred Heart community.

The relatedness of the three principles above was reflected in the success of the College's Year 12 class who achieved outstanding results in both the VCE and VCE-VM pathways. The College's mean VCE study score was 30, our College Dux, Frida Foerster received an ATAR of 99.4, 23.6% of students achieved an ATAR of 80 or above and 47.3% of students achieved an ATAR of 70 or above. A study score of 50 was attained by Claire Freeman in Environmental Science.

We congratulate all from the Class of 2024 on their achievements. These

results reflect several years of hard work, and their successes provide tremendous opportunities for pathways into tertiary education and the world of work.

The 2025 Sacred Heart College theme is "Pilgrims of Hope".

This theme reinforces a global celebration by the Catholic Church where Pope Francis has decreed 2025 as a Jubilee year, where a year of good favour is declared. The special nature of the year will be recognised across the world, but especially in Rome, with a number of significant festivals. Melbourne will host one of these – the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in November/December 2025.

The theme also recognises the unique nature of a Sacred Heart College education where young people are encouraged to grow to become the best versions of themselves; in fact, to become 'pilgrims of hope'.

Students in Years 7, 10 and 12 will return to Sacred Heart College on Monday 3 February with all students onsite the following day – Tuesday 4 February. Classes commence with a particular focus on wellbeing through homeroom and year-level based activities. The emphasis on wellbeing is especially important for the new Year 7 students as they continue the critical transition from primary to secondary school education.

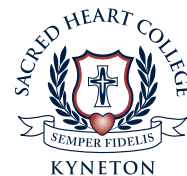
The first of our regular College tours for 2025 will be held on Tuesday 18 February. We welcome all those looking at options for their children's secondary journey to learn more about the diverse educational offerings of Sacred Heart College Kyneton by attending a tour – bookings and further information are available via the College website ([www.shckyneton.catholic.edu.au](http://www.shckyneton.catholic.edu.au)).

Photo: The Class of 2024

DR DARREN EGBERTS, PRINCIPAL



## Learn. Care. *flourish*



### Choosing a school for your child?

Limited vacancies available for Years 9 - 12, 2025.

Learn more about the broad range of opportunities on offer at Sacred Heart College by joining one of our regular College Tours.

Our next tours are scheduled for:

Tuesday 18 February and Thursday 6 March.

Visit the College website for tour bookings.



Scan for tour bookings

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