

The New **Woodend Star**

Rotary  Club of Woodend

SEPTEMBER 2025
Volume 29 | Issue 8

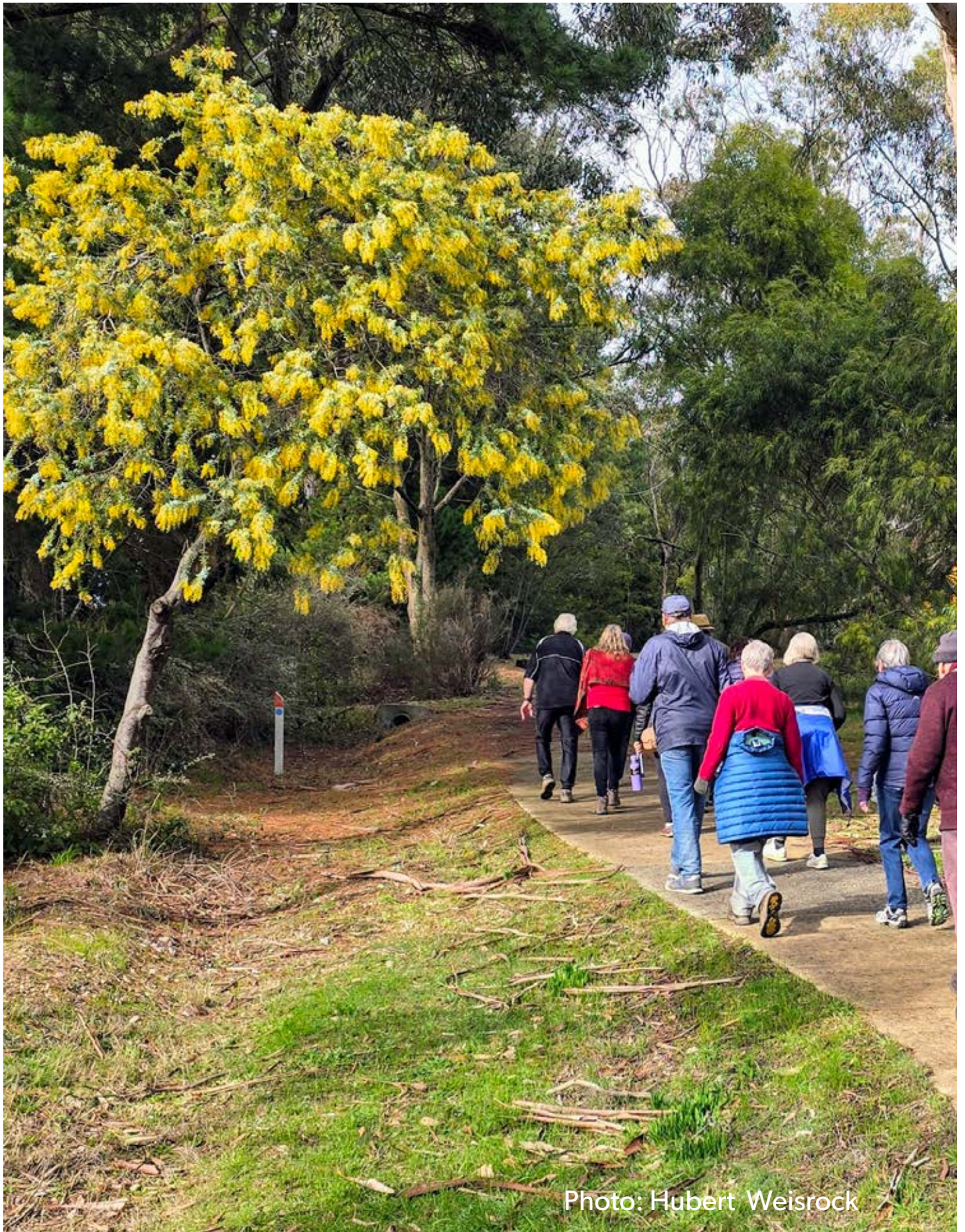


Photo: Hubert Weisrock

First published 1997 – by the community, for the community

PUBLISHER

The Rotary Club of Woodend

ABN 32 685 225 161 No. A0021518E

PO Box 333 Woodend 3442

Published monthly (except January).

Distributing 4,200 free copies across Woodend 3442 postal district.

CONTRIBUTE ARTICLES

First read our editorial policy on www.newwoodendstar.com. Please submit your story [with pictures, if you have them] by email to content@newwoodendstar.org.au.

The cut-off date for copy is the 15th of each month, preceding publication.

BOOK YOUR ADVERTISING

www.newwoodendstar.com

Advertising Rates – *plus GST

Size	Width x Height	Cost*
Trade services	60 x 40mm	\$50
Classified	90 x 40mm	\$50
Eighth page (Bus Card)	90 x 55mm	\$71
Quarter page V	90 x 134mm	\$142
Quarter page H	190 x 55mm	\$142
Strip	190 x 100 mm	\$220
Half page V	90 x 270 mm	\$263
Half page H	190 x 134mm	\$263
Full page	190 x 277mm	\$435

READ CURRENT + BACK ISSUES

www.newwoodendstar.com/view

CONTACT US

@ content@newwoodendstar.org.au
0458 525 671, 10–3 Mon–Fri
@ accounts@newwoodendstar.org.au
Questions? Email preferred

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Tony Waters (Chair)
Adriaan Adolph (Vice Chair)
Dr Elaine Saunders (Secretary)
Jane Watters (Treasurer)
Kellie Flanagan (Copyeditor)
Josephine Falzarano (Editor)
Terry Longton (Distribution)
Kelly Griffiths (Social Media)

DISCLAIMER

Articles and comments published in this newspaper are the result of contributions and relevant news articles pertinent to the Woodend district. No person from the Rotary Club of Woodend Inc., *The New Woodend Star* or the editorial team is liable for any mistakes, omissions, or misprints. They make no representation of any description as to the truth or accuracy of any statement contained herein and accept no liability for any loss suffered by any person who relies on any statement contained herein. The committee reserves the right to omit, reject, cut, alter or otherwise re-work submitted articles and photos to make them suitable. Persons or organisations submitting material for publication in *The New Woodend Star* do so on the condition that *The New Woodend Star* has the right to reproduce this material in any format. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editorial team, or The Rotary Club of Woodend. Submission does not guarantee publication.



This paper is a member of
Community Newspapers
Association Victoria

Supported by



Printed by Bart n Print
20-22 Deborah Street
Bendigo, VIC 3555



Vale Councillor Christine Walker



Council is mourning the sudden passing of South Ward Councillor, Christine Walker, having been made aware of the tragic news on Saturday morning.

Fellow South Ward Councillor and Mayor, Dom Bonanno, said: "I have spoken with Christine's husband Andrew and on behalf of Council, offered our deepest collective condolences and any support the family may need through this incredibly difficult time."

"This news has left me and many others in total shock. Christine brought a natural warmth and humour to the Councillor role, but she was also incredibly inquisitive, thoughtful and regularly offered valuable insights from her experience as a market researcher. Vale Christine – you will be sorely missed, and our thoughts and prayers are with Andrew, daughter Isobel, and the wider Walker family."

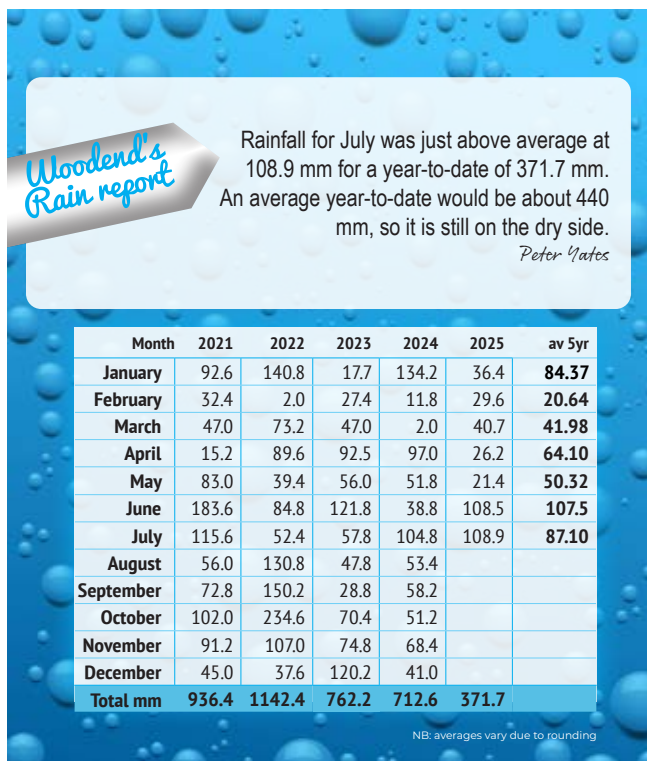
Cr Walker was first elected to the role in November 2023 through a countback to fill a vacancy caused by a resignation. She was then re-elected for a four-year term at the October 2024 Council Elections.

Council's CEO Bernie O'Sullivan said Council staff were also notified of the shock news over the weekend and staff who worked closely with Christine will really feel this loss.

"I join the Mayor on behalf of Council and staff in offering my sincere condolences to Andrew, Isobel, and the extended Walker family," Mr O'Sullivan said. "Our Councillors become family in many ways – we are feeling this sudden loss deeply and will do for a long time."

"Christine came into the role later than those around her in her first term, but she showed great willingness to weather the whirlwind of information to support and speed up her induction. Her community-driven approach, attention to detail and warmth were respected by all those around her."

Council will be making no further comment at this point in time and ask that the Walker family be given time and space to privately grieve. More information on the Councillor vacancy will be provided in due course, in consultation with the Victorian Electoral Commission.



Individual Tax Returns
Bookkeeping
Business Returns and Advice

27 Urquhart St, Woodend, Vic 3442
info@rotallieo.com.au
1300 136 733

We can help you with all of your accounting and compliance needs

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.



Budburst 2025

Budburst Wine Festival | Get lost to discover the world's most mysterious wine region

15–16 November | Macedon Ranges Wine Region

Budburst is back for another fabulous weekend. Taking place Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 November 2025, this is your once-a-year opportunity to go beyond the cellar door, sip rare wines you won't find anywhere else, and meet the passionate people who craft some of Australia's most exciting cool-climate wines. At Budburst, you don't just taste wine ... you wander. You wonder. You get a little lost and you discover something rare and unforgettable.

Over two festival days, more than 20 winemakers across 15+ Budburst venues will open their doors to offer wine tastings and varied food and entertainment offerings, while sharing their stories. From established icons to hidden gems, Budburst is all about connection – between the makers, the wines, and you.

Just under an hour from Melbourne, but a world away from ordinary, Budburst is a must for wine enthusiasts, culture seekers and weekend wanderers Victoria-wide and beyond to get lost in the wine, the produce and the magic of Macedon Ranges. Festival hours run from 10am to 5pm each day, with tastings, curated food menus, and the chance to chat directly with the winemakers at every stop.

Transport options

Leave the driving to someone else and jump on one of the hop-on/hop-off Budburst Saturday bus routes. On Saturday, Budburst buses will take ticket holders directly to cellar doors around the Macedon Ranges, allowing you to visit up to five Budburst venues, with 6+ wineries on each loop. On Sunday we will also be offering a limited bus service. Tickets are \$105 for a combined bus ticket and weekend festival pass.

Alternatively, a number of local wine tour companies have bespoke options for you to choose from. More information is available on

the Budburst website. If you prefer to plan your own adventure, a number of suggested self-drive itineraries will be available on the festival website.

Festival passes start from \$39 and weekend passes from only \$52, and are on sale now!

Tickets include:

- A keepsake Plumm crystal Macedon Ranges wine glass
- A festival passport with all the details you need to make the most of your weekend
- Wine tastings across participating wineries
- Designated drivers and children under 18 are invited to join the festival for free.

Come for the wine. Stay for the stories. Budburst 2025 – where cool wines and warm hearts await. More details to come at budburst.com, your one-stop shop for planning your weekend.

Tickets: Available from budburst.com

SUBMITTED BY MACEDON RANGES VIGNERONS ASSOCIATION



YOUR LOCAL, TRUSTED TRANSPORT SERVICE

- Appointment Services
- Airport Transfers
- Event Transport

Book online



0480 480 691 **kimco.com.au**





EVOLVEWINDOWS

MACEDON RANGES
**TIMBER WINDOWS
& DOORS**

REPLACE YOUR WINDOWS, SAVE ON BILLS

UPGRADE TO HIGH-PERFORMANCE
WINDOWS & DOORS

*Free expert consult, measure, thermal assessment
& professional advice – obligation free.*

**BOOK YOUR FREE
ASSESSMENT TODAY!**

03 8746 9777

info@evolvewindows.com.au

evolvewindows.com.au

988 Black Forest Drive, Woodend



ALUMINIUM, TIMBER & THERMALLY BROKEN WINDOWS

 **Mortgage Choice**

part of  realestate.com.au

FREE - Home Loan Check Up

5427 4262

87 HIGH STREET WOODEND 3442

BOUND

Macedon Ranges



(RHYS NUTTALL)

0438 383 221

rhys@boundrealestate.com.au



(LYNNE PAYNE)

0479 068 228

lynne@boundrealestate.com.au



(PAUL BOHAN)

0413 594 224

paul@boundrealestate.com.au

Selling this Spring? Try the Bound way.



Scan the QR Code to visit our website:
boundrealestate.com.au



(DAMIEN WALDER)

0439 391 569

damien@boundrealestate.com.au



(CAROLYN RYAN)

0407 393 079

carolyn@boundrealestate.com.au



(ALEX WHITE)

0488 990 212

alex@boundrealestate.com.au



Grand Final Week

PIE NIGHT

**A fundraiser for the
Woodend Junior Football/Netball Club**

Thursday 25 September, 6.30pm

**Woodend Hesket Football Club Rooms
1 Davy Street Woodend**

**Join us for a family friendly night of football fun,
trivia quizzes, handball competitions and more.**

**Dress code 'footy themed'
prize for 'best dressed'**

COST: Family \$45 (2 adults 2 kids)

adults - \$15, under 18 - \$10,

children under 6 - free

Ticket includes pies and hot dogs.

Drinks @ bar prices



RSVP 20th September

Booking essential via

<https://www.trybooking.com/DERBS>



Photo: Youth Exchange volunteers and host families formed the welcoming committee. Oscar and Clara centre under the sign

Woodend Rotary welcomes new exchange student

Woodend Rotary has welcomed a new 12-month exchange student, Clara from Spain, who is among many Year 10 or Year 11 students who choose to spend time abroad to experience new cultures. Clara will stay with two host families from the school community and will attend Sacred Heart College.

At the heart of this global exchange program, Rotary's main principle is to foster peace through friendships and understanding.

Clara will also attend many Rotary meetings and events, including a special safari designed to further her understanding about Australia. While here, Clara will learn much more about Australia and Rotary's programs and achievements.

Our club is also sponsoring Oscar, an outbound student, who will spend 12 months at a secondary school in Italy.

The Rotary Youth Exchange Program is always seeking host families for incoming youth exchange students. If you would like to learn more, please contact Woodend Rotary Club via www.woodendrotary.org.au.

SUBMITTED BY JOSEPHINE FALZARANO



Photo: President Rosemary Guyatt receiving a Club banner from Clara's hometown Rotary Club in Spain



Tony Waters Legal

Your Local Woodend Lawyer

Contact Tony | 0418 528 509

E: tony@tonywaterslegal.au

➤ **Conveyancing and property transactions**

➤ **Commercial law and business matters**

W: www.tonywaterslegal.au



Let's give our threatened species a helping hand, starting in our own backyards

Gisborne's endangered vegetation and waterways receive restoration boost

Waterways, vegetation, and habitats for some of the Gisborne area's most vulnerable wildlife are set to benefit from a significant grant-funded restoration over the next three years.

Federal Member for McEwen Rob Mitchell MP, Mayor Dom Bonanno and CEO Bernie O'Sullivan, visited Jacksons Creek earlier this year to celebrate the successful grant of \$838,295, funded by the Australian Government's National Heritage Trust under the Urban Rivers and Catchments Program.

The project aims to improve the ecological health of the headwaters of the Maribyrnong catchment in and around the Gisborne and Macedon townships, benefitting native species including the Gang-gang Cockatoo, platypus, and various grassland and creek-line species.

It will involve site preparation works, revegetation, and management of threats to successful establishment (including targeting high-threat weeds, pest animal impacts, fire management, and monitoring works).

The objective of the Urban Rivers and Catchments Program is to conserve native and threatened plant and animal species and waterways in urban, outer urban/peri-urban, and regional centres. The project aligns with Council's environmental strategic plans including the Biodiversity Strategy 2018, Macedon Ranges Strategic Environmental Works Plan 2021, Environmental Management Plans for Bunjil and Howey Creek, and the Djirri Djirri Waterway Reserve – Revegetation Plan 2024.

The project is due to commence this month and will be completed in 2028.



Photo: (from L to R) Macedon Ranges Shire Council Mayor Dom Bonanno, Federal Member for McEwen Rob Mitchell MP and Macedon Ranges Shire Council CEO

Climate-smart support available to farmers

More than \$76 million in funding to 54 projects across the country has been announced, which will help farmers adopt more climate-smart, sustainable agriculture practices.

One such project, North Central CMA's Climate Positive Farming Initiative, is making \$1.8 million available to the region.

Partnering with the agricultural sector to encourage the adoption of more sustainable farming practices, the project provides information on carbon and climate incentives, promoting best practices in regenerative agriculture, and focusing on innovation and soil health.

North Central CMA will partner with farmers, communities, First Nations People, universities, and industry by establishing climate adaptation plans for farmers, and running education programs around improving soil health and efficient land management.

The projects are funded under the Natural Heritage Trust's Climate-Smart Agriculture Program and will seek to build on local knowledge, targeting what is most needed, from improving soil health, combating land degradation and improving water-use efficiency to farm-management planning and revegetation.

Activities such as on-farm demonstrations and workshops will increase awareness and adoption by farmers and landholders.

The Member for Bendigo, Lisa Chesters MP lauded the program, and said, "This is a significant investment that will help local farmers adopt climate-smart farming practices, delivering better outcomes for rural communities and the environment."

The Climate-Smart Agriculture Program runs over five years from 2023 to 2028. For a full list of projects and to learn more visit: agriculture.gov.au/climate-smart.

SUBMITTED BY KATE SUTHERLAND, OFFICE OF LISA CHESTERS MP

Newham & District Landcare Group AGM



Newham & District Landcare Group AGM presents David Holmgren, co-founder of Permaculture, speaking on "Integrating Permaculture and Landcare".

David will talk about his twelve Permaculture Principles and how they can be integrated into Landcare's aims, through initiatives such as biolinks, shelterbelts and weed control on small to medium sized landholdings in the Macedon Ranges. David Holmgren and Bill Mollison co-founded Permaculture in 1977.

A light supper will be provided; wine is available by the glass for a donation.

Newham Hall, Friday 12 September

Please arrive at 6.45pm for a 7pm start for AGM

7.15pm: Speaker David Holmgren

Admission is FREE.

Bookings are required -- please scan the QR code or go to <https://www.trybooking.com/DDZJC> to book.

For further information, contact Bruce Hedge on 0427 888 122.





Yea Garden Expo

The Rotary Club is again hosting its popular Yea Garden Expo on Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 September from 9am to 3pm each day.

This is perfect timing for gardeners preparing their gardens for spring colour. The Expo provides an opportunity to view a host of garden-related products at the Yea Saleyards site (Flat Lead Road), just off the Yea-Whittlesea Road, a few kilometres on the south side of Yea. The site is flat, sealed and easily accessible, and dogs are welcome, provided they are kept on leads.

The cost of just \$12 entry fee for adults (\$10 booked online and \$10 Concession) includes free parking; ample food options are available throughout the day, including egg and bacon rolls for the early starters, a gourmet BBQ, homemade soups and Devonshire teas, Indian food, and coffee vans. Seventy vendors will be onsite, with exhibits ranging from bulbs, seeds, seedlings, flowering plants, and trees, to garden tools and equipment, garden art and ornaments, compost, fertilisers and more.

The popular speaker program will feature Black Snake Productions on Saturday at 12.30pm. A host of friendly native animals to learn about and engage with in a fun and interactive way are sure to be a highlight with kids and adults. Plus, popular presenter Craig Castree from regenEdible, a local bee keeper, a landscape architect and more.

For more details of the speaker program, visit www.yearotary.org.au and/or keep up to date via Facebook (Yea Garden Expo). Tickets may be purchased at the gate or prebooked via www.trybooking.com/DBYVB

SUBMITTED BY GLENDA WOODS, PUBLIC IMAGE DIRECTOR

YE A

GARDEN EXPO

20 & 21 SEP 2025

9AM - 3PM

Location: Yea Saleyards
(Flat Lead Road, Yea (see website for directions))

Only an hour from Melbourne!

- Native & flowering plants
- Garden sculptures
- Motorised barrows & vehicles
- Garden tools & Vegetable bins
- Seedlings
- Mulch, fertilisers & compost
- Ride-on & push mowers
- Nurseries
- Small chainsaws
- Roses
- Deciduous & Ornamental trees
- Garden books
- Plant Creche
- Speakers Program
- And much more....

FOOD & DRINKS
AVAILABLE!

Entry \$12 at the gate - \$10 booked online
Concession \$10
Kids U/16 FREE.
Pay at the gate or book online via www.trybooking.com
www.trybooking.com/DBYVB (Bookings open August 1st)

FREE PARKING

Contact: yeagardenexpo@gmail.com
www.yearotary.org.au



Every backyard counts – National Threatened Species Day

Sunday 7 September 2025 is National Threatened Species Day. It is a reminder that even the smallest actions can make a big difference for our native plants and animals – and it all starts in your own backyard.

As more of our natural habitat is lost or fragmented, our backyards and balconies are becoming important refuges for wildlife. Whether it's insects buzzing in the garden, lizards warming themselves on a rock, or birds stopping in for a drink – your garden can provide much-needed food, water and shelter.

Insects might not get much attention, but they're vital to our ecosystems. They pollinate plants, break down organic matter and support frogs, lizards and birds further up the food chain.

So how can you help? Try planting a few locally native species, leave some leaf litter for skinks, or put out a shallow dish of water for thirsty birds and bees. Even a single pot of flowers on a balcony can help attract pollinators.

Not sure where to start? Head to mrsc.vic.gov.au/backyard-biodiversity for easy-to-follow fact sheets and ideas on what native species you could attract and what to plant.

You really can make a difference – one garden, one plant, one action at a time.

PETE'S GARDENING & MAINTENANCE

- ✓ MOWING
- ✓ WEED CONTROL

- ✓ GUTTERS
- ✓ PRUNING
- ✓ CLEAN UPS

0438 488 776

Strengthening the Woodend community

Federal Member for McEwen Rob Mitchell was proud to congratulate local Woodend community groups for successful grant applications under the Stronger Communities Grant program in August.

The Stronger Communities Programme (SCP) provides grants of between \$2,500 and \$20,000 to community organisations and local governments for infrastructure projects that deliver social benefits for local communities.

A number of Woodend groups were successful in receiving funding for some innovative projects.

The Woodend Golf Club's successful grant funding will allow them to rehabilitate a disused quarry on the course and convert it into an open space suitable for native plantings, passive recreation and golf.

"The area is currently infested with blackberries and other weeds, is not accessible and poses fire and other environmental risks, as it harbors foxes, rabbits and other pests," Club secretary James O'Brien said.

"Earthworks will allow for better public access, and extensive indigenous plantings

of native grasses and plants will encourage the restoration of habitat for native wildlife," he said.

Another local grant recipient is Woodend Bowling Club, who applied for funds to assist them to purchase and install a renewable energy source.

"With electricity one of our largest expenses, especially when hosting a large number of bowling and community events each year, the purchase and installation of a solar panel and inverter system will go a long way to reducing these costs in an environmentally friendly manner," Club President Mike Dornau said.

"Our club is hosting more and more community events and we like to be able to only charge low 'mates' rates' for volunteer and community groups who wish to use the space. Reducing our overheads will go a long way to help us do this."

Mr Mitchell encourages all community groups to look out for the next round of Stronger Communities Grants, which will be advertised on his social media pages.

"Congratulations to the Woodend Golf

Club and the Woodend Bowling Club on their successful applications and for the contribution they make to our local community," Mr Mitchell said.

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE MOGRIDGE, OFFICE OF ROB MITCHELL MP



Photo: Rob Mitchell with Tony Lennie and Woodend Bowling Club members.



OPENING RETAIL EVERY WEEKEND

**Saturday and Sunday
10 am till 4pm**

**Starting from the the 5th and 6th
of September 2025, then every
weekend thereafter.**

We will have on offer:

- 60 Varieties of Fuchsias
- 20 Varieties of Herbaceous Peony and Peony Itoah established in 20cm pots (don't fear growing Peony. We will teach you to be successful. When you know, they are easy to grow!)
- 10 Varieties of Tree Peony established in 20cm pots
- Many Varieties of Rare and Unusual Trees and Shrubs in large pots including Lilacs, Magnolias, Hydrangeas Ginko's, Bay trees, Philadelphus (mock orange), Chimonanthus praecox, Contorted Filbert, Maples and Conifers, just to name a few.
- We have gathered many varieties of plants from our growers that we know our customers love, including Virginia Creeper, Boston Ivy, Osmanthus fragrans (Sweet Olive), Haemanthus (blood lily), Lycoris (spider lily) and so much more.
- And Perennials, too many to mention, including Pacific Coast Iris, Acanthus Mollis, Russell Lupins, Dicentra

spectabilis (bleeding heart), Fairy Fishing Rods, Fox Gloves, Blue Glow Sea Holly, Lily of the Valley, Beer Hop varieties and many varieties of Berries.

- We will have bulbs such as Ixia, Sandersonia, Calla Lily, Tropaeolum, Belladonna, Pleones (Chinese ground orchids) and Black Arum etc. to name a few.

This is an exciting new extension to our existing mail-order/specific show nursery, and we look forward to welcoming you to browse, chat, have a few laughs and look at plants that are rarer, more unusual and perfect for our climate.

Come and visit us at

White House Nursery

691 Ashbourne Road, Ashbourne VIC 3442

For more information please phone:

Jesse on 0419 002 651

Parking at rear of property. Please use the toilets in Woodend before you come, as we don't have the facilities on site.

The importance of plant guards

There are many reasons why plant guards are used when planting seedlings. Their primary role is to protect the tiny plants from:

- grazing by rabbits, kangaroos, etc
- wind and harmful weather
- trampling by people, dogs, etc
- destruction by mowers, whipper snippers, etc
- smothering and competition for resources by surrounding weeds (when used with a weed mat).

However, there are also many less obvious reasons for using plant guards, including:

- making a visual statement of where revegetation activities have taken place
- enabling easy identification of small natives from surrounding weedy vegetation. This is particularly important for native grass-like seedlings and bulbs that die back for part of the year.
- cordoning off areas from mowing to enable natural regrowth within revegetation sites.
- enabling data collection to monitor seedling survival rates, so planting success can be improved (even guards around dead seedlings give us important information!).
- enabling easy identification of seedlings for follow up watering and weed control.

Why don't we guard every plant?

Plant guards are expensive and installation takes time, so we don't guard plants unless we think it is really necessary.



Every planting site is different. For example, in our recent Black Gum Biolink plantings between Jeffreys Street and the Scout Hall, we mainly only guarded plants along the path to form a 'fence'. The majority of the plants inside the revegetation area are simply marked with a bamboo stake, as the mulch will prevent them from being smothered by weeds.

What sort of guards do we use?

There are many different plant guards available. Traditionally we have mainly used plastic sleeves held in place by bamboo stakes. However, as the use of plastic is no longer desirable, we only use plastic plant guards in places where they are unlikely to wash or blow into a waterway, and these are reused guards.

Instead, we now use biodegradable cardboard guards, which break down if they end up in the creek. Cardboard guards come in various sizes, with the larger guards having holes in the sides as well as the top, to allow light in. The size of the guard used is matched to the plant and the conditions.

Please, do not remove plant guards!

Woodend Landcare has spent a lot of time and money buying and installing plant guards. Recently guards have been disappearing before the seedlings are big enough to survive without them.

We strongly request that nobody removes plant guards for the reasons outlined above. Woodend Landcare volunteers will take away the guards when the time is right.

If anyone wishes to learn more about revegetation, including joining our volunteers to remove plant guards in due time, please contact us: woodendlandcare@gmail.com

Next Working Bee

Sunday 14 Sept, 9am – midday. Weed control along Five Mile Creek, between Bowen and Wood Strets.



WOODEND COMMUNITY FARMERS MARKET

**POWERED BY
VOLUNTEERS**

FRESH, LOCAL FOOD

ZERO WASTE

**FIRST SATURDAY
OF EVERY MONTH
9 AM TO 1 PM**



**SIGN
UP**

**JOIN IN &
VOLUNTEER**

2 HR SHIFTS:

7AM - 9AM

9AM-11AM

11AM - 1PM

1PM-2:30PM



MRSG.ORG.AU/FARMERS-MARKETS





Breath testing millions of drivers this year.

Police are out there to keep our roads safe. If you've been drinking, don't drive. Getting caught with a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of 0.05 and over will result in loss of licence and significant fines. Chances are you will be caught.

Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone.

TAC

VICTORIA
State
Government





Authentic,
sustainable &
beautiful
funeral care
for you, your
family &
community

Call (03) 5427 3112
Visit naturalgrace.com.au

Founded and Grown in Woodend

National Day of Action demystified end-of-life care

Dying to Know Day on August 8 is a National Day of Action acknowledging the final stage of life and encouraging Australians not to wait to talk about death. To mark this day, Natural Grace in Woodend held an open day with the aims of demystifying how a funeral home works and providing visitors with the opportunity to ask lots of questions.

And people did just that. Dozens of people attended, and conversations were held on a wide variety of topics, with no question being off limits.

Sharon Tregoning, Practice Manager and Holistic Funeral Director said that "numerous attendees commented on how beneficial it had been for them. Fears were addressed and plans were made."

Sharon said, "The enthusiasm and excitement from our community was heartwarming for us. We thank Clare and Win, who wanted their photo taken before they even walk in the front door."

To keep the momentum going, Natural Grace encourages the following actions:

- Ensure that the necessary paperwork is in place that conveys your wishes – advance care directive, power of attorney, will
- Have conversations with the important people in your world explaining your wishes
- Learn about what options are available to you
- Participate in a complimentary planning session with Natural Grace

"We are very thankful to our community and invite them to book a complimentary planning session to assist them in documenting their wishes."

For any bookings, please contact them on 5427 3112.

Natural Grace's next event will be having a presence at the Zero Waste Festival being held at Federation Square on Saturday 6 September, from 10am to 4pm.

SUBMITTED BY SHARON TREGONING

The Old Auction House

The home of creativity in the Macedon Ranges since 2017, The Old Auction House is your one-stop location to learn, experience, and explore art and craft.

Our carefully selected group of teachers are passionate about sharing their mediums; running workshops from term drawing, painting, and glass, through to short courses allowing you a taste of your new creative endeavour. With craft parties filling the Kyneton Craftery studios, young creatives are not left out; we welcome guests from ages 7+ with each taking home their artworks.

For the connoisseurs of creativity who prefer to experience the talents of others, our gallery spaces host a wide range of exhibitions throughout the year – with something different to explore every month. There is never a bad time to spoil your friends and family with quality giftware from our retail space. Our 100+ makers showcase the best of Australian handmade, specialising in jewellery, homewares, toys, cards, accessories, and much more.

Once your imagination is firing, you will find a wide range of all our favourite art and craft supplies to continue your journey at home. Our range includes paints, dyes, printmaking supplies, scrapbooking materials, fine art papers, polymer clay, and plenty of supplies for little makers.

We are proud to be a part of the creative community of the Macedon Ranges and hope to inspire creativity in your family.

HANDMADE GIFTS & ART SUPPLIES

ART & CRAFT WORKSHOPS & PARTIES

CONTEMPORARY ART GALLERY

**HOME OF CREATIVITY IN THE MACEDON RANGES
SINCE 2017**

52-56 MOLLISON ST, KYNETON
THEOLDAUCTIONHOUSE.COM.AU

GIFTS & ART SUPPLIES GALLERY
ART & CRAFT WORKSHOPS OPEN 7 DAYS

THE OLD AUCTION HOUSE





Think You Earn Too Much for Energy Rebates? Think Again

Most rebates are not means tested and everyone is eligible!

We hear it all the time: “We don’t qualify, we earn too much.”

The reality is, most energy rebates available are not means-tested. That means even high-income households in the Macedon Ranges can still access thousands in support when upgrading to solar, hot water, adding a battery, or switching off gas heating.

We’ve helped households claim over \$15,000 with no income caps, no red tape, and no gimmicks.

Here’s what’s on the table:

Battery Storage: Cheaper Home Battery Program

Get \$3,000 to \$15,000+ in upfront support based on battery size. Available once per property.

Heat Pump Hot Water: STCs + VEECs

Receive around \$1,200 in combined support for upgrading an old gas or electric storage unit. Stackable with Solar Victoria rebates (if eligible).

Heating & Cooling: VEECs

Switching from gas ducted heating? You could access \$3,000–\$5,000+ in VEECs when replacing gas heating with efficient electric heating.

What’s Means-Tested?

Only the \$1,400 Solar Victoria rebate for solar or hot water is income-based. The rest? Fair game.

Take Steve from Woodend. He assumed they earned too much for any help until they called us. With the right plan, they accessed:

- \$10,000+ in solar and battery rebates
- \$1,200 in hot water support
- \$4,000+ to replace their gas ducted heating

That’s more than \$15,000 in rebates, all without sacrificing quality or filling out endless forms.

Bottom line?

Don’t rule yourself out. Most of the real money in rebates comes from STCs and VEECs, and these drop in value every year (The sooner you act, the more support you get).

Book your free home energy consult and let’s find out what’s possible for your home.

“



“Bluegum were spot on!!

Professional attitude. A great team and a clean finished job. 34 panels and a big battery and we’re happy campers!!” ~Sean

”

Call 1300 306 342
or scan the QR code
to find out what’s
possible for your home.



Scan Me

Chantel & Josh Gilbert

Award Winning Local Energy Experts
Bluegum Electrical Solutions | Est. 2014





Australia Day Grants are coming soon

The Australia Day Grants program supports community groups to hold free events/acknowledgment ceremonies to mark 26 January in a way that is respectful of all community members. These events can be hosted on any day, one week before or after 26 January 2026 (between 19 January to 2 February 2026).

Council recognises that Australia Day/26 January is not a day of celebration for all, especially for First Nations Australians. Any activities funded through this program should align to Council's current vision: "With our unique regional identity, Macedon Ranges Shire embodies a caring, resilient approach to community through our robust local economy, protection of the natural environment and a collaborative commitment to inclusivity for all."

Groups can apply for up to \$1,000 per group/event.

Applications are opening soon, keep an eye on the Council webpage mrsc.vic.gov.au/About-Council/Find-A-Grant/Australia-Day-Grants for details on how to apply.

Applications from community groups that may not have applied for Council funding before are encouraged.

To discuss your ideas or for any questions, call (03) 5422 0333 or email grants@mrsc.vic.gov.au

Message from your councillors



Welcome to September. Spring is here, bringing fresh landscapes, brighter days, and renewed energy across our community.

Last month, we were deeply saddened by the sudden passing of South Ward Councillor, Cr Christine Walker. Christine, in her second term on the council, contributed greatly with her intelligence, humour, market research expertise, and strategic insights. She was also a much-loved Mount Macedon local and friend.

Tributes from groups such as The Mount Players, Macedon & Mount Macedon Community House, and Change It Up Training reflected just how many lives she touched. Christine's impact was evident by the sheer volume of loved ones and overflow at her funeral. Vale, Christine Walker.

Council recently received a briefing on the Macedon Ranges Cultural Centre – a proposed project to revitalise the Woodend Community Centre and Library at High and Forest Streets. The project aims to enhance the area's cultural landscape by upgrading the current buildings, which are experiencing wear and tear, and utilising the spaces more effectively to meet the growing community's needs and the increasing tourism. Learn more at therangesculturalcentre.com.

At the July meeting, Council endorsed the release of the draft Woodend Racecourse Reserve Master Plan for four weeks of community consultation. The draft also included the potential inclusion of a facility to accommodate a Woodend Men's Shed, acknowledging previous interest expressed by the group. Once consultation opens, feedback can be shared via yoursay.mrsc.vic.gov.au.

The first hearing of the parliamentary inquiry into wildlife roadstrike was recently held in Bendigo. Witnesses included wildlife rescuers, researchers, and representatives from Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Macedon Ranges Wildlife Network, Wildlife Rescue Information Network, and RSPCA Victoria. Two-week-old wombat joeys were even presented as a poignant reminder of the impact of road strikes on native wildlife. Thank you to all who represented our region with such dedication.

Finally, we will soon announce the next round of listening posts and community catch-ups. We hope to see many of you there. In the meantime, remember you can always get in touch with us by phone or email.

SUBMITTED BY CR KATE KENDALL ON BEHALF OF WEST WARD COUNCILLORS

JSLAW

Barristers & Solicitors



"Experienced local Lawyers who listen, understand and advise"

Specialising in family law - parenting and property, criminal law, intervention orders - family violence

T: 03 5444 1181 E: admin@jslaw.com.au

A: Woodend - 2/34 Urquhart Street

A: Bendigo - 72 Queen Street

w: www.jslaw.com.au

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation



Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan and dog off-leash update

Council's draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026–2029 (DAMP) and dog off-leash and prohibited areas review consultation update:

Thank you to everyone who took the time to provide feedback during Council's consultations for the draft DAMP and Council's dog off-leash and prohibited areas review. The next steps for each project are outlined below.

To receive email updates about either project:

1. Visit yoursay.mrsc.vic.gov.au/furry-friends
2. Click Follow at the top of the page
3. Sign up or log in

Following the page lets you opt in for updates on other consultations and feedback opportunities across the shire. It's quick and easy, and it helps you stay connected to the topics and locations that interest you most.

Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) 2026–2029

Feedback received regarding the draft DAMP (2026–2029) will assist Council to further refine the Draft DAMP 2026–2029.

The final draft DAMP 2026–2029, along with the consultation findings, is expected to be presented to Council to consider for adoption at its November 2025 Council Meeting. The new plan is then scheduled to be submitted to the Victorian Government in December 2025.

Proposed changes to dog off-leash and prohibited areas (for both dogs and cats)

Feedback received regarding Council's proposed changes to dog off-leash and prohibited areas – otherwise known as Schedule 1 (dog

off-leash areas) and Schedule 2 (prohibited areas for dogs and cats) of Council's Dog and Cat Order 2019, will be considered during early-mid 2026, as a first-year action of Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026–2029.

Final amendments to Council's dog off-leash and prohibited areas (Schedules 1 and 2 of Council's Dog and Cat Order 2019) are expected to be presented to Council in mid-2026.

Equine Land Management Grazing Course

The Equine Land Management Grazing Course has been designed to assist horse owners to improve their skills and knowledge about grazing horses. The course explores methods to increase soil health and perennial pasture species (including native species) while maintaining the health of their horses.

It is structured for small landowners (2–20Ha) with grazing horses and is designed to use the resources and time you have available to improve your property. The course is presented by Jason McAinch, Council's Private Land Conservation Officer, with a local horse owner.

The course will run across three sessions: Friday 17 October, 31 October, and 14 November from 2–6pm.

On completion of the course, an optional one-hour, one-on-one practical visit to your property will be available.

Further information can be found at:

mrsc.vic.gov.au/Live-Work/Environment/Land-Management/Healthy-Landscapes#section-3

DOUBLE GLAZE YOUR EXISTING TIMBER WINDOWS

**REDUCE UP TO
70% HEAT LOSS
IN YOUR HOME**

Free, no-obligation
quotes

*Your Local Glaziers
for Over 50 Years*



macedonrangesglass.com.au

Gisborne
☎ 03 5428 2899

Kyneton
☎ 03 5422 1724



Draft Woodend Racecourse Reserve Master Plan out for consultation

As endorsed at the July 2025 Council Meeting, Council is inviting community feedback on the draft Woodend Racecourse Reserve Master Plan throughout September 2025.

Informed by earlier community consultation on issues and opportunities throughout August–September 2024, this plan proposes improvements to sport and recreational facilities to meet the needs of a growing community, enhancements to the site's heritage value and ongoing protection of the grasslands.

The draft master plan can be viewed at yoursay.mrsc.vic.gov.au and feedback is invited from 1 to 28 September 2025.

Council multipurpose rooms for hire

Council's multipurpose rooms are available for hire and can accommodate a wide range of activities and events. These spaces are suitable for meetings, classes, workshops, community programs, or small-scale events.

Each room is well-maintained, accessible, and equipped to support varied uses. Options include open spaces for fitness or dance classes, seated arrangements for presentations, or practical setups for group activities.

Hire is available on a casual or ongoing basis, and tours can be arranged through the Leisure team.

For availability and hire enquiries, visit:

mrsc.vic.gov.au/See-Do/Swimming-Sport-Fitness/Pools-and-leisure-centres



CLOUD DISTILLERY
MACEDON RANGES

**DOUBLE GOLD
AWARD WINNING GIN**
LOCALLY DISTILLED

MACEDON RANGES
HINCHINBROOK - LOCAL DISTILLERS

PINK GIN
100% MACEDON RANGES DISTILLERS

SAN FRANCISCO
WORLD SPIRITS
COMPETITION
DOUBLE GOLD

@clouddistilleryau
www.clouddistillery.com.au

Reclaim Energy hot water heat pump bulk buy

Save up to \$950* on a premium Reclaim Energy hot water heat pump

In conjunction with Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group and support from Reclaim Energy, t2zero is co-ordinating a community hot water upgrade initiative

- Trusted, high-performance Australian brand
- Super quiet, highly efficient and reliable – ideally suited to the region's cool climate
- Pairs perfectly with rooftop solar PV panels for emissions-free hot water
- Installations to be completed by 30 November 2025

Scan the QR code to register your interest in receiving obligation-free pricing.

Visit: t2zero.com.au/bulk-buy or call Jürgen: 0436 220 220



Save up to \$950*

*\$950 saving comprises \$550 bulk buy discount PLUS \$400 increase in the Solar Vic means tested hot water rebate for eligible applicants from 1-July



Suited to cold climates





CentralSpark
Local Energy Experts

Find out more



Grid Connected & Off Grid Solar Power

- Batteries • EV Charging
- Grid Augmentation
- Service & Maintenance

Office and workshop
10 Hitchcock St, Castlemaine

Office and showroom
3A Market Street, Kyneton

(03) 5462 5516
sales@central-spark.com



MASSAGE | WAXING | FACIALS
TINTING | LASH LIFT | SPRAY TANS



FATHER'S DAY GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE!

WWW.RAMAI.COM.AU
0438 062 143



Contact Vlad 0400 563 563
E: info@storagewoodend.com.au
22 Wood Street

SECURE SELF STORAGE UNITS



42 Urquhart Street, Woodend
OPEN 6 days Thursday to Tuesday
M: 0411 208 448 | E: chabit@bigpond.com



0412 210 010 | info@agiwindowsanddoors.com.au
agiwindowsanddoors.com.au
38 Beauchamp Street, Kyneton, 3444



Proud Manufacturers of AWS Australia

Manufactured in the Macedon Ranges



Hospitality submissions now open

2026 Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival submissions due soon

Food & Drink Trail submissions are now open for the Autumn Festival, 1 to 30 April 2026.

Initially, we are seeking Macedon Ranges-based hospitality businesses keen to participate in Australia's biggest Pie & Tart Trail, and/or the provision of signature seasonal drinks for the growing Tipple Trail.

How can your business take part?

- Australia's Biggest Pie and Tart Trail: celebrating pies or tarts featuring seasonal produce, or a great autumn theme. One item can be championed per business.
- Do you produce wine, gin, or another fermented or distilled alcoholic beverage? To be included in the Tipple Trails, simply hero one autumn-themed signature beverage at your venue.

To register, your venue must have a permanent street address. We will need the name of your menu item/s plus a few words to describe the experience on offer. Confirmed menu items will be listed on the Autumn Festival website (over 100,000 visitors) and the hardcopy print map with 20,000 copies to be distributed. Supported by a strong marketing campaign, we anticipate inspired, hungry, and thirsty Autumn Festival visitors will be making a beeline for your business during autumn!

Submit your interest by 30 September 2025 at bit.ly/2026AutumnFoodDrinkTrails

Need to know more? Contact us at macedonrangesautumnfestival@mrsc.vic.gov.au



Stadium Membership

Some of Council's indoor stadium facilities offer a casual use membership, which is designed for those seeking regular access to a particular facility without the commitment of joining a structured competition.

These memberships provide access during off peak / unbooked times to use the court for casual sports practice or to maintain an active lifestyle at a preferred pace. An online, live calendar would be made available to members so you can easily check court availability.

Stadium Membership offers flexibility, allowing members to use a facility at times that suit them, as often as required.

It is a practical, cost-effective option for individuals and families who value flexibility and high-quality facilities in a welcoming environment.

Membership provides year-round access to the space needed to stay active. Stadium Memberships are currently offered at Woodend Buffalo Sports Stadium, Riddells Creek Leisure Centre, Romsey Recreation Centre and Kyneton Toyota Sports & Aquatic Centre.

More information is available at:

mrsc.vic.gov.au/See-Do/Swimming-Sport-Fitness/ Pools-and-leisure-centres

Free to Be Me

The Free to Be Me Photo competition and exhibition is on again for 16 Days of Activism.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council is inviting people who live, work and play in the Macedon Ranges to submit photographs on the theme "free to be me".

We're looking for photographs showing people of all genders doing things that challenge traditional gender roles. For example, images of men being caring or gentle, women being strong or leading others, and non-binary people in activities or roles usually associated with a specific gender, like playing sports, studying, or creating things.

The photography competition and exhibition are presented as part of the UN 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence. Violence against women, girls and non-binary people is preventable. We can all take action to stop it. In challenging rigid beliefs about gender – and what we are all capable of – we can change the story.

Shortlisted photographs will be exhibited during the 16 Days of Activism (25 November–10 December 2025). Judging will take place during this time and prizes will be awarded at a celebration event in early December.

Entries open on 29 September and close on 2 November.

Visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/See-Do/Events-and-Awards/16-Days to enter or find out further details of all 16 Days of Activism events happening in the Macedon Ranges, or contact Council's Community Projects Officer, Lisa Richards, on 5422 0333.

Spring into Spring with MRDOC!

Spring into spring with Macedon Ranges Dog Obedience Club!

We are looking forward to some warmer weather finally arriving. It's a great time to start your puppies or dogs in training with us (yes our canine friends of all ages can benefit)! Still unsure? Let us provide some further information to assist:

Puppies must be a minimum age of 16 weeks and be fully vaccinated before they can start training

- Do you have an older dog and are wondering whether training is appropriate? The answer is: of course! Many dogs have joined our club as adults. The saying "you can't teach an old dog new tricks" could not be more untrue.
- Slightly worried that your dog may not be good with other dogs? We understand that some dogs need a little more space. Contact us first before you come with your dog – we can meet and assess your dog, and if required, we will provide a bandana for your dog to wear to signify to others not to approach without checking with you first (plus your dog will look super cute)!
- New members induction is held on the first Sunday of every month. You are required to join online initially before attending in person. Once we receive your application, you will be contacted via email to confirm the session time.

Here are some extra goodies for you ... upcoming events we have on the agenda for this October (sometimes it can be all fun and games):

19 October – Fun Day

26 October – Open Obedience Trial – No general training

If you are interested in joining us, we look forward to seeing you. Details can be found on the website at www.macedonrangesdogclub.org.au or contact us via our Facebook page or email info@macedonrangesdogclub.org.au and a representative from the club will contact you.

SUBMITTED BY LORETTO FRASER, MRDOC – INSTRUCTOR/COMMITTEE MEMBER



RSL Bistro open again!

Our Bistro is open again on Thursday and Friday nights. Come along and savour what we have to offer. Saige & Graze are doing an outstanding service with great reviews on the meals. Bookings, (either text or call), are preferred on 0486 268 536. Please advise the number of patrons and estimated arrival time. Open from 17:30 (5.30pm) till 20:00 (8pm). Everyone is welcome – you do not need to be a member of the RSL to come along and support us by partaking in a succulent meal and spending some time relaxing with friends and family. There are some refreshing cocktails available at the bar as well.

Our facilities are available for members and the community for weddings, memorials, birthdays, celebrations, annual dinners, and luncheons. We have an A1 commercial kitchen which you can hire to self-cater, or Saige & Graze may be able to cater depending on availability. Our bar is well stocked and our prices particularly good. We can open the bar for functions.

WOODEND RSL BISTRO
THURSDAY & FRIDAY FROM 5:30PM

Saige & Graze

BOOK VIA SMS
0486 268 536



HANGING ROCK MARKET

Saturday 9am-2pm
25th October
Hanging Rock Reserve

  @craftmarketsaus

Craft Markets Australia www.craftmarkets.com.au 03 5976 3266

Victorian Seniors Festival 2025

CONNECT CREATE CELEBRATE
1-31 October

Free and low-cost events in the Macedon Ranges

Event name	Date and time
All aboard for a day out in Bendigo! FREE EVENT lunch at own cost	Wednesday 1 October, 9:00 - 16:30
Get ready to groove – Castlemaine Concert! FREE EVENT lunch at own cost	Thursday 9 October, 10:15 - 17:30
High Tea at Dromkeen – a delightful afternoon awaits! FREE EVENT	Friday 17 October, 10:00 - 12:00
Step onto the hallowed turf of the 'G! FREE EVENT lunch at own cost	Monday 27 October, 9:00 - 17:15

Brought to you by Macedon Ranges Shire Council
One event per person | Bookings essential: Call 5422 0333
mrsc.vic.gov.au/seniors-festival

Victorian Seniors Festival 2025 | CONNECT CREATE CELEBRATE | VICTORIA State Government | Macedon Ranges Shire Council



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

SUNDAYS ONLY
in July, August and September
(10am to 4pm)

post office farm NURSERY

THE HELLEBORE SPECIALISTS

www.postofficefarmnursery.com.au

 934 ASHBOURNE RD, ASHBOURNE, VICTORIA 3442



School Holiday Fun – Treasure Hunt!

Citizen science adventure for kids

Join us for a fun-filled treasure hunt these school holidays as we explore the beautiful Jacksons Creek and Gisborne Botanic Gardens!

Can you discover an animal you've never seen before? Spot a colourful bird in the trees? Hear a frog calling from the reeds?

Together we'll walk by the creek and through the gardens, using our treasure hunt cards to spot birds, bugs, frogs and more. This is a great chance for kids to connect with nature, learn about local wildlife, and become mini citizen scientists!

When: Tuesday 30 September 2025

Time: 2.30–3.30pm

Where: Meet at the Macedon Ranges Shire Council's Gisborne Administration Centre car park

Bring a hat, water bottle, and your sense of adventure. Parents and carers must stay for the duration of the event.

Spots are limited – bookings are essential!

To register for any Environment events, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/environment-events



HOLGATE *brewhouse*
TAPROOM & VISITOR CENTRE

Enjoy freshly-brewed Holgate beer
plus local gin, wine and cider

~ Exclusive Specialty Beers ~ Lunch ~ Snacks ~
~ Board Games ~ Brewery Tours ~ Functions ~
~ Bottleshop ~ Courtyard ~

Open 7 Days from midday

Enter via Anslow St, at rear of historic Holgate Hotel
79 High Street, Woodend holgatebrewhouse.com



Creating Beautiful Gins You'll Love

DISTILLED BY PEOPLE
WHO LOVE THEIR GIN

www.bigtreedistillery.com.au



**Big on products.
Big on service.**

And big on local banking



Community Bank
Trentham & Districts

Bendigo Bank



Community Bank
Gisborne & District

Bendigo Bank

News from Trentham Branch



**Local
appointments
available**

Let's talk business.

Or drop into our Trentham branch.

We'd love to meet you!

Reach out:

Woodend appointments available

Edyta Wyatt — Branch Manager
and Mobile Lender

37b High Street,
Trentham VIC 3458

Email: [Trenthammailbox@
bendigoadelaide.com.au](mailto:Trenthammailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au)

Ph: (03) 5424 1608



News from Gisborne Branch

Spring round funding applications now open

Are you part of a community group making a real difference in Woodend and surrounds? Community Bank Gisborne & District's latest funding round is now open and will close on 30 September 2025.

In spring and autumn each year, we invite grant and sponsorship applications from local organisations with creative ideas that align with our impact pillars. If your project aims to build community capacity and wellbeing or strengthen our local environment, we encourage you to apply.

This funding is made possible by the 5,000+ local residents and businesses who choose to bank with us. In doing so, you help support the clubs, projects and organisations at the heart of your local community.

Our funding programs are managed by Macedon Ranges Community Enterprises Ltd, a certified social enterprise that reinvests at least 80% of branch profits in our local community. To find out more about us and how to apply for funding, visit our brand new website, **www.mrce.com.au**

If you would like to discuss your application with us prior to submitting it online, please contact Liz O'Connell via **community@mrce.com.au** or call 0491 331 493.



For all your banking needs please contact:

Courtney Alexander, Mobile
Lender

11 Nexus Way,
Gisborne VIC 3437

Email: [gisbornemailbox@
bendigoadelaide.com.au](mailto:gisbornemailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au)

Ph: (03) 5420 7210



CWA 'Get your scone fix' stall

Not going to make it to Melbourne Show this year? Get your scone fix with us!

Mark your calendar for Saturday 13 September and join the CWA Woodend Eves from 9am for our much-loved street stall in High Street, outside the newsagents. Tables will be brimming with freshly baked goodies, homemade jams and preserves, and – of course – our famous scones.

A limited quantity of gluten-free scones will also be on offer alongside our traditional ones, so everyone can enjoy that perfect combination of fluffy scone, jam, and cream.

Our scones are always a sellout, so it's a great idea to pre-order. Pre-orders will be ready for you to collect on the day, and any unreserved scones will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

While you're there, browse our tempting range of cakes, slices, biscuits, and other homemade treats. We know you'll find something irresistible!

Come along, say hello, and support the CWA Woodend Eves – every purchase helps us continue our community work. Book your scones now at trybooking.com/DEMUF.

CWA Woodend Eves meet at the Golf Club on the third Thursday of the month at 7pm. All women are welcome to come along. We'd love to meet you!

SUBMITTED BY MEL PRITCHARD, CWA WOODEND EVES



Build your business through local connections - Macedon Ranges Business Breakfast

Tourism Macedon Ranges Inc. (TMR) invites business owners, tourism operators, and community leaders to a business breakfast that will focus on how collaboration and strong local connections can boost business performance and strengthen communities.

Kathryn Mackenzie OAM will share proven strategies and practical insights to help local businesses attract more customers and work together for greater impact.

Buffet breakfast by Fed Food Store, Kyneton with freshly brewed coffee from Rafaels Coffee.

Wednesday 8 October 2025, from 7am to 8.30am

The New Gisborne Sports Pavilion, Hamilton Street.

Tickets are available now at: https://bit.ly/tmr_bb

Woodend Senior Citizens

On a lovely sunny day on Thursday 14 August, we went to the Fyansford Paper Mill site, near Geelong. Our guide led us through the grounds, showing photographs of the original machinery that once operated in each of the buildings as we wandered through. The site is heritage listed, and restoration work is planned for several areas to preserve its unique history.

The September bus trip will be on Thursday 11 September, to the Queen Victoria Market. Please support our bus trips.

New members are always welcome. We meet regularly in the Undercroft of the Woodend Neighbourhood House:

- Button Bingo on Tuesdays 1pm–3pm, finishing with a cuppa and chat
- Playing cards on Fridays 1pm–4pm.

General meetings are conducted on the first Tuesday of the month at 1pm, and the 2025 Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 7 October at 1pm.

For more information, call Margaret (0458 272 767), Irene (0417 676 843) or Alma (0400 134 478).

SUBMITTED BY ALMA W, PRESIDENT.

Mount Macedon Memorial Cross Reserve improvement works update

Works are progressing steadily at the Mount Macedon Memorial Cross Reserve, with significant upgrades well underway as part of a long-term vision to enhance the visitor experience, improve accessibility, and preserve the commemorative and historical importance of one of Victoria's most significant war memorials outside of Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance.

The project is being led by the Mount Macedon Memorial Cross Reserve Committee of Management, a dedicated volunteer group responsible for the stewardship of the site. In collaboration with experienced local contractor, Smart Civil and a range of community stakeholders, the current works are focused on delivering key improvements across the Reserve. These include safer and more accessible pathways, upgraded lighting, improved wayfinding and interpretive signage.

The works are being guided by comprehensive master planning that reflects both community input and expert consultation. The project is supported by a combination of financial contributions from the Committee, in-kind donations, local partnerships, and applications to both state and federal commemorative grants programs. Together, these efforts aim to ensure that the Reserve remains a respectful, engaging, and enduring place of reflection for future generations.

SUBMITTED BY KATE MEDHURST, SECRETARY, MMMRCOM



RT Edgar

40 Koala Drive, Newham

'Cedar Rise Farm'

- 10 acres
- 9 bedrooms
- 8 bathrooms
- 4 car garage

Boasting 3 dwellings - the main homestead & guest wing offering 5 bedrooms, and 2 further self-contained dwellings. A picturesque lifestyle property at the base of Hanging Rock with multigeneration living and income earning opportunities. Just a stone's throw from Woodend and Kyneton. Cedar Rise Farm invites you to embrace a life of serenity and connection with nature. Discover tranquil luxury.

\$2,950,000.



18 Jefferys Street, Woodend



'Timeless Elegance Meets Contemporary Comfort'

4 bedrooms - 2 bathrooms - 4 car garage - on a 3111sqm allotment

This distinguished property blends 1940s heritage with contemporary elegance. Nestled in a serene cul-de-sac, it boasts lush gardens and inviting outdoor spaces. Moments from Woodends heart, markets, pubs, fine dining and recreational amenities. Inside, timeless charm meets modern updates. A rare blend of character, luxury, and convenience.

\$2,300,000.

Contact Beverley Higgs 0448 271 222 to view these properties

RT Edgar -124 High Street Woodend Phone (03) 5427 1222 rtedgar.com



Young band voted the People's Choice at Battle of the Bands

Local band The Electric Eels won the popular vote at the Macedon Ranges Battle of the Bands at Kyneton Town Hall last month. The five-piece ensemble won over an enthusiastic local crowd with their 30 minute set, and took home the People's Choice award.

The Electric Eels, comprising five junior high school students, Oscar, Zahra, Jimmy, Xander and Josie from Kyneton High School, were the youngest act performing at Battle of the Bands this year.

Formed last year as part of the Ensemble Program, by the school's Ensembles Co-ordinator, Mr Andrew Zollia, the band added Jimmy, a Year 7 student, to the lineup this year. Mr Zollia says that while the band brings a diverse range of skills and experiences, the members share common interests, and their supportive friendship fosters a safe environment in which they can share ideas.

Several of the songs in their Battle of the Bands set were written by band members, and a lot of influences were apparent. The band's musical influences are too many to count, Mr Zollia says. "They approach new music with curiosity. When they hear something that grabs their attention, they will investigate, go and listen, and then bring it back to the group. In their original music, there is much stylistic variation. Sometimes I will walk in and hear Nirvana on the boil; other times I could easily be sitting on a beach in Waikiki in the 1960s."

Their teacher is not surprised that the band's hard work has been paying off. "They were rehearsing at school during the holidays; at lunchtimes and during their scheduled ensemble lessons." The experience of competing in the Battle of the Bands was incredibly exciting for them, he says, and the win of the People's Choice – voted by members of the audience on the night, which included supportive family, friends and staff members from the school – was the icing on the cake. "I think the looks on their faces when they won said it all – a priceless moment for all of us ... We are incredibly proud of our students – their positive mindset and effort has truly paid off on this occasion!"

The Electric Eels were one of six acts participating in the Battle of the Bands. The overall winners on the night – chosen by three industry professionals, judges Tim Wamala from music not-for-profit The Push, Hannah Findlay from the band Stonefield and music producer Andrew McCubbin – were The Mods. Also in the running were The Felonys, Thunderchief, Elysium and soloist Mousie Coco. In his closing remarks, co-judge Tim Wamala noted that the standard of performance was among the highest that he'd seen in the many Battles of the Bands he'd judged.

Battle of the Bands is an annual competition for musical acts aged from 12–25 years, presented by Music in the Sticks, a project of Macedon Ranges Shire Council's Macedon Ranges Youth team.

WRITTEN BY KELLIE FLANAGAN

(Disclosure: Writer is a proud Eel parent!)



Photo: The Eels on stage with their award, following the People's Choice vote.

Photo: Kyneton High School's Year 8 band The Electric Eels performing in front of the local crowd at the Macedon Ranges Battle of the Bands. Left to right: Zahra - keys and vocals, Josie - bass, Oscar - guitar and vocals, Xander (behind drum kit) - drums and vocals, and Jimmy - guitar



Shoes designed for your comfort



pure comfort

Cabello

Propét

Hush Puppies®

new balance

SKECHERS

Locally owned and operated and proud stockists of leading brands.

Kyneton
Shoes

Monday - Friday 9am-5pm
Saturday 9am-2pm



23 High Street, Kyneton
03 5422 2090

Seeking Storage Space for CWA Central Highlands Group

The CWA Central Highlands Group is looking for free or low-cost storage space to store our annual exhibition display materials in Woodend or within the Macedon Ranges. As most of our items are made from natural materials, the space must be weatherproof and pest-proof to ensure their preservation.

Your support will help us to keep our materials secure and in good condition. By assisting with storage, you help us maximise funds raised through our events, ensuring that more resources can be returned directly to disadvantaged women, children, and families in our community.

If you can offer or suggest suitable storage options, please contact us. Your generosity will make a meaningful difference in our efforts to serve those in need.

Thank you for supporting the CWA of Vic. Inc. in the Macedon Ranges.

Contact: Sharon 0412 218 863 of cwa.chg.creativearts@gmail.com

SUBMITTED BY THE HELEN RYVITCH AND SHARON MCNAMARA-YOUL,
CHG CREATIVE ARTS CO-CONVENORS 2026

Woodend becomes the new home to a second refugee family.



Later this year, in October, we will be welcoming our second refugee family to Woodend. After successfully resettling a Syrian family of five last year, the Woodend Refugee Resettlement (WRR) Group have been recently matched with a new family for resettlement. Again this is being done as part of CRISP – Community Refugee Integration and Settlement Pilot program.

Our new family are Venezuelan, arriving from Trinidad and Tobago. They are a young family with a primary school-aged son.

As we did last time, our group will meet them at the airport and from there we will begin the process of introducing them to life in Australia, and specifically, Woodend. Now that we have been given a date for their arrival, we will begin the process of finding and furnishing a house for them. Of course, this is the most difficult part of the process, and we are aware and sensitive to the fact that housing is difficult for everyone at the moment. If you do know of anything becoming available in the next few months or if you have accommodation that may not have full occupancy for a few months, we would be very grateful if you got in touch.

The family speak Spanish and are very keen to learn English as quickly as possible. If you speak Spanish and would like to join us for some morning coffees etc, please also get in touch.

Getting to know this family and being able to offer them the opportunity to rebuild their lives in safety is something we are very much looking forward to.

The aim of CRISP is to harness the generosity, goodwill and social capital of everyday Australians to provide a warm and supportive welcome into local communities. They are always looking for new groups to form and take on this important role. If you are interested in getting involved, find more info at <https://refugeesponsorship.org.au>

WRR – Woodend Refugee Resettlement. woodendrr@gmail.com

SUBMITTED BY EMMA GOODSIR, WOODEND REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

Legal advice made easy

- All Areas of Family Law
- Divorce
- Child Arrangements
- Asset Division
- Wills & Estates
- Probate
- Deceased Estates
- Power of Attorney

P: 5428 8711
www.mrfl.com.au
Level 1, 45 Hamilton Street, Gisborne



News from the Woodend Neighbourhood House

Spring Open House

Join us on Saturday 6 September from 9am to 1pm, alongside the Farmers Market, for our Spring Open House. Explore what's on offer at the Woodend Neighbourhood House – meet our tutors and activity coordinators, see our spaces, join in activities, and discover ways to get involved. It's the perfect chance to connect, share ideas, and celebrate our vibrant community!

School Holiday Program

Can you believe the school holidays are almost here already? We've been busy behind the scenes putting together a fabulous lineup of workshops to keep young minds and bodies active. From hands-on STEM challenges and creative craft sessions to nature-based activities, drama, and relaxing yoga, there's something to spark every child's curiosity and imagination. Keep an eye on our website and social media pages for full details, updates, and booking information – you won't want to miss out!

Puzzles and Chat

Looking for a relaxed way to exercise your mind? Puzzles and Chat is a free monthly gathering where we enjoy puzzles, conversation, and a cuppa in great company. Crosswords, jigsaws, Sudoku, bingo, trivia – bring a puzzle or join in with others. Held on the first Thursday of each month from 1pm to 3pm. The next session is on Thursday 4 September. No bookings required.

Intergenerational Playgroup

In collaboration with our friends at Woodend Playgroup, the Intergenerational Playgroup is a beautiful way to connect young families with older community members through play and conversation. The playgroup runs on the first Friday of each month between 9am and 11am (next session is Friday 5 September). All participants who are not directly related to a child attending the session will need a Volunteer Working with Children Check. If you don't already have one, please contact the Woodend Neighbourhood House and we can assist you with the process.

Woodend Community Lunch

We love to welcome both familiar faces and newcomers to our monthly community lunch. If you've never attended, make September the month you book in! Join us for a two-course meal on Tuesday 16 September at the Woodend RSL. Bookings are essential to help with catering (a \$10 donation is appreciated to help cover costs, but is by no means necessary).

Chatty Café

Pop in for a cuppa, a sweet treat, and good conversation on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Our next Chatty Café is on Tuesday 23 September at 10am. No bookings required – just turn up (donations welcome).

Food Bank at the Woodend Neighbourhood House

The Woodend Community Food Bank is open on Mondays and Thursdays between 12.30pm and 2.30pm in the Undercroft of the Woodend Neighbourhood House. Access is via the gates by the Skate Park, off Margery Crescent. Everyone is welcome to stop by for food and personal hygiene items.

For more information about any of our upcoming activities, workshops, courses, or events, drop by the House (47 Forest Street, Woodend), visit our website www.woodendnh.org.au or call 5427 1845.

SUBMITTED BY MELISSA BAKER

What's better than Fortnite? Building a 50kg robot, obviously.

While most 13-year-olds were grinding for loot in Fortnite, a team from Global Village Learning spent the term building something way cooler – a real-life robot for the Melbourne Robotics Tournament (off-season edition).

As the newest team on the block, we entered a field of 26 teams with our bot that looked like a chicken coop on wheels. The competition was packed with action and quick decision-making – including being randomly teamed up with other competitors, sometimes just minutes after battling them.

We were incredibly lucky to be loaned a robot by none other than the current Australian champions, IC Robotics. Their support didn't stop there – their Lead Mentor, Marty Stow, gave us expert advice and ongoing encouragement that helped us stay focused and improve with every match. We honestly couldn't have done it without them.

Things got real when our robot controller gave up mid-match. But in classic robotics style, the community stepped up – with teams running over to lend us their spare controllers. Forget robot wars – this was robot graciousness.

Despite being rookies, we clawed our way to the preliminary finals, placed third overall, and took home the Rookie Inspiration Award. Not bad for a first try (and yes, our robot is still clucking along).

We learned more than just tech skills – resilience, teamwork, and how to think fast under pressure. And while Fortnite might build quick reflexes, building a bot builds brains, friendships, and some serious bragging rights.

We're now hoping to enter the full-season tournament kicking off in January 2026. To make that happen, we're raising funds to purchase a robot of our own and to travel to Sydney in March 2026 for the competition.

If you would like to support the team, either financially or in another capacity, please contact Janet Di Pilla at GVL on 5428 4520.

SUBMITTED BY IAN BENSON (MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT)



Photo, left to right: Holly, Cam, Ethan, Ian, and Tam Tam the robot.

An update from the RSL



It has been some time since we reported in The New Woodend Star, so we thought we had better report on ANZAC Day and more current items that we think will be of interest to the community.

The Woodend RSL Sub-Branch Committee and members wish to thank the community for both the excellent attendance and the support for ANZAC Day. We especially thank the local school children who presented and spoke well on this solemn occasion. We also acknowledge the support of the Braemar School Cadets in supporting us at the local market and for participation in the ceremonial activities on the day. Our ANZAC Appeal was again successful, thanks to the generosity of members of the public. The funds raised are for any Veterans and/or families to cover emergencies/change of circumstance.

Australia's newest Victoria Cross award was announced recently for Richard Norden. Richard was a Private in the Australian Army who performed a brave act that gained him the Distinguished Conduct Medal during the Battle of Coral-Balmoral (1968). It is quite a story about his bravery. When Richard (Dick) returned to Australia after his service he joined the ACT Federal Police Force. He was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident in 1972 whilst on duty. After 50 years of campaigning, his award has been finally upgraded to a Victoria Cross. This news was well received by our local veterans who knew and served with Dick.

Our projects are progressing with the commencement of our mural planned for spring. Once again, thank you to the community for their support for this local artwork to be done. It will be a fitting storyboard of Australian military history and will display a sample of local involvement in significant world events. We have installed lights and expanded the security system to cover that area of our building. This was an unfortunate requirement after our building was vandalised in January this year.

We have a new shed in construction, which was funded by a Victorian Government Veterans Capital Works grant. This will allow safer access for stowage and setup of event seating and other materials which are intermittently used throughout the year. This will also provide an undercover workshop area for building and grounds maintenance by veteran volunteers. The project will also involve removing the smaller, inadequate old shedding to create more useable space for events and activities.

We completed our install of our new pass-through washer in the kitchen with funding support from Kyneton RSL and a community grant from Bendigo Bank (Trentham). This will aid catering at functions and community events and reduce the risk of injury from bending and lifting with the previous under-bench washer, which was becoming unreliable after many years of work.

Our charter is not only to help and support veterans and service personnel and their families, but is also to work with the community to support each other and spread the culture of mateship. That culture of mateship helped get our past and recent ANZACs and soldiers through some tough times. Mateship is what we all need during tough times in civilian life as well.

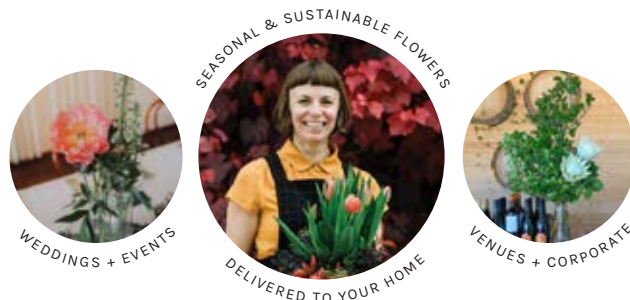
Please contact us (admin@woodendrsl.org) if you are aware of any Veterans or Veteran families who may need some help or assistance. We have many Veterans from recent conflicts in Afghanistan and other places who are now in our community. They may need our support and mateship as well.

SUBMITTED BY HOWARD BURVILL, SECRETARY, WOODEND RSL SUB-BRANCH

DELIVERING TO THE MACEDON,
WOODEND & KYNETON REGION WEEKLY

HAND PICKED

SUBSCRIPTION, CORPORATE & VENUE FLOWERS
+ WEDDING & EVENT FLORALS



Email hello@handpickedfloristry.com or call 0435 457 135
@handpickedethicalfloristry www.handpickedfloristry.com

BASED ON DJA DJA WURRUNG COUNTRY AT THE MILL CASTLEMAINE

LITTLE GENERAL KIDS

Your local destination for all things Baby & Kids.

New Season Clothing & Swim Collections in-store now!



Shop Online &
Pick up In-store

littlegeneralkids.com.au

Join our
Loyalty Program

Woodend
81 High Street
Woodend
Ph: 03 5427 2609

Mon- Sat 9.30-5pm
Sun 10-4pm

Castlemaine
18 Hargraves Street
Castlemaine
Ph: 03 5401 3953

Tues-Fri 10-5pm
Sat 10-4pm
Sun 10-3pm

Message from your local police sergeant

As we head into the back end of winter, the days are getting longer and there's a bit of warmth finally coming into the air. Hopefully this means less frosts and icy conditions.

Recently there were Loss Prevention Officers working at one of our local supermarkets, and disappointingly both they and Woodend Police were busy that day dealing with the aftermath; several people were arrested for shop stealing, ranging from youths to some of our more senior people within the community.

All of those arrested were locals and not one person caught stealing was doing so because they were desperate for food or short of money. In fact, quite the opposite, most (other than the youths) were financially well off.

We know that there are organised groups that steal from supermarkets, operating across Victoria and Woodend is not immune to these incidents.

However, locals committing petty thefts (thrill thefts) from local businesses is disappointing. It was a real eye-opener to the businesses, so don't be surprised if Loss Prevention Officers become more frequent in Woodend.

The frequency of serious collisions on our roads is a big concern for Victoria Police, the Government, and the other emergency services, so be assured that Woodend Police will be a strong visible presence out on our streets and roads – enforcing and educating.

Please take care, and whilst we are always happy for a chat, I'm sure you'd rather talk to me or one of the Woodend Police Team as a professional courtesy, rather than through a formal discussion about your traffic breach.

Please be safe out on the roads. Until next month.

SUBMITTED BY DAVID ARNOLD, OIC WOODEND POLICE STATION



Woodend Probus

This month we welcomed James Nolan as a new member and were fortunate to have not one but two guest speakers.

Our first speaker was Josephine Falzarano from Woodend Rotary. Josephine gave us an excellent overview of the many and varied projects supported or instigated by Rotary with a particular focus on their Youth programs. She also mentioned the great success Rotary is having with the publication of The New Woodend Star.

Our second speaker was Graeme Woods, who has produced two very interesting small coffee table books containing interviews he had undertaken with local residents from the GemLife Village.

However, Graeme's main message to us was for everyone to take the time to write their own life story to pass on to their family and friends.

Our next meeting will be held on Friday 19 September at Norma Richardson Hall, 15 Buckland St, Woodend, 9:30 for a 10:00am start.

Please come and join as all are most welcome.

SUBMITTED BY ROBYN BULL



Come and visit our Firewise Garden.

Now that spring is here, why not take some extra care in selecting any new plants you are thinking of adding to your garden? And what better place to get some ideas than by visiting the Firewise Garden in front of the Woodend CFA Fire Station. The Firewise Garden was created several years ago to give residents and visitors an idea of plants that are ideal for our local conditions.

Landscaping for bushfire involves planning, designing, planting and managing the area around a house. This incorporates five key principles:

- Create defensible spaces
- Remove flammable objects from around the house
- Break up fuel continuity
- Carefully select and locate plants within the garden
- Regularly maintain garden and its interface with the house

Other key considerations in the design include that there should be:

- No flammable objects close to the eaves or roofline
- No overhanging or bark-shedding trees
- Non-flammable hardscaping: steel edging, wide gravel paths and gravel mulch
- Short, well-maintained areas of lawn.

Factoring in the various Firewise principles, the plant list for our garden consists of:

- A single smooth-barked tree with an open canopy and no lower branches
- Well-spaced shrubs and ground covers
- Few fine-leaved or very dense plant species
- Few resinous or waxy plants
- Few plants which drop or retain dead material
- A mixture of native and exotic plants
- Plants to attract birds, butterflies and other pollinators

The Woodend CFA Firewise Garden is open to the public to come and visit.

For more information about creating your own Firewise garden, the CFA's Landscaping for Bushfire is available by searching 'Landscaping' on the CFA website.

Congratulations Aiden and Michael!

Well done to Aiden Pugh and Michael McLeod, who have passed their firefighting qualifications, which allows them to turn out with the Woodend CFA. They have worked diligently through their training and have graduated with flying colours. A huge thanks to Ben Richardson and Cara Nolan (and the training team) for guiding them through their training.

Our busy year continues

Our busy year has continued into August. At the time of writing this article (mid-August) we had been called to 103 jobs for the 2025 year. To put that in perspective, we reached that mark last year in late-December ... and we still have four months to go this year!

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

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, FORMER CAPTAIN WOODEND CFA





A Keatings For Sale sign from the 1950s
when our telephone number was (Woodend) 123.

**For superior local real estate knowledge, decades of experience
and uncompromising ethics, the numbers to call today are...**



John Keating
Managing Director & Auctioneer
Over 50 years experience
0419 880 444



Ray Cashmore
Licensed Estate Agent & Auctioneer
Over 20 years experience
0419 851 334

INTERIOR DECORATING NOT YOUR THING?

We're seeing how the new world of AI is making an impact in our industry — from fabric companies creating visualiser images for curtains and upholstery using different fabrics, to tools that help you see ideas in your own home.

Now you can try it yourself.

Struggling to picture sheer curtains on your window? Not sure if shutters would suit? Curious how a bold fabric might look as a Roman blind?

It's simple:

1. Take a photo of your window.
2. Take a photo of the fabric or style you like.
3. Ask ChatGPT to "mock it up" for you — and let the magic work.

Our office window showing William Morris curtains and a sheer or shutters or roman with shutters.

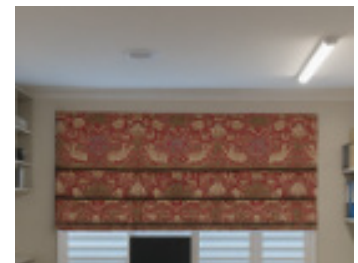
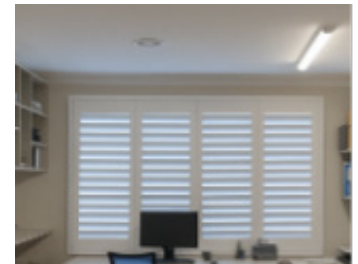
It won't be perfect, but it'll give you a quick visual idea before you make any decisions.

Sometimes a little AI imagination is all you need.

And when you're ready, Bradley's Curtains & Blinds can turn that AI-inspired idea into a beautifully made, perfectly fitted product for your home.

72 High Street, Woodend | Phone: 5427 2361
email: bradleyscurtains@outlook.com | www.bradleyscurtains.com

Bradley's
 Curtains+Blinds P/L



BALZAN ELECTRICAL

OUR SERVICES :

- ▶ Lighting - installation, maintenance and repairs
- ▶ Powerpoints
- ▶ Switchboard upgrades
- ▶ Renovations
- ▶ Feature lighting
- ▶ Ceiling fans
- ▶ Smoke alarms
- ▶ TV / Data
- ▶ Appliances

CONTACT US :

0458 336 702
info@balzanelectrical.com.au

WISHING ALL THE DADS OUT THERE A HAPPY FATHERS DAY!

www.pestle.com.au

4/130 High St, Woodend

Braemar College Students Completing the Duke of Edinburgh Award with Parkrun

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is incredibly worthwhile and highly regarded, designed to be easily accessible for determined individuals aged fourteen to twenty-four. Participants are required to undertake a service, skill, physical recreation, and adventurous journey; these activities are designed to challenge them to new heights, while providing them with important life skills such as resilience, time-management, communication, determination, leadership, adaptability, creativity, and more. Participants choose how far they push themselves, and the diverse range of activities available to do during the award are endless. Whether it be weekly scuba-diving or touch-typing for an hour a week, participants are guaranteed a challenging, satisfying learning experience. If you are a participant, you can pause your award at any time, even after having completed one level, and by completing just thirteen weeks of your first award, the skills learned set you up for life. Participants are strongly encouraged to discover how far they can push themselves, and how much they can learn and grow. For Year 10 Braemar College students Josie Watts and myself, this could look like camping at Lake Eildon for our Bronze Adventurous Journeys, to going on three-month exchanges in France and Germany for Gold residential projects.

To those participating in or considering undertaking their Duke of Edinburgh awards; utilising Parkrun as your service aspect is a rewarding and worthwhile consideration. Year 10 Braemar College students Freya Fischer, Natalia Williams, Hugo Gray, Rachael Fleming, and Maximilian Cheeseman undertook weekly volunteering at Campaspe parkrun. Throughout their awards, they have spent time learning skills through marshalling, barcode scanning, managing finish tokens, and park-walking. These are all roles in which volunteers are provided with the opportunity to connect with their community, encourage others, and encourage each other.

"As a Duke of Ed participant, I've really enjoyed volunteering at Campaspe Parkrun. It's been a great way to meet people from the community, and I've found it to be a really valuable experience. I definitely recommend it to anyone who is interested." – Rachael Fleming, Parkrun volunteer.

The community that the Duke of Edinburgh award creates forms a positive learning environment in which participants help and support each other, to help everyone achieve their goals. Additionally, by joining this community, you are provided the opportunity to connect with a diverse range of people, whether that be runners or volunteers that are warm, friendly, compassionate, and supportive to you throughout the experience.

SUBMITTED BY FREYA FISCHER





Woodend Bookshop

Quality second hand books

104 High Street | T: 5407 9181

ed.irons53@gmail.com | 0448 661 373

16,000 cheap quality second hand books covering just about everything

Woodend General

Celebrate Dad this Fathers Day



Discover a local haven of curated Goods & Gifts.

84 - 88 High Street Woodend 3442

Open 7 Days
Mondays - Saturday - 9.30-5pm
Sunday & Public Holiday - 10-4pm

Complimentary Gift Wrapping. Join our Loyalty Program
Shop Online - woodendgeneral.com.au | Ph: 03 5427 1695

Proudly locally owned & Female led.

Woodend Library News



Spring is officially here! and our latest What's On program is out! Have a look online for a range of events and activities to keep the whole family busy. Printed copies are available in the library.

Curious Kids at Storytime: Space Explorers – Friday 19 September 10am

Get ready for a mission to Mars – but how do we get there, and how will we land? We'll explore the red planet together, learn about where our planets are, and discover what it takes to be an astronaut. It's bound to be a blast! Ages 3–5 years. Bookings required.

Presented by Discovery Science & Technology Centre, Bendigo and supported by the Department of Industry, Science and Resources.

Playdate at the Library – Tuesday 23 and 30 September 10–11.30am



Join us for a playdate! For babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers and their grown-ups. Meet other parents, grandparents and carers. Free play and friendly chats. No bookings required.

Junk Journals – Thursday 25 September 10.30am–2.30pm

Create your own customised journal using recycled materials and quirky embellishments – a fun and creative way to preserve your story. Break included. Ages 12–18 years. Bookings required.

The library will be closed on Friday, 26 September for the AFL Grand Final public holiday.

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



Did you know? Women in Rotary



Prior to women being permitted to join Rotary in 1989, wives of Rotarians were affectionately called 'Rotary Anns', a term of endearment that grew out of an interesting historical occasion.

In 1914, San Francisco Rotarians boarded a train for the Rotary Convention in Houston. Until the train stopped in Los Angeles, the only woman aboard was the wife of Rotarian Bru Brunnier, Ann, who was introduced as the Rotarian's Ann. This title soon became 'Rotary Ann'.

Throughout the journey a number of songs and stunts were organised to be performed in Houston, including a 'Rotary Ann' chant. On the train's arrival, a delegation greeted the West Coast Rotarians, including Guy Gundaker of Philadelphia, whose wife was also named Ann.

During the rousing demonstration, someone started the Rotary Ann chant. The two petite ladies, Ann Brunnier and Ann Gundaker, were hoisted to the men's shoulders and paraded about the hall. The group loved the title given to the two women and the same term of endearment was soon used for all of the wives in attendance – the name

'Rotary Ann' was here to stay!

Guy Gundaker became RI president in 1923 and Bru Brunnier was elected president in 1952. Thus, each of the two original Rotary Anns became the 'first ladies of Rotary International'.

Source: Rotary Down Under Magazine May edition

Intelligent Training Solutions
www.its.edu.au

Need your First Aid or CPR Certificate?
Go with a trusted local provider!

Our First Aid course will give you the skills and CONFIDENCE to provide initial emergency care using approved first aid principles, with an approach that is easy to understand.

Starting from: \$137 - HLTAID011- Provide First Aid (including CPR) OR \$95 - Annual CPR Refresher	Locations: Woodend, Kyneton, Romsey, Gisborne, Lancefield & More
---	---

Onsite & Corporate Bookings Welcome

Contact us: 03 5415 0204 OR admin@its.edu.au

Delivering First Aid in the Macedon Ranges since 2015!



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

—SEPTEMBER—

- 1..... Start of National Suicide Prevention Month
- 4..... Rotary Dinner Meeting Vic Hotel
- 5..... International Day of Charity
- 5-14..... Kyneton Daffodil Festival
- 6..... Woodend Farmers' Market
- 6..... Woodend Lions Community Market
- 7..... Father's Day
- 7..... National Threatened Species Day
- 11..... R U OK? Day
- 11..... Rotary Dinner Meeting, Vic Hotel
- 12..... Eishan Ensemble KTH
- 12..... Newham & District AGM & Landcare Permaculture talk
- 15-16..... Budbust, Macedon Ranges Wine Festival
- 16..... Dementia Support session, Gisborne
- 17..... Woodend Lifestyle Carers Group, Milko Cafe
- 17..... Knit & Natter Group, Norma Richardson Hall
- 17..... Dementia Support session, Kyneton
- 18..... Rotary Dinner Meeting
- 19..... Probus meeting, Norma Richardson Hall
- 20..... WHFNC Presentation Night
- 20-21..... Yea Garden Expo
- 21..... International Day of Peace
- 25..... Rotary, Grand Final Pie Night
- 26..... AFL Grand Final Holiday
- 27..... AFL Grand Final
- 27..... Woodend Artists' & Makers' Market
- 28..... Movie *A Fare to Remember*, Norma Richardson Hall
- 30..... Treasure Hunt MRSC

—OCTOBER—

- 1-12..... Wildlife shows at Hanging Rock
- 4..... Woodend Farmers' Market
- 4..... Woodend Lions Community Markets
- 5..... World Teachers Day
- 10..... World Mental Health Day
- 12..... Clare Bowditch in Concert, KTH
- 23..... MRSpag Men's Night
- 24..... World Polio Day
- 25..... Hanging Rock Market
- 25..... Woodend Artists' & Makers' Market
- 26..... Grandparents Day
- 31..... Rotary's Halloween Community Party

—NOVEMBER—

- 1..... Woodend Farmers' Market
- 1..... Woodend Lions Community market
- 4..... Melbourne Cup Holiday
- 15..... 'Sidekick' Ziggy and Miles concert, St Ambrose
- 16..... Movie *The Social Climbers*, Norma Richardson Hall
- 22..... Woodend Artists' & Makers' Market

Events at Kyneton Town Hall



To find out more about these events and purchase tickets, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/KTH-events or contact the Box Office on 1300 888 802 (Monday to Friday 10am-3pm).

Eishan Ensemble – Northern Rhapsody Album Launch Concert

7.30pm, Friday 12 September 2025

From Womad, the London Jazz Festival and Rome Jazz Festival, to Sydney Opera House and Melbourne Recital Hall, Eishan Ensemble has performed at the most well-known venues and festivals around the world since it was formed in 2016 in Sydney, Australia.

Led by acclaimed Persian Australian tar virtuoso and composer, Hamed Sadeghi, the ARIA nominated Eishan Ensemble draws on contemporary and classical music traditions of both East and West.

Clare Bowditch in Concert

4pm, Sunday 12 October 2025

Clare Bowditch – beloved ARIA-award-winning musician and ABIA-award-winning author – has a rich load of brand-new songs and stories she would absolutely love to share with you! She also has a few old ones that could do with a little attention!

This October, Clare invites you to join her for a very rare, extremely intimate, rather entertaining live duo show, co-created with perhaps one of the tallest multi-instrumentalists in the world: Martin W Brown.

Wildlife shows at Hanging Rock 2025

Take a walk on the wild side with TV personality and Zoologist Chris Humfrey and the Wild Action Zoo team, these upcoming spring school holidays at Hanging Rock in the Macedon Ranges.

Join us on Wednesday 1 and Thursday 2 October 2025, for the ultimate wildlife experience in the most magnificent setting. In these 'family-friendly' interactive shows (held at 10am and 12.30pm each day), you will come face-to-face with a HUGE array of the cool climate-living wildlife who call this beautiful region home!

Visit mrsc.sales.ticketsearch.com/sales to get your tickets.



Photo: Terry Longton, Eastern Spinebill - Woodend



Duneira Estate

Historic hill-station and Grand Garden circa 1872

Open Garden

Mon-Wed and the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month

10am – 3pm

- House and Garden Tours
- Tea Rooms
- Spring workshops, concerts and events.
- School Education Program



Visit the stunning garden at Duneira Estate this Spring, walk amongst the bluebells, daffodils, mollis azaleas, Rhododendrons and heritage listed trees.



Phone 5426 1920
1 Officer Lane,
Mount Macedon
duneiraestate.com.au

KN285518/K

Duneira Estate Open Garden

Duneira Estate's magnificent garden will be open this spring from 1 September, Monday to Wednesday, and the first and third Sunday of each month. The garden is awakened after winter with daffodils and crocuses adorning the grand lawns, plus rhododendrons, mollis azeleas, camellias, lupins, and beds of peonies and beautiful perennials. The bluebells create a stunning carpet display beneath the historic 500-meter Elm Avenue. Discover the labyrinth, secret garden, heritage-listed trees, and meet the resident llamas. Enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and freshly baked scones or a light lunch in the new tearooms after you wander the garden.

This spring, we have a program filled with workshops and events. Elizabeth Barnett's Sip and Sketch workshops will be held on the newly renovated veranda, where you can enjoy a glass of wine while sketching the view of the garden in bloom. Caroline Parker, the author of The Medicinal Garden, will be holding herbalist workshops in the gorgeous renovated stables.

The Annual Bluebell Festival will be held on 25 and 26 October.

Come and take photos with the bluebells and enjoy live music by So Saxy, CWA scones and treats, sausage sizzle, ice cream van, coffee, wine, gin and Highland games to play throughout the garden. The festival is also a great opportunity to join a guided garden tour and to walk through the historic house that showcases Stuart Stoneman's outstanding art collection.

2025 is the first year we are introducing our Gin and Jazz Concert Series, which will be held on the front lawn on Saturday afternoons, featuring jazz singers, Michelle Nicolle, Juliarna Clark and Nichaud Fitzgibbon.

To celebrate 150 years since Duneira's Victorian Italianate mansion was built, we will be hosting an 1870s Victorian Ball with a Scottish twist, honouring the Officer family who established this outstanding original hill-station between 1872 and 1875.

Duneira Estate Open Garden, Monday to Wednesday, first and third Sunday of the month. 10am–3pm \$15 per person; children under 16 are free. Guided garden tours are held at 10.30am every Wednesday and Sunday morning for \$25 per person (includes entry fee).



15 Templeton St, Woodend & 3A/1 Puckle St, Moonee Ponds
5427 2477 chinkasteel.com.au



CONVEYANCING
FAMILY LAW
ESTATE PLANNING
ESTATES & PROBATE
BUSINESS SALE/PURCHASE
EASEMENTS & COVENANTS
SUBDIVISIONS
AGREEMENTS



Another sellout show for The Mount Players



Our third production, *A Skull in Connemara* has just wound up and, as with all of our shows this year, enjoyed a highly successful, sellout season. Congratulations to the incredible director, cast and crew who brought this show to life with such creative, innovative skill. Anyone who was lucky enough to have seen it will agree that the set design, lighting and specialty props were indeed 'mind-blowing'. Our final production for 2025, *Puffs*, has been cast and is now in full rehearsal under the experienced eye of director Craig Lenaine-Smith. This show will appeal to the whole family and provide patrons with a happy, feel-good experience to wind up our theatrical year. Lots more about that one next month. Members and friends of The Mount Players packed out Jubilee Hall in August to show off their general knowledge at our Trivia night. This event, as is the case with other evenings we put on, was free for members, with a small charge to non-members. Our next event will be our Season 2026 Launch in October at the theatre, where members and friends gather to hear all about the upcoming shows from the directors. Supper and drinks are provided and it's always a great opportunity to catch up with all things theatre.

If you would like to become a member or simply keep up to date with everything at the Mountview Theatre, go to www.themountplayers.com for full details.

See you at the theatre!



Back in the Game

Back in the Game is a modified indoor sports program endorsed by the Council on the Ageing (COTA) and designed for people aged 50 years and over. These stadium-based circuit classes use low-impact, adaptable activities to suit all fitness levels.

The program focuses on improving physical wellbeing – supporting balance, coordination, and strength – while also enhancing quality of life. Just as importantly, it offers a relaxed, welcoming environment where participants can connect socially and enjoy staying active together.

Location: Romsey Recreation Centre, 12 Park Lane, Romsey

Times and Dates: Thursdays from 9.30–10.30am

Classes are held during school terms only.

Whether you're returning to activity after a break, looking for a gentle way to stay fit, or simply keen to meet new people, Back in the Game offers a safe, fun, and inclusive way to get moving.

mrsc.vic.gov.au/See-Do/Swimming-Sport-Fitness/Sport-Fitness/Back-in-the-Game-program

MACEDON GARDENING

Revitalise
Your Garden

Expert Pruning,
Design, Landscaping,
Planting, Mowing,
Weeding.

Reliable, 17 years
Local experience.

Fully Insured.

Ian and Melanie Matthews and Trained Staff
0402 464 600



Photo: Director and producer celebrate with the cast at the Gala night following the brilliant opening of *A Skull in Connemara*. Left to right: Tanya Rich, Brett Whittingham, director Travis Handcock, producer Sonja Prater, Ruben Cameron and Dawn Bamforth.

SUBMITTED BY THE MOUNT PLAYERS COMMITTEE



Free Men's Night with MRSPAG

The Macedon Ranges Suicide Prevention Action Group is proud to announce another free Men's Night.

The night is designed to provide a safe, relaxed setting for men of all ages to come together, build community, and have honest conversations about mental health – something that too often goes unspoken.

A major highlight of the evening is a keynote presentation by Mark Thomas, a former police sergeant turned passionate mental health advocate. Drawing on his own lived experience of PTSD, anxiety, and depression, Mark will share his compelling journey through mental ill-health and recovery.

Mark's story is one of resilience, growth, and transformation, offering a powerful message: that it is possible to thrive after even the darkest of times. Through open and honest conversation, Mark encourages others to speak up, reach out, and realise that they are not alone.

Event Details:

Venue: Mount Macedon Golf Club

Date: Thursday October 23 at 6pm

Free BBQ Dinner, meat tray giveaways, and free merchandise

Registrations via the QR code.



Shetlanders at The Gallery

Are you a fan of the TV series Shetland? You'll know the rugged beauty of the treeless landscape and the dramatic coastline with its steep cliffs and crashing waves. And apparently, lots of murders! In reality, while the landscape is just as it's portrayed, it is a safe place with generous and resilient people.

Local artist Jo Hoyne was privileged to be able to spend a few weeks in the Islands, located half way between Scotland and Norway, in May and June this year, and her exhibition "Shetlanders" at The Gallery Mount Macedon is a series of delicately detailed pencil drawings of people she observed while she was there. The drawings depict people going about their lives including working on boats, battling the fierce winds to do their shopping, birdwatching, even knitting in the traditional way.



The exhibition runs from Monday 1 September to Sunday 5 October, with an official Shetland 'tea and cake' (and wine) opening on Sunday 7 September at 2pm. Jo will be happy to talk about the experience of staying in the Shetland Islands and will also have photos that will put her wonderful drawings in context.

Exhibitions for 2026: Please check out the web page or contact or visit The Gallery for more details.

The Gallery is at 684 Mount Macedon Road, Mount Macedon, next to the Trading Post. The Gallery is open Friday to Tuesday from 10am to 4pm.

SUBMITTED BY SUE ANSON

KYNETON HIGH SCHOOL YEAR 12 VCE-VM PRESENTS...

Twilight Market 2025

ALL ARE WELCOME TO BE PART OF OUR INCREDIBLE COMMUNITY EVENT WE WILL HAVE...

10TH OCT 5 TILL 8PM

MARKET STALLS FOOD TRUCKS SHOW 'N' SHINE RAFFLE MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT SILENT AUCTION AND MUCH MORE

Kyneton Secondary School grounds

KHS ADDRESS: 7/9 EPPING ST

Get Started DISABILITY SUPPORT

Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Local support programs for people new to disability

Join our free workshops in Woodend

We will cover everything you'll need to build a vibrant and well supported life.

We'll help you find funding, connect to support services and meet others who can show you where to find great local support.

Scan the QR code to RSVP or reach out to learn more!
info@getstarteddisability.org.au
04111 30577

We are proudly delivering projects for the Peer Support and Capacity Building (PSCB) grant for the NDIS.

When:
Every 3 weeks,
Beginning Thursday
24th July,
11am - 1pm

Where:
Woodend
Neighbourhood
House, 47 Forest
St, Woodend

Dance Freely in the Dark: No Lights No Lycra Comes to Woodend

Imagine a space where you can dance with abandon, completely free from self-consciousness. No intricate steps to learn, no one watching your every move, just the pure, unadulterated joy of movement. This is the essence of No Lights No Lycra, and it's set to bring its unique brand of liberation to Woodend.

No Lights No Lycra offers a casual, free-form dance session held in the dark, specifically designed for the sheer pleasure of dancing. It's about moving your body for movement's sake, without judgment, lessons, or talking. Participants can look forward to an hour of non-stop music.

The sessions are held at the Norma Richardson Hall, located on Buckland Street in Woodend. The "why" behind No Lights No Lycra is simple: to provide a safe and inclusive environment for everyone to experience the pure joy of dancing. This is a community event, and all profits generated will be donated to local charities. It's a chance to shake off the day, release inhibitions, and rediscover the simple pleasure of physical expression while supporting a good cause. Whether you are a seasoned dancer or haven't boogied in years, No Lights No Lycra welcomes all.

Ready to experience the freedom of dancing in the dark? You can register for an upcoming session by visiting: events.humanitix.com/no-lights-no-lycra-woodend

SUBMITTED BY COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTOR, SONYA CARSON

Trentham Dance Working Group

Trentham 1st Birthday Dance

The Trentham Dance is a social ballroom sequence dance held on the second Sunday of each month. The next dance will be held on Sunday 14 September 2025, which will be a special event, being the first birthday of the dance.

Sunday, 14 September 2025, 1.30-5pm at the new Mechanics, High St Trentham

Wear your best party hat and maybe win a prize!

Afternoon tea (please bring a plate of food to share)

BYO water bottle.

For further information including ticket costs:
Ina and Graeme 5424 1449; Noelene 0428 464 664

SUBMITTED BY DIANNA BARKER ON BEHALF OF THE TRENTHAM DANCE WORKING GROUP





Celebrating 10 years of footy for fun!

Another season over, but our club never stops

Jeez that season went quick. Our 10th year as a club!

Having started the season in beautiful sunny weather where grounds were rock hard and sunburn was a thing, we closed out the year with wet footy and icy temperatures.

Our lads were again doing their best to support the Junior and Senior teams this year as volunteers. Kudos to our BBQ Crew, led by Captain Bocca, who worked the hot plates at every Seniors home game making the famous Hawk Burger.

There were some great innovations this year with Kohny's cheese-melting technique, who was very stingy on the bacon, and the late introduction of egg rings by Cards.

We welcomed a lot of new faces who have all added to the fabric of the club, and their presence at our 10th birthday party at the Vic Hotel in June was a testament to how strong our club is and will continue to be.

In the past month we played our last home game against Melton on a fittingly wet and cold Woodend day.

As usual the skills were a case of confusing ambition with ability, but everyone on Gilbert Gordon Oval had a great day where footy may not have been the winner, but a bunch of aging athletes pissing themselves laughing is what we call a success.

We closed out August, and our last bus trip, with a carnival in Shepparton, which is a fantastic annual event hosted by the Goulburn Valley Giants, who are

well regarded in Masters circles as 'top blokes'.

The Hawks put in a solid performance on and of the ground, and our ever reliable defender/bus driver Tobin was as rock solid in defence as he was at finding refreshment stops.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at our loyal sponsor Holgate Brewhouse Tap Room on Friday September 12.

This is a great night for players and supporters as we reveal our Tool of the Year and our major raffle is drawn.

Thanks to Hunters Motors & Mowers for again donating the major prize of \$2000 of equipment. Hunters, operated by founding club members Rod and Peta McDaniel, have been loyal supporters of the Woodend Masters.

As per every AGM, the president and committee for the following year will be elected, so we encourage all members to head down, vote and enjoy a quality night with mates.

While we will have a break from training, keep an eye out on our Facebook and Instagram pages for announcements about when we will be back having a kick.

On October 18 we will also be having gathering at our sponsors The Pig and Whistle Hotel for the Caulfield Cup. More details will also be announced on our social pages.

Thanks to everyone who played a part in making this season another great year of footy and bus trips.

If you are interested in joining the Masters, or just coming along to support us, check out our Facebook page for updates.



Proudly sponsored by



COMPLIMENTARY 45-MIN EARWAX & HEARING CHECK

AVAILABLE UNTIL SEPT 2025

If you are over 55yrs of age, this is what's included - at no cost to you:

- ✓ Visual ear inspection & wax removal (if required)
- ✓ Review of your hearing history & current concerns
- ✓ Eligibility check for government-funded hearing services
- ✓ Independent clinical recommendations tailored to you

Delivered by experienced audiologists in a kind, transparent, and unbiased setting.

(*Conditions may apply)

**Now welcoming new clients across the Macedon Ranges.
TO BOOK CALL 03 7065 2652.**



Trusted Local Care. Awarded Best Hearing
Aid Clinic 2025 for the Macedon Ranges
Proudly independent. Serving Gisborne & Woodend since 2016.



71 HAMILTON ST, GISBORNE

03 7065 2652

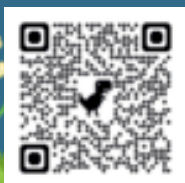
WWW.SCHERERDEANEAUDIOLOGY.COM.AU



SHAKE OFF WINTER *Move Freely Into Spring*

Months of cold can leave you stiff, achy, and less mobile.
At Woodend Osteo, our experienced Osteopaths will help you
feel looser, stronger and ready for the warmer days ahead.

Book your spring tune-up today!



BOOK ONLINE

woodendosteo.com

5427 3293

10 Brooke St, Woodend



Spring into shape



Spring is the perfect time to refresh your fitness routine and get moving – and now is the ideal time to join! From Monday 8 September to Monday 22 September, Macedon Ranges Shire Council Aquatic and Fitness Centres are offering an exclusive deal for new members:

Join on a Direct Debit membership and receive 4 weeks FREE!

Whether you're looking to build strength in the gym, enjoy the variety of both gym and swim, or focus on swimming for fitness and wellbeing, there's a membership option to suit you.

Here's how it works:

- Sign up for a Gym, Gym/Swim, or Swim membership during the promotion period.
- Pay the pro rata direct debit amount upfront (calculated at joining).
- Once that period ends, enjoy your next 4 weeks absolutely free!
- Concession rates are available, making it easier for everyone to take advantage of this great offer. Plus, there are no lock-in contracts or joining fees!

Come and be part of our friendly, supportive community and make this spring your season to shine.

These memberships are available at:

Kyneton Toyota Sports & Aquatic Centre, (03) 5421 1477, email: ksac@mrsc.vic.gov.au

Gisborne Fitness Centre, (03) 5421 0824, email: gfc@mrsc.vic.gov.au

Gisborne Aquatic Centre, (03) 5421 1452, email: gac@mrsc.vic.gov.au



Join Now!

and Get 4 Weeks FREE with a Direct Debit Membership!*



✓ Gym ✓ Gym and Swim ✓ Swim

Available at Gisborne Fitness Centre, Gisborne Aquatic Centre and Kyneton Toyota Sports & Aquatic Centre

*Offer available 8/9/2025 – 22/9/2025, NEW members only. Terms and conditions apply.

mrsc.vic.gov.au/AF-promo



NUTRITION AND LIFESTYLE COUNSELLING AT WOODEND HEALTH HUB



Are you struggling with binge eating, excess weight, cravings or poor sleep? It's time to make a change!
Book with Sandra



sandra@nourishfirst.com.au

0467962966

www.nourishfirst.com.au

Woodend
health
hub

10 Brooke St Woodend

Family wellness starts here - Gentle, Expert Chiropractic Care.



Chiropractic | Myotherapy | Acupuncture | Onsite X-Ray



MACEDON CHIROPRACTIC

(03) 5426 3945 - Book Online

26 Victoria st, Macedon
www.macedonchiropractic.com.au



It's not too late to vaccinate

Although winter might have gone away, the risk of catching the flu has not. The flu can make even healthy people very sick, and it spreads easily – especially in workplaces, schools, and public places. Each year, thousands of Australians end up in hospital due to flu complications, so it's important to take steps to protect yourself and your loved ones.

The flu vaccine is recommended for everyone aged 6 months and over, and it's free under the National Immunisation Program (NIP) for eligible groups including:

- People aged 65 and over
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Pregnant women
- Children aged 6 months to under 5 years
- People with certain medical conditions

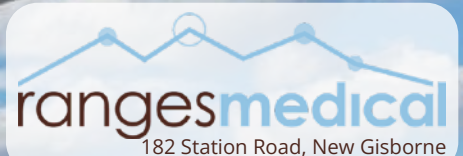
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is another common virus that spreads in winter. It often causes cold-like symptoms but can lead to serious illness. Council is also offering RSV vaccination for eligible adults and infants.

To see if you are eligible for the free flu or RSV vaccine and to make a booking, please visit: mrsc.vic.gov.au/immunisation

Welcome

Dr Arthur Tsiglopoulos

Since earning his postgraduate qualifications in skin cancer medicine in 2016, Dr Arthur has brought a wealth of expertise to Ranges Medical — Working with Dr Rhian Pickard, together they are delivering thorough, personalised skin cancer checks with a focus on quality care you can trust.



**Trusted for 10 years in the
Macedon Ranges
Community**



Victorian students top of the class in NAPLAN

Victorian students have achieved their strongest NAPLAN results ever.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Education Ben Carroll announced last month that Victorian students ranked first or second in 18 of 20 measures and significantly improved on their 2024 results.

An average of 70 per cent of Victorian students fall in the 'strong' or 'exceeding' bands, while all age groups ranked first or second in all 10 domains.

In Victoria, high performing students are supported to further excel, and this year more students reached the two highest bands.

The 2025 results also show that fewer students are needing additional support – with fewer students in the bottom band than in 2024 on 16 of 20 measures.

Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas congratulated local students, teachers, staff and families, saying "We've achieved this thanks to your hard work and dedication."

Victoria achieved its highest NAPLAN participation rate since 2008, with 96.6 per cent of students completing at least one assessment in 2025.

While celebrating these excellent results, work continues in lifting outcomes for disadvantaged students and to close the attainment gap for First Nations students – through targeted programs including the \$18.5 million Koorie Literacy and Numeracy Program.

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

Grants to preserve the legacy of Victorian Veterans

Veterans and their families will receive funding through new grants that honour their service and support their wellbeing.

Minister for Veterans Natalie Suleyman last month opened applications for two grant programs that honour veterans, support their welfare and strengthen community recognition of their contribution.

The Anzac Day Proceeds Fund offers grants of up to \$150,000 to organisations delivering welfare support to veterans across the state, and grants of up to \$50,000 to organisations delivering initiatives for veterans in a specific region or area.

This year's funding priorities include initiatives that support female, First Nations and LGBTIQ+ veterans, veterans living with disability and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Other priorities include support for veterans who served in post-1990 Australian Defence Force operations, and collaborative projects delivered by multiple ex-service organisations.

Previous recipients include Soldier On, which delivered the 'Empower-Her' program to more than 1,500 female veterans and their families by offering women-only retreats, family events and parenting support.

Applications are also open for the Victoria Remembers Grant Program, offering grants of up to \$30,000 for projects that commemorate veterans and deepen public understanding of their service, including new memorials, significant anniversary events and public education campaigns.

Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas MP said, "This funding will help ensure we continue to remember and honour the service and sacrifice of the veteran community in Macedon."

Last year, the Vietnam Veterans Association Bendigo Branch partnered with Hebron Films to document and preserve the stories of Central Victoria's Vietnam veterans, marking 50 years since the end of the Vietnam War.

Applications for both grant programs close on 15 September 2025. For more information about both grant programs or to apply, visit vic.gov.au/anzac-day-proceeds-fund or vic.gov.au/victoria-remembers-grant-program.

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

Smoother journeys on Tylden-Woodend Road

A rebuild and rehabilitation project along two stretches of Tylden-Woodend Road in Tylden were completed recently, as part of the Victorian Government's \$964 million road maintenance program.

Crews have finished rebuilding a two-kilometre section of Tylden-Woodend Road between Caddys Lane and Maxwell Street and a one-kilometre-plus section from Harpers Road to the railway crossing.

Existing road surfaces were removed, the road foundations rebuilt, and new line-markings applied to the newly rebuilt roads.

"This means safer journeys for drivers in the area, who will see resurfaced roads and new markings – meaning a smoother journey for all," said Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas MP of the works.

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



Romer Maud
FAMILY LAWYERS



Expert family law advice and support in the Macedon ranges.

SERVICE AREAS

Pre-Separation Advice	Parenting Arrangements
Amicable Separation	Binding Financial Agreements
Divorce	Collaborative Practice
Property Division	

03 9070 9856 reception@romermaud.com.au
romermaud.com.au

ADVERTISEMENT

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

I want to hear about the issues that matter to you.

Mary-Anne Thomas MP

Member for Macedon

5428 2138

mary-annethomas.com.au

mary-anne.thomas@parliament.vic.gov.au

Scan to contact me



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

Protecting our schools from bushfire season

Grants are being provided by the Victorian Government to clear vegetation growth and reduce the risk of fire, to ensure schools are well-prepared for the upcoming bushfire season.

Mary-Anne Thomas today announced twenty-one schools in the region that will share in funding to carry out essential works.

The program was introduced in 2018 to help schools undertake essential vegetation clearance around the school buildings prior to the bushfire season and in line with municipal fire danger periods.

Schools receiving funds are listed on the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR). These schools are required to undertake vegetation works on a regular basis to reduce the risk of harm to the school's community and buildings in the event of a bushfire.

The Bushfire Preparedness Vegetation Program also includes a School Support Program, providing two school visits to each participating schools by an accredited Bushfire Planning and Design consultant, who develops a Vegetation Management Plan. Schools can also engage additional bushfire-related professional services – such as a Bushfire Attack Level expert – to provide further advice and support in reducing their bushfire risk.

Victoria is one of the most bushfire-prone areas in the world – that's why everyone should have a bushfire plan and the VicEmergency app downloaded on their phone.

For more information on bushfire preparedness and to create your fire plan, visit fireplanner.vic.gov.au.

Woodend district schools receiving funding under the Bushfire Preparedness Vegetation Program include St Ambrose Parish School, Woodend Primary School: Woodend and Carlsruhe campuses and Heskett Primary School.

For the full list, visit

www.vic.gov.au/bushfire-risk-register-barr.

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

Work from home legislation on the horizon

The Victorian Government will introduce legislation to protect the ability of an employee to work from home. Under this proposed law, if a worker can reasonably do their job from home, they will have the right to do so for at least two days a week, whether they are in the public or private sector.

Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas MP said of the proposal, "Work from home saves families money, helps people get back into the workforce – and it even cuts congestion."

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, more than a third of Australian workers – including 60 per cent of managers and professionals – regularly worked from home ("Working Arrangements, reference period August 2024, released December 2024).

The Department of Premier and Cabinet will undertake consultation to consider the types and size of businesses that will be covered by the scheme, as well as the definition of remote work.

The Victorian Government expects to introduce and pass the working from home legislation in 2026, with several legislative options available.

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



ZYDLOW HOME ALTERATIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS PTY LTD

DIRECTOR: DANIEL SZYDLOWSKI

M: 0417 396 316

E: daniels@zydlow.com.au

ZYDLOW GROUP

BUILDING RESTORATION
HOME IMPROVEMENT AND
REMODELING
DEVELOPMENTS AND
RESTORATIONS
LANDSCAPING
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE
PLUMBING AND ELECTRICAL

HERITAGE HOMES AND
RESTORATIONS

CDM

EARTHMOVING & LANDSCAPING

**BOBCAT | EXCAVATOR
TRUCK HIRE**

Contact 0417 331 085
craig@bobcatcraig.com

**For all your
driveway and
landscape
construction needs**

- Driveways New & Repair
- Paving & Turfing
- Rockeries
- Site Cuts
- Retaining Walls
- Garden Construction
- Post Holes
- Watering Systems & Drainage



Investing in Victoria's creative organisations

Jobs and local talent will be supported and creative industries strengthened across the state, following the launch of the next round of the Creative Enterprises Program (CEP) by the Minister for Creative Industries, Colin Brooks in July. Four years of funding is offered in this round to help creative organisations expand their work.

Eligible organisations can now apply for long-term funding to build their workforce, grow their reach, and create more opportunities for Victorians to get involved in the creative sector.

The program has three investment streams - First Peoples Organisations, Industry Service Organisations and Creative Organisations.

Organisations that receive funding will be expected to deliver benefits to the wider creative economy, by creating jobs, nurturing new talent, reaching new audiences. The program also supports creative organisations to diversify their income and strengthen their businesses, so they can continue to grow and adapt in a changing environment.

A First Peoples self-determined approach will ensure the program enhances the connection between Victoria's creative industries, Community and Country, increases First Peoples employment and participation, and enables Victorian Traditional Owner Custodians to work on their ancestral Country.

Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas said she encourages local creative organisations to apply, to allow them to " ... continue to grow and adapt in a changing environment and ensure that Victoria remains the creative capital of Australia."

The program will invest in organisations that demonstrate a strong plan to support creative jobs, expand their reach and deliver real benefits for their communities.

According to the Victorian Government, the state's creative economy provides employment to more than 327,000 workers – from performers and producers to designers, editors, technicians and beyond.

Funding will be provided for a four-year period from 2026. For more information, including program guidelines, eligibility and how to apply, visit creative.vic.gov.au.

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

Power bill relief for Victorians who need it most this winter

Another round of the Power Saving Bonus has opened for applications.

Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio announced that the fifth round of the bonus will provide a \$100 payment to eligible concession card households across the state.

Eligible Victorian households can apply for the Power Saving Bonus through the Victorian Energy Compare (VEC) website, whilst checking they're on the best energy offer.

When applying, eligible households need a recent residential electricity bill and must hold a health care, pensioner concession, Veterans' Affairs pensioner concession or Veterans' Affairs gold card. For those without internet access or for anyone needing extra support accessing the bonus, 250 participating Neighbourhood Houses across Victoria are delivering in-person support to apply.

Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas MP said, "I encourage eligible members of our community to apply for the fifth round of the Victorian Government's Power Saving Bonus and to visit the independent VEC website to find a better deal for their households."

All Victorians are encouraged to visit the free and independent VEC website to shop around for a better deal on their energy – last year, users typically saved \$240 per year on their energy bills by switching providers.

The Energy Assistance Program – helping to expand its services in response to increasing demand – is also offering free one-on-one help for vulnerable and hard-to-reach customers struggling with their energy bills.

For more information, or to apply for the Power Saving Bonus, visit compare.energy.vic.gov.au. The Energy Assistance Program is available on 1800 161 215.

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

Creating a new chapter for Old Kyneton Primary School

Minister for Creative Industries Colin Brooks recently announced the opening of an Expressions of Interest (EOI) process for parties with a compelling vision and suitable experience to bring the Old Kyneton Primary School site to life.

Work on phase one of the site's transformation is now complete, having restored the school's heritage bluestone building, creating a space for art, creativity and community, and built a new contemporary central building to provide a welcoming entry for visitors.

The former library has also been transformed, and is now suitable for a range of community and creative uses, while the school's grounds have been revitalised with landscaping, including 3,000 new plants.

There is now an opportunity for a head tenant/operator to shape a thriving hub in the heart of Kyneton and write the next chapter for one of the town's iconic historic buildings that is vibrant, accessible and relevant to the local community.

A range of ideas and proposals are welcomed, including those that will provide opportunities for Kyneton's creative industries, community groups and local businesses, and will complement and enhance Kyneton's tourism offering.

"This project is about honouring Kyneton's past while creating new opportunities for locals, creatives and visitors to enjoy this special place for generations to come," said Mary-Anne Thomas MP, Member for Macedon.

Expressions of Interest will be considered from single organisations, partnerships or a consortium of organisations.

The Expressions of Interest process is open now, and closes on Monday 29 September 2025. Information is available at creative.vic.gov.au.

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



Growing stronger, more connected communities in Macedon

The Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth) is calling for applications for \$4.7M in Growing Healthy Communities Grants, aimed at supporting community organisations to deliver health promotion initiatives that break down barriers to good health among young people and their families across Victoria.

The 'Growing Healthy Communities' initiative can fund local projects such as community markets, initiatives that get young people moving more and feeling connected, or ideas that push the boundaries of local spaces for movement and connection – the grants aim to promote mental wellbeing and social connection encourage greater inclusion and reduce the impacts of chronic disease.

Sporting, community, cultural, recreational, creative, local government and other not-for-profit organisations are eligible to apply for funding of up to \$150,000.

As part of the program, VicHealth will also build the capability of community partners by connecting them with like-minded leaders, and provide tools to embed sustainable, local health solutions.

Mary-Anne Thomas, Member for Macedon and Minister for Health announced the Growing Healthy Communities grant round in Macedon today, encouraging local organisations to apply.

"The Growing Healthy Communities grants provide an opportunity for community-led organisations to build more active, inclusive and connected neighbourhoods" Ms Thomas said.

"Community organisations play a critical role in driving positive health outcomes and we look forward to supporting their important work in Macedon."

VicHealth CEO, Prof. Anna Peeters AM, said that the Growing Healthy Communities initiative is an opportunity for community-led organisations to play a key role in shaping a healthier, fairer Victoria.

"By investing in local solutions that tackle the social and environmental drivers of poor health, we're supporting generational change, particularly for communities that have historically been left behind."

"Community organisations are uniquely placed to lead local change. Together, we can create healthier neighbourhoods, reduce preventable disease, and build a more connected, inclusive Victoria." Prof. Peeters said.

Projects must be delivered within the period from March 2026 to March 2028.

Applications are now open – funding guidelines are available at vichealth.au/GHCR2MP

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

TERRY'S GROUND CREW

0400 909 303

TGC'S CHECKLIST

- ☐ Landscape projects
- ☐ Fire prevention cleanup
- ☐ Large scale mechanical raking
- ☐ Paddock slashing
- ☐ Driveway renovation
- ☐ Confined space excavation
- ☐ Gorse and blackberry removal
- ☐ Mowing and brushcutting
- ☐ Window cleaning
- ☐ Gutter cleaning
- ☐ Pre-sale property preparation
- ☐ **ALL THE HARD STUFF**

FAST RESPONSE

www.terrysgroundcrew.com.au



*No time...too much to do...call the crew
Enjoy your precious weekends.*

*View previous issues and
learn about your local community*

www.newwoodendstar.com

www.facebook.com/thenewwoodendstar

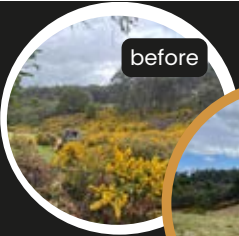
www.instagram.com/thenewwoodendstar



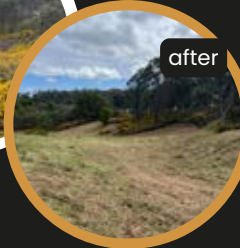


SAY GOODBYE TO GORSE & BLACKBERRY!

Revolutionary weed management with ECOBLADE!
Our method combines cutting, mulching, and herbicide application to the root system for instant and lasting results.



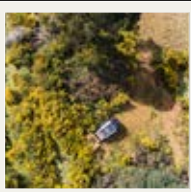
before



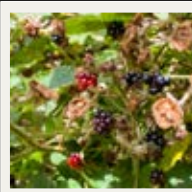
after



Weed Removal & Land Management



Mulching & Slashing



Hand Spraying for Precise Weed Control

Contact Paul for a free quote.
Proudly servicing the Macedon Ranges, Central & Regional Victoria.



0418 105 658 mvcontracting.com.au



Hawks soar into Finals as 2025 season wraps up

As the home-and-away season comes to a close, our Senior football and netball teams have shown grit, growth, and plenty of Hawks spirit. The Seniors have battled hard all year, and we're thrilled to announce that our D Grade, C Grade and A Grade netball teams have secured a spot in the finals. With momentum building and the club behind them, we're ready to fly into September.

Our Junior teams have also made us incredibly proud. Several squads powered through to the finals, showcasing the depth and talent coming through our ranks. A special congratulations to the U15B's football team for taking out the Grand Final win – an outstanding achievement that reflects the hard work of players, coaches, and families alike. We also extend our congratulations to all our Junior Best and Fairest winners and award recipients – your dedication and sportsmanship are what make this club so special.

Looking ahead to 2026, we're now seeking expressions of interest for a new Under 19.5s coach. With a strong group of Under 17s coming through – many already with senior experience – this is a fantastic opportunity to help shape the next generation of Hawks. If you're passionate about footy, development, and culture, we'd love to hear from you. Email: president@woodendhesketfnc.org

And finally, don't forget to book your spot for Presentation Night – a chance to celebrate the season, honour our players, and come together as a club.

**Kyneton Bowling Club, Saturday 20 September 2025
5.30pm–11.30pm**

Tickets available here: <https://trybooking.com/DECYZ>

Thanks to everyone who's supported the Hawks this season - let's finish strong and keep building for an even bigger 2026!

WRITTEN BY PAUL PODBURY, CO-PRESIDENT WHFNC SUBMITTED BY RACHEL SUMPTER



Don't get cold feet this winter, when it comes to your pest control needs!



Brooke Devlin
Business Owner & Pest Technician

ABOUT US
Devlin Family Pest Solutions are a family-owned and operated pest control business in Melbourne, deeply rooted in the Macedon Ranges community for over 14 years. Devlin Family Pest Solutions provides comprehensive Pest Control for a Safer, Healthier Home no matter the pest—wasps, ants, cockroaches, spiders, rodents, mosquitoes, flies, moths, or more—with expert solutions tailored to protect your home, business and family all year-round.

Devlin Family Pest Solutions offer flexible service options—including custom pest treatments—you can enjoy the peace of mind knowing your home or business is safe, secure, and pest-free.

OUR SERVICES

- Custom site treatment plans
- Rodent Control & Management
- Internal & External Pest treatments
- High quality products
- Free inspections*

Book Now!
0417 738 410



SCAN THE QR CODE TO GET STARTED

Devlinfamilypestsolutions@gmail.com



THINKING AHEAD
Advisors Accountants Auditors



Are you getting all the tax benefits from owning an investment property?

Consult with your local Bentleys advisor today.

Woodend Office | 17 Nicholson Street Woodend VIC 3442
Kilmore Office | 19 Bourke Street Kilmore VIC 3764
Phone: 5427 8100 | www.bentleys.com.au

Woodend Junior Hawks fly high!



The Woodend Junior Football and Netball Club has had a wonderful year on and off the field.

Netball

The 2025 home and away season has wrapped up, marking another strong year of growth and development from 11 & Unders to 17 & Unders. All teams showed dedication, resilience, club spirit and teamwork, on and off the court, continuing to make the club proud.

We had a record number of standout netballers finish in the top four of their divisions in the RDFNL League Best and Fairest, highlighting the depth of talent across the club.

We were fortunate to host the preliminary finals at our brand new netball courts at Gilbert Gordon; the sun even came out for this occasion. Four of our netball teams played in preliminary finals on the day. Congratulations on the 11 & Under Woodend Brown making it all the way to the Grand Final!

Football

The U11s were excited to have senior players from the Woodend Hasket Football Netball Club come to a training session recently. Thank you to Ryley, Al and Jack for sharing your passion for the game with our younger Hawks, it was fantastic to see!

Five of our junior footy teams made it to the finals with U11A and U13A runners up. A huge congratulations on U15B winning the Grand Final for the second year in a row, and to Seb Bartram for being named best player on the day!

The RDFNL League Best and Fairest Awards were held on Wednesday 13 August.

Congratulations to the following players!

Harriet Boudrie – Runner-up 11 & Under Division 2 Netball

Seb Cavric – Runner-up Under 11A Football

Hayley Wahlert – Runner-up 13 & Under Division 3 Netball

Ben Sumpter – Runner-up Under 13A Football

Lucinda Gray – Runner-up 13 & Under Division 2 Netball

Frankie Gleeson – 3rd 13 & Under Division 2 Netball

Alex Soppe – Joint Winner Under 15B Football

Seb Bartram – 3rd Under 15B Football

Isla Munro – Winner 15 & Under Division 1 Netball

Isla Munro – Best and Fairest 15 & Under RDFNL Netball Interleague

Ben Sumpter – Best and Fairest 13A Boys RDFNL Football Interleague

Thank you to all of our coaches, assistants, team managers and volunteers that have contributed to making the season such a huge success.

Our AGM was held at the end of August with a new committee who are excited for season 2026. If you have any questions about the club or would like to be involved, please contact secretary@woodendhawks.com.au

SUBMITTED BY EMMA, VICE PRESIDENT, WOODEND JUNIOR FOOTBALL AND NETBALL CLUB





Getting ready for the new season

As we emerge from winter, we begin preparations for the coming Pennant and Summer seasons. Some members have continued to brave the weather and play social bowls through winter in Woodend, while others head north and continue to bowl in warmer weather.

Now that all of our Pennant players are returning, we begin some practice sessions to prepare for the forthcoming season in the Highlands Region Competition, which involves 12 clubs – Broadford, Diggers Rest, Gisborne, Kilmore, Kyneton, Kyneton Golf, Lancefield, Macedon, Mt Cottrell, Romsey, Trentham and Woodend.

Woodend has entered teams for both the Saturday and Midweek (Tuesday) competitions. On Saturdays we are playing Divisions 1 (having been promoted following victory as Division 2 Champions last season – see photo of the 2025 championship winning team) and Division 3 and on Tuesday Divisions 2 and Division 3.

Looking for new members for the coming season

It's not too late to register your interest if you would like to play this season. If you are a player with some experience, the Woodend Bowling Club is looking for some new players. If you believe you have what it takes to be a competitive bowler or a keen social bowler, please give us a call.

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

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

Grant funds new solar panel system

Federal Member for McEwen Rob Mitchell MP has visited the Woodend Bowling Club to present a letter of congratulations for the Club being successful in Round 9 of the Stronger Communities Grant Program. The project, which will start soon, is for the installation of a Solar Panel Power System including fourteen 450W Type Solar Panels and a 5kw Inverter.

Mr Mitchell made the presentation to Club Vice President and Treasurer Tony Lennie and congratulated the club, saying that it was a great community organisation to work with. He also wished the club the best for the future and was keen to come back once installation was complete.

Those also present included Cath Mogridge from Mr Mitchell's office and representatives from the Bowling Club including committee members and players.

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

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, PRESIDENT WOODEND BOWLS CLUB



Bartay Agency

Specialising in Aged Care and Disability Care

your local Home Care Package Provider

Bartay Agency can provide you with your choice in services with flexibility that best suits your needs.

Tel: 5427 0338 | drewhawthorne@bartayagency.com.au | 31 Egans Lane Newham 3442

Woodend Self Storage (Vic) Pty Ltd



We have 110 storage units
in 5 different sizes to meet your needs.
Trailer hire available.
Affordable prices.
7 day accesses.
Insurance available.

Contact Leonie Barker on 0413 869 583 or
www.woodendselfstorage.com.au for a quote.



Reputable, reliable and operating 24/7
to get your vehicle where it needs to be.

- » Accident Towing
- » Offroad Recovery
- » Trade Tow
- » Breakdowns
- » Emergencies
- » Plant/equipment
- » 24/7 Service

0403 028 044

Save our number
Just in case!

**24/7 towing services
throughout the Macedon Ranges**



gisbornetowing.com.au • 0403 028 044 • 14 Gallivan Road, New Gisborne

Woodend Hanging Rock Petanque Club

As the winter continues on, a regular group of members continue to battle the elements on Monday and Thursday afternoons from 1pm at the Old Racecourse Reserve to play up to three games of petanque. Some days have been bright and sunny, and some have been bitter with the cold and the wind, as only Woodend can produce, but they play on.

Over the last few months, we have been playing a continuous tournament called the Golden Boule, which is played against six north-western petanque clubs from Ballarat, Bendigo, Maldon, Mt Macedon, Pyrenees and of course Woodend Hanging Rock.

Ten hardy club members have travelled to the various clubs to play in these Doubles and Triples teams, in the three games that we play.

Sometimes we were winners and other times not so successful.

It's all about the camaraderie and learning new strategies and having friendly social but competitive games.

As the winter continues, we welcome new members to come and join in and learn to play petanque and make new friends and have fun along the way.

The season commences in early October, so you have time to learn the game and meet members.

Email: president@petanqueattherock.com.au



Photo: A group of lucky petanque players on a sunny day in Woodend

SUBMITTED BY LOUISE POTTER

Active Kids



From Term 3 2025, Active Kids will be running Monday mornings at the Macedon Ranges Sports Precinct. This fun, active program is designed for children aged 3–5 years and is a great way to develop movement skills, confidence, and a love for physical activity in a supportive environment.

Session time: 10–10.45am (3–5 year olds)

Active Kids is also held at Buffalo Stadium, Woodend on Wednesday mornings, giving families flexibility to attend a session that suits them.

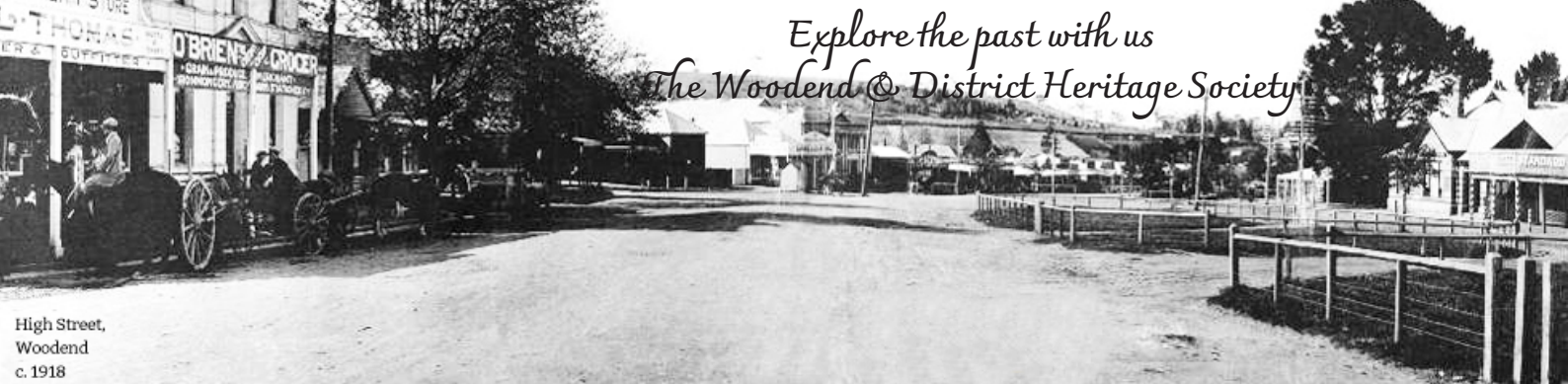
Cost: \$13.10 per week or purchase a 10-visit pass for \$118.30.

Whether your child is running, jumping, balancing, or just having fun, this program provides the perfect start to an active lifestyle.

For more information call Macedon Ranges Sports Precinct on (03) 5421 1469 or email: leisure@mrsc.vic.gov.au

mrsc.vic.gov.au/See-Do/Swimming-Sport-Fitness/Pools-and-leisure-centres/Macedon-Ranges-Sports-Precinct





High Street,
Woodend
c. 1918

Pioneer families lose two icons

In June this year, Woodend lost two highly regarded residents. Barbara Ruth Brown, who died aged 83 on 9 June, will be fondly and gratefully remembered by hundreds of students who attended the Woodend Primary School where ‘Miss Brown’ taught from 1970 until 2010, the last few years being part-time.

In the mid-1940s, Barbara’s family left Brunswick to buy a farm in Heskett on what is now Hylands Road. Barbara’s father, Harry, was a ‘horseman’, working the land with horses. Later, the family moved to Woodend. Barbara had seven brothers and sisters in a very close family where celebrations and family gatherings were common.

After school, Barbara attended teacher’s college before starting her long career in teaching. She had a passion for teaching and was a bottomless source of care, strength, love and advice for all her family, including her thirty-three nieces and nephews and their families, her students and their parents. Many students said she had a lasting influence on their careers. She was active in the community, particularly enjoying tennis and being involved with St Mary’s Anglican church. Animals were an important part of her life, especially dogs and cats, which featured in many happy photos at the memorial service.

A member of another pioneering family of the Heskett district, Arthur Else, died on 4 June aged ninety-eight. In 1885, Arthur’s grandfather James bought eighty acres to add to his existing land in the Kerrie Valley and developed Spring Grove Farm. After his marriage, Arthur moved to Woodend and with his wife, Audrey, had four sons. He worked at the Woodend Railway Station for forty-one years in various roles. He was a keen sportsman, playing football, cricket, tennis and bowls. He volunteered at the Tourist Information Centre and was much respected for his numerous community activities.

In 2001 Arthur joined the Woodend & District Heritage Society. Janet Hawkins had initiated the Heritage Walk along Five Mile Creek, where locals can have plaques installed to commemorate their families. From 2002, Arthur made all the wooden frames for the concrete into which the plaques were placed; helped to dig the holes, mix the concrete and plant the trees; and then assisted at the annual ceremonies. Arthur continued to do this well into his nineties, also served as president of the Society and was awarded a Life Membership in recognition of his wonderful service. He is remembered as a man of honour and integrity, with a witty and cheeky sense of humour.



Photo 1471 Arthur and Audrey Else with their four sons: Wayne, Raymond, Gregory and Trevor

SUBMITTED BY JANE HOLTH



Photo 616: The Brown family at the original house on Hylands road at Christmas, probably 1949 or 1950. Robert Brown (Bob), his wife Cath, nee Else, holding their daughter Judith, Dale Weston (niece) and Barbara Brown holding Vick Sparrow (niece)



ARBORIST



Josh Nicholas | 0431 764 750
Professional Arborists servicing the Macedon Ranges
jueshuex@yahoo.com | thetreedavinci.com.au

CARPENTRY SERVICES

Paul Gaskin
Qualified Carpenter
0438 440 986

Decks, Pergolas
Bathrooms, Renovations
& all your carpentry needs,
throughout the
Macedon Ranges
Free quotes



paulgaskin12@yahoo.com.au

DRAFTING SERVICES



DESIGN AND DRAFTING SERVICE
Construction plans
Design concepts
Town planning applications

With over 25yrs experience
servicing the Macedon Ranges and beyond
Brett Franke: Registered Building Practitioner
Call Brett 0408 054 472

ELECTRICAL SERVICES



Earthed power Electrician

Electrical Installation • Maintenance
Solar • Off-Grid Power
Communications • Data

alex@earthedpower.com.au
earthedpower.com.au

0403 889 437

HANDYMAN SERVICES

HANDYMAN SERVICE
Servicing the Macedon Ranges
honest, reliable, friendly and local

Phone Peter
0431 252 477

Minor repairs Dripping Taps
Basic carpentry Gardening
Fence repairs Painting
Mowing Odd Jobs



THIS SPACE TO RENT

Advertising Space
available
\$50 per edition + GST

HOME AND OFFICE CLEANING

GOLDSTAR ★

**HOME & OFFICE CLEANING
WINDOW CLEANING**

Call Joe or John for a quote
0429 361 698

LANDSCAPING



Aghent Landscapes

Landscape design | Paving
Decking | Pergolas | Planting
Retaining walls | Lighting
Irrigation | Real & artificial turf
All excavation and bobcat works
Contact Adam for a FREE quote 0424 033 087
aghent@hotmail.com
www.aghentlandscapes.com

LANDSCAPING & GARDEN MAINTENANCE

CALL TODD

Landscaping and Garden Maintenance
retaining walls and steps | paths | ponds
fencing and gates | steel edging
irrigation | decking | pet enclosures
green houses | mowing & general maintenance

1300 768 599

PAINTING

GEE'S
Painting etc.



Call Steven
0402 079 482

THIS SPACE TO RENT

Advertising Space
available
\$50 per edition + GST

PLUMBING



LCT Plumbing SOLUTIONS

Contact us for all your
plumbing solutions on
0437 249 683
lctplumbingsolutions@gmail.com

PLUMBING & GAS FITTING



MURPHYS PLUMBING VIC

Hot Water Units - Gas Fitting - Split Systems
Hydronic Heating - Rain Water Systems
Bathroom & Kitchen Renovations

Servicing Macedon Ranges - No job too small
Paul Murphy 0438 298 659

TAXI SERVICES

Crown Cabs

Catch a Cab - Catch a Crown Cab

Bookings: 1300 12 13 14
www.crowncabs.com.au

TIMBER WINDOWS & DOORS



**Castlemaine Timber
WINDOWS + DOORS**

Standard & Custom Sizes

Matt 0432 674 536
castlemainetwd@gmail.com

TREE SERVICES



KEATING'S TREE CARE

Mitch Keating 0448032003
Qualified and insured arborist providing residential and
commercial tree maintenance

Climbing arborists Tree pruning
Tree removals Stump grinding
Tree planting Confined space removal
Cabling and bracing Storm recovery

VERMIN AND PEST CONTROL



VIP PEST CONTROL

1800 198 041
www.vippestcontrol.com.au

WOOD CUTTING SERVICES

RANGES WOOD CUTTING



Chainsawing | Splitting | Moving | Stacking

Call Jamie on:
0474 704 615

Students shine in reimagining of Shakespeare's classic

From 13–16 August, the 2025 Sacred Heart College Production of *As You Like It* captivated audiences with a vibrant celebration of music, love, rebellion, and identity. Shakespeare's timeless comedy was reimagined through the lens of the late 1960s and early 1970s, transporting viewers to the Forest of Arden during the height of the counterculture era – a place where freedom, peace, and self-discovery took centre stage.

The production was developed in collaboration with acclaimed director, producer, and teaching artist Kellie Tori. With extensive training in acting, directing, voice, and movement both in Australia and abroad, Kellie brought a transformative vision to the stage. Her creative leadership played a pivotal role in guiding students to build both confidence and craft throughout the process.

Rehearsals have been in progress from Term 1, with students from all year levels contributing their talent, energy, and commitment. The show featured live music from the era, performed by our gifted music students, which added a rich and authentic soundtrack to the bold retelling.

Set, costume, and prop design were led by the Year 11 Theatre Studies class, whose creativity and flair were evident in every detail. They worked closely with SHC Art Technician – and talented theatre designer – Peter Ashman, whose expertise helped bring the visual world of the production to life. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all staff who generously shared their time, talent, and expertise to support the production, along with the parents who do so much behind the scenes to ensure their

children attend rehearsals and ensure they are ready for the show to go on.

College productions like this offer students a chance to explore interests beyond the classroom and uncover new skills and passions. These creative experiences foster personal growth and help students flourish, contributing to a rich and fulfilling life. They also encourage collaboration across year levels, nurturing a culture of support, friendship, and mutual respect. We trust those who attended enjoyed the experience as much as those who were involved in the show.

Thoughts from our cast and crew:

"It was an amazing experience but a little bit sad because it's my last school production." - Isla

"It's really enhanced my sense of community ... as someone who hasn't been in a production I felt connected to a new group of people, which has been a wonderful experience." – Claire

"I've enjoyed getting to know the younger people because when I did the last production I was in the junior school." – Benjamin

SUBMITTED BY JENNIFER BALDWIN



Learn. Care. flourish



The best environment for the senior years

A choice of pathways to suit learning styles & aspirations

To learn more about the Senior School environment and available pathways, join one of our regular College tours - bookings essential. For all enrolment enquiries contact the College Registrar.



Scan for tour bookings

SACRED HEART COLLEGE KYNETON

A Ministry of Mercy Education Limited - ABN 69 154 531 870

T: 5421 1238 W: www.shckyneton.catholic.edu.au
E: registrar@shckyneton.catholic.edu.au