

The New **Woodend Star**

Rotary  Club of Woodend

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**Rotarians tackle
environmental
project in Bali**

Article page 7

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Local Legend – World War II veteran turns 100

**Woodend World War Two
veteran Joy Daymon will be
celebrating her 100th birthday
this month.**

A Western Australian by origin, Joy remembers being 17 years of age, sitting with her family at Sunday lunch, and hearing over the radio that women were being allowed to enlist in the Air Force; she also remembers her father pointing at all three young women at the table, saying “None of you will be going!”

Joy was “the determined type” though, she says, barely waiting until she was 18 to enlist in the Women’s Auxiliary Australian Air Force (WAAAF). Her first posting was across the country in Ascot Vale, Victoria, to undertake the challenging and intense training to become an aircraft mechanic. After successfully completing her training, Joy had various postings in Western Australia and Victoria, and by the end of the war, Joy was back in Victoria, at Bairnsdale Airfield. She put in her discharge papers, but was told she’d received another posting, back in her home state, WA, in Subiaco, as a flight mechanic. She was eventually discharged in 1946, at the age of 22.

Joy speaks highly of her time in the Air Force, and of the people that she worked with in what was largely back then a male-dominated environment. She liked the regularity of that life, having a routine, and the discipline. The food? “Eh, not too bad!” she chuckles.

Joy met her husband in the air force, however the young couple weren’t in a rush to marry; only making it official a few years later, when Joy was 26. “I didn’t want to marry young!” she says. The couple’s daughter was born four years after that. The young family first lived in a war service home in suburban Perth, but after a few years, Joy suggested a move to Melbourne to be closer to her husband’s family after so long on Joy’s home ground. They moved to inner northern Melbourne, bought a milk bar, and after that, a haberdashery, which she kept for a few years and closed after a mishap where a car came through her shop’s front window. An offer to work for another haberdashery nearby came, and that’s where she spent the rest of her time in the workforce. She says she enjoyed retail work, and the daily contact with people and their many stories.

She and her husband retired to Ocean Grove, but when her husband passed away in 1995, Joy moved to Woodend, to be near her daughter and family, who were living here. She loves having her own home base on its small acreage and being near family. Any downsides to living here? “It’s too darn cold!” she says emphatically, with a laugh.

Joy participated more in the community in the early days, but still seems to have enviable energy levels for her years. She still goes out for a meal every week at a nearby services club; when I spoke to her on the phone, she was out with a friend for lunch and shopping. Joy has vivid memories from her world travels, including eight trips to



China. Two years ago, she went to Vietnam; and last year, Fiji. When we spoke, she was very much looking forward to her upcoming birthday trip with close friends, who will all go to the same resort in Fiji for a big celebration.

When asked if she had any advice for younger generations on how to live well, she told the story of how, a few years ago, a certain minister by the name of Reverend Mel called Joy up in front of the congregation and asked her a similar question. Her answer, as she tells it? “Live a clean, happy life, and eat a little of everything you desire.

We here at *The New Woodend Star* would like to wish Joy a very happy 100th birthday and many happy returns!

WRITTEN BY KELLIE FLANAGAN

The rise of fraud against older adults

Financial elder abuse by scammers is on the rise in all countries, and sometimes victims are left with no way to recoup their losses. Australia’s National Council on Aging recently reported \$3.4 billion was lost worldwide to people aged 60+ in 2023 alone.

“These criminals target seniors with tech support, grandparent and government impersonation, all of which work by gaining trust.”

“We all need to work together to make sure our seniors, their care givers, families and friends know the signs to look for that a criminal is after your money. Learn how to identify and stop these scammers and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim.”

This year for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on Sunday 15 June, the action comedy *Thelma* will be screened in Kyneton with free admission for all. See how *Thelma* deals with her scammers, and listen to special guest, Australia’s own veteran actor Ian Rooney, who hosts a session on how we can safeguard ourselves against fraud.

For information visit facebook.com/Kindness to Elders

If you need to talk with someone about elder abuse phone the confidential helpline at Senior Rights Victoria on 1300 368 821 (and press option 1).

SUBMITTED BY LYNDA MCCLURE CAMERON, KINDNESS TO ELDERS
INITIATIVE

Movie and more to mark World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

This year, Council is teaming up with Kindness to Elders to host a special event at Kyneton Mechanics Institute aimed at shedding light on the challenges faced by older adults.

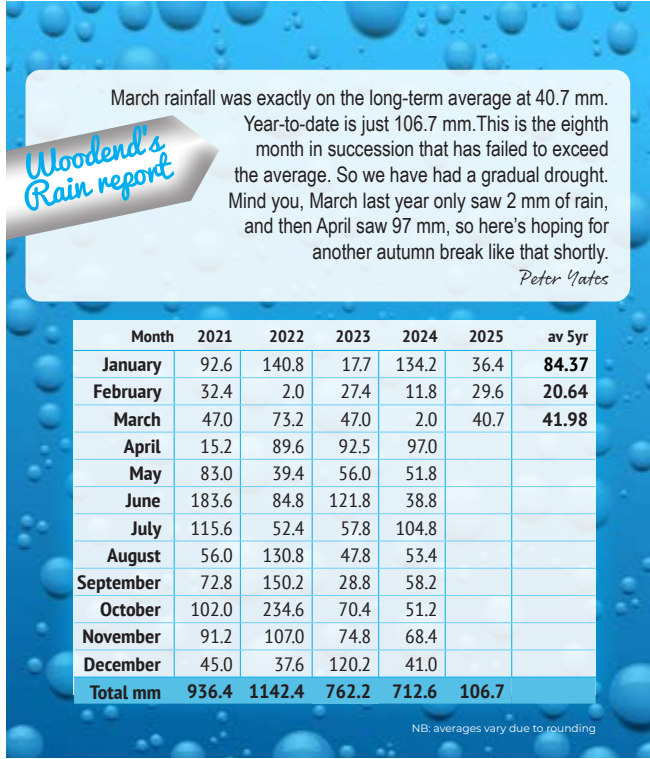
The matinee screening of *Thelma* is set to start at 2pm.

Also taking place on the day will be a flag raising ceremony to begin the day at 12pm, a Scouts-led sausage sizzle, food and coffee vans, and a meet and greet space including information on financial guidance and support for seniors who may have concerns about fraud, abuse, or other related issues.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is not just for seniors – it’s for everyone. Bring your grandparents, parents, and other loved ones to the event to show your support for the elder community.

For more information, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/Elder-abuse

SUBMITTED BY BODEY DITTOFF, MRSC



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.

Honouring bereaved mothers with gentle presence and care



International Bereaved Mother’s Day – held the Sunday before Mother’s Day – honours mothers who carry their children in their hearts rather than their arms. It offers space to acknowledge the deep love and quiet grief of those who have lost a child, no matter their age, or those who are unable to become mothers.

If someone dear to you is walking this path, here are a few simple, heartfelt ways to offer care:

Acknowledge with kindness
 “I’m holding you in my heart today.” Simply being seen and remembered matters.

Offer a gentle token
 A candle, a bloom, or a handwritten note can quietly say, “I see you. I remember.”
 Let the gesture be one of quiet comfort.

Share a memory
 If you knew their child, sharing a cherished memory can bring comfort: “I was thinking of [child’s name] today.”

Create space to speak
 A gentle invitation like, “Would you like to talk about them?” allows them to share if and when they feel ready. Your presence and willingness to listen are often enough.

Honour their silence
 Grief sometimes asks for stillness. A message such as, “No need to respond – I just wanted you to know I’m thinking of you,” respects the quiet while still offering your love.

These small, thoughtful gestures can help a grieving mother feel seen, supported, and lovingly held.

From 10am to 4pm each day, Monday 5 May to Friday 9 May, Natural Grace Woodend welcomes you into a gentle and safe space. You’re invited to write a loved one’s name on a heart, share a cuppa in gentle company – or simply sit in the stillness of the vigil room in our sanctuary.

Natural Grace, 65 Urquhart Street, Woodend

For enquiries, please phone 5427 3112

SUBMITTED BY SHARON TREGONING

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Rainbow Windows Competition



Local businesses and community members are being encouraged to decorate their shopfront, home window or foyer in rainbows in recognition of IDAHOBIT. Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health has once again partnered with Macedon Ranges Shire Council to mark the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) which is marked globally each year on 17 May.

Created in 2004 to draw attention to the violence and discrimination experienced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people, and all of those with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities or expressions and sex characteristics, this year’s theme is ‘The Power of Communities’.

Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health’s Rhani Dean-Talbett explains that the IDAHOBIT Rainbow Windows competition helps to raise awareness about how the community can come together to address discrimination and rights violations still experienced by LGBTIQA+ people on a day-to-day basis.

“By embodying the theme and entering the Rainbow Windows competition, the community can demonstrate their creativity and support for LGBTIQA+ people. Last year’s competition was highly contested, and we hope this year will be too!”

Macedon Ranges Shire Council’s Acting Director Community, Amy Holmes, said Council was proud to again partner with Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health and other local organisations to support the LGBTIQA+ community through IDAHOBIT initiatives.

“IDAHOBIT is always a colourful, poignant opportunity to show our support and we encourage others to join us in standing up against discrimination not just on this day, but every day,” Ms Holmes said.

Prizes are available for the most creative entries. To register your business or window, visit www.sunburycobaw.org.au/idahobit-2025.

There will also be a free online workshop for local businesses, community groups and residents to help support them to be rainbow-inclusive in the lead up to IDAHOBIT. Taking place on Wednesday 7 May, 6.00pm to 7.30pm, registrations for the IDAHOBIT Rainbow Inclusion Workshop can also be made by visiting Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health’s website.

To speak to someone about the competition or the online workshop, call 5421 1666 or email healthpromotion@scchc.org.au.

A range of other events are planned in the Macedon Ranges in the lead-up to IDAHOBIT, including a flag-raising ceremony on Friday 16 May at 12pm – visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/IDAHOBIT for more information.

SUBMITTED BY BODEY DITTLOFF

Special 10 Year anniversary – The Ranges Cultural Centre.

The Woodend Community and Cultural Centre is celebrating its 10th anniversary with a rebrand as it continues to work towards securing funding to build the Stage 1 component. The project’s new name is The Ranges Cultural Centre, and the group says it is “shovel ready”, with plans and permits that are complete and endorsed.

This is an exciting new vision to transform the existing library and hall into a well designed, multipurpose public space that contributes significantly to the Shire’s tourism activity, nurtures local arts and culture community and economy, and could function as one of the region’s main drawcard destinations.

Once completed, the precinct will be attractive for tourists and locals alike, with a new visitor information centre, a contemporary information and learning centre, a multipurpose auditorium and performance space, weather protection and landscaping for farmers and craft markets, and new spaces for meetings, exhibitions, special events and community gatherings. The architectural design features transparent space with references to Woodend’s ‘timber town’ history and encompasses the latest technology and sustainable design, providing opportunities to recognise First Nation and early settler history.




Photo courtesy of Macedon Ranges Shire & City Collective

The Macedon Ranges Shire and Central Victoria support a great number of performance and fine artists, and events such as the Woodend Winter Arts Festival – one of the largest events held in the Shire and which celebrates its twentieth anniversary this year – but are limited in performance, exhibition and large meeting venues.




Photo courtesy of Macedon Ranges Shire & City Collective

Woodend was nominated by PWC a few years ago as regional Victoria’s most liveable town as part of the treechange trend, and it recently won bronze in Victoria’s Top Tiny Town Awards recently for its commitment to the visitor experience. The Shire’s Tourism Strategy points to Woodend as attracting the highest number of day trip visitors in the Shire.

Woodend residents are invited to attend the project’s 10th anniversary celebration at 10am Saturday June 7th at the entrance of Woodend Library, to meet the project team, and to view the endorsed engineered plans. For more information, visit the project’s new website therangesculturalcentre.com.

SUBMITTED BY THE WOODEND COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTRE COMMITTEE

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Breathing new life into the railway bridge rose garden

Woodend residents will have noticed a lot of activity at the rose garden on the south side of the railway bridge on High Street Woodend over this past year. The garden – which the Rotary Club of Woodend was instrumental in setting up, to enhance and beautify the entrance to Woodend from the south – has not had any serious maintenance for a while. The fence needed repair and repainting, the roses needed a pruning and the garden bed a good weeding.

Work began in autumn last year with weeding and then a generous amount of compost was added, covered by a layer of mulch, then pruning in late winter. At this stage, we started the restoration program on the fence, which took some time as it was quite weathered. In the spring we realised that we had an onion weed problem, which took many hours to eradicate. Work continued on the fence during the summer and into this autumn.

Work was carried out under the leadership of Rotarian Ed Brown, Lead in our Environmental activities. The Rotary Club would like to acknowledge Ed for his work on this community project. He has pruned and fed the roses, painted the fence, purchased materials and organised working bees, which were attended by a small group of enthusiastic Rotary members.

There has been very positive feedback from the community.

The garden will need ongoing maintenance which it will receive; the fence is ageing and will need ongoing work to keep it looking its best for many years to come. This project was made possible by the income generated by The New Woodend Star.

If you want to find out more about what the Rotary Club of Woodend is doing in the community, visit our website <https://www.woodendrotary.org.au/>.

ADRIAAN ADOLPH, PRESIDENT, ROTARY CLUB OF WOODEND



Photo: The rose garden from High Street



Photo: Rotarians Penny Longton and Joop Ryssenbeek working on the fence

Rotary Woodend supports rural girls in STEM programs

The Rotary Club of Woodend sponsored Molly Boswell, a Year 11 student from East Loddon P-12 College, Dingee, to attend the National Youth Science Forum event in Canberra in January this year.

The National Youth Science Forum, known until 1995 as the National Science Summer School, is a summer school programme dedicated to Year 11 students who are heading into Year 12 and trying to pursue careers in science, engineering and related disciplines. Rotary is a founding partner of the forum and sponsors the NYSF Year 12 program each year.

A delegation from the Rotary Club of Woodend attended a meeting of the Rotary Club of Bendigo South to hear Molly give a presentation highlighting the experiences that she had at the forum: receiving lectures from eminent scientists, visiting working laboratories, going on field trips; she said she managed to include some social events as well.

Molly thanked the Rotary Club of Woodend for sponsoring her. She said the experience of NYSF only cemented her desire to pursue her goals to work in animal and environmental sustainability and management. Molly said that she had a strong passion for science and in particular wildlife biology and genetic engineering for agriculture. When she completes her studies, Molly would really like to travel the globe, exploring and aiding in the conservation of our Earth's precious ecosystems.



For information on next year's National Youth Science Forum visit <https://www.nysf.edu.au>

ADRIAAN ADOLPH, PRESIDENT, ROTARY CLUB OF WOODEND

Rotarians tackle plastic waste in Bali

Woodend Rotary Club is partnering with the Rotary Club of Bali Seminyak and the Rotary Club of Perth to deliver the Plastic Free Bali project. This project was made possible in part by a global grant from the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.

The project is implementing a bold vision to reduce plastic waste in the environment in West Bali through education and training of households and businesses. A team of education leaders is now visiting every household and business in the villages of Pemuteran, Sumberkima, Sumberklompok and Pejarakan to teach them how to manage their waste. The focus is on reducing, reusing and recycling plastics. They are also working with the villages to improve local waste management facilities and introduce income streams from recycling and compost.

Woodend Rotarians recently travelled to Bali to review progress on the Plastic Free Bali project. The group visited local trash facilities and met with locals to discuss waste issues while they were there.

Woodend Rotary Club supports local projects and international projects. Our current and active projects are in Bali, Vanuatu and Bangladesh. If you would like to know more or to get involved please contact us via our website <https://www.woodendrotary.org.au/contact>.

SUBMITTED BY DEIDRE WILLMOTT



Got a biz idea?

Ever had a business idea but didn't have the resources or confidence to further explore it?

Startup Central Victoria's FREE pre-accelerator program provides an opportunity for participants to test out an idea at minimal cost with the support of experienced professionals and mentors.

Over the past four years, 83 startups from across the Loddon Campaspe region have participated in the program. This includes 16 teams from the Macedon Ranges that collectively received pro-bono training valued at over \$100,000.

"The program connected me with brilliant mentors and local experts, and the masterclasses gave us the tools to bring our idea to life," said Matt Grant from Tinkuru in Woodend.

"Through the program we verified that we have an idea that will bring value to people," said Amy Cockroft from the CULTIVATE team also based in the Macedon Ranges.

Applications open on 1 May for this year's pre-accelerator program that commences on Sunday 22 June followed by 12 weeks of online masterclasses held each Tuesday evening.

Startup guest speakers from Cultivate and Tinkuru will be speaking at 600 Above in Woodend on 8 May at 5.30pm. RSVP to this free event:

<https://events.humanitix.com/startups-how-to-test-your-idea>

More details can be found at www.startupcv.com.au

SUBMITTED BY KERRY ANDERSON

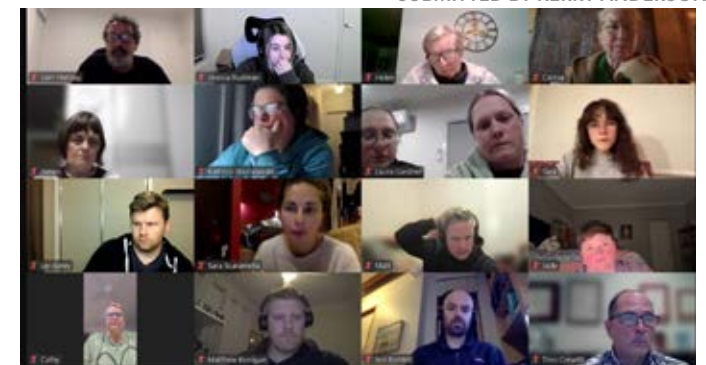


Photo: Participants from all over the region meet in person and online over a 12 week program to develop and test their business ideas.

News from Trentham Branch



Horsing around with TARC!

It's been a privilege to be involved with Trentham Adult Riding Club's annual Dressage Series, a major fundraiser the club has run successfully over the past 20 years.

TARC is part of Horse Riding Clubs Association Victoria (HRCV) with the Dressage Series featuring on their events calendar, attracting entries as far as Bendigo, Ballarat and surrounds.

A friendly welcoming club with many Woodend based members, the club is located at beautiful and historic Newbury Recreation Reserve. Volunteer club members work hard to keep the grounds, equipment and infrastructure in excellent shape. The grounds, club house and toilets are available to the community and other groups to use.

TARC supports members by providing monthly riding lessons with paid qualified coaches, an opportunity to compete at events held at club grounds, education days and social events. They support members throughout their equestrian learning journey - from new riders who are less confident, those returning to the sport after years of not riding and to those more experienced riders.

If you would like to assist with donations for projects such as grounds pine tree removal – an ongoing issue and expense considering the age and size of boundary trees – please contact club President, Jessica Smith 0405284245 or treasurer Deborah Williams 0477 195 364.

Be part of creating Community Impact

Our branch has proudly provided a water tank to the Club in 2012, sponsored the Dressage Series since 2023 and recently provided funds for the external painting of Newbury Hall club building.

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News from Gisborne Branch

\$55,000 in grants awarded to community groups

When you bank with Community Bank Gisborne & District, your money feeds directly into projects that support your local community. Like our latest Autumn grant round, which awarded \$55,000 to 11 community groups, taking our total community investment to \$3.8 million since our branch opened 17 years ago.

Congratulations to the following grant recipients from Woodend:

- Woodend Men's Shed – upgrade of dust extraction and clean air systems to create a safer working environment consistent with best practice OH&S policies, supporting increased workshop attendance which puts greater demands on machinery.
- Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group – funding support for the Electrify 3442 Household Electrification project, which will help households in the 3442 postcodes transition to electrically-powered transport, cooking, home heating and cooling and household water heating.
- Woodend 1st Scouts – purchase of two Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs), one portable unit for camps and outdoor adventures, and one for the scout hall. This project will equip leaders and members with vital, potentially life-saving equipment to respond effectively to cardiac emergencies.

Celebrating volunteers and community giving

National Volunteer Week will take place on 19-25 May, with this year's theme being 'Connecting Communities', to celebrate the power of volunteering in bringing people together.

To coincide with National Volunteer Week and celebrate our giving program, Community Bank Gisborne & District is hosting a Community Investment Evening on 19 May at the new Macedon Ranges Sports Precinct Pavilion. All members of the community are invited, but seats are limited so you must book to secure your spot.

To book your ticket to this free event, visit www.trybooking.com/DBABE. For more information, contact Liz O'Connell, Community Engagement Officer via communityengagement@macedonranges.com.au

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Woodend Probus 1st Anniversary Celebrations.



The Probud Club was formed in April 2024 and numbers have steadily improved over the first year to 40.

We have enjoyed outings to the Daylesford Convent Gallery, a BBQ in Trentham and we have dined out in Woodend, Gisborne and Kyneton.

Our guest speakers have been varied and interesting, with so much talent in the area. Our guest speaker for April was Stephanie Rickard, a Woodend identity who spoke on her career as an international dog show judge.

We meet at the Norma Richardson Hall in Buckland St, Woodend, on the third Friday of the month at 9:30 for 10am.

Thanks to St Mary's Anglican Church for the use of their great venue and to the Rotary Club of Woodend for steering us in the right direction.

We welcome three new members to our club: Carolyn Adams, Chris Holmes and Shirley Ganim.

Probus is about fun, friendship and fellowship, and we look forward to welcoming new members in the coming year.

Next meeting is on Friday 16 May, 9.30 for 10am at the Norma Richardson Hall in Buckland St, Woodend. Gerard McManus will be our guest speaker from Trade Travel. Come along and join us, you will be made most welcome.

For more information, contact Chris on 0402 380 990 or Pauline on 0409 120 945



SUBMITTED BY CHRISTINE GILLMAN.



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Bubs and Pubs

Local community group Rad Dads is proud to introduce Bubs & Pubs, a pioneering initiative designed to empower expectant dads through a blend of comprehensive birth education and community support. This innovative event offers evidence-based sessions covering everything from the physical and emotional changes of pregnancy to the practical skills needed in the birth space – all delivered in a relaxed, pub-inspired setting. By merging informative content with the inviting atmosphere of a local community pub, Bubs & Pubs redefines the traditional approach to parenting classes, placing fathers as an important part of birth.

What sets Bubs & Pubs apart is its commitment to continuity of care. Rather than being a one-off session, the event is the gateway to an ongoing support network that Rad Dads is continuously expanding. Attendees are invited to join regular support groups that offer sustained guidance and community engagement long after the initial event. With a clear call to all modern dads to step forward and embrace their role in the birthing process, "Bubs & Pubs" stands as a transformative movement – one that not only prepares fathers for the challenges of parenthood but also shapes a future where every child benefits from the presence of an engaged and empowered dad.

If you would like to know more about Bubs & Pubs, head to <https://www.raddads.com.au/>

SUBMITTED BY GABRIEL CARAZO

The Pumpkin Contest at the Lions Woodend Market



Get ready for some friendly competition and festive fun as the annual Pumpkin Contest is set to take place at the Lions Woodend Market on 3 May, which is the first Saturday of the month. This eagerly anticipated event promises excitement and entertainment for growers and spectators alike.

The grower of the biggest pumpkin will be awarded a special gift from the Woodend Produce Store, a sash, and most importantly, the coveted bragging rights as Champion Grower for 2025. If you think you have a winning whopper, then pop along and have it weighed. It's an excellent opportunity to showcase your gardening skills and celebrate the fruits of your labour.

In addition to the contest, the market is also accepting donated pumpkins, from teeny to towering, for the Woodend Food Bank. These donations will help provide nutritious meals to those in need within our community. You can drop off your pumpkins at the Lions stall under the yellow canopy.

Whether you're a seasoned grower or just enjoy the spectacle, the Pumpkin Contest is a highlight of the Woodend Lions Market that you won't want to miss. Join us for a day of fun, community spirit, and a celebration of local agriculture.

SUBMITTED BY GAIL JONES



Another great 'Good Friday' collection ... and you can still donate

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

A special thanks to all residents and visitors who donated so generously, raising an amazing total on the day of just over \$12,500—including nearly \$9,000 for Woodend, \$2,400 for Heskett-Kerrie and \$1,150 for Newham. This takes the total collected through the Woodend CFA since 1980 to just under \$350,000.

A huge thank you to the organising team, the highly-skilled money-counting team of Simone Schroeder, Anne Dornau and Kate Daniel, and the catering crew of the Woodend CFA, led by Annette van Huffel, who ensured that all were well fed and watered on the day.

Unfortunately, we were not able to cover every home, so if we missed your house, you can still donate online right now. Your donation will add directly to the Woodend total. Simply go to <https://fundraise.goodfridayappeal.com.au/fundraisers/woodendnewham>

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

Woodend CFA families add to Good Friday collection

A special mention to the increasing numbers of families who were involved. It is great to see family and friends joining Woodend CFA volunteers for the collection.

The Callaghans raised \$1,466, the Kyretses \$1,040 and the Selbys \$921.

The best individual total was raised by seven year old Leo Kyretses, with a fantastic total of \$640, with Woodend CFA member Jack Anticich raising \$540 and new recruits Peter Merrick \$538 and Michael McLeod \$360. A great effort by everyone involved.

Fire restrictions ended in April

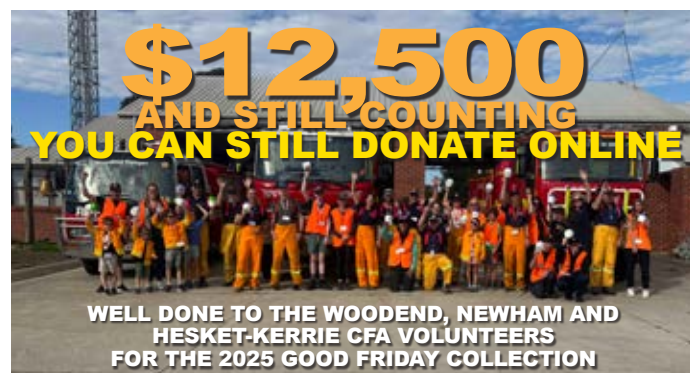
The Fire Danger Period ended in the Macedon Ranges on 22 April. However, fires can only be lit under certain conditions. Please check the Macedon Ranges Shire website for the details.

Our busy year continues

2025 has continued to be a very busy year for the Woodend CFA. At the time of writing this article, we had been called to more than 75 jobs. To put that in perspective, we reached that mark last year in mid-November. Half of those jobs have been in the Woodend area and half supporting other brigades, including numerous callouts for our Rehab Unit.

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 repeated message – it seems – from your local officer

I'm a little disappointed that I feel I need to write this article, I understand that the Woodend community wants to know what is going on in their town, and I try and write exactly that. However, I feel I'm writing the same thing over and over again. I'm regularly told by members of the community that they look forward to my articles, for the humour, honesty and information.

However, it doesn't feel like the message is being heard or understood. I write this article during the school holidays, and it won't hit The New Woodend Star until some weeks later. I've seen the community posts warning of what is happening, and I hope that the community is listening to these people. There were numerous cars broken into at night during the holidays and while I'm sure many of these victims feel violated, distressed and concerned that somebody has been creeping around their house/yard or driveway at night – ALL except one of these thefts and the theft of motor car could have been prevented if people just locked their cars. The only exception to this rule was a vehicle parked overnight at the railway station – this was the only vehicle where force/damage was used.

Much like many of you, I live in a rural area, in a much smaller community with a lower crime rate, outside the main town on some land. But even I still take precautions: I have two very large dogs that you would not even contemplate engaging with; I have security lights around the house, shed and cars – and yet no member of my family ever leaves their cars unlocked or anything of value in their cars. But even if you live in a quiet community, it doesn't stop people from elsewhere coming into town and causing havoc. PLEASE don't leave keys to your vehicles, outside in obvious places – under rocks, in letter boxes, on top of the front tyre of your vehicle. These things can be avoided, and it really is a case of lock things up or be prepared for higher insurance premiums and the possibility of the inconvenience of loss of something important.

I implore you, please give me something else to write about.

SUBMITTED BY DAVID ARNOLD, OIC WOODEND POLICE



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Enhance your outdoor living or indoor spaces today by consulting with Woodend Building & Landscaping. Let them help you unlock the full potential of your property, turning your dreams into reality, one project at a time.

ACRATH shines light on modern slavery at Victorian Parliament

ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans) was honoured to host the Speaker's Breakfast at the Victorian Parliament earlier this year, following an invitation from the Speaker of the House, Maree Edwards. This event provided a platform for ACRATH to present their ongoing efforts in combating forced marriage, human trafficking, and modern slavery.

During the breakfast, ACRATH shared a monthly memo with all Victorian parliamentarians, accompanied by images depicting various areas of their work, including forced marriage, migrant workers, the Easter campaign, and other calendar highlights. The event highlighted the importance of collaboration with MPs and their staff, emphasizing the need for continued efforts to address these critical issues.

Many MPs present at the event expressed their concerns about the growing issue of human trafficking and modern slavery. Shadow Minister Chris Crewther, who led Parliament's Modern Slavery Inquiry and contributed to the creation of Australia's Modern Slavery Act, was among the attendees. ACRATH aims to maintain close contact with electorate offices and leverage the coverage gained from the Speaker's Breakfast to further their mission.

ACRATH volunteers, though a small group, are dedicated to shedding light on the exploitation of vulnerable individuals. Their close links with the Australian Federal Police enable them to take strong and effective action in cases highlighted by parliamentarians.

SUBMITTED BY MARGARET LEAHY.



Photo: left to right: Kathleen Matthews-Ward MP, Member for Broadmeadows; Marg Leahy; Mary-Anne Thomas MP, Member for Macedon; Shaun Leane, President of the Legislative Council; Iwan Walters MLA, Member for Greenvale.



Photo: Marg Leahy and Chris Crewther, MP; Member for Mornington



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What's On at the Neighbourhood House



Term 2 Highlights

We're excited to welcome you back for Term 2, with a fantastic line-up of new and returning programs, activities, and community events at the Woodend Neighbourhood House!

New This Term

In collaboration with our friends at Woodend Playgroup, we're thrilled to introduce a *brand- new Intergenerational Playgroup*. It's a wonderful way to connect young families with older community members through play and conversation. Register your interest to get involved!

Our wellbeing programs continue to grow, with two new Hatha Yoga classes led by Sarah: *Grounding Hatha and Supported Hatha*. We're also delighted to introduce a weekly Tai Chi and Qigong class with Anne – perfect for those seeking gentle movement and inner calm.

Looking to try something new or connect with others who share your interests? Check out our new hobby groups and workshops:

- Dungeons & Dragons – meets on the fourth Sunday of the month, 12–4pm (for ages 14+).
- Puzzles and Chat – first Thursday of each month, 1–3pm. Come along to relax, meet new people, and challenge your mind.
- Community Gardening Group – Thursday mornings, 10am–12noon. Join us to share your love of gardening and get your hands dirty with like-minded locals.
- Craft Workshop for Carers – Unpaid carers are invited to make magnesium bath salts in this fun workshop. Friday 9 May, 10–11.30am.
- Pen Drawing Workshop – Join Marilyn for an inspiring workshop exploring the art of contemporary drawing with coloured pens. Thursday 3 July, 10.30am–3.30pm.

Neighbourhood House Week – May 2025

This year's theme is "Ripples of Change" – a beautiful reminder that even small actions can spark big impacts. Whether it's a shared story, a new skill, or a friendly smile, these moments create lasting waves of connection and change in our community.

To celebrate, we're hosting two free hands-on workshops, where you'll learn how to build a wicking bed using a raised galvanised planter or an IBC container. Places are limited, so registrations are essential!

Woodend May Community Lunch

Join us at the Woodend RSL on Tuesday 20 May for our monthly Community Lunch. Everyone is welcome! A \$5 donation is appreciated (but not required) to help cover costs. Bookings are essential.

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

SUBMITTED BY MELISSA BAKER

Inside the bike shed: Spokes, folks and questionable tunes

Tucked near the Woodend skate park is the Woodend Community Bike Shed – a low-key space where bike nerds, beginners, and curious passers-by come to fix bikes, help each other out, and enjoy whatever the community radio throws at us. Sometimes it's bangers. Sometimes it's ska-jazz fusion. We roll with it.

We're open Thursdays* from 3.30pm to 5.30pm, and anyone is welcome to come by.

Bring your bike and work on it using our tools. Ask questions, learn something new, or help us work through the backlog of donated bikes. If you're after a bike, we've usually got a few for sale that we've fixed up – cheap and cheerful, with all proceeds going to the Woodend Neighbourhood House.


There's no pressure to know what you're doing. People stop in just to have a look, hang out, ask questions, or get their hands dirty. If you're keen to get more involved over time, there are always ways to help out.

We're here to make bikes work, not fancy. Whether yours has been sitting in the shed for ten years or you've never changed a tyre, you're welcome to drop by.

Come check us out next Thursday (probably*).
*Well... most Thursdays. Best to check woodendnh.org.au/bike-shed or scan the QR code to follow us on Facebook.



SUBMITTED BY MATT GRANT




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Volunteers Wanted!

The Woodend Community Bike Shed open fortnightly on Thursdays from 4pm to 5:30pm. You'll find us at *The Hub* (formerly the Toy Library), on the corner of Forest Street and Margery Crescent, near the skate park.

We're are looking for new volunteers! No bike maintenance experience needed — just a willingness to help and be part of something great.

For more information drop by the House, visit our website www.woodendnh.org.au or call 5427 1845.

SUBMITTED BY MELISSA BAKER

Woodend Senior Citizens

The next Woodend Senior Citizens bus trip will be on Thursday 8 May to Maryborough Railway Station and town tour.

Please support the bus trips as well as our other activities:

Button Bingo on Tuesdays 1pm–3pm, finishing with a cuppa and chat

Playing cards on Fridays 1pm–4pm

New members are always welcome, so come along and join us at the Undercroft of the Woodend Neighbourhood House, or call Margaret (0458 272 767), Irene (0417 676 843) or Alma (0400 134 478).

SUBMITTED BY ALMA W, PRESIDENT

Woodend Library update



Crafting Connections: Wednesday 7 May, 2pm

Join our relaxed and friendly gathering and connect over craft. Bring along your current crochet, knitting or craft project, share tips and learn new skills. Preemie Heart supplies available.

No bookings required.



Sydney Writer's Festival, Live and Local: Thursday 22–Saturday 24 May

We're taking part in the Sydney Writers Festival Live & Local program again this year, bringing you a selection of excellent sessions, live-streamed to our big screen.

Come along and experience wonderful authors, writers and speakers live-streamed in a boutique atmosphere! This year, we will be streaming sessions with authors David Nicholls, Thomas Mayo, Clare Wright, The Moriarty sisters, Helen Garner, Colm Tóibín and Natalie Paull of Beatrix Bakes! For more details and to book, please head to the website or give us a call. Bookings not required but preferred. Refreshments provided.

Film: Winhanganha: Wednesday 28 May, 2–3pm



Winhanganha is a lyrical journey of archival footage and sound, poetry, and original composition by Wiradjuri artist Jazz Money, examining how archives and the legacies of collection affect First Nations people and wider Australia. Through film, television, audio and music recordings, the film is a poem in five acts that attempts to acknowledge the horrors, joys, and beauties held within the archive.

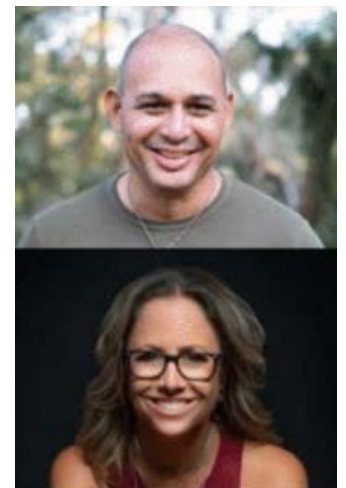
Winhanganha was commissioned by the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia.

Bookings required.

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

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

SUBMITTED BY EMMA KEENAN



PAST AND FUTURE OF INDIGENOUS RECOGNITION

March 2025 Council Meeting wrap

Some of the key items considered and endorsed at the March 2025 Council Meeting included:

Kyneton Urban Design Framework

Following earlier noting at the February 2025 Council Meeting of further consultation undertaken, Council adopted the Kyneton Urban Design Framework 2025 inclusive of the following changes:

Remove proposed kerb outstands at the: south-east corner of Market Street/Mollison Street, and west corners of Yaldwyn Street West/Mollison Street.

Undertake community consultation for the final detailed design of the Mollison Street/Piper Street intersection, to ensure appropriate traffic movements.

Design kerb outstands in Piper Street to ensure the heritage appearance of the street is maintained.

Implement a kerb outstand trial on a Mollison Street intersection.

Modify the recommended speed limit to a minimum of 40km per hour.

The Kyneton UDF is a strategic plan for public realm improvements in Kyneton's commercial area, including Piper Street,

Mollison Street, and High Street. It aims to enhance the appearance, amenity, and functionality of the town centre through various projects, such as pedestrian safety improvements, upgrades to public spaces, and building design guidelines.

As outlined in the report, projects outlined in the UDF will likely require a mix of both Council funding and external grant funding. The community and other stakeholders will continue to be involved through engagement on the detailed design of key elements as they are implemented.

2025 Events and Festivals Grant Program and 2026 Anzac Day Commemorative Services Support Fund

Council adopted guidelines for both the 2025 Events and Festivals Grant Program, and the 2026 Anzac Day Commemorative Services Support Fund.

There are no changes from last year's endorsed guidelines for the upcoming round of the Events and Festivals Grant Program, which sees \$75,000 offered – as well as in-kind support – across three different tiers, to support local events and festivals of various sizes.

The newly established Anzac Day Commemorative Services Support Fund will provide dedicated funding support from 2026 for those leading Anzac Day commemorations, allowing them to apply for up to \$5,000 to cover costs of accredited traffic management services or traffic management controls.

Council has a proud history of supporting

Anzac Day services yearly as required to ensure safe event delivery, however this Fund will ensure greater transparency and acknowledges the extra costs resulting from a Victorian Government department change in 2022. This change requires all traffic management plans to now be designed and conducted by qualified personnel (as opposed to volunteers or local emergency services).

Applications for both grants will closely align with the 2025 Community Funding Scheme, opening at 9am on 28 April 2025 and closing at 11pm on 25 May 2025 (four-week application period).

Lancefield Park Recreation Reserve Master Plan

Council noted the final Lancefield Park Recreation Reserve Master Plan, which features a 10-year action plan to be implemented by the volunteer Committee of Management responsible for the Crown Land reserve. This follows an extensive community consultation process, during which a total of 19 submissions were received.

Replacing the previous 2012 Master Plan, this updated plan aims to better reflect the current needs of the community and user groups, and inform future development and upgrades of facilities such as playing surface improvements, accessways, changerooms, lighting and more.

Further information on this Council Meeting, including minutes and a meeting recording, can be found at mrsc.vic.gov.au/meetings



Message from your councillors

The Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival last month showcased the beauty, local businesses and produce around our Shire. Preparation for all the events and increased visitation required substantial work and we greatly appreciated the efforts of all those who were involved. We are looking forward to the Woodend Winter Arts Festival (WWAF), celebrating 20 years in June. Bookings are open with some wonderful performances, concerts and events planned.

This year, Council's Community Awards will be celebrated on 22 May to coincide with National Volunteer Week. Nominations for the eight categories closed in March. Thank you to those who took the time and nominated people or organisations, as by doing this you have acknowledged their dedication and service. Macedon Ranges is fortunate to have a high rate of people volunteering and we are grateful to everyone who donates their time.

The weather has been particularly warm. The CFA is responsible for the declaration of the Fire Danger Period and restrictions were lifted for our Shire on the 22 April 2025. Please be aware that Council has local laws that relate to burn off and fire activities on private property, so please check these requirements on our website.

<https://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/Live-Work/Fire-flood-storms/Fire-Heat/Burning-Off>

You may recall that following a Notice of Motion at the December 2024 Scheduled Council Meeting (SCM), Council wrote to the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) regarding the safety concerns and plans for works at the intersection of High Street and Urquhart Street in Woodend (also known as the Coles intersection). Councillors and senior executive met with the Director of Loddon Mallee Hume and his team from DTP. Several road projects, including this intersection, were discussed. This was positive and various options were presented. Councillors highlighted the importance of future community consultation and engagement, and Council will keep the community informed when further information is made available by the department regarding this intersection.

There is a "Have Your Say" page on Council's website and one current item open for feedback is the review of the Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) which is required under legislation every four years. This is in relation to dogs and cats only, and areas it will cover include "responsible pet ownership, effective control of dogs in public areas, dog on and off leash areas, nuisance dogs and cats, barking, cat confinement and collection and disposal of animal excrement".

Please submit via <https://yoursay.mrsc.vic.gov.au/DAMP> or mrsc@mrsc.vic.gov.au

Best wishes,

SUBMITTED BY CR JANET PEARCE ON BEHALF OF WEST WARD COUNCILLORS KATE KENDALL AND JENNIFER ANDERSON



Register your child for 3 or 4 year old kindergarten 2026

Give your child the best start to their learning journey at one of Council's 8 kindergartens in the Macedon Ranges.

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- Find out information regarding eligibility
- Receive guidance on making a decision about when to send your child to kindergarten.

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Get grant-ready to support your next community initiative or event

Several of Council's grant programs are opening soon for 2025-26, with budding applicants invited to attend upcoming information sessions to give themselves the best chance in applying for funding.

The \$160,000 Community Funding Scheme is open to not-for-profit community groups and is allocated under three streams, including community, cultural and environmental projects (up to \$10,000); organisational support (up to \$5,000); and small community infrastructure (up to \$12,000).

The \$75,000 Events and Festivals Grant Program offers funding and in-kind support to organisers across three different tiers, to support local events and festivals of various sizes.

The newly established Anzac Day Commemorative Services Support Fund will provide dedicated funding support from 2026 for those leading Anzac Day commemorations, allowing them to apply for up to \$5,000 to cover costs of accredited traffic management services or controls.

Mayor Dom Bonanno encouraged community groups that have an idea for a project or event but just need some additional funding to bring it to fruition, to submit their application for consideration. "Of all the many services that Council delivers, we know that some of the most valuable initiatives are community-driven, whether through volunteer organisations giving up their time to support the broader community, or events that provide tourism and economic benefits to the Macedon Ranges," he said.

"I strongly encourage those with a grassroots idea, which may just need a funding leg up to become a reality, to find out more information, come to an information session, and put in their application if they feel they have a strong case based on the respective grant guidelines."

Applications for the three grant streams mentioned opened on 28 April 2025, and close at **11pm on 25 May 2025** (Events and Festivals + Anzac Day) and **11pm on 26 May 2025** (Community Funding Scheme).

Other recurring Council-led grant programs to support the community include Small Project Grants, Australia Day Grants, Community Climate Action Grants and Environment Group Support Grants.

SUBMITTED BY BODEY DITTLÖFF

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Happy howls and no barks for Kyneton’s upgraded dog park

Dog owners in Kyneton and surrounds have a new facility to look forward to, with the Hurry Reserve (Kyneton Velodrome) designated dog off-leash area set for a much-needed upgrade.

Council welcomed a recent announcement from Victoria’s Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos that a grant application of just over \$99,000 was among 26 successful applications state-wide, through a \$4.9 million second round of the New and Upgraded Dog Parks Program.

The Hurry Reserve upgrade will create a safer, more accessible and more enjoyable space for both dogs and their owners. It will be redesigned with designated areas for both active and quiet dogs through upgraded fencing and paths, alongside new shelters, seating, signage and more.

Mayor Dom Bonanno said Council would keep the community informed about planned improvements and designs, ensuring the area better suits local needs.

“We know how much our residents love their dogs, and this new park will give them a fantastic space to exercise, socialise, and have fun,” he said.

“This upgrade means that every dog and pup, whether they love to run or prefer a relaxed environment, will have a space that suits them. “We thank the Victorian Government for helping us to make this upgrade a reality.”

The proposed upgrade aligns with community feedback on a desire for dog park improvements, and Council’s commitment to responsible pet ownership under its Domestic Animal Management Plan; a legislated four-year plan currently open for feedback to inform the specifics of its next iteration.

On the timing of the upgrades, our local furry friends are asked to please sit and stay for now – more information and firmer timelines will be provided as planning progresses, with completion targeted by June 2026.

Fire Danger Period set to end, vigilance still urged

The Fire Danger Period for the Macedon Ranges concluded on Tuesday 22 April 2025 at 1am, following notification by the Country Fire Authority.

From this time, residents on land over 2,000 square metres can burn off, provided they comply with Council’s local laws and register their burn-off with Fire Permits Victoria (online via firepermits.vic.gov.au). By planning burn-offs (more than two hours in advance), an online registration will be the fastest and simplest option and allows 000 call-takers to prioritise emergency calls.

Those wishing to start their burn-off immediately (within two hours) can register by calling 1800 668 511 – however emergency calls will always be attended to first, and registering online is preferred.

Council’s Director Community, Maria Weiss, urged residents to remain cautious and responsible when undertaking burn-offs, taking into consideration the weather conditions and ensuring that all necessary permits are obtained prior to ignition.

“Although the Fire Danger Period has officially concluded, the risk of fire hasn’t disappeared – dry conditions and high winds outdoors, and the increase in fireplace/heater use indoors, can still lead to dangerous situations,” she said.

“It is important to take the time to check your smoke alarm, maintain your property and remove excess vegetation. It not only protects your home and family but helps to safeguard the broader community as we head into the cooler months and prepare for the next fire season.”

Residents are reminded that under Council’s Community Local Law 2023:

- if your property is 2,000 square metres or less, burning in the open air is prohibited
- if your property is more than 2,000 square metres and equal to or less than 4,000 square metres, a permit is required for burning off.
- “If in doubt about whether a permit is needed, please check with Council first,” said Ms Weiss. When burning off, residents are also reminded:
- to ensure weather conditions are safe and that burn piles do not exceed the size allowed for their land, as set out in local laws
- to check for overhanging branches that could catch fire, and ensure there is adequate fire suppression or extinguishing equipment on hand
- to check for wildlife that may be nesting in burn piles
- to ensure smoke does not cause a hazard to road users or a nuisance to neighbours.

To safely dispose of green waste, residents are also encouraged to utilise their green-lidded FOGO bin, or to drop off larger loads at their nearest resource recovery centre for a fee, taking advantage of green waste vouchers embedded in the last two editions of the mail-delivered Shire Life magazine.

For detailed information on burning off and permit requirements, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/burning-off or call Council on 5422 0333.

Waste warriors – help us decorate our bin trucks!

School-aged children are encouraged to enter Council’s competition, which could see their artwork displayed on one of Council’s waste collection trucks for years to come!

Create an artwork reflecting one of the chosen categories to creatively show the community how to best sort their waste and protect our environment. There are three categories to choose from:

- The four bin system – correctly sort waste into the right bin
- Hazardous waste – empower people to dispose of waste safely
- Choose to reuse – inspire others to choose reusables

Winners will win a waste warrior starter pack to take home, as well as have their artwork featured on a Council waste collection truck for all of our community to see.

The early learning centre or school the winners are from will also win a delivery of organic compost for their gardens.

The competition is open now and will close Friday 30 May 2025.

Visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/truck-art for more information and to submit an entry.

Vape waste campaign

Vapes and e-cigarettes are an increasing litter problem in the Macedon Ranges, often discarded in parks, streets and waterways. As they break down, their batteries can leach harmful substances like lead and cobalt into soil and water, posing a serious environmental risk.

Despite strict import and sales regulations, vapes remain common and many people are unsure how to dispose of them safely. When thrown in household bins, their lithium-ion batteries can explode and cause fires – endangering waste workers and the community.

We’re running a vape waste education campaign – follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/MacedonRangesShireCouncil to stay informed.

Residents can drop off used vapes at any resource recovery facility, or use the small e-waste bins at our customer service centres. These items are safely recycled by a specialist processor, recovering materials like metals, plastics and copper.

Vapes are e-waste – never put them in your household bin.

Learn more at mrsc.vic.gov.au/Live-Work/

Council’s Domestic Animal Management Plan

Thank you to everyone who recently shared their feedback. Stage one of the consultation for Council’s next Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) 2026–2029 has now closed. All input is being reviewed to help shape the draft plan.

There’ll be another chance to provide feedback when the draft DAMP is released later this year. To stay updated, follow the DAMP consultation page on Council’s Your Say online engagement hub – you can sign up at yoursay.mrsc.vic.gov.au. It’s quick, easy and keeps you connected.

Council also thanks community members who contributed to last year’s dog off-leash and prohibited area consultation. Your feedback, along with on-ground assessments, is guiding proposed changes to off-leash areas listed in Schedule 1 of the Dog and Cat Order 2019. These proposals will be shared alongside the next DAMP consultation later this year.



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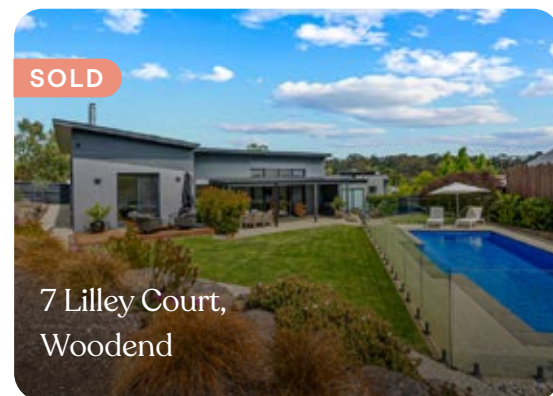
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Calling all water heroes to enter the National Water Week poster competition!

Greater Western Water's (GWW) National Water Week poster competition is back for 2025, with entries now open to all pre-schools and primary schools across its service region.

For the 2025 competition, students are encouraged to create a poster reflecting this year's theme Water Heroes: Save Every Drop, highlighting the role we can all play in saving one of our most precious resources.

GWW's General Manager for Strategy and Partnerships Kessia Thomson said the competition was a great opportunity for students to show their creative side and how they care for the environment at the same time.

"We're encouraging all local students to get creative and enter a poster to this year's competition. You can draw, you can paint or use some other materials including digital technology to create an A3 or A4 sized poster.

"Each year we are blown away not only by the talent and creativity of our local students, but also by their ideas for water saving and caring for our water resources," said Ms Thomson.

Last year, GWW received a whopping 1,240 posters from 47 primary schools across 10 Local Government Areas, and hopes to receive even more in 2025.

The poster competition is open to all primary schools and pre-schools across Victoria, with prizes up for grabs valued up to \$100 for individuals and up to \$500 for schools for each of the following categories:

Early learning / Kindergarten

Prep, Year 1-2, Years 3-4, Years 5-6

Local winners will be announced in October. First prize winners from GWW's local competition will automatically be entered into the state competition, with winners announced during National Water Week (20-26 October).

To learn more about the categories, prizes and how to enter, visit www.gww.com.au/about/community/national-water-week

SUBMITTED BY RACHEL JACGUNG

The understory story

A brave band of 30 volunteers added nearly 500 new, low-growing plants to our "Black-Gum Biolink site near the Heritage Walk on 7 April.

This area was planned by the council, who provided the initial weed control and the wood-chip mulch. Woodend Landcare then took over the task of ordering the plants and hardware and of course organising the planting days.

Watering was a priority as the long, dry period had robbed the soil of any moisture. Thankfully, we had a volunteer who was able to provide water from his tanker-trailer and the council assisted by arranging a second tanker.

This planting included some more open areas than our usual creek-side plantings, so we were able to plant nearly 30 different indigenous flowering species to enhance the biodiversity.

Our new power-auger proved invaluable in digging the holes and we are very thankful to Woodend Community Bags for their donation, which paid for it. Without the auger and a second one owned by one of our volunteers, the planting would not have happened.

Now we just have to hope for an "autumn break", with some decent rain to help the new plants settle in.

If you missed this planting day, the same areas will be planted with nearly 800 grasses on Sunday 25 May, so we will need all hands on deck again then. Please consider coming along to help at 9am and make your mark on the Woodend landscape. Morning tea will be provided.

SUBMITTED BY PETER YATES – PRESIDENT WOODEND LANDCARE INC.



Environment events - The Rabbit Hole



Are you having problems with rabbits on your property? You are not alone. Join us for an on-location workshop on how to manage rabbits.

Tuesday 6 May 2025, 1-2:30pm, Magnet Hill, New Gisborne

To register for our events, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/environment-events. While you're there, sign up to Council's monthly environment eNews and you will be the first to hear about environmental news across the shire.

Onsite Wastewater Management Plan

Council is developing a new Onsite Wastewater Management Plan (OWMP) and is inviting the community to provide feedback during the early stages of development.

The OWMP is essential for managing wastewater from properties not connected to the sewer system. It ensures wastewater is treated and disposed of safely to protect public health and the environment.

Given that parts of our municipality are in a Special Water Supply Catchment, effective wastewater management is crucial to safeguarding drinking water quality.

The plan consists of two key documents:

- The Operational Plan – Outlines regulatory controls and includes an action plan detailing Council's priorities for the coming years.
- The Technical Document – Provides a risk assessment framework, locality reports, and guidelines for effluent disposal.

Community input will help shape the plan to ensure it meets local needs, while complying with environmental and public health regulations.

Council encourages residents, businesses, and stakeholders to share their thoughts. Feedback is open from May at yoursay.mrsc.vic.gov.au

SUBMITTED BY BRAD MATHIESON, MRSC

Wildlife seizure at Kyneton

Search warrants were executed at a business premises in Kyneton last month, and a large number of animals located, as part of an ongoing investigation into the alleged unlawful possession of native and exotic wildlife. All wildlife is protected in Victoria under the Wildlife Act 1975, and it is illegal to possess, take or destroy wildlife without authorisation.

Exotic pest animals aren't pets and pose a serious biosecurity risk to Victoria. The illegal trade, sale and distribution of these exotic species risks normalising these animals as pets in Victoria, which in turn risks their escape or release into the landscape and becoming pest species.

Members of the public who know of any offences being committed against Victoria's wildlife can make an anonymous report to Crimestoppers via 1800 333 000.

Manager Regulatory Operations Loddon Mallee, Suriya Vine says,

"Our laws and permit systems exist to prevent the exploitation of native and exotic animals as well as protecting their welfare.

"If you are aware of suspicious behaviour around wildlife, we encourage you to report it to Crime Stoppers Victoria. Even a small amount of information from the public can help fight wildlife crime."

SUBMITTED BY NICK TALBOT, OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSERVATION



Changemakers Macedon Ranges wrap-up!

In partnership with Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group, Council successfully delivered the inaugural Changemakers Macedon Ranges Festival from 15-23 March 2025.

About 250 residents attended over 30 sustainability events which were designed to encourage locals to "try the change". Whether it was through hands-on activities like bike repair workshops, zero waste cooking classes, sewing and mending, traditional weaving and nature journaling classes, or information sessions on home electrification and sustainable house tours, the Changemakers Festival was all about the everyday ways we can include sustainability in our lives.

Community-led initiatives included the Kyneton Transition Hub's Open Edible Gardens and the Riddells Creek Cool Changes 'Enviro Energy Expo', which drew over 400 attendees. As well as 'Nature Storytime' sessions at all four local Goldfields Libraries, which provided the opportunity for young ones to get involved, engaging around 165 children and parents.

The festival enacted multiple actions included in the Macedon Ranges Climate Emergency Plan and delivered meaningful results through partnership and collaboration. Plans are already in motion for an even bigger festival next year.

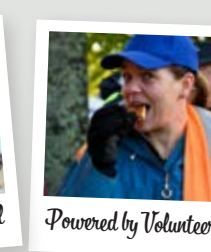
Want to win a delivery of free compost for your garden?

We're celebrating International Compost Awareness Week from Sunday 4 May to Saturday 10 May. Visit Council's website and tell us in 25 words or less why compost is important to you and your garden for the chance to win a free delivery of compost!

Schools, early learning centres and community gardens within the shire can also apply for a delivery of free compost for their gardens at mrsc.vic.gov.au/compost

Competition opens Sunday 4 May 2025 and closes 11.59pm Monday 12 May 2025.

Sustainable, Local, Zero-Waste



1st Saturday of every month



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mrsg.org.au

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



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Save \$780 per year on your household hot water

Last month we presented a graph showing potential savings of about \$5,000 per year with an electrified home and electric vehicle, powered by solar (see page 23 of the April issue). This month's good news story is about the savings to be made with heat pump hot water.

Water heating is one of the biggest household energy loads, using nearly a quarter of a home's energy use.

Rewiring Australia's analysis indicates that Victorian homes with "instant" hot water fuelled by bottled gas (LPG) could save about \$850 per year by switching to electric heat pump hot water (\$19,600 - \$6,900 total saving over 15 years). And that's without investing in rooftop solar.

We've heard from locals that not all heat pump hot water systems work well in Macedon Ranges winters. We've also heard that great units exist that will reliably provide the hot water that will make your morning shower a pleasure – even when it's frosty out. You will probably pay about \$6,000 for one of those, as opposed to \$3,500 for one that works in a milder climate (like Melbourne's).

Being the nerds we are, the Electrify 3442 team recrunched the numbers and we reckon the potential savings are still pretty good: \$680 per year over a system lifetime of 15 years. For those with solar, the savings are a bit better: \$840 per year over the system lifetime.

Victorian Energy Upgrades and Solar Victoria rebates for changing from gas to heat pump in 3442 could reduce your cost by about \$1,500 – boosting the annualised saving by \$100.

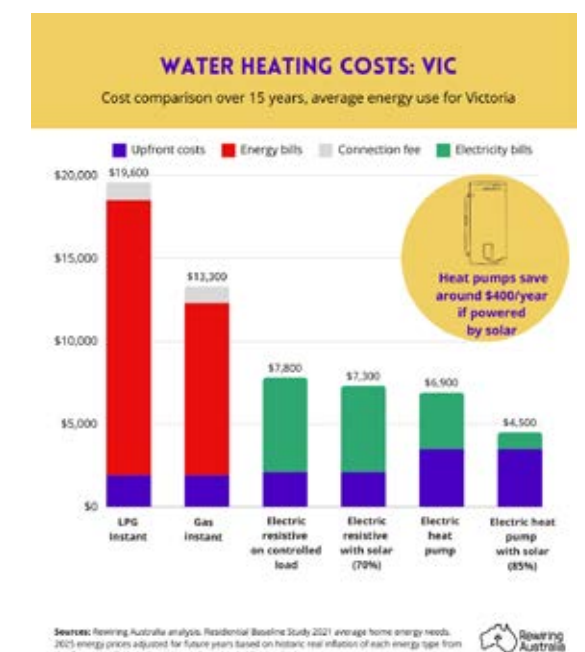
And now, perhaps the best news: Having a tank full of hot water, ready to go, beats the pants off getting up to discover everything's frozen up again and there is no "instant" hot water to be had!

If your existing hot water service is more than 10 years old or you're dreading that winter day when you get up to discover everything's frozen up again and there's no "instant" hot water to be had, consider a heat pump. An oversized "thermos" of hot showers awaits!

Learn more on our website: mrsg.org.au/electrify3442-hot-water

Or email sue.barker@mrsg.org.au and we will email you a fact sheet.

SUBMITTED BY MRSG SUSTAINABLE HOMES GROUP



Your community diary

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

—MAY—

- 1..... In-depth First Aid Course @ Woodend Hub
- 3 Woodend Farmers’ Market
- 3 Lions Community Market
- 3–4 Great Trentham Spudfest
- 6 MRSC enviromental event - The Rabbit Hole
- 8Startup Central Victoria Forum, 600 Above, Woodend
- 8 Woodend Lifestyle Group workshop
- 9–25..... Mount Players present The Girl on the Train
- 10..... Youth Music Program, Major Toms
- 11 Mother’s Day
- 16..... IDAHOBIT, flag-raising ceremony
- 16..... Woodend Probus Club meeting
- 17..... Songs in the Key of Stevie Wonder, Mountview Theatre
- 17.....MRRAR Trivia Night , Norma Richardson Hall
- 17..... International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT)
- 18..... The Gisborne Singers, Castlemaine Town Hall
- 22 ... Men’s Mental Health Workshop, Newham Mechanics Hall
- 24 Woodend Artists’ & Makers’ Market
- 24Savanna Griechen Celebration, Braemar Hall
- 30Community Catch-up with West Ward Councillors

—JUNE—

- 6–9..... Woodend Winter Arts Festival
- 7 Woodend Farmers’ Market
- 7 Lions Community Market
- 9 King’s Birthday public holiday
- 11 Sacred Heart Open Day
- 13..... MRYIM Youth Stage, Woodend Bowling Club
- 13-29.....The Appleton Ladies, The Mountview Theatre
- 15.....World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
- 15.....MRSC Film *Thelma*, Mechanics Hall, Kyneton
- 28 Woodend Artists’ & Makers’ Market

—JULY—

- 26 Woodend Artists’ & Makers’ Market

Read us online: www.newwoodendstar.com/view

Time to Chill?

With trade wars and tariffs dominating the news, the folk at Macedon Ranges Rural Australians for Refugees have decided it’s time to chill. They will host a Trivia Night in Woodend on Saturday 17 May, open to all comers.

It’s an opportunity to show off your general knowledge and unleash competitive instincts for a good cause. Bragging rights are up for grabs, as well as a major prize for the winning team. There will also be a door prize, and raffles will be run during the evening.

Tickets can be booked individually or in groups. Teams will consist of eight players per table at \$25 per head. BYO drinks and a share plate for your table. Glasses are provided.

All proceeds from the evening will be donated to the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project, a Melbourne-based charity whose tireless support of the persecuted and disenfranchised has earned it nationwide renown. The members of Macedon Ranges Rural Australians for Refugees are proud to assist their valuable work. They are looking forward to a fun night and urge all interested parties to book early to avoid disappointment. (They have promised there will be no questions about trade wars or tariffs.)


Where: Norma Richardson Hall, 15 Buckland Street, Woodend

When: Saturday 17 May. Doors open 7pm for a 7.30 start

Tickets: Book online: <https://www.trybooking.com/DAZCP>


Enquiries: Phone 0417 569 942

SUBMITTED BY ANDREW GRIMES (MACEDON RANGES RURAL AUSTRALIANS FOR REFUGEES)



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Rotary Club of Bacchus Marsh 53rd Annual Art Show and Sale

Bacchus Marsh Rotary welcomes you to our Art Show and Sale on the King’s Birthday weekend. Our Art Show is one of the oldest in regional Australia, and this year we have two highly credentialed National Gallery of Victoria judges: Imogen Mallia-Valjan and Anna Honan.

The Art Show provides a showcase for the very obvious talents of Victorian and interstate artists, photographers and sculptors. The Gala Opening Night Friday 6 June will be a very special night where sponsors, artists, members of local volunteer organisations, politicians, councillors and members of the public will meet, chat, and appraise the artwork on display, while enjoying a glass of wine and some finger food and live music from the BaccBeat Jazz Band.

The Art Show is a major logistical undertaking for the committee and the Club as a whole, as well as being the product of efforts of many individuals and organisations, almost all of whom are volunteers.

We couldn’t offer the prize money we do without support from our sponsors – Diana Gibson AO, Bendigo Bank, Grow West, Moorabool Shire Council and politicians Sam Rae and Michaela Settle.

The artworks for sale are many and varied, both in price and style. We’re easy to find – just google Bacchus Marsh Community Hall, and while you are visiting our beautiful town, take a drive down the finest Elm Avenue in the world, or enjoy an invigorating walk along the banks of the Lerderderg or Werribee Rivers.

SUBMITTED BY PETER SHILTON – CHAIRMAN

Impressions in line and colour – Christine Turner

Christine Turner discovered a love for drawing figures at 16 while studying A-level art at school. This passion stayed with her and she takes every opportunity to pursue life drawing, mostly rendering the figure in watercolour washes. Her work was exhibited in a London-based gallery in Stow-on-the-Wold, where Christine grew up. Christine was actively involved with regional art in England.

Soon after her move to Australia, Christine joined Woodend Art Group (WAG) which proved a golden opportunity to meet local artists, make good friends and also to participate in various workshops that WAG offered at that time, including pleine-aire excursions and camps.

For this exhibition, Christine has two themes – her garden and life drawing.

Christine works freely and spontaneously to capture the essence of her chosen subject. She combines her free-style monochrome drawings with coloured paintings and introduces a variety of mixed media: paint, graphite, chalk, pastel, ink and collage to help her achieve varied mark making while often using her beautiful garden plants as a source of inspiration.

Impressions in line and colour reveals how Christine pushes boundaries and is not afraid to convey to the viewer a sense of the energy ever-present in her work. Impressions is on display at The Gallery, 684 Mount Macedon Road, Mount Macedon from Monday 5 May to Sunday 1 June. The exhibition opening is on Sunday 11 May at 2pm to 4pm.

The Gallery is open Friday to Tuesday, 10am to 4pm and is situated next to The Trading Post, Mount Macedon.

SUBMITTED BY SUE ANSON 0413 581 632

Bacchus Marsh Rotary

Art Show

King’s Birthday Weekend



Entries Now Open
www.bacchusmarshrotary.org.au/art-show
\$12,100 of Prizes
Entries Close:
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2025 National Insect Expo to attract thousands

The 2025 National Entomology Insect Expo is expected to draw many visitors to the Macedon Ranges Shire over three days in October. This year’s event expects over 60 exhibits.

Expo Director Bert Candusio said that the excitement for this year’s event was very high and that participating exhibitors were already starting to prepare their displays and products for transportation to Woodend for the three-day event.

“This year will be even more spectacular than last year and will include many unique insect and arachnid displays never before seen by the public. There will also be special activities and free giveaways for children at the event to help them appreciate the vital importance of insects and the role they play in maintaining healthy environments,” Mr Candusio said.

From insect breeders, spider and scorpion keepers to scientists highlighting their research work, this year’s event will again showcase the science of entomology to all visitors in a way never before seen anywhere in the country.

The 2025 National Entomology Insect Expo will be held at the Woodend Buffalo Sports Stadium on 3 October to 5 October. Tickets available at <https://www.moultnmountain.com.au/insect-expo-2025>

SUBMITTED BY BERT CANDUSIO



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6-9 June 2025

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Berta Brozgul • Melbourne Cello Octet
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John O'Donnell • Jacqueline Ogeil
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woodendwinterartsfestival.org.au



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ABR AUSTRALIAN BOOK REVIEW

A Symphony of Winter Delights at the Woodend Winter Arts Festival

There will be melodies to melt the winter chill at the 20th Woodend Winter Arts Festival. From festival exclusives to international acts, homegrown talent to a special family friendly performance, there truly is something for everyone at this year's event.

Opening night sets the tone for a big weekend as Italy meets Ireland in a cross-cultural concert by Arparla, featuring Davide Monti (violin) and Maria Christina Cleary (harp). The Friday night will also see **Melbourne's late-night jazz scene land in Woodend as Chris Johnstone and Mat Jodrell bring the soul, backed by Ben Hanlon on bass and Danny Fischer on drums.**

On Saturday, Trio Anima Mundi makes their WWAF debut with an exploration of Trio Phantasies, while Lamiae Naki and her ensemble Seffarine will perform a WWAF exclusive. Originating from Fez, Morocco, their performance blends flamenco dance, Arabic oud, Gnawa basslines, and Lamiae's captivating Moroccan Arabic vocals.

Ensemble Gombert and Accademia Arcadia will perform two concerts of Purcell's Ode to St Cecilia. And you can let the sounds of Handel wash over you across two performances featuring Accademia Arcadia, led by Davide Monti, with soloists Maria Christina Cleary (harp) John O'Donnell (organ).

On Sunday, Spanish Connections by Ken Murray will showcase the diverse influences on the Spanish guitar over the past century, while pianist Berta Brozgul will perform masterpieces by Mozart, Chopin, Scriabin, and Brahms.

On Monday, Inventi Ensemble will perform an enchanting, family friendly performance of Cinderella, while 8 Cellos return for a mesmerising concert. Rounding out the program, in another WWAF exclusive, direct from Vienna, violinist Anne Harvey-Nagl joins pianist John O'Donnell for an unforgettable performance of Brahms' three sonatas for piano and violin.

The music program is supported by an insightful and thought-provoking Words & Ideas program. WWAF takes place from 6-9 June, tickets are on sale now at woodendwinterartsfestival.org.au

SUBMITTED BY THE WWAF COMMITTEE

Glorious Music!

The Gisborne Singers are looking forward to presenting their first concert of 2025. The program includes Vivaldi's choral masterpiece, Gloria in D Major and Purcell's Come, Ye Sons of Art Away. Featuring soloists Merlyn Quaife and Kristen Leich, the choir will be accompanied by the Macedon Ranges Chamber Orchestra.

Details: Sunday 18 May at 2.30pm – The Castlemaine Town Hall

Tickets are available via: www.trybooking.com/1371639

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Productions and auditions at the Mountview Theatre



May production – *The Girl on the Train* by Rachel Wagstaff and Duncan Abel is a psychological thriller and tickets are selling fast!

Synopsis - Rachel catches the same commuter train every morning. She knows it will wait at the same signal each time, overlooking a row of back gardens. She's even started to feel like she knows the people who live in one of the houses. Their life – as she sees it – is perfect. And then she sees something shocking. It's only a minute until the train moves on, but it's enough. Now everything's changed. Now they'll see; she's much more than just the girl on the train ...

Warning: this play contains strong language & depicts scenes of domestic and sexual violence and alcoholism. Suitable for mature audiences 16+ years.

Auditions for our August production will take place at The Mountview Theatre on Saturday 10 and Tuesday 13 May.

A Skull in Connemara – by Martin McDonagh, directed by Travis Handcock, is a dark comedy set in Ireland.

Contact the director, travis.handcock@gmail.com or visit our website for information, including full character descriptions and dates.

To book tickets and keep up with everything happening at the Mountview Theatre go to www.themountplayers.com

Visiting production – The Appleton Ladies

Potato Race – A sparkling Australian comedy that will have you laughing one minute and thinking the next. Local Mark Constable of Constable Productions will present this hilarious comedy over three weekends. A multi award-winning cast including Sophie Cleary, Sharni Page, Shayne Francis, Sheila Kumar and Australian industry legend, Margot Knight.

For full details go to <https://www.trybooking.com/DAKYH>

Knit, Chat and Cuppa

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

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

Yarn and needles provided if needed. See you there!

SUBMITTED BY SYLVIA MATHEWS

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Youth Music Programs and more are coming to town

The new Creative Ranges Foundation is excited to get off the ground in its first year with a vibrant branding from local graphic artist Keith Smith, more youth programs plus regular concert events in the community. Creative Ranges was founded in November 2024 by members of the Ranges Music Network in-school and community music programs. The not-for-profit charity organization is dedicated to helping all Macedon Ranges residents learn and grow through the creative arts. The board is also eagerly looking forward to its first creative learning space in Urquhart St, Woodend in May.

Coming up in May and June:

10 May – Creative Ranges Youth Stage After Party at Major Tom's Kyneton from 8pm. Tickets at majortoms.com.au

17 May – Songs in the Key of Stevie Wonder at The Mountview Theatre. Seatings at 12pm and 3pm. Tickets at creativeranges.org

24 May – Savanna Greichen Celebration at Braemar College. RSVP to info@creativeranges.org

13 June – MRYIM Youth Open Mic night at the Woodend Bowling Club.

For more information on how you can get involved please reach out at info@creativeranges.org or visit creativeranges.org. Come play, learn and grow with us.

Volunteers welcome!

SUBMITTED BY SHAUN EVANS – CREATIVE RANGES FOUNDATION LTD

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Breaking Barriers: free men’s mental health workshop coming to Macedon Ranges

The Macedon Ranges Suicide Prevention Action Group, in partnership with Murray PHN and Tomorrow Man, is thrilled to present A Night With the Blokes workshop – a free event designed to foster meaningful conversations and strengthen mental resilience among men in our community.

This free two-hour workshop provides men with the opportunity to take time out, reflect, and engage in discussions that build self-confidence and emotional strength.

Through open and honest conversations, attendees will explore the evolution of masculinity – examining where traditional stereotypes have led men and envisioning a healthier, more connected future. With societal expectations shifting, many men, young and old, can feel isolated or unsure of how to navigate modern challenges. This workshop offers a supportive space to break down barriers, challenge outdated beliefs, and encourage healthier perspectives on manhood and mental well-being. By addressing these critical issues in a safe and engaging environment, A Night With the Blokes is a chance for men to connect, reflect, and grow.

Date: Thursday 22 May
Time: Doors open at 6pm, workshop 6.30-8.30pm
Location: Newham Mechanics Institute Hall, 1292 Rochford Road Newham
Inclusions: Finger food and drinks on arrival at 6pm

SUBMITTED BY BIANCA OGIER, MRSPAG COMMITTEE MEMBER

Peace of mind for families with free RSV protection

Babies will be safer from the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) this winter, with a long-acting immunisation now available free for eligible families until 30 September.

The immunisation will be free for all newborns, so long as their mother wasn’t vaccinated during pregnancy.

Free RSV immunisation

RSV is a highly infectious virus that infects up to 90 per cent of children within the first two years of life. The free program will protect around 40,000 babies born in Victoria this RSV season.

As part of the program, the long-acting monoclonal antibody, nirsevimab, is administered in hospital as part of standard post-birth care – helping parents avoid visits to the GP.

Eligible infants aged up to two years who are vulnerable to severe RSV disease will be protected too, through a catch-up program.

Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas MP said of the program, “While pregnant women can now access an RSV vaccine, protection is administered to newborns and vulnerable infants at no cost, so no one misses out, and Victorian families can have peace of mind heading into winter.”

The state-based program complements the Commonwealth maternal vaccine, Abrysvo, which commenced in February as part of the coordinated national effort to protect as many babies as possible.

Mothers are encouraged to get vaccinated during their pregnancy to help build immunity in their baby as early as possible. For those unable to be immunised with Abrysvo, or mums immunised less than two weeks before delivery, long-acting nirsevimab will now be available for babies.

In Australia, RSV is the most common cause of hospitalisation in infants because it can often progress to pneumonia or bronchiolitis in very young children.



Celebrating 10 years of footy for fun!

Community support at the heart of our club

The spirit of the Woodend Masters is mateship – we work for each other tirelessly, on the pitch and off it. We work for our community, and whatever the needs are, we cover them.

We support the Seniors with its home game BBQ and when any of our members need help, we are there.

So, this month you get a second rate journo, as Dazzler is laid up. We will do our best to create his magic and all the best to Daz!

Training has continued with the excellent weather, with Chewy and Jules leading the coaching and driving us into shape. And there have been lots of us! We have always been about more than footy, and training shows this – we often have members come for the post training refreshers.

We have members who still get a kick out of playing, some out of training, some out of hanging out with like-minded people.

This was epitomised by the gather round training session, which was very well attended and followed by a feed and an AFL game on the big screen, sponsored, with much gratitude, by Woodend Charcoal Chicken.



While we all get something out of it, we all want to put something back in, and this was demonstrated by the Men's Health and Wellbeing evening with the Seniors, where the all-important 'hidden' health was put front and centre. It is a focal point of the club, and RUOK has been part of our vernacular since our inception 10 years ago.

So, what about our all-important first game against Gisborne that everyone has been waiting for? It was cracker! Full of contest, but the right side of the Masters spirit. Hard fought and the lead changed several times, and Gisborne came out victors apparently – but no-one keeps score in Masters! It was there that Daz decided to retire (for now!) and we wish him all the best in his recovery (and to Nic who is looking after him!)

We take on Gisborne at home on 18 May, so come on down and support the local side!

At the time of publishing, we ventured down to Gippsland for our first bus trip. We already

know who was best on bus! As well, we take on Melton in the first weekend of May, starting in Melton away. And then there's plenty more to come as the season continues, with a few bus trips thrown in for good measure. It's always a blast and a fantastic way to enjoy the game and then relax with mates on a funded road trip home.

Another example of this giving attitude is the footy gear collection organised by Rossco, who has been in touch with AFLNT Indigenous programs. Boots, balls and gear have been collected for a second life – a great initiative to make sure we are really considering our friends up north. Well done, Rossco, and all who donated.

Don't forget our 10th birthday party on June 14 at the Vic Hotel in Woodend. All past players and partners are encouraged to come along and celebrate and catch up with old mates. You've all been part of the club's fabric to get us here.

It is so pleasing to see so many

turn up in all our membership options, but we know there is a wider audience out there who are looking to join in with this sort of club. Those who know, spread the word and get everyone who wants it on board, those who don't know, click on the link and come and have a great time with like-minded others who want a healthy body and a healthy mind, and of course, who still get a kick out of footy.

To keep up to date with the club, follow us on our Facebook page by scanning the QR code.



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

For more information, email us at woodendmasters@gmail.com

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How to Choose the Right Size Solar System for Your Home

Harnessing solar energy isn't just smart - it's a savvy investment in our future.

But picking a system that matches your home's energy appetite before you leap into solar is crucial. Here's how to ensure your solar setup is just the right fit.

1. Understand Your Energy Needs

Start with your electricity bills. A year's worth gives the best picture, showing your family's usage through the seasons. Remember, it's not just about covering current needs; think ahead. Planning any home additions? Eyeing that electric vehicle? Planning to move off Gas. Or use more power in Winter? These all need to be considered.

2. Assess Your Roof Space

Solar panels need elbow room but are not too picky. They can thrive on various roof types if there's enough space. North-facing roofs are gold, but east and west can provide the longest hours of power when you need it most. If you've got shade, getting a great design from a pro, matters more than ever. Shade isn't a deal breaker on solar, it simply means you might need more of it.

3. Sunlight and Location

Our lovely Woodend weather does more than dictate our weekend plans; it affects your solar yield. It's important to design and size your system to suit your needs all year round, not just summer. Solar still works in winter while at a lower capacity, so the bigger your system, the more power you have to work with in winter when you need it most.



4. The Right Installer

This bit's crucial. You have the best panels money can buy, but it will let you down in the long run if it's not installed well. A trusted local installer, like Bluegum, doesn't just set up your system; they're your guide. They'll consider your home's specifics, from roof angle to local weather, ensuring you get the right solar for your family and home.

Thinking about making the switch to solar? Consult a local expert at Bluegum to explore your options. Remember, the right size means the right savings - for your wallet and our planet.

Ready to shine a light on your solar possibilities? Contact us at Bluegum for a FREE consultation today.



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Supporting our students with four-legged friends

There's about to be more four-legged friends at schools across Victoria as part of a program to give students added wellbeing and mental health support.

Kyneton High School is one of 101 schools across Victoria that will receive a grant as part of the Animal-assisted Wellbeing and Engagement Program.

The school will receive \$3,536. Funding is typically for school support animal and/or equipment and professional development in animal-assisted programs.

The initiative aims to help students build confidence and social connections, enhance empathy and strengthen emotional regulation.

Existing animal-assisted wellbeing and engagement programs in schools are already helping students to engage in learning more effectively, leading to improved attendance.

At some schools, students are improving literacy skills by reading books to dogs, others are building confidence and trust by working with horses.

Some schools have a support animal trained to work at their school under the care of a certified handler, while other schools work with certified external providers to tailor weekly wellbeing and engagement activities for students.

The three years program is intended to help students benefit from animal-assisted wellbeing and engagement programs at their school and prioritising services for students with disability and additional needs.

Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas MP congratulated successful schools, and said "Support animals have a huge impact on the wellbeing and engagement of students, helping them to participate, learn and succeed at school. Having more furry friends in the classroom is always a good thing."

Round two grant applications will open to schools in Term 2.

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

Honouring Victorian Veterans

The heritage-listed Malmsbury War Memorial Gates will be restored under a grant program that intended to strengthen the community and preserve their legacy.

The memorial, built in 1922 in tribute to the "brave men who enlisted in the Great War 1914-1918", will have soldier names re-gilded, old paint and rust removed and works on the memorial railings and gate.

The Malmsbury War Memorial Gates restoration is provided under the State Government's Restoring Community War Memorials and Avenues of Honour 2024-25 grant program, in which 16 grants of up to \$30,000 are provided to restore, preserve, and update war memorials, honour rolls, and avenues of honour.

For a complete list of grant recipients and for more information, visit vic.gov.au/restoring-community-war-memorials.

Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas MP congratulated the Friends of the Malmsbury Gardens and Environs, and said, "By preserving memorials and upgrading veteran facilities, we're helping future generations understand the legacy of service. These projects make sure the stories of our veterans live on, not just in memory, but in every community they helped shape."

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

Meet Your Trusted Veterinary Team at Greencross Vets Macedon Ranges!

At Greencross Vets Macedon Ranges, we're passionate about providing exceptional care for your pets. Our dedicated team of veterinarians brings experience, compassion and a love for animals to every consultation.

Get to know Dr Candice Priest, our Veterinary Director and Dr Chloe Roberts who are both committed to keeping your pets happy and healthy.

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Dr Candice Priest (BVSc), Veterinary Director

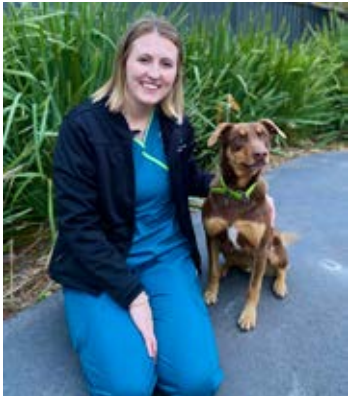
Dr Candice has been leading our team since 2022. She graduated from James Cook University in 2011 and has worked in a variety of clinics, refining her skills. As Veterinary Director, she's passionate about mentoring the team and empowering pet owners with the knowledge they need to provide the best care for their pets.



In her spare time, she enjoys farm life with her family and is a dedicated gym enthusiast – ask her about her deadlift PB!

Dr Chloe Roberts (DVM) – Veterinarian

Dr Chloe joined us as a New Graduate Vet in 2024. Originally from the UK, she grew up in the US and now calls Australia home. She has a Bachelor of Science in Zoology from Colorado State University and completed her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Melbourne in 2023.



Dr Chloe is passionate about providing a fear-free experience for all her patients. She is well known for giving plenty of treats and using a lick mat to help pets feel at ease during visits.

Outside of work, she enjoys ballet, Pilates and exploring Melbourne.

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“Rockies on Three!” - One, two, three championship titles

The Macedon Ranges Basketball Association (MRBA) is celebrating an exceptional 40th anniversary, highlighted by three championship titles at the 2025 Basketball Victoria Junior Country Championships (JCC), where the best regional teams from across Victoria come together.

Across several weekends from 15 February to 13 April, MRBA fielded teams from under-12s through to under-18s. The under-18 boys kicked things off with a thrilling performance in Bendigo, finishing as Division 1 runners-up after an intense overtime battle against Ballarat. But the momentum didn't stop there.

In Ballarat, the under-14 boys dominated their Division 4 grand final against Colac, while the under-14 girls delivered a confident win over Wodonga to also claim the Division 4 title. The winning streak continued in Bendigo, where the under-12 girls closed out the tournament in style, with a well-earned Division 5 grand final victory – over Wangaratta.

These results reflect the incredible commitment and teamwork of players, coaches, and families. MRBA is immensely proud of its representative teams for their performance, sportsmanship, and passion throughout the 2025 season.

To learn more about basketball in the Macedon Ranges, visit www.mrba.org.au.

SUBMITTED BY SARAH HALL (MRBA COMMITTEE MEMBER)



MRBA Under 14 Girls team with (back row, far left) Ebony King (coach), (second from right) Adam Briggs (assistant coach), (far right) Alison Peck (team manager)



MRBA Under 12 Girls with (back row, far left) Brendan Winden (coach), James Theuerle (assistant coach), and (back row, far right) Heidi Lehmann (team manager)



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In an intense Thursday night final, the Galaxy Girls triumphed over the Dragonflies (Girls Senior Primary Division). Despite the Dragonflies' usual winning form, the Galaxy Girls displayed exceptional teamwork and skill, securing a well earned victory of 9-6. In the mixed Senior Primary Division, a thrilling last-minute goal by Outer Miami wasn't quite enough to secure a win; with the Crazy Bananas winning 6-5.

Other winners on the night included the Raptors securing a back-to-back win over Thunder, the Bullets won against Goal Power Rangers, Chilli Cheetos winning in a close match over Shark Shooters; and more close matches with the Lightening Lizards over The Echidnas and GGS over The Stingers.

Friday night finals proved just as thrilling, with plenty of tense moments on the court. Well done to all the primary and secondary school teams who made the finals and particularly to the winners on the night, including: The Gisdogs over the Warriors, Nutmegs over Red Storm, Sunbury United over Kyneton Rangers, Hat-trick Hurricanes over The Pythons, Full Pieced over Barbie Girls, Jinners over Rebels and Schooline over Subway Surfers.

The mixed open divisions certainly put on a great Friday night show with Not Sure Yet taking the win over Netsix and Chilli; and Sporting Gisbon over Grand Theft Porto.

That's a wrap for the 2024/25 summer season!

KRISTY MUTSAERS (MACEDON RANGES FUTSAL COMMITTEE MEMBER)



Woodend Hanging Rock Petanque Club

A perfect evening for playing petanque at Hanging Rock was enjoyed last month. Along with the kangaroos and rosellas, we had 31 members who gathered for some competitive play and a delicious BBQ dinner put on by Cassie and Mark Simmonds with Lynette Johnson's delightful pistachio and quince cake, enjoyed by all!

Our last Teams Night was scheduled for 24 April, with a few contestants vying for the top place. Now that daylight saving time has finished and our days are getting shorter, we are still managing to get great numbers to our Monday afternoon play and Thursday afternoons at Hanging Rock, with three games and a delicious BBQ put on by rostered members each week. Play now commences earlier at 2.30pm for 3pm.

Last month we had seven members travel to Nagambie to play in the annual Nagambie Cup Mixed Doubles tournament. It was a perfect day with some winners and losers. Congratulations to all who participated.

With the season finishing, there will still be many tournaments being held over the winter months, including competitions against Mount Macedon Petanque Club, the Ashes Competition, and the Maldon Petanque Club for 'The Dig' competition. Then, over the

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coming months we have what is known as the Golden Boule, with competitions against seven regional clubs, the Pyrenees Petanque Club, Smythesdale, Ballarat, Mount Macedon and the Maldon Club and new participants the Bendigo Petanque Club.

Memberships are open for the new season, call Louise Potter 0438 302 218.





Dennis and Phil win the O'Brien Pairs

On Sunday 13 April, we held the annual O'Brien Pairs Tournament in honour of club stalwarts Frank and Laurie O'Brien. Ten teams played in beautiful sunny conditions.

The winning team was Dennis Priede (left) and Phil Nathan, pictured with the trophy presented by club veteran Irene Boldiston. They won both games with 17 ends and 20 shots up. They finished ahead of the other two game winners Ron Fitt and Neil Jamieson 16-20 and Arlene Johnson and Arthur Jewell 12-17.

Become a social member – it's great value

The Woodend Bowling Club has a range of membership options available. Of course, if you wish to play competition bowls you need to become a full member of the Club, but there is an alternative: to join as a social member, which gives you the benefits of being able to bowl and use the club facilities, but at a much cheaper cost than being a competitive member.

A playing social membership of the Woodend Bowling Club costs only \$60 a year per person.

For this fee, you can bowl at a time that suits you. We can provide bowls and equipment to get you started if you don't have any, and we have some sets of bowls for purchase at very low prices.

Social bowls continues every week through winter

The Social Bowls program happens every Wednesday from 12.30pm (weather permitting). The cost is just \$10 and includes several games of bowls and afternoon tea.

If you are an experienced bowler, Social Bowls is a great way to enjoy a game with some friendly company. Or if you are new to the game, it's a great way to get started in a relaxed environment.

Bookings are essential so call the Club prior to 11am to put your name down.

Check out our website and Facebook page

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

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, PRESIDENT WOODEND BOWLS CLUB



Hawks make a flying start to the season!

The netballers launched into their season off the court with an Amazing Race Challenge set at the foot of Hanging Rock. Our players were grouped into teams covering all our four age divisions and hit the ground running to complete various (and mostly very funny!) challenges over the course of the day, from apple bobbing to building spaghetti marshmallow towers, with a good dose of running and exercise challenges over the park area. The event brought our whole netball club together to foster friendships and enhance team building skills. It was a huge success, and we thank our Under 15



Coach, Charlee Duff-Tytler for initiating and running the event and hope it will be a permanent fixture on the Junior Hawks calendar each year.

From here, our netballers are super excited about hitting the brand new courts at our home ground in the coming weeks.

On the footy field, the under-15s had a special pre-season training session, which included a scavenger hunt around Woodend and tug of war and boxing, culminating in a sausage sizzle. Thank you to Ferg for organising a great afternoon for the kids.

The season kicked off on 6 April for the under-11s, under-13s, under-15s and under-17s, with grading games for the first three rounds. We are seeing some great results, and the kids are having a blast being back out there on the field.

Congratulations to two of our under-17 football players who have been selected to play in representative football clubs, Finlay Watt for the under-16 Calder Cannons side and Tate Stevens for the Bendigo Pioneers under-16 side.

Former Woodend Juniors players Cooper Duff-Tytler and Oliver Watt have been named in the Calder Cannons under-18 side.

Interleague training has commenced for both netball and football; we have a number of players from the club participating. If selected, these players will be representing our club in the RDNFL interleague squad and will compete against other leagues in netball on 23 and 25 May and football on the King's Birthday weekend in June.

Our under-9s competition commences in early May. This is a modified version of AFL, with no scoring and a smaller sized field. If you have a young one looking to play some footy, please contact registrar@woodendhawks.com.au. Auskick is another great program that will be starting on Saturday mornings in May until the end of June from 9.30am to 10.30am at Buffalo Sports Stadium. To register, please go to play.afl/play/auskick and search for "Woodend Auskick".

For all the latest news, please check out our social media pages on Facebook and Instagram. Search for "Woodend Junior Hawks".

SUBMITTED BY WOODEND VICE PRESIDENT

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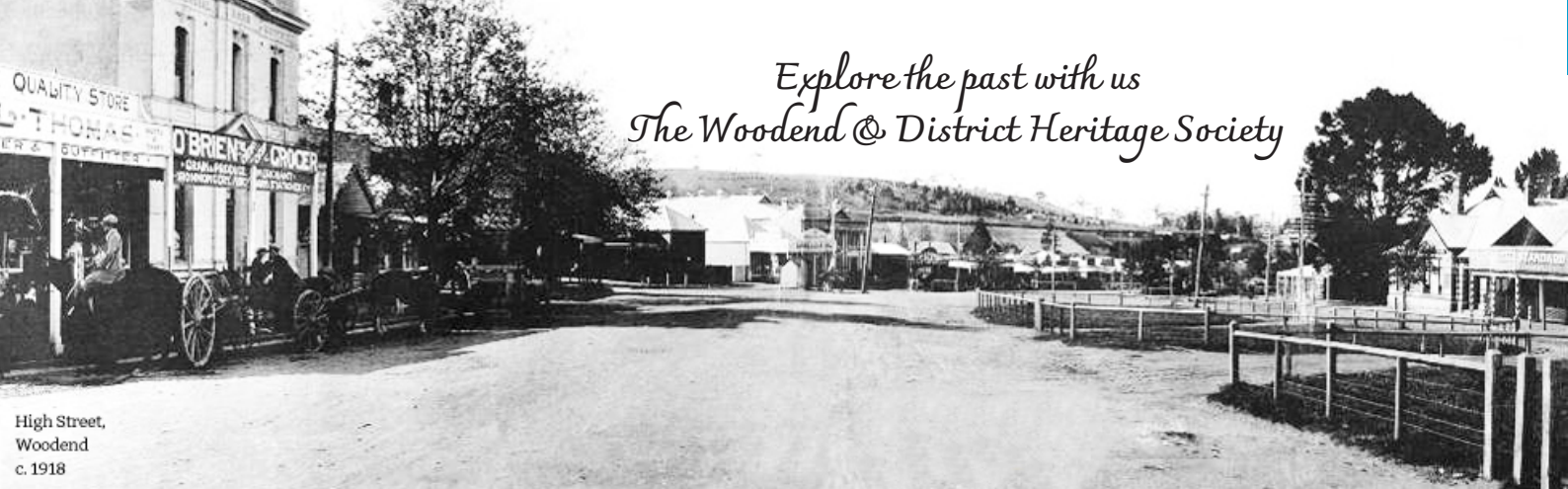
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Explore the past with us
The Woodend & District Heritage Society

Vale Sylvia Boxshall



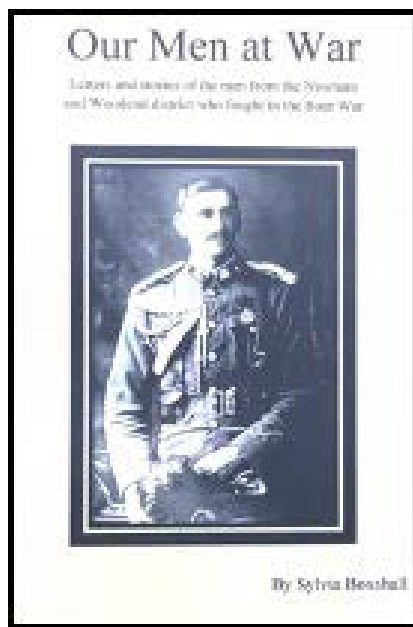
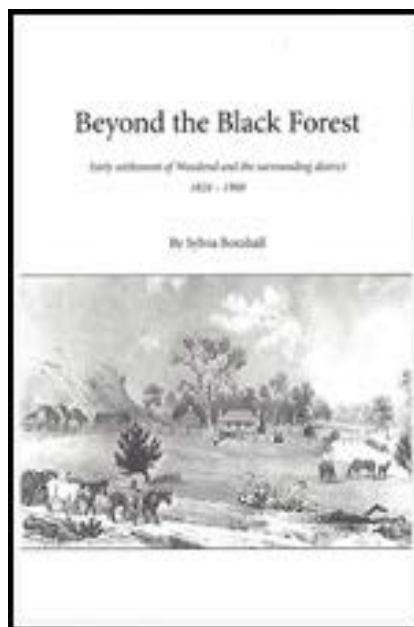
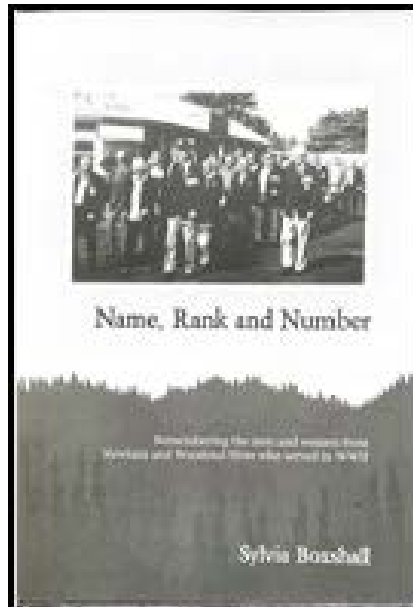
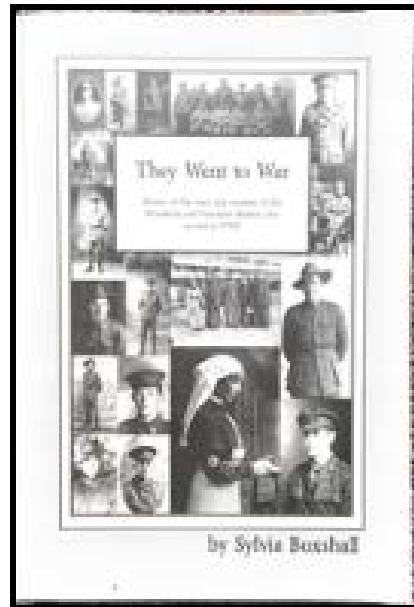
Sylvia Boxshall was a dedicated and valued member and volunteer of the Woodend District Heritage Society. A woman of quiet charm and kindness, she had an insatiable curiosity about those who had gone before and how they dealt with the vagaries of fate they encountered. Sylvia was a longtime volunteer at the Woodend District Heritage Society in the old Courthouse in Forest Street, spending every Wednesday doing research there.

From that research, she wrote her wonderful book *They Went To War*, about all the men and woman connected to Woodend who served their country in World War I. Not only did she give details of their early life and military service but followed their lives if they returned. This book was presented to the mayor of Fromelles and the secretary of the town's WWI museum in the town, where it now forms part of their war history collection. Fromelles was the site of the first battle involving Australians on the Western Front, resulting in over 5000 casualties.

Sylvia followed up with her book *Name, Rank and Number* about those who served in World War II. Each book included many photos and a synopsis of the war itself. This book was followed by *Our Men At War*, detailing the eleven men who joined and returned from fighting in South Africa. Not content with that, Sylvia wrote *Beyond the Black Forest*, a history of Woodend from the early days.

She then wrote a fiction book, *Kate*, loosely based on the life of her Gran, a 'Lancashire lass'. Sylvia was also a seamstress, clothes designer, artist and keen gardener, running a nursery in Tylden for some years. But her greatest love was for her family and her four children and five grandchildren who will miss her loving guidance and lovely smile as will we, her friends.

SUBMITTED BY JANNYSE WILLIAMS



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Sacred Heart College 2025 Student Leadership

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SENIOR SCHOOL CABINET



JUNIOR SCHOOL CABINET



SHC Open Evening – lots to see and do

On Thursday 27 March, the College enjoyed beautiful autumn weather and welcomed more than 500 people from 150 families for the annual Sacred Heart College Open Evening. Prospective students from a range of primary school levels were engaged in a wide variety of subject-based and co-curricular activities, gradually filling their show bags as they moved around the school. This year the Science Department thrilled with a range of spectacular experiments, Digital Technologies was a hot spot and the roaming Hospitality students delighted with delicious treats.

The Open Evening provides a fantastic opportunity for families to wander the grounds, chat with students and staff, and learn more about the Sacred Heart College experience and enrolment process. Special thanks to all who contributed to the success of the evening including the students, staff and our wonderful visitors.

2025 Student Leaders

The SHC student leaders have had a busy first term reflecting on and making plans for their areas of responsibility. Student leadership provides the opportunity for individuals to pursue an area of interest, catering for their talents and passions. The Senior College Cabinet is replicated at the Junior School level, providing an avenue for leadership experience and succession planning throughout the school.

The student cabinets function in teams, College Captains working with all captains at the senior level, and convening a combined Senior and Junior Cabinet gathering once per term. These gatherings allow senior and junior representatives to discuss student related College issues and collaborate on the establishment of term goals. We congratulate our student leaders for 2025 and look forward to watching them develop in their roles across the year.

SUBMITTED BY JENNIFER BALDWIN



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Discover our supportive learning environment.
Limited vacancies available for Years 8 - 12, 2025.

See the College in action by joining the next student led tour on Wednesday 11 June.

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

Enrolments for Year 7, 2027 close on 25 July 2025.



Scan for tour bookings

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