

The New Woodend Star

Rotary  Club of Woodend

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WOODEND NETBALL SCORES BIG WITH BRAND NEW COURTS

Article page 3

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A vacancy currently exists on *The New Woodend Star*
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If you are interested and want more information give
Josephine a call at 0458 525 671.

The New Woodend Star is a not-for-profit project of the
Rotary Club of Woodend

Woodend Netball scores big with brand new courts

Netball in Woodend has reached a game-changing milestone, with the completion of two new state-of-the-art netball courts at Gilbert Gordon Oval, made possible by more than \$980,000 in Victorian Government funding.

Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas, officially opened the redeveloped courts on Saturday, 14 June 2025, alongside representatives from the Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Woodend Heskett Football Netball Club (WHFNC), and the Woodend Junior Football Netball Club (WJFNC), celebrating a significant win for local sport.

With over 190 women and girls participating in netball at Gilbert Gordon Oval, from juniors to seniors, the redevelopment addresses a long-awaited demand for facilities that cater to the needs of our expanding community.

The upgrades include:

- Two new full-size, competition-ready netball courts
- 200-lux LED lighting for evening training and matches
- Player and scorer shelters
- Spectator shelter with seating
- Electronic scoreboards
- Connecting pathways

Speaking at the event, WHFNC representative Anne-Louise Lindner said the opening of the upgraded facilities marked a special day for the club, saying, “Projects like this require more than just funding. They demand vision, leadership, strong partnerships, time, and a great deal of patience. Standing here now, we know it was all worth it.”

The project was identified as a first-year action in the 2019–2023 Strategic Plan of both the senior and junior clubs and remained the clubs’ top infrastructure priority throughout.

Funding support came from a range of contributors:

- **Victorian Government** – \$980,000
- **Macedon Ranges Shire Council** – \$310,000
- **WHFNC, WJFNC, 2MH Consulting, local community** – \$70,000 (cash and in-kind)
- **Australian Government** – \$20,000 (Stronger Communities Grant)
- **AFL Victoria TAC Club Rewards Program** – \$5,500
- **Netball Victoria Worksafe Club Safety Fund** – \$1500 Support for new goal post padding

The courts now represent the kind of facility most clubs only dream of – a space that supports greater participation, encourages more women and girls to engage in sport, and strengthens the local sporting community.

A Tribute to Dedication

Behind every successful community project is a group of dedicated volunteers. The club especially acknowledged the outstanding work of 2MH Consulting, which provided design, construction, budgeting, and project management services in kind.

However, it was a surprise announcement from Club Co-President James Chettle that garnered the loudest applause of the day. As a tribute to the driving force behind the project, court one was officially named the Kellie Duff Court, honouring a long-standing volunteer whose leadership, persistence, and hands-on efforts made this vision a reality.

From patching the old court to advocating with the council, from late-night calls to early-morning court preparations – Kellie’s commitment created a lasting legacy at the club she adores, said James. “Whether it was melting ice off the old court with a hairdryer or making sure every

last dollar was well spent, Kellie’s passion has never wavered. This is a fitting recognition of her years of tireless work.”

With the official opening complete and teams already training on the new surface, the future looks bright for netball in Woodend.

“The new netball facilities at Gilbert Gordon Oval open up more opportunities for youngsters keen to follow in the footsteps of their Super Netball heroes to sign up and play the game they love,” said Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas.

The new courts are already in action for the 2025 season - providing the ideal space for players of all ages and skill levels to grow, compete, and thrive.

WRITTEN BY PAUL PODBURY, CO-PRESIDENT, WHFNC



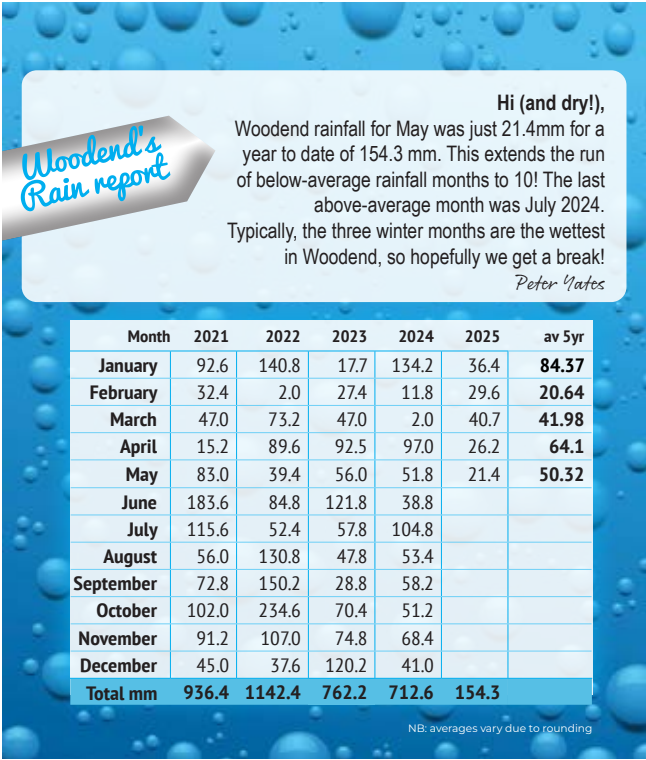
Photo: Phil Shaw, Acting Manager Parks & Recreation MRSC



Photo: Official opening of the WHFNC Netball Courts by (left) Cr Dominic Bonanno, Mayor MRSC; (second from Right) Mary-Anne Thomas MP; and Paul Podbury, James Chettle, Kellie Duff and AnneLouise Lindner, from WHFNC.



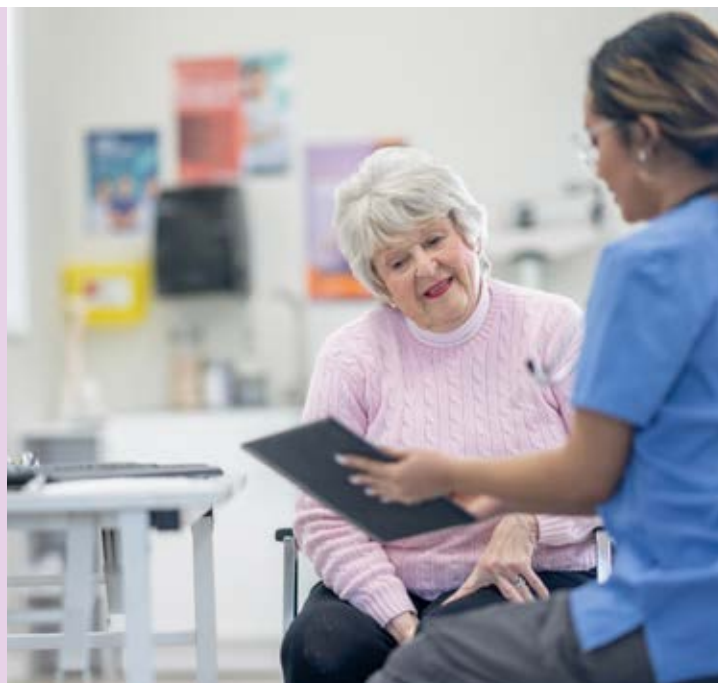
Photo: Left to right: Kellie Duff, Netball Coordinator WHFNC; Mary-Anne Thomas MP; Anne Louise Lindner



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

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Game on: New netball courts at Gilbert Gordon Oval



Two new netball courts at Gilbert Gordon Oval in Woodend have recently been completed, offering expanded and improved facilities for user groups and the community.

Council's Mayor Dom Bonanno, State Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas MP and user group representatives were among those at the venue on Saturday to officially open the new courts, amid Woodend Heskett Football Netball Club's home games against Melton South.

This significant upgrade replaced an existing single, deteriorating court located in the north-west corner of the reserve, with the new courts' location carefully chosen after thorough planning, including a Cultural Heritage Management Plan approved in December 2024.

While this important due diligence extended the project's original timeline, with cultural sensitivities near the significant waterway of File Mile Creek, it ensured the development was carried out in a culturally responsible and respectful manner.

Construction commenced in January 2025, with the finalisation of concrete and acrylic surfacing in April. Supporting infrastructure, including player shelters, court lighting, fencing, and pedestrian pathways, was also delivered as part of the upgrade. Further work will now continue to finalise the project, including the removal of the former netball court, to contribute to a more functional and user-friendly reserve.

Mayor Bonanno said the upgrade aligned with strategic directions in the 2023-endorsed Gilbert Gordon Oval Master Plan, which identified the need for improved netball facilities to meet current and future demands, particularly for the multiple Woodend-based senior and junior netball teams.

"We've celebrated the completion of some really valuable sporting upgrades recently across the shire, and this netball upgrade is just another great example of what can be achieved when Council, the community and the Victorian Government work together," he said.

"The new courts are a much-needed improvement and will support local sport in Woodend for years to come. We're proud to invest in facilities like this that create healthier, more active communities."

The \$1.39 million project was made possible through funding from the Victorian Government's Local Sports Infrastructure Fund (\$985,710); a Council contribution (\$310,000), an in-kind contribution from court designers 2MH Consulting (\$40,000); and other contributions from the Woodend Heskett Football Netball Club and Woodend Junior Football Netball Club (totalling \$55,500).

SUBMITTED BY BODEY DITLOFF, MRSC COMMUNICATIONS UNIT



Photo: My abandoned car after being visited by the police the next morning, showing the imprint of the deer

Oh deer, be careful on the road!

On Sunday 8 June, I was visiting from Melbourne to sing in the Woodend Winter Arts Festival. Around 8.40pm, driving back along Black Forest Drive in the rain, I suddenly caught sight of a giant face and antlers near the top right corner of my windscreen. What? A moose?

I immediately braked, but there was an almighty thud as the animal collided with my car, and I felt cold glass on my face as the driver's window completely shattered. In shock and unable to process what had just happened, I kept driving, but then came to my senses when the car's computer displayed a warning that the right headlight was broken. I can't drive home like this! It was a bit difficult to see, so I put on high beam, then realised that the windscreen was cracked and the right windscreen wiper was broken.

A car was approaching behind me, and I hoped there weren't any cars approaching in the opposite direction as I did a U-turn and headed back to Woodend. I drove back to St. Ambrose Church, parked the car, and as I opened the door (it didn't open fully, but I could get out), the shattered glass from the side mirror fell to the ground.

Three people were inside the church, about to leave. When I recounted what had happened, one of them mentioned that deer had recently moved into the area. While there were signs about wildlife and kangaroos, I certainly wasn't expecting deer! They are on a completely different scale and have the potential to cause a serious accident. I was extremely lucky to escape uninjured, and the deer also got away, but the outcome could easily have been much worse, especially if there had been other cars nearby.

SUBMITTED BY EMMA WARBURTON

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Rotary Woodend—a sponsor of District 9800 Model United Nations Assembly

Rotary Club of Woodend was one of 12 Rotary clubs sponsoring an event in May that simulated the workings of the United Nations.

The Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) event, a Rotary International program designed for Year 10 to 12 secondary students. Students work in teams to familiarise themselves with a UN country and the Model UN resolutions, so they can represent that country in debates on matters of global, political and social concern.

During the weekend, students learned about how the United Nations and the Security Council work, and about the general rules of debating. Taking part in MUNA improves public speaking and debating skills of participants, as well as encouraging them to make sympathetic and informed comments on world problems.

Co-convenors Sally Armstrong from Rotary Club of Keilor East and Adriaan Adolph from Rotary Club of Woodend co-ordinated the event, with the assistance of the Rotaract Club of University of Melbourne, and eight Woodend Rotarians. Several visitors from participating schools and sponsoring Rotary clubs also attended over the weekend.

This year, there were 19 teams made up of 43 students from 14 secondary schools, mainly from Melbourne's eastern suburbs. Woodend Rotarian Michael Lishman assumed the role of United Nation Secretary-General.

The event was highly successful, and feedback on the day was overwhelmingly positive.

The winning team, from Brighton Secondary College, will be sent to compete in the National MUNA competition, run by the Rotary Club of Canberra Sunrise on the weekend of 16 and 17 August this year.

SUBMITTED BY ADRIAAN ADOLPH, PRESIDENT ROTARY CLUB OF WOODEND



Photo: Model UN Assembly Yr11 and Y12 participants learn about the workings of the United Nations and the United Nations Security Council

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From France to Australia with Rotary student exchange program

My Rotary exchange in Australia was an unforgettable experience that allowed me to immerse myself in a new culture, build lifelong friendships, and grow as an individual.

Coming to Australia as an exchange student was a goal that required preparation and commitment. Before setting foot in the country, I had to do interviews, complete a little bit of paperwork and attend orientation camps in order to be ready to spend a year away from home. It wasn't always easy, but it was absolutely worth it!

From the moment I arrived, I was warmly welcomed. I was lucky to live with three wonderful host families throughout the year who made me feel like a true member of their home. They introduced me to Aussie traditions, food, slang, the Aussie accent and a new way of life with their own special ways such as making me choose a team of footy on my first day and bringing me to the MCG to see them on my first week.

I also discovered what school is like in Australia at Braemar, everything was so different from what I knew: the timetable, the relationship with the teachers, the uniform but it wasn't difficult to fit in at all, the other students made it so easy for me and they are now the friends that I will see again when they come to Europe or when I come back to Australia!



Photo: Giavana and Celian at Braemar College Formal

When I wasn't at school, I was lucky to discover Australia though many trips with my host families and Rotary. I got to attend Question Time at Parliament House, to ski at Hotham, to do volunteering for the South Australian bike ride, to do jet boating next to the Opera House and spend three weeks with 35 other students from all around the world during a safari in Western Australia.

Finally, I would like to thank Rotary and the Rotary Club of Woodend for making this exchange possible – for their support and organisation. I am especially grateful to my host families, who gave me a home away from home.

SUBMITTED BY CELIAN LEROUGE



Photo: Group photo of this year's inbound exchange students with District 9800 Governor and members of the Youth Exchange committee.



Photo: Woodend Rotary members saying goodbye to Celian.



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Managing your water supply this winter

As winter sets in, Greater Western Water (GWW) is encouraging customers to protect their water meters and solar hot water panels from frosty temperatures. With dry conditions across the region, it's also a timely reminder to make every drop count.

As the days grow colder, there are a few steps you can take to ensure your water, both hot and cold, continues to flow uninterrupted throughout the winter.

To prevent your water meter from freezing during frosty weather, cover your meter with something that traps the air around it, like a blanket, container or bucket.

GWW's General Manager for Service Delivery Jodie Hallam says no one wants to wake up on a cold morning unable to take a shower, flush the toilet, wash their hands or do the dishes. "Covering your meter is a simple step that will ensure you'll always have running water and avoid repair bills for damaged pipes."

"If your meter or pipes do freeze, it's best to wait for the temperature to rise a little to naturally thaw them. If you can't wait, pour lukewarm water over the frozen area but never use hot or boiling water as this can damage your pipes," Ms Hallam said.

It's not just meters that are vulnerable to frost. If you have solar hot water panels, these too can freeze up in cold weather, which can cause them to expand and crack. These cracks can cause leaks which could result in a higher water bill.

To prevent solar hot water panels freezing, GWW recommends servicing your panels every three to five years, ensuring a frost protection valve is installed and checking the solar controller for error codes and warning lights.

For customers in our north-west, including Lancefield, Romsey and Woodend, it's never been more important to use water wisely. Following a record-breaking dry summer and autumn, with forecasts pointing to a dry winter ahead, GWW continues to work on reducing the impact of these conditions on our precious drinking water supplies.

In addition to avoiding leaks to your solar hot water system, there are small things you can do to reduce your water usage such as running your washing machine on a full load, use a shower timer to keep your showers to four minutes or fixing leaky taps or toilets. For more water saving tips, visit [Saving water | Greater Western Water](#)

If your water meter splits or breaks, call GWW on 13 44 99 and the team will arrange a replacement. If pipes on your side of the meter or your solar hot water panels are damaged, you'll need to call a licensed plumber to complete the repairs..



Photo: Covering your meter with something that traps the air around it, like a container or blanket, can stop your water meter freezing in cold weather

SUBMITTED BY RACHEL JACGUNG

Soft plastics recycling just got easier for Woodend and Macedon Ranges residents

You can now register for the soft plastic recycling trial at the Macedon and Mount Macedon Community House or the Woodend Visitor Information Centre and collect your free set of orange recycling bags. This is in addition to the current collection point at the Woodend Resource Recovery Facility. Simply place your soft plastics in these bags and put them in your yellow bin when full, during regular collection.

Already taking part? You can grab another free set of 20 orange bags from the Macedon and Mount Macedon Community House or Woodend Visitor Information Centre during opening hours.

To learn more about the trial, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/soft-plastics

Keep your water flowing in winter

Cover your water meter in really cold weather

To prevent your water meter from freezing during frosty weather, cover your meter with something that traps the air around it, like a blanket, container or bucket.



gww.com.au

Introducing Electrify Macedon Ranges



The Electrify Macedon Ranges (EMR) community action group emerged from Electrify 3442, a community initiative of the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group and a spinoff of Rewiring Australia.

The aim of Electrify Macedon Ranges is to empower households and businesses to switch from using fossil fuels (gas or oil for heating and cooking) to more efficient, cheaper, cleaner, quieter, and healthier electric alternatives. In addition, when combined with rooftop solar and a home battery system, these gains can result in a very low power bill!

Centred on Woodend, the Electrify 3442 project ran for over 18 months and included a community survey, a public forum, 5 workshops and two EV Expos as well as direct community engagement at farmers markets.

As we expand Electrify Macedon Ranges, we are looking for volunteers to join us in enhancing quality of life for everyone in the Macedon Ranges. No matter where you reside in the shire, if you're interested in energy sustainability, the electrification of heating, cooling, and cooking, heat pumps, solar and batteries, EVs, and reducing electricity bills, please consider becoming part of the core working group leading this initiative.

You could also engage as a local volunteer, organising activities in your community, or choose to simply stay informed about events happening in your area.

Contact the group via completing the form at:

<https://mrsg.org.au/blog/2025/4/12/new-electrify-macedon-ranges> or if you'd like to talk this through call Alice Aird on 0400 068 551.

SUBMITTED BY THEONNE DE KRETZER

Environment events

To register for the following 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.

National Tree Day

To celebrate National Tree Day, join us for a community planting event at Hanging Rock on Monday 28 July. This is a fantastic opportunity to get hands-on, meet fellow nature lovers, and help restore the reserve with native plants. Get involved and make a lasting impact on our local environment.

Monday 28 July, 10am–12pm, Hanging Rock Reserve

Native Plant Propagation Workshop

Want to grow your garden without spending a cent on plants? Learn the science behind plant propagation and get practical tips on choosing the right cuttings, using the right tools, and giving your new plants the best chance to thrive.

Saturday 19 July, 11.30–12.30, Macedon

Just Released: Emma J Shipley's Stunning New Fabric Range – Now at Bradley's!

We're thrilled to announce the arrival of the **Mythica Collection** by renowned UK designer **Emma J Shipley** — a bold, imaginative range of fabrics and wallpapers inspired by mythical creatures, wild landscapes, and fantastical tales.

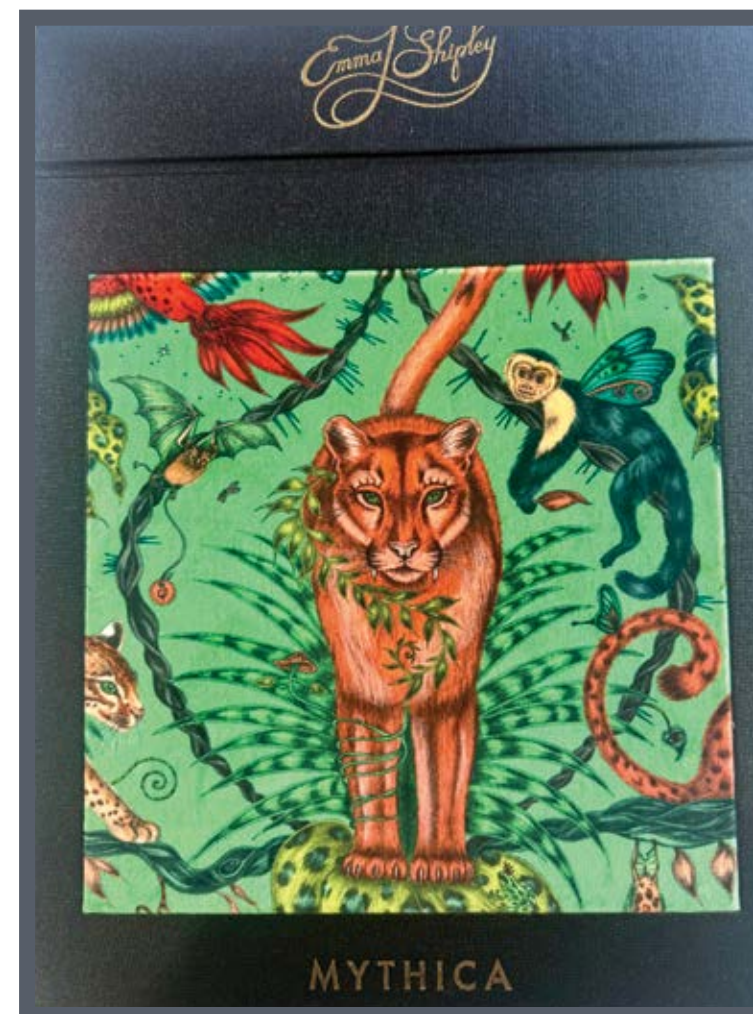
This extraordinary collection showcases vibrant velvets, embroidered cottons, and richly patterned jacquards — perfect for curtains, cushions, upholstery, or statement pieces. With themes ranging from forest pumas to underwater dreamscapes, each design narrates a story and adds artistic flair to any space.

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Enforceable Undertaking to protect threatened grasslands

Powercor Australia has entered into a legally binding Enforceable Undertaking with the Conservation Regulator following an investigation into damage of threatened native grasslands and flora at 36 sites across Victoria.

The investigation examined vegetation management and maintenance activities carried out by Powercor in 2023 and 2024, which impacted areas of high conservation value.

These include part of the Western (Basalt) Plains Grasslands Community which, since European settlement, has been reduced to less than 2% of its original extent in southwest Victoria and is a known breeding site of the endangered Eltham Copper Butterfly.

The Enforceable Undertaking commits Powercor to a range of actions aimed at improving its environmental performance and repairing existing damage, including:

- Strengthening internal environmental processes, assurance programs, and staff knowledge of relevant legislation
- Preventing unnecessary harm to protected flora and fauna during future maintenance works
- Remediating damage at 32 agreed sites and reporting on progress until the undertaking concludes in May 2028

The Enforceable Undertaking does not prevent Powercor from meeting its legal obligations under the Electricity Safety Act 1998 for the maintenance of powerlines and required vegetation clearances. The company has cooperated with the Conservation Regulator throughout the investigation.

An Enforceable Undertaking is one of several compliance tools available under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988, allowing for environmental remediation and mandatory measures to support practice improvements.

Quotes attributable to Chief Conservation Regulator Kate Gavens:

“This is a reminder to all Victorian landowners and managers that they should be aware of their obligations to protect threatened flora before undertaking any work that may disturb or destroy vegetation.”

“This Enforceable Undertaking ensures this fragile protected flora will be remediated following Powercor’s actions.”

“Powercor has a responsibility to protect threatened flora and this Enforceable Undertaking will ensure these obligations are met. It does not prevent the Conservation Regulator from taking further action if non-compliance occurs in the future.”

For more information go to: <https://www.vic.gov.au/enforceable-undertakings-register>

SUBMITTED BY NICK TALBOT, OFFICE OF THE CONSERVATION REGULATOR



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Empower Your Home webinars



Join any of our upcoming ‘lunch and learn’ sessions as part of the Home Energy Empowerment program. These events are brought to you by the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance councils, including City of Greater Bendigo, Central Goldfields Shire Council, Macedon Ranges Shire Council and Pyrenees Shire Council.

Insulate for Home Comfort – 7 July, 12.30–1.30pm

Insulation is the unsung hero of home comfort and energy efficiency. Good insulation doesn’t just make your home warmer in winter and cooler in summer – it also reduces energy bills, minimises noise, and boosts your property’s value.

This session will be led by Maurice Beinat, co-founder of ecoMaster and a leader in thermal efficiency.

Intro to hot water heat pumps – 22 July, 12.30–1.30pm

This session will shine a spotlight on one of the most energy intensive appliances at home – your hot water system.

By replacing a gas hot water unit with a quality heat pump hot water system, households can save around \$330 per year on their energy bills.

Led by Frank Forster from EnviroShop Newstead, a leading expert and local advocate for home electrification.

Solar and Batteries 101 – 4 August, 12.30–1.30pm

This session will help you understand whether a solar and/or battery system is the right choice for you, how best to proceed and then optimise savings.

The session will cover how solar and battery systems work, how to determine what’s right for your property/context, reviewing quotes and the latest government incentives.

Led by Frank Forster from EnviroShop Newstead, a leading expert and local advocate for home electrification.

To register for the following events, visit mrrc.vic.gov.au/environment-events



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Black Gum Biolink – A big thank you to volunteers

If you walk along the south side of Five Mile Creek between the tennis courts and the old Racecourse exercise track, you will notice a change in the landscape. You will see a host of bio-degradable, cardboard plant guards and thousands of bamboo stakes, all indicating native grass, shrub and tree seedlings.

These 2,618 indigenous seedlings have been planted over the last 18 months during six planting events, the last of which was held on 25 May and was attended by 29 volunteers. These events have been part of the Black Gum Biolink project, which Woodend Landcare (with the help of Woodend Scouts and Macedon Ranges Shire Council) has worked on to replace the mown grass that previously grew under the mature trees at this site.

Woodend is a bit special, as we have our own unique species of eucalypt, commonly known as the Black Gum (Eucalyptus aggregata), which is sadly under threat. Within Victoria, Black Gum only grows in low-lying areas within 4km of the Woodend township and in places that are prone to sharp frosts, such as the Five Mile and Slaty Creek valleys.

Black Gum trees are fairly inconspicuous with dark, flaky bark, thin leaves and small cream-coloured flowers in Jan-Feb. Mature trees need a developed understorey to shelter their seedlings until they grow into saplings, and then eventually replace the mature trees.

The Black Gum Biolink project aims to replace trees that were lost during the 2021 extreme wind event. It also aims to introduce a biodiverse understorey, to protect the surviving Black Gum community. Local insects, birds and other fauna will appreciate the reintroduced native flora which will provide food and shelter. Restoring the local environment will also improve the quality of the water entering the creek as runoff, encouraging native animals to make a home there. This includes platypus and native water rats (Rakali), of which there have been several sightings in the past year.

The ecological integrity of local landscapes is a valuable resource and the preservation of threatened species is a vital link in the mesh of a landscape.

Woodend Landcare is grateful to everyone who has volunteered with us to help look after and rehabilitate the Black Gum Biolink. We also wish to thank MRSC and Bendigo Bank who are funding the project.

If you would like to help, we hold regular working bees (weekly and monthly) in places in and around the creek valley. All are welcome. See woodendlandcare.org for details.

Upcoming Events:

Thursday mornings – The Crew have working bees at various locations

Sunday 10 August 10am to 12.30pm – AGM with speaker from the Threatened Species Conservancy

Sunday 31 August 9am to 12pm – Working Bee at Ruby Mackenzie Park

SUBMITTED BY MARK HORNER



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



Winners announced for the Macedon Ranges Community Awards 2025

The winners of the Macedon Ranges Community Awards 2025 have been officially announced, with inspiring individuals and groups recognised for their contributions to the shire.

Held at the Kyneton Town Hall in May during National Volunteer Week, the event celebrated outstanding efforts across eight award categories, as part of a newly consolidated format combining the former awards in January and Youth Awards in September into one flagship celebration.

Nominees were put forward by the community through a public process earlier this year, then assessed by a panel and scored according to three weighted criteria relating to impact to the community, alignment to Council goals and equity of recognition.

Mayor Dom Bonanno congratulated all the nominees and award recipients, saying the night highlighted the strength and heart of the Macedon Ranges.

“These awards are a testament to the incredible people who passionately and consistently make our shire a better place. Their stories reflect a community that values compassion, connection, and contribution,” he said.

“Volunteers are not paid, not because they’re worthless, but because they’re priceless. Congratulations to all the winners in each of the categories, but also more broadly to all the nominees and those who took the time to nominate them.”

The awards acknowledge a wide range of achievements from grassroots environmental initiatives and inclusive arts programs to youth leadership and community sport.

The evening also served as a reminder of the essential role of volunteers and changemakers across the shire – people who continue to lead with generosity, creativity, and care.

The winners and their categories were:

Youth Leadership Award: Emily Danister

This award is presented to individuals or groups aged 12–25 who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, innovation, advocacy, or service to youth in the Macedon Ranges.

Emily was recognised for her volunteering to support local single mothers, younger students in dance and with local Aboriginal leaders in caring for Country. Bonnie Saunders was also nominated for her notable advocacy and achievements in gender equality in trades and vocational training.

Young Citizen of the Year Award: Aidan Hunter

This award is presented to a young person aged 12–25 who has made a significant contribution to their community and demonstrates community service in the Macedon Ranges.

Aidan was recognised for his contributions towards scouting with 1st Gisborne Scout Group, volunteering with Bullengarook CFA and his cadet achievements. Julia Stockdale, also a member of 1st Gisborne Scout Group, was nominated for her contribution towards supporting younger children in scouting activities, sporting club involvement and volunteering.

Contribution to the Environment Award: Vince Mulkerin

This award is presented to an individual or group who has made a significant contribution in the areas of protection of the natural environment, such as biodiversity, climate change and waste reduction.

Vince was nominated for his work with the Riddells Creek Cool Changes project. Donna Coutts was also nominated in recognition of her leadership of the GROW Festival of Regenerative Food and Farming.

Contribution to Community Arts Award: Macedon Ranges Accessible Arts Inc.

This award is presented to an individual or group who has made a significant contribution to community in the areas of arts and culture.

Macedon Ranges Accessible Arts Inc is an outstanding example of inclusive community arts in action. Since its founding in 2022, MRAAI has worked to increase access to the arts for people living with disability, neurodivergent individuals, and LGBTQIA+ artists in regional Victoria.

Contribution to Sports and Wellbeing Award: Kyneton Women’s Football Club

This award is presented to an individual or club who has made a significant contribution to community in the areas of sports and wellbeing.

Kyneton Women’s Football Club prioritises holistic wellbeing through leadership development, mental health advocacy, and partnerships with organisations like Proud2Play, and Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health. Their proactive work in creating inclusive spaces – particularly for women, LGBTQIA+ people, First Nations groups and those from diverse backgrounds – demonstrates courage and innovation in community sport.

Kyneton Obedience Dog Club was also nominated for its contribution to social connection through dog walking and training.

Inclusive Communities Award: Birds of a Feather program at Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health

This award is presented to an individual or group whose work promotes harmony and understanding of others and has made a significant contribution to helping to build a more inclusive community in the Macedon Ranges.

Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health’s Birds of a Feather Program was recognised for its work in improving social connectedness and equity for older LGBTQIA+ people in the community.

Other nominees included Lesleigh McCloy, nominated in recognition of her work with Council’s Social Support and Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme programs; and Lynne Margret, nominated in recognition of her work with the Gisborne Foodbank and teaching English through the Australia Migrant English Program.

Community Event of the Year Award: Kyneton Agricultural Society (Kyneton Agricultural Show)

This award is presented to an individual or group for the most outstanding community event of the year that involved significant community organisation, participation and attendance, resulting in a substantial impact across the shire.

This popular award category recognised the Kyneton Agricultural Show as a worthy winner, alongside fellow nominees Donna Coutts (GROW Festival of Regenerative Food and Farming), Gisborne and District Lions Club (Gisborne Festival), Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health (Puppy Pride), the Veg Action Group of the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group (Edgy Veg Awards), Vince Mulkerin (Riddells Creek Enviro-Energy Expo), and the Woodend Farmers’ Market of the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group.

Citizen of the Year Award: Greg Snart

This award is given to individuals of any age who have made an extraordinary contribution to the Macedon Ranges community and have demonstrated community service over many years.

Greg was recognised for his advocacy for community fire safety and emergency response, municipal fire planning and youth mental health. Other nominees included:

- Dr Annamarie Perlesz, in recognition of her advocacy and support of women, women’s health, older members of the community and her leadership with the Zonta Club of Kyneton
- Gillian Metz, in recognition of her leadership in Emergency Response through the Riddells Creek CFA
- Lulu Cockram, in recognition of her contribution through Macedon Ranges Red Cross Emergency Services and Woodend Rotary
- Simon Hayward, in recognition of his contribution to community safety and emergency response as Captain of Bullengarook CFA.

SUBMITTED BY BODEY DITTLUFF, MRSC COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

Message from your Councillors

What a great start to winter with Woodend buzzing with the Woodend Winter Arts Festival coinciding with the Woodend Market where The Ranges Cultural Centre group celebrated 10 years of advocacy, and the Woodend Art group’s annual long weekend show. Projects and events like these contribute significantly to our local and visitor economy.

Regarding the visitor economy, we are transitioning from Daylesford Macedon Tourism (DMT) to a new Visitor Economy Partnership (VEP) to ensure ongoing State government funding, including not only Hepburn but also Mt Alexander and Central Goldfields Shires. We will keep local businesses and event organisers informed of how they can take part as we know more.

As your elected representatives, we always want to learn more from you. On Sunday 15 June Councillors held a community session at Newham Fire Station about the current dry conditions and what support is available for farmers and the new State Government Emergency Services Volunteers Fund (ESVF) levy that will replace the current Fire Services Levy. Council is required to collect the ESVF through your rates notice even though it is a State Government tax. Any money we receive from your rates notice, we must send part of it to the State government to pay this tax on your behalf. Although the introduction of a higher amount has been deferred for farmers for 12 months, there will still be considerable increases seen on your rates notice due to this State government tax. If you have any questions about this after your rates notice arrives, we are endeavouring to make it clear on the notice who is responsible for and should be contacted about each charge.

We are currently planning an all-councillor “Town Hall style” community session at Tylden Hall on Thursday, July 24 and another



west ward councillor catch-up, probably in Kyneton, to coincide with the Market. Always happy to hear your ideas, including on times and locations for these catch ups. Keep an eye out on social media and in the paper for more details to come.

The community consultation you can contribute to now is regarding the proposed speed limit reductions in Woodend. This project is fully funded through the Victorian Government’s Safe Local Roads and Streets Program to improve road safety. If you missed the drop-in session on the 30 June, you can still provide feedback via our Have Your Say page until Monday, 7th July. <https://yoursay.mrsc.vic.gov.au/pedestrian-and-road-safety-improvements/proposed-speed-limit-reduction-woodend>

Stay well and warm through these colder months.

SUBMITTED BY CR ANDERSON ON BEHALF OF YOUR WEST WARD COUNCILLORS CR ANDERSON, CR KENDALL AND CR PEARCE










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June 2025 Council Meeting wrap

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

Revenue and Rating Plan: Council adopted the Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029 – one of Council’s key documents required to be updated after a Council election, every four years.

Council delivers a broad range of services and infrastructure to the community and requires a clear and balanced approach to revenue generation, to maintain service levels and invest in community assets. The Revenue and Rating Plan, informed by feedback from Councillors and the community, outlines how Council intends to raise revenue and apply the rating structure over the next four years to fund services, programs and infrastructure.

Budget 2025-26: Following consideration of recent community feedback on the Draft Budget 202526, Council adopted the final Budget 2025-26.

This budget includes revenue of \$124.5 million which contributes towards the delivery of \$28.4 million of capital

expenditure to renew and upgrade the Council’s assets. Some of the projects include:

- \$11.5 million on local roads, bridges, footpaths, drainage and associated works, including just over \$900,000 on new footpaths aligning with Council’s Shire-wide Footpath Plan
- \$9.2 million on Stage 2 of the Macedon Ranges Regional Sports Precinct
- \$1.17 million on recreation-focused initiatives, including designs for a new Kyneton Skatepark, continued renewal works for light towers at Council’s sporting facilities, design for light towers and oval surfacing works at Romsey Oval 2, and pitch lighting for Dixon Field in Gisborne
- close to \$2 million on building renewals, including several community-driven initiatives through earlier consultation such as an access ramp and air conditioning upgrade to Lancefield Courthouse, a water tank for the Bullengarook Community Hall and toilet upgrades for the Woodend Bowling Club.

Council will also continue to facilitate two free green waste vouchers and two ‘free weeks’ for green waste disposal at our resource recovery facilities.

Through earlier consultation in late 2024 and an invitation for the community to

submit their own initiatives, 61 submissions were received. In an additional two-week consultation period on a concise version of the Draft Budget 2025-26 in May 2025, 20 public submissions were received and responses to those are detailed in the meeting agenda.

Council will generate \$53.56 million from general rates and the municipal charge. The increase from 2024-25 is equal to the 3% maximum rate cap increase permitted by the Victorian Government’s Fair Go Rates system.

Victorian Local Government Child Friendly Cities and Communities Charter: Council endorsed becoming a signatory for this Charter, which is a statement of intent for local governments and organisations to recognise children as valued members of the community.

The Charter supports a child-safe and child-friendly organisational culture and provides an invitation for Council officers to collaborate with children and young people on issues that affect them. Internally, the Charter provides departments opportunities to learn ways to broaden consultations to include children and young people.

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

SUBMITTED BY BODEY DITLOFF, MRSC COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

2025 Active Living Census launched

Healthy Loddon Campaspe’s 2025 Active Living Census (ALC) has been launched and is now available for residents of the Macedon Ranges to complete online.

The Active Living Census was first conducted in Bendigo in 2014 and then expanded to other Healthy Loddon Campaspe councils in 2019. It is a vital regional survey that will collect important data on residents’ health, well-being, and lifestyle habits to guide future community planning and investment.

Healthy Loddon Campaspe, a Victorian State Government-funded initiative aimed at improving health outcomes in the region, is delivering the 2025 ALC in partnership with the six local government areas of Greater Bendigo, Campaspe, Central Goldfields, Loddon, Macedon Ranges and Mount Alexander shires.

Covering key topics such as physical activity, nutrition, life satisfaction, and access to recreational opportunities, the ALC will provide a snapshot of how people in the Macedon Ranges and the broader region live and what barriers they may face in staying healthy and active.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council Mayor Dom Bonanno urged all residents to take part by completing the online census.

“Much like the Australian Bureau of Statistics’ nation-wide Census every five years, this locally targeted Active Living Census really helps us get a clearer picture of health-related statistics and needs within our area, which we can then draw on when considering future initiatives,” he said.

“I strongly encourage all Macedon Ranges residents, no matter your age or any other demographic, to fill out this anonymous survey for the benefit of our broader community.”

Completing the census online is easy, anonymous, and takes around 15 minutes. Everyone who completes the census online will be eligible for weekly prize draws.

To complete the Active Living Census visit go.healthyloddoncampaspe.au/alc, and for more information visit www.healthyloddoncampaspe.au/alc.



Photo: Mayor Dom Bonanno (left) with MRSC CEO Bernie O'Sullivan, encouraging our Macedon Ranges residents to get involved in the Active Living Census.

Call for Volunteers

Join us as a volunteer at the Kyneton or Woodend Visitor Information Centres, where you can be a welcoming face to our beautiful region.

Volunteers play a pivotal role in our team, responding to visitor enquiries both in person and over the phone. They provide detailed information about the region and its surroundings, ensuring that every visitor has an unforgettable experience.

We provide comprehensive training to ensure you feel prepared and confident in your role. From familiarisation tours to information sessions, and even social outings and events, you’ll gain the knowledge and expertise needed to guide and inform our visitors. Excellent communication skills and experience in customer service are highly desirable, with three-hour, weekly, or fortnightly shifts currently available.

Kyneton Visitor Information Centre is open from 10am to 4pm, Friday to Sunday, providing the perfect weekend opportunity to share your love for our community.

Woodend Visitor Information Centre is open from 10am to 4pm, 7 days a week and is specifically looking for volunteers on Saturdays and Sundays. Our volunteers assist in the visitor information centres either in the mornings or afternoons. This is a great opportunity for those who want to get involved over the weekend and support visitors to the Macedon Ranges.

Find out more by visiting mrsc.vic.gov.au/volunteer

SUBMITTED BY BODEY DITLOFF, MRSC COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

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At Greencross Vets, we encourage pet owners to consider desexing as a vital step in supporting their pet's long-term health and wellbeing. Desexing, also known as spaying or neutering, not only helps control the pet population, but it also provides significant medical and behavioural benefits.

Desexed pets are less likely to develop certain cancers and infections and often display calmer, more predictable behaviour. The procedure also reduces the likelihood of roaming, aggression, and marking behaviours.

"Desexing offers powerful health benefits – from preventing uterine infections and testicular cancer to reducing hormone-driven behaviours that can put pets at risk.

It's one of the most important decisions you can make to protect your pet's future," says Dr Candice Priest, Vet Director at Greencross Vets Macedon Ranges.

When should you desex your pet?

- Kittens can typically be desexed from FIVE months of age
- Puppies are generally desexed between five to six months of age, although this can vary depending on breed and individual health factors
- Pet owners are encouraged to consult with the team at Greencross Vets Macedon Ranges for advice tailored to their pet's specific needs

Our clinics offer comprehensive desexing packages that include pre-surgical health checks, intravenous fluid therapy, pain relief and personalised aftercare. We tailor our approach based on your pet's breed, age and health needs to ensure the best outcome.

Desexing is a simple, safe, and responsible choice every pet owner can make to give their furry family member a healthier, happier life.

Trusted by the RSPCA and local communities – Greencross Vets Macedon Ranges is proud to be part of Operation Wanted.

Learn more about our services or book your appointment today by calling 5427 3737.

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Big fun for little ones at Buffalo Stadium, Woodend!

Buffalo Stadium is the place to be for young movers and explorers! Our fun, active programs are designed to help children develop confidence, coordination, and a love of movement in a supportive and playful environment.

Active Kids is perfect for children aged 3–5 years and introduces the basics of sport through fun games and activities. These engaging, play-based sessions run on Wednesdays from 10am–10.45am and help build fundamental movement skills while keeping kids active and smiling.

Kindagym is a soft play and obstacle course program designed especially for our youngest participants. It's a great way for little ones to explore, climb, crawl, and play in a safe, supportive setting. Sessions run on Fridays with **1–2-year-olds at 10am** and **3–5-year-olds at 11am**.

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SUBMITTED BY BRAD MATHIESON, MRSC COMMUNICATIONS UNIT



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News from Trentham Branch

Cinderella @ Woodend Winter Arts Festival

Both the Trentham and Gisborne Community Bank branches, as joint sponsors, were proud to attend this magical performance presented by the talented Inventi Ensemble. As a child-friendly event, the performers infused imagination and emotion into the story of Cinderella through expressive music and narration. The kids were even invited on stage to see the instruments after the show!



Photo: Inventi Ensemble members

Sponsors Day @ Woodend Heskett Football Netball Club

Thank you, Woodend Heskett Football Netball Club, for your generosity and hospitality at Sponsor's Day. There was a huge buzz in the air with the simultaneous opening of the long-awaited netball courts, presented by Mary-Anne Thomas MP, with Kellie Duff being honoured with her very own court.



Photo: Paul Podbury, Co-President WHFNC, Anjee Anderson, Community Bank Trentham & Districts Executive Officer, James Chettle, Co-President WHFNC

We encourage you to head down to a home game to enjoy the atmosphere and see the fantastic improvements that have been made.

Quickest Kitchen in Woodend @ Woodend RSL

Great news that the new industrial dishwasher sponsored by our branch has been installed! No more hours of slaving away at the sink - slide dishes in, press the button, slide dishes out!

Be part of creating Community Impact

Returns from customer banking are reinvested in local community groups and projects, such as these, to help uplift local people and economies. Be part of providing for your community simply by being a Trentham branch customer.

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News from Gisborne Branch

\$3.8 Million Reasons to Celebrate!

On May 19, more than 50 community groups and over 120 local residents came together for our annual grant night, showing what's possible when you choose to bank with your local community bank.

This event marked a significant milestone in community giving for our branch: \$3.8 million in community grants, sponsorships, scholarships, and donations awarded over the past 17 years.

Thank you to our customers for continuing to bank with us – this is what allows us to put significant funds back into your local community.



Join our volunteer board of Directors

Macedon Ranges Community Enterprises Ltd is seeking expressions of interest from energetic, committed residents of Woodend, Macedon, Mt Macedon, Gisborne, New Gisborne, Riddells Creek and Bullengarook to join our volunteer Board of Directors.

As an accredited social enterprise and a franchisee of Bendigo Bank, over 80% of our profits are returned to the community. Directors support and drive the company's strategic direction, goals and objectives and have a real say in how the company's profits are directed for the benefit of our communities.

We welcome and encourage applications from local residents of all backgrounds. We are particularly interested in hearing from community members with skills and experience in accounting/finance, community engagement, youth and public health.

Directors need to be motivated, well-organised, self-directed and community-orientated with strong communication skills and emotional intelligence. For more information or to express your interest, please contact the Chief Executive Officer Jo-Ann Irwin via ceo@mrce.com.au or call 0456 685 334.



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Progress report of Macedon Ranges Community & Cultural Centre in Woodend.

The Cultural Centre proposal for the Shire, located in Woodend, has taken significant steps this month with the application for full funding for the build of Stage 1 underway by Council, and the funding for a design of Stage 2 also in the works. The local advocacy group, along with Library representatives, has met with the Council's Tourism and Economic Development team to work together on the submission and is optimistic that their decade of planning, consulting, and working in partnership with the Council will soon steer the project towards fruition. The local members of the group were happy to chat to passers-by at the local Farmer's Market in June, and have been invited to return in July to seek petition signatures for the project, and to bring the public up to speed with its progress. The group presents in person to the new Councillors in July, outlining the journey to date and the project's vision for the future. Please follow the project's progress on therangesculturalcentre.com and feel free to contribute your support via the petition located in the Library foyer.

SUBMITTED BY JANE WALDUCK



Photo, left to right: Esther Kay, Bob Elkington, Jane Walduck, Emma Keenan, Diana Abruzzi, Lydia Sorensen, Colin Yeung, Barry McDonald, Adele Hamlyn, Seane Bawden.



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Fun and feasting and daring to believe

For twelve years, Mohammad (not his real name) lived with uncertainty and dread. Now, he can at last dare to believe.

In 2013, he fled Afghanistan in fear for his life. Targeted by the Taliban, he was forced to leave his wife and children behind. The distress he felt can barely be imagined – all he wanted was to be reunited with his loved ones and become once more the family man he was always meant to be.

Since arriving in Australia, he has been allowed to work. This entitlement, denied to many refugees, has assisted his integration into Australian society. He is a proud and willing taxpayer.

Mohammad has links with Woodend, having visited with a 'getting to know' event hosted by Macedon Ranges Rural Australians for Refugees.

In 2023, with the granting of Permanent Residency, he was allowed to apply for reunification with his family. After an 18-month wait, his application has at last been successful.

His friends are determined to celebrate. On Saturday 19 July at 12.30pm, a fundraising lunch will be held in Woodend to assist Mohammad cover the cost of bringing his family to Australia and of setting up their home near Dandenong.

All are welcome. The afternoon will provide an opportunity for friends and well-wishers to meet and support Mohammad and his family. Details and tickets are available at: www.trybooking.com/DCTBS

If you would like to donate but are unable to attend, you can enquire at: info@macedonranges-rar.org

SUBMITTED BY ANDREW GRIMES FOR MACEDON RANGES RURAL AUSTRALIANS FOR REFUGEES



Photo: Mohammad' with Woodend friends, Bill and Marg Hebb



In Memory of Terrie Hollingsworth

The Woodend Neighbourhood House feels a little emptier without the presence of Terrie Hollingsworth, who sadly passed away last month.

Terrie embodied everything we value at the House – community, connection, and contribution. She was an integral part of our Committee of Governance, a key member of the Repair Café, and well known for her incredible skills in the kitchen – our community lunches won't be the same without her warm presence.

Her loss is deeply felt by everyone at the House, and her many contributions will not be forgotten. We send our deepest sympathies to Terrie's family, friends, and all in the community who knew her.



Community Emergency Response – Two-Part Event

Join us at the Woodend RSL (32 Anslow Street, Woodend) for a two-part emergency preparedness series, delivered in partnership with Red Flag and Macedon Ranges Shire Council's Emergency Management and Recovery team.

Part 1: Emergency Response Workshop | 8 July | 6.30pm–8pm

Learn about local risks, key response actions, and safe gathering places in a hands-on community workshop.

Part 2: Emergency Scenario Exercise | 15 July | 6pm–8pm

Put your knowledge into practice in a realistic mock emergency.

Attendance at both sessions is preferable. For more information and to register your attendance, visit our website.

School Holiday Program

With school holidays just around the corner, we're pleased to offer a series of workshops to keep the kids busy:

Spots are limited – don't miss out! Head to our website for costs and other details and to book. www.woodendnh.org.au

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

SUBMITTED BY MELISSA BAKER

Woodend Senior Citizens

New members are always welcome at the Woodend Senior Citizens. We organise monthly bus trips to interesting locations across the state. We also meet regularly in the Undercroft of the Woodend Neighbourhood House:

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

Playing Cards on Fridays 1pm–4pm.

General meetings are conducted on the first Tuesday of the Month at 1pm.

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

SUBMITTED BY ALMA W, PRESIDENT.



Woodend CFA women on fire!

The Woodend CFA recently celebrated its 129th anniversary at the annual dinner and award presentations. One notable highlight of the evening was the significant role that women play in the effective operation of the Woodend Fire Brigade. Indeed, four of the top six awards presented went to women.

The Member of the Year award is voted on by members of the Brigade Management Team for those who went above and beyond during the year. This year's award went to Cara Nolan for her outstanding service. The other top five finalists were Jo Hambling, Alex Rogers, Brett Gray, and Jemima Bradfield-Smith.

This year's Captain's Award was presented to a member who had done an outstanding job throughout the year and during all of her fourteen years with the Brigade. 2nd Lieutenant Sue Hobbs was commended for her 'super' commitment to the Brigade and her excellent work in the BMT (Brigade Management Team), as well as in her roles as Community Safety Officer and Rehab Team Manager.

"There is a long history of female involvement in the Woodend CFA" said Captain Steve Ritchie, "in both operational and support roles. The brigade culture is one that actively encourages involvement in our duties on a broad scale. Today's group of talented women continues a tradition of dedicated service to our community, the whole state of Victoria and beyond".

"Women now make up 30% of the Brigade's Operational Membership", added Sue Hobbs. "In fact, there are currently eleven women who are operational members of the brigade, turning out to all of our emergency calls. So far this year we have been called to a record number of emergencies and our top two attendees to these call outs are women".

"All of our members are highly trained," continued Captain Ritchie, "and our current group of female volunteers is no exception. They continue to undertake additional training to broaden their skills and

do not take a backward step when it comes to facing an emergency. It is not unusual to see that the majority of crew members are women, and there were instances earlier this year when four of the five members on a Strike Team were Woodend women."

In addition to Sue Hobbs fulfilling her important roles listed above, women currently oversee a significant number of management positions within the brigade. Annette van Huffel has served as secretary for nineteen of her twenty years with the Woodend CFA; Kate Daniel has been a member for fifteen years and has managed the brigade's FEM (Fire Equipment Maintenance) for many years; Cara Nolan, named this year's Member of the Year, looks after Member Support and assists in numerous community activities; Laura Schmid is Assistant for Community Safety, OH&S, and Member Support; and Jemima Bradfield-Smith, also mentioned above, serves as Equipment Assistant.

"It is a very rewarding role", concluded Sue Hobbs, "contributing to the safety and welfare of our local and broader communities. The old view that being a fire fighter is a man's job is so far from the reality, and the work of the women in the Woodend Fire Brigade is testament to that".

If you are interested in finding out more about how you can give back to your community through the Woodend CFA please get in touch to find out more.

OUR BUSY YEAR CONTINUES

Our ridiculously busy year has carried on into June. At the time of writing this article (mid-June), we had been called to nearly 100 jobs in the first six months. To put that in perspective, we reached that mark last year in mid-December... and we still have six months to go this year!

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

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, FORMER CAPTAIN WOODEND CFA



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Woodend Scouts achieve prestigious Australian Scout Award at Victorian state ceremony

On Saturday 3 May, while everyone else was voting, Woodend Scouts Damon Eagle and Breanna Eagle were two of 80 scouts from across Victoria presented with their Australian Scout Award at the Victorian state award ceremony.

The Australian Scout Award (ASA) is the peak award that can be achieved by scouts aged 11–14. It is the culmination of three years' work for the Scouts after completing at least 17 badges and leading at least five activities for the Unit in the process.

To be awarded the Australian Scout Award, scouts need to complete:

- Program Essentials - Milestone 3
- at least 10 Outdoor Adventure Skills stages
- 6 Special Interest Area Projects
- an Adventurous Journey of at least 3 days / 2 nights' duration.
- a personal development course
- a personal reflection of their journey through Scouts

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Breanna made a speech on behalf of all the recipients, thanking their families, scout leaders and peers for their hard work and assistance in achieving the awards. She acknowledged that achieving a peak award is a team effort and cannot be done in isolation.

SUBMITTED BY CHRIS EAGLE



Winter School Holiday Program at the Library

Custom Cricuts - Customise your own tee or tote using our sparkly new Cricut. Attendance at both sessions is required. Ages 10–16 years.

Session 1- Design: Tuesday 8 July, 10.30am

Session 2- Create: Friday 11 July, 10.30am

Native Animal Bag Tags – Decorate a wooden bag tag featuring beautiful animal designs by Aboriginal artist Belle Leonard. Choose from six native creatures and add your own colourful flair to take home a special keepsake for NAIDOC Week. Thursday 10 July, 10–10.30am and 11–11.30am. Ages 5–12 years.

Sensory friendly: Alien Creations – A calm, sensory-friendly session where kids can sculpt their own alien creatures using soft clay. Create, squish, and shape in a quiet, supportive space – perfect for imaginative makers who like to take things slow. Thursday 17 July, 10.30–11.30am for 5–8 year olds.

Glowing Planets – Create your own glowing planets. Use paint to turn ping pong balls into mini planets, then light them up! Monday 14 July, 2–3pm. Ages 8–12 years.

Library Hunt – It wouldn't be school holidays without a library hunt! Come on in and find the hidden planets and star systems. All ages.



Also on at the library

Demystifying Dementia: Tuesday 15 July, 11am. A fascinating conversation about how we can demystify people's experience of caring for someone with dementia, as well as better manage our own journey.

Online Games: Monday 28 July, 11am. Explore a range of card and board games you can play on your device, to keep your brain active!

Special Event: Screening of 'Under Cover: The Hidden Faces of Homelessness'. Monday 4 August, 11am.

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



Woodend Men's Shed – Jobs for the community

Almost every week – and occasionally more often – the Shed is asked to assist a community member or organisation. Typically, the assistance involves a repair or construction project that we undertake in our workshop.

Recent examples of support for local organisations include the Fire Brigade, the Woodend Cemetery Trust (trailer repair), Woodend Rotary (bereavement boxes and Kinder picnic tables), and the Neighbourhood House (construction of a potting bench).

For individual community members, we have restored antique chairs, rebuilt various pieces of garden furniture, and even revived an antique wooden ice cream maker. We're currently working on a project that has called on our star turner, Barry, to reproduce the leg of a low stool (as seen in the photo – a complex task indeed!)

Wherever possible, we endeavour to keep costs for organisations as low as we can – generally only recouping the cost of materials. Community members are charged a fee usually based on the time and skill required, but it's always a very reasonable sum for the result achieved. These contributions help cover the costs needed to keep the doors of our Shed open.

The Shed is open each Monday and Wednesday from 9am to 12 noon at the Old Saw Mill, 998 Black Forrest Drive, Woodend.

SUBMITTED BY KEVIN DAVIS



Photo: Peter checking the tabletop

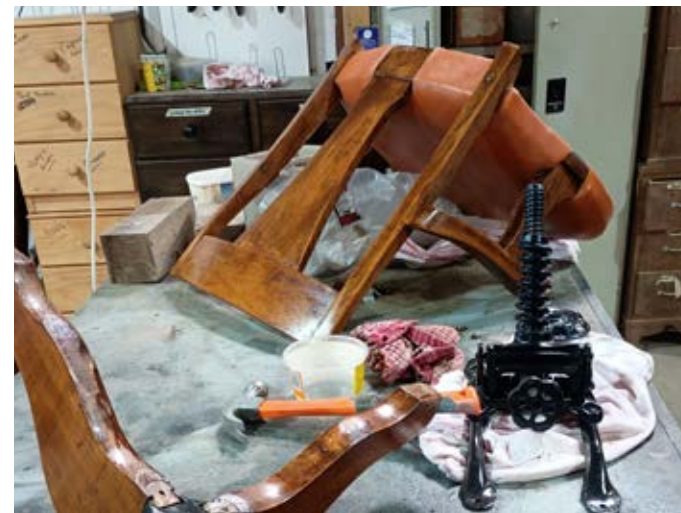


Photo: A chair receiving TLC

Remembering Angus O'Meara (1932–2025)

Sparkly eyes, a wispy goatee and a cheeky smile. Everybody knew Angus O'Meara of Duffy Street. He was the most neighbourly of neighbours in our part of Woodend. We'd hear his light footsteps crunching on our gravel driveway, and we knew it was him coming over. He'd pop in to chat with our parents and to sing us folk songs like Charlie Over the Water.

In autumn, Angus picked up every single leaf from the huge oak tree on his nature strip, even when he was nearly 90. He was so proud of his tomatoes and would invite us to pick as many as we liked. Sometimes, Angus would forget things and tell us the same stories over and over, which was nice in a way because we remember them really well now. Whenever a lot of rain was forecast, he'd ask Dad to clean out his gutters, even if Dad had just done it for him a few days earlier.

He told us stories of what it was like to be Irish-Australian in the 1930s, saying it was common for five or six children to sleep top-to-tail in one bed.

He especially loved talking about his wife, Shirley, and the long happy life they'd had together. He said they danced around their kitchen so much over the years that they wore a hole in the linoleum. When Shirley went into care, our Mum played Annie's Song on the cello. Even after Shirley died, he'd sign cards "from Angus and Shirley."

He once said, "The most important gift you can give someone is your time". We'll never forget Angus.

WRITTEN BY CHARLIE (12) AND CHLOE (9) CORDINGLEY-BRITT
SUBMITTED BY HUGO BRITT



A message from your local Sergeant

As we move into the cooler time of year, I'm probably reiterating, but I think of it more as reinforcing a message from the Woodend CFA, but please have your heaters serviced, whether they are gas or wood. This time of year was our busiest time when I worked at the Arson Squad; attending various house fires, mainly caused by flues not being regularly cleaned and or a poorly serviced gas heater.

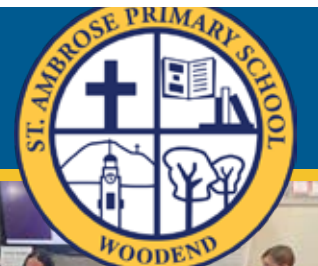
Woodend Police have been down on numbers again for the last six months, but we have now filled our vacancies and have two new members to the team. Hopefully, this will result in more patrol time and more presence within our "patch". We are still getting thefts, some targeted, like the caravan and tradies' vehicles. And then of course there's been the opportunistic: "it's unlocked, let's see what I can find".

We've undertaken highly visible Preliminary Breath Testing Sites within the town, and I'm a little disappointed in the results. We've found several drink drivers, resulting in the loss of licences and hefty fines. A friendly reminder: we are about at all times and will continue to blitz our roads. Please don't take the risk of drinking and driving. There is a mandatory loss of licences for even the lowest levels of drink driving. A conviction is likely to result in an Interlock on your car (these are expensive) as well as a fine. Regardless of any penalties, the risk of having a collision is significant when you're affected by alcohol or drugs. And the thought that you were responsible for hurting someone else, or even worse, because of your actions, would be impactful.

Please stay warm and safe.

SUBMITTED BY DAVID ARNOLD OIC WOODEND POLICE STATION

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Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Lowering speed limits to save lives across our major towns

Feedback is invited on safety-focused proposals that would allow slight reductions to speed limits in the central business and activity areas of Riddells Creek, Woodend, and Kyneton.

Fully funded through the Victorian Government’s Safe Local Roads and Streets Program, in consultation with the Department of Transport and Planning and the Transport Accident Commission, these proposals aim to improve safety for pedestrians and all road users.

Studies show lowering speed limits reduces the severity of collisions and ultimately, fatalities. For the selected towns, traffic counts show that average operating speeds are in many cases already below the proposed new speed limits, with minimal impacts expected to travel times. Lowering the current speed limits is also necessary to legally enforce the minority who do exceed them on occasion.

These proposals align with the Council’s strategic and consultation-informed town movement network plans, as well as the overarching Mobility and Road Safety Strategy, which follows the internationally recognised Safe System approach.

Director Assets and Operations Dom Testoni said lowering speed limits on selected roads was a small-yet-powerful change, to influence driver behaviour around more pedestrian-heavy areas.

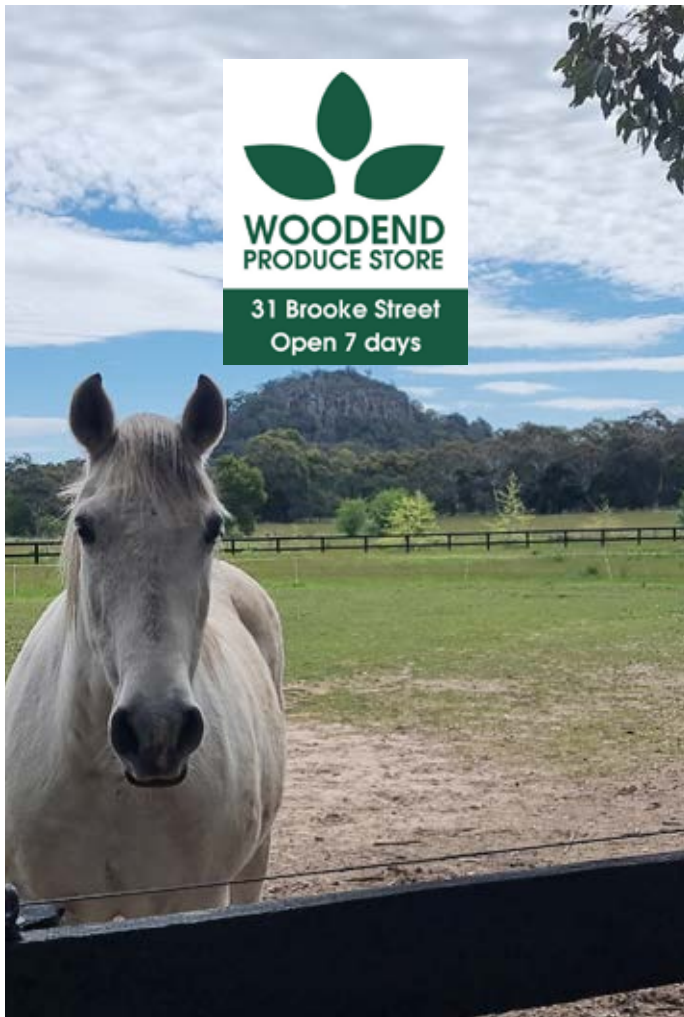
“The principles that underpin the Safe System approach are that people make mistakes, people have a limited tolerance to injuries, and that safety is a shared responsibility – this proposal aims to support all three of these,” he said.

“We appreciate that some may feel lowering speed limits is an overreach or unnecessary, but no matter how adept or alert of a driver you feel you are, this measure will reduce the risk of impeding factors both in and outside of our control. Those who have been involved in a serious vehicle incident or have sadly lost a loved one will appreciate this more than most.”

The proposals for Riddells Creek, Woodend and Kyneton complement a similar recently consulted-on proposal for speed limit reductions and roundabout upgrades in Gisborne, to which feedback is currently being considered.

Feedback is invited until Monday 7 July, 2025. Visit yoursay.mrsc.vic.gov.au/pedestrian-and-roadsafety-improvements to find out more about these projects and have your say online, or call (03) 5422 0333 and ask to speak to the Engineering team if you require further assistance.

SUBMITTED BY BRAD MATHIESON, MRSC COMMUNICATIONS UNIT



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Your community diary

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

—JULY—

- 2 Woodend Lifestyle Carers Group - Milko Cafe
- 3 Woodend Rotary Dinner Meeting, Vic Hotel
- 5 Naturally Cool Big Band - Mountview Theatre
- 6 NAIDOC Week
- 7 MRSC webinars - Insulate for home comfort
- 6 Woodend Farmers Market
- 6 Woodend Community Market
- 7 World Chocolate Day
- 9 Woodend Lifestyle Carers Group - Milko Cafe
- 12 Woodend Presidential Changeover - Glen Erin
- 14 Bastille Day
- 15 Demystifying Dementia - Woodend Library
- 16 Woodend Lifestyle Carers Group - Milko Cafe
- 16 Knit & Natter Group, Norma Richardson Hall
- 17 Woodend Rotary Dinner Meeting, Vic Hotel
- 18 Woodend Probus - Norma Richardson Hall
- 19 Plant Propagation Workshop, Macedon
- 22 St Ambrose School General Curriculum Info evening
- 22 MRSC webinars - Intro to hot water heat pumps
- 23 Woodend Lifestyle Carers Group - Milko Cafe
- 24 All-councillor community session - Tylden Hall
- 26 Woodend Artists' & Makers' Market
- 26 Woodend Junior Football Netball, Trivia Night
- 27 Parents Day
- 28 National Tree Day Event - Hanging Rock Reserve
- 30 Woodend Lifestyle Carers Group - Milko Cafe

—AUGUST—

- 2 Woodend Farmers Market
- 2 Woodend Lions Community Market
- 3 Sustainable Living Festival
- 4 Screening *Undercover* - Woodend Library,
- 4 MRSC webinars - Solar and batteries 101
- 9 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
- 6 Woodend Lifestyle Carers Group - Milko Cafe
- 7 Woodend Rotary Dinner Meeting, Vic Hotel
- 10 Woodend Landcare AGM
- 11 St Ambrose School Open morning
- 13 Woodend Lifestyle Carers Group - Milko Cafe
- 14 Woodend Rotary Dinner Meeting, Vic Hotel
- 15-31 *A Skull In Connemara* - Mountview Theatre
- 16 National Rum Day
- 19 World Humanitarian Day
- 20 Woodend Lifestyle Carers Group - Milko Cafe
- 21 Woodend Rotary Dinner Meeting, Vic Hotel
- 27 Woodend Lifestyle Carers Group - Milko Cafe
- 20 Knit & Natter Group, Norma Richardson Hall
- 23 Woodend Artists' & Makers' Market
- 31 Working Bee - Ruby Mackenzie Park

Fingers and Toes Competition

The Kyneton Handweavers and Spinners Group is hosting the 3rd Annual Fingers and Toes Competition and Festival Day on Saturday, 6 September, at the Red Brick Hall, Yaldwyn Street West, Kyneton.

There are plenty of classes for those who knit or prefer the crochet hook, using either handspun or commercial yarn – socks, gloves, wrist warmers, slippers, bed socks, and fun classes such as finger puppets and Christmas stockings.

Entries close on 4 August, and items should be received by 1 September. Entry forms are available from fingersandtoesfestival@gmail.com or our Facebook page.

Come and see the display on Saturday, 6 September, from 10pm to 4pm – gold coin entry and raffle prizes.

SUBMITTED BY ANNABELLE MACDONALD

Photos: First place-winning pieces from the 2024 competition



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What's on at Mountview Theatre



A Skull In Connemara by Martin McDonagh is our third production for 2025, running from 15 to 31 August.

Synopsis: A razor-sharp dark comedy set in a quiet Irish village where the dead don't always stay buried — and neither do the secrets. Each year, gravedigger Mick Dowd is tasked with clearing out old graves to make space for the newly departed. But this year, something-or someone—hits a little too close to home. With biting wit and a mounting sense of unease, the play spirals into a hilariously macabre investigation of small-town gossip, suspicion, and the skeletons we all try to keep buried.

The Naturally Cool Big Band returns to the Mountview Theatre stage to perform third mammoth sets of great music on Saturday 5 July at 7pm. Inspired by The Blues Brothers, with charts ranging from modern pop, to Buble, Ellington and Count Basie, there's something for everyone's musical taste!

The Mount Players Youth Theatre has some places left in their weekly drama and theatre craft classes for budding young actors aged 10–18.

To book tickets and see full details on our productions, the visiting Big Band Show, Youth Theatre registration and all things theatre, go to www.themountplayers.com

See you at the theatre!

Good Sports: Celebrating community through sport and play

Council is proud to support Good Sports: Leisure and Recreation – a new exhibition that explores the powerful role of sport, leisure and recreation in shaping local identity and community.

Launched with strong community involvement, the exhibition at Kyneton Museum features contributions from local sporting groups and highlights themes of inclusion, the evolution of recreational spaces, and the social impact of sport across generations and cultures.

The exhibition was officially launched last month, with Mayor Dom Bonanno and Commonwealth Games athlete/Kyneton Small Bore Rifle Club member James Daly among those in attendance.

Mayor Bonanno said: “This is more than a nostalgic look at our sporting past. It's a reflection on how we move, connect, and build identity, from grassroots clubs to national icons.

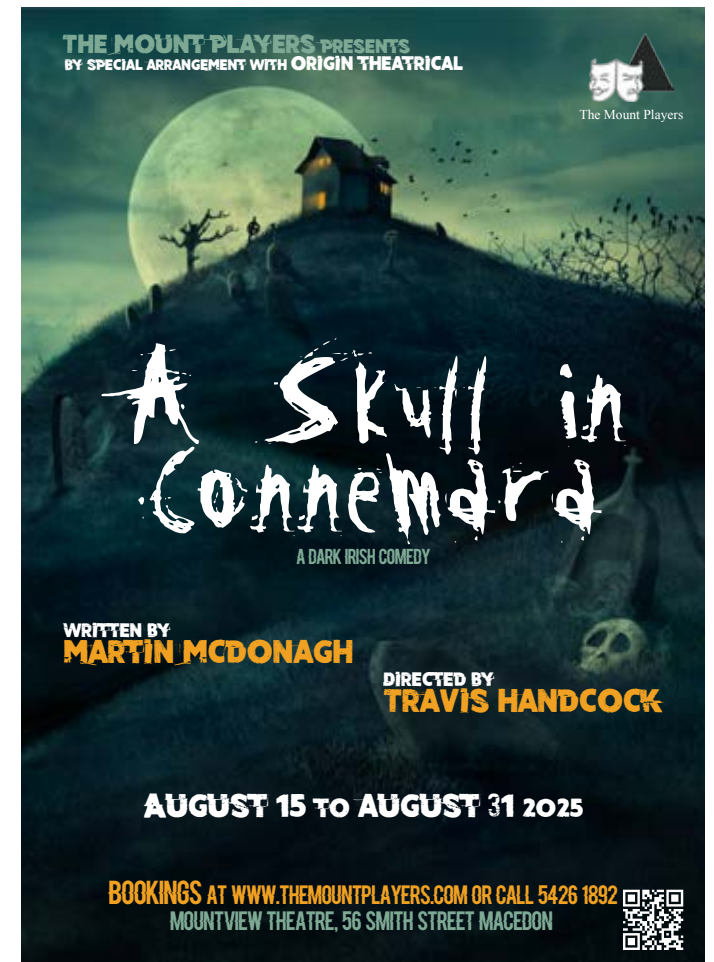
“Events like this show the strength of our community. I hope visitors leave feeling inspired and maybe even ready to dust off their running shoes,” he said.

The exhibition invites visitors to consider how sport has contributed and shaped our culture. It celebrates participation, community and the values of fairness, respect and belonging.

Council thanks the Kyneton Museum team, sponsors, volunteers and contributors for bringing this project to life. Initiatives like Good Sports help strengthen partnerships, celebrate shared stories and build a more connected Macedon Ranges.

The exhibition is open Fridays to Sundays, 11am to 4pm, at Kyneton Museum (67 Piper Street). Visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/Kyneton-Museum for more information.

SUBMITTED BY BRAD MATHIESON, MRSC COMMUNICATIONS UNIT.



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Free tourism and event listings on the Visit Macedon Ranges website (VMR) are available for tourism businesses based in the Macedon Ranges, including boutique retail, hospitality, local tourism events, accommodation properties, tour companies, and more.

We reach hundreds of thousands of visitors annually. The site is free and coordinated by the friendly Visitor Economy team at Macedon Ranges Shire Council.

Local business listings and What's On tourism event listings (events, workshops, exhibitions etc.) on the Visit Macedon Ranges website are the key source of inspiration for the Visit Macedon Ranges social media pages, along with the monthly email newsletter, seeking to encourage more visits to the Macedon Ranges.

So yes, you do need to be on the site to benefit from further promotion across socials, eNews, competitions, hosted content creator visits, and to include your brochures at the shire's visitor information centres.

Highlights:

- Free to list your Macedon Ranges-based tourism event
- On average, over 400,000 annual users to the Visit Macedon Ranges website
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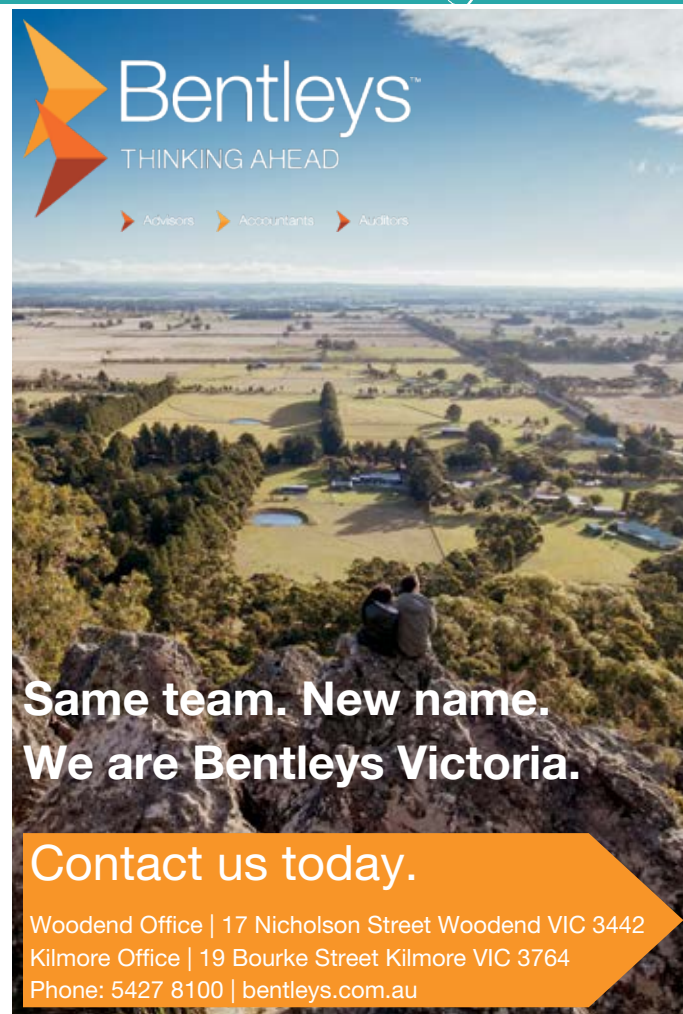
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Disability peer support comes to Macedon Ranges.

Learning to live with a new disability can be incredibly challenging. Mandy McCracken understands this all too well.

After having both her hands and feet amputated at just 39 due to sepsis, Mandy had to adapt to an entirely new way of life.

Not only did she have to come to terms with what she can and cannot do as an amputee, but she also needed to navigate the complex world of disability support, funding, and modifications to her home.

After leaving the hospital and returning home to her family, Mandy was eager to speak with someone locally who could provide answers, but unfortunately, there was no one out there.

So, she created Get Started Disability Support Australia, a charity dedicated to supporting locals who are newly navigating life with a disability or chronic health condition.

Coming to Woodend in late July, the Get Started Disability Workshops will cover everything from finding funding, disability support providers, and modifications for houses and cars to understanding the impact a new disability can have on relationships. They will also address how to prepare for emergencies when living with additional complications, which is quite different from the experience of most residents.

With lunch provided, it's a fantastic opportunity for locals to connect with others in similar situations. "The peer support is what was really missing for me," Mandy says. "If only I had someone who knew how confusing this can be, then together we could have worked it all out. That's what we are aiming to bring to Macedon Ranges."

Supported by the Macedon Ranges Council and the NDIS, the workshops are free for anyone connected to disability, whether it's for yourself or someone you care for. You don't need to be on the NDIS either; Mandy and her team will assist you in finding the right supports for your needs.

For more information, go to www.getstartedisability.org.au or call Mandy on 0411 130 577



Get Started

Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Local support programs for people new to disability

Join our free workshops in Woodend

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

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

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

Where: Woodend Neighbourhood House 47 Forest St, Woodend

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

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



Kyneton Health’s cancer care enhanced, thanks to the Macedon Ranges community

Central Highlands Rural Health put out a call for help, and they are pleased to announce that the community has dug deep and donated over \$50,000 to the Oncology department at the Kyneton Health campus! The target was reached when members of the Kyneton Uniting Church Community Op Shop inquired about how much was needed and contributed an incredible \$17,847.55!

Susan Whitfield, Acting Director of Clinical Operations, Central Highlands Rural Health, said,

“We are thrilled to have received so much support from the community. Our Oncology team will undertake training in the use of the scalp cooler and then it will be introduced to our patients. We know that locals have been travelling to other health services to gain access to a scalp cooler and we are grateful that we can now enhance our care at Kyneton Health.”

Oncology nurses at the health service requested the ‘scalp cooling machine’ to minimise the impact of cancer treatment and support patient wellbeing. Patients receiving chemotherapy treatment often experience hair loss, which can be physically uncomfortable and emotionally distressing.

We spoke to our donors about what the hospital and the scalp cooler mean to the Macedon Ranges community. Below are quotes from a handful of the many generous donors to the Scalp Cooler Appeal.

Kathleen Wyatt, Kyneton Uniting Church Community Op Shop, said,

The Kyneton Uniting Church Community Op Shop is run entirely by volunteers. We take pride in supporting our local community. Christine Stephenson, one of our volunteers, has been a patient at the Oncology Unit. Christine has shared that the loss of hair during treatment impacts your dignity. To ensure country people have the same opportunities as city people, reducing the travel required for treatment eases both the financial burden and the physical impact on the patient, their family, and friends.

Linda Stathopoulos said,

This scalp cooler will make a significant difference in how people approach their treatment. Losing your hair is very distressing and all-consuming. I used

it while undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer; it works and makes the situation easier to deal with.

Dr Alison Killoh said,

I fondly remember the bed race from the old Kyneton Hospital in Simpson St to the then-new hospital in Caroline Chisholm Drive. There was fierce competition between the medical practitioners and nursing teams, and it was a lot of fun for a great cause! It’s great that the community is supporting this vital equipment.

Individuals, businesses, and community groups responded to a letter from CHRH’s CEO, Maree Cuddihy, in March 2025, donating \$40,000 in under two months. This amount has been added to the funding from Spirit de Cure and Suncorp, who contributed \$10,000 in August 2024 to kick off the appeal.

Central Highlands Rural Health takes pride in the high-quality care that patients receive in our friendly and compassionate environment at Kyneton Health. If you or a loved one require more information about cancer care in the Macedon Ranges, please contact Kyneton Health at 5422 9000 or visit www.chrh.org.au.

Oncology Services

Oncology services are offered at Kyneton Health, providing care for patients with cancer and related illnesses. The service also includes a range of treatment options including chemotherapy and other supportive therapies such as blood transfusions and immunotherapy.

Oncology Support

HEALTHY MIND & MOVEMENT - Exercise for physical & mental health. An initiative by Central Highlands Rural Health is collaborating with Cancer Council Victoria to ‘Support the Macedon Ranges in patient-centred oncology care.’ Our 12-week program includes weekly exercise and education sessions designed to assist people living with cancer and manage the impacts on their physical and mental wellbeing.

Central Highlands Rural Health’s The Best Care Project welcomes donations to enhance healthcare for rural Victorians. If you can make a one-off or regular donation, please visit Kyneton Health’s reception, contact Kathryn Kosloff, Engagement & Fundraising Manager, P: 0439 705 039 or E: giving@chrh.org.au, or visit www.chrh.org.au/donate.

SUBMITTED BY KATHRYN KOSLOFF, CENTRAL HIGHLANDS RURAL HEALTH.



Photo: Woodend Rotary President Adriaan Adolph presenting Susan Whitfield with a \$2,000 donation toward the Scalp Cooler

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Big News for Local Homeowners: Cheaper Home Batteries Are Here

Starting July 1st, the federal government's new Cheaper Home Battery Program is launching - and it's a game-changer for homeowners and families across the Macedon Ranges.

This is the most generous battery rebate we've seen. If you've been waiting for the right time to invest in solar storage, this is it.

How It Works

The rebate isn't a flat 30% discount (despite the headlines). Instead, it's based on Small-scale Technology Certificates (STCs), which are calculated by your battery's usable storage capacity.

A 13.8kWh battery, for example, earns 128 STCs this year - that's roughly \$4,600 in value. Install a larger battery, and your rebate increases. But here's the catch: STCs drop every year. Wait until 2025, and you'll get fewer credits for the same system.

Why This Matters for Our Region

With rising energy costs and regular outages, battery storage isn't just about savings - it's about security. Storing solar power to use in the evening or during blackouts helps you stay independent, resilient, and in control.

What to Do Now

If you haven't booked your free onsite consult yet, now's the time. We expect demand to surge after July 1st, and by the end of the year, many households will miss out on this year's higher STC allocation. We don't want that to be you.

Book Your Free Consult Today and make this your year for energy independence.



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It's a wrap for an afternoon of film

A definite buzz was to be found at the Kyneton Mechanics Institute on 15 June as the Macedon Ranges Shire Council and Kindness to Elders Initiative presented a free 'Afternoon of Film' to mark World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, which was hosted by veteran actor Ian Rooney.

Despite the cold, grey day, a good turnout came to show support. The welcoming sounds of the Kyneton Brass Band and smells of sizzling sausages, frying donuts and brewing coffee greeted all with a carnival air.

Local identity Janet Wood AM, former President of the Council on the Ageing (Victoria), raised the inaugural WEAAD flag to open the event and delivered a stirring and informative speech on how society can address elder abuse. After a short film on financial elder abuse, it was time for Ian's first guest, another local identity and international speaker, Bob Nixon, who delivered an impressive session on protecting one's finances.

While the pure vocals of Young Voices of Macedon Choir rang out through the hall, Ian's next two guests waited in the wings. Arriving on stage to the delight of all, they needed no introduction for they were local identities of film and fame, Shane Jacobson and Stephen Curry who had both donated valuable time for their community. Alongside Ian, the three actors kept everyone spellbound, and if it weren't for the scheduled screening of the feature film *Thelma* at 2pm, their talk on life in film would have far exceeded the 45 minutes they gave.

Thelma itself was well attended, and its screening was the perfect ending to a successful day.

The Macedon Ranges Shire Council and the Kindness to Elders Initiative would like to thank everyone involved. Each and every one donated their time to take part, not to mention the time they spent in the lead-up to the day. Their community spirit shines a light on kindness to elders. For a full event wrap, visit Facebook / Kindness to Elders.

If you or anyone you know is experiencing elder abuse, phone the confidential helpline at Senior Rights Victoria on 1300 368 821 (and press option 1).



More youth led events for more young Victorians

More youth-led events across Victoria will become possible, enabling young people to come together and shape the activities that matter to them during Youth Fest 2025.

Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas, announced that Daylesford Secondary College, Macedon Ranges Shire Council, and Mount Alexander Shire Council will receive grants to design, plan, and deliver the following events during Youth Fest in September 2025.

- Daylesford Secondary College’s ‘The Crew’ will hold a Live4Life community-based initiative aimed at enhancing the mental health and wellbeing of young people in regional and rural communities.
- The Macedon Ranges Shire will host a Live4Life Community Youth Mental Health First Aid Course. This project will provide a certified Youth Mental Health First Aid course for educators, parents, and community leaders. Participants will learn how to identify mental health issues in youth, offer initial support, and refer them to services. The initiative aims to reduce stigma, increase local capacity for mental health support, and foster a more proactive and informed community.
- Mount Alexander Shire will stage an upcycled youth festival featuring a sustainable fashion parade where young people can express their personal style through second-hand fashion.

“Congratulations to our local recipients,” said Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas. “These grants help communities put on inclusive, affordable events to make sure young people – especially in regional Victoria – have access to fun and support, close to home.”

Youth Fest celebrates young Victorians by funding fun, creative, and inclusive events designed and led by young people themselves. Schools, local councils, and community organisations will utilise funding to deliver events including art exhibitions, cultural festivals, sports days, and youth awards.

This year, there are 66 events in metropolitan Melbourne and 44 across rural and regional Victoria.

Victorian Youth Fest 2025 will run from Monday, 1 September, to Tuesday, 30 September. Funding for the delivery of more than 500 Victorian Youth Fest events has been provided over the past five years. For more information on this year’s events, visit vic.gov.au/youth-fest-grants.

Quote attributable to Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas
SUBMITTED BY KATE LEE, OFFICE OF MARY-ANNE THOMAS MP



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Real cost of living help for families and kids who need it

Two cost of living support programs are receiving an increase in the Victorian Budget 2025/26. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund will receive an increase, and the popular Get Active Kids vouchers program will be extended for another two years.

Currently, eligible primary school students receive \$154 per year, while eligible secondary students receive \$256, and all payments will be raised to \$400 from Term 1, 2026.

Families with multiple children at the same school can pool their allocated funding to spend on one child or for a specific activity – assisting in situations where the costs for activities at a certain year level are higher than others.

The popular \$200 Get Active Kids vouchers will mean sport, activity and equipment support for eligible children. The vouchers cover the costs of memberships, registration fees, equipment, and uniforms for sports and popular activities, and are available to families with a Health Care or concession card.

Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas said, “All children should be able to play the sport they love and attend school camps with their classmates, these two cost-of-living measures ensure they can do that.”

Since the program was launched in 2020, nearly 190,000 vouchers have been issued to families. More than half of the families who received vouchers indicated that their kids would not have been able to participate without them. Additionally, 22 percent of recipients joined a local sporting club for the first time thanks to the vouchers.

The program also supports grassroots sporting clubs. By becoming a provider, clubs can gain more memberships and create even more opportunities for kids to reach their potential.

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

Calling on local clubs to tackle road safety

Grassroots football and netball clubs are being urged to promote road safety within their communities for a chance to share in \$700,000, via the Transport Accident Commission’s (TAC) Club Rewards Program.

The program aims to empower clubs to cultivate a culture where all players and members prioritise road safety before getting behind the wheel.

Now in its sixth year, the TAC Club Rewards Program permits AFL Victoria-affiliated football and netball clubs to apply for rewards of up to \$10,000 for club initiatives such as transport, new equipment and uniforms, or facility upgrades.

An additional \$100,000 has been added to this year’s funding pool to assist more clubs in spreading the message.

Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas said of the program, “Last year we supported more than 230 grassroots clubs for shining a light on road safety. We want more clubs to get involved this year to ensure every journey on Victoria’s roads is a safe one.”

As part of this year’s program, clubs will be encouraged to initiate conversations and join the campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of speeding, with the tagline – “Be the difference.”

The launch coincides with the fact that 133 people have lost their lives on Victorian roads, with over 60 per cent of deaths occurring on the same regional roads that footballers and netballers travel on for games each week. More information on the Club Rewards Program can be found at play.afl/victoria/tacclubrewards

Emergency Volunteer Grants open

More money for trucks, equipment and modern facilities will be available to help volunteers keep themselves and their communities safe with the Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP), which is open now.

Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas announced last month that \$30 million is available for this year’s VESEP grants.

VESEP is an annual grant program that helps Victorian emergency services volunteer groups purchase essential equipment or make facility improvements, thereby strengthening and supporting their vital work in emergency response.

Groups can apply for a grant of up to \$250,000 – a \$100,000 increase on the previous maximum – with the Government contributing \$2 for every \$1 raised by the local volunteer group.

Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas said, “The Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program is an important annual program providing a critical boost to local volunteer units to ensure their equipment and vehicles are up-to-date.”

Volunteer groups can purchase equipment, including generators, pumps, utility vehicles, tankers and rescue trucks. They can also fund minor refurbishments or amenity upgrades to their station, club or unit.

Eligible services include the Country Fire Authority (CFA), Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES), Life Saving Victoria, and Volunteer Marine Search and Rescue units.

The 2025-26 VESEP applications are now open and close on 28 July 2025. For more information about VESEP and to find out how to apply for a grant visit emv.vic.gov.au/vesep.

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

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THE NEW WOODEND STAR | 39 |



Celebrating 10 years of footy for fun!

HAWKS BIRTHDAY PARTY A CELEBRATION OF PAST AND PRESENT



It's been a big month for the Masters. We've played a couple of games against Kerang, where we travelled to their home ground, and three weeks later, we hosted the Rams at Gilbert Gordon Oval.

We often help each other out by offering players to make a game of it, and again the Rams and Hawks played some great Masters-style footy.

As our ranks continue to grow with new players and supporters joining the Masters, it was fitting that we celebrated our 10th birthday with a party for the ages.

It was great to see some old faces from our first season mingling with the next generation at the Vic Hotel on June 14.

Thanks to Brett Franke and Kevin Starling who provided some live acoustic blues rock to warm up the revellers before our very own DJ Doolz got everyone on the dance floor.

All those years of bus trips where our blokes took over the dance floor at country pubs on a Saturday

night after a game were on display for our wives and partners. As dancers, we make great footballers... and that's open for debate.

But we've never shied away from confusing confidence with capability, and it was great to see everyone having a lot of fun.

We take on Sunbury on Sunday at their home ground, which is great that we have new young blokes joining us because you need an Uber to get from one end to the other of that ground!

Despite the temperatures dropping, we are still training on Friday nights and Mondays, unless we played a game on the previous weekend.

We always welcome anyone wanting to come down and have a kick with us.

For details, check out our Facebook page.



Woodend Junior Football Netball Club



Big Freeze

We raised money to support the Big Freeze by selling snow cones in Hawks colours at our recent home games. Thank you to all of the families who supported this, we raised \$400 for the Fight MND foundation and the kids loved the cold treat!

Football Interleague Representative Teams

A huge congratulations to all of the footballers who were selected to play in RDFNL Junior Interleague. It is exciting to see such a strong representation across all age groups.

U13 Girls: Chloe W

U13: Ben S & Zayne V, Bruno B, Ethan W, Lewis L, Lewis W & Edgar H (Congratulations to Ben Sumpter, who won best on ground for the U13A team).

U14: Jake C, Orlando M, Darcy C, Hunter C (Captain), Ryder C, Henry C.

U15: Sebastian B, James G, James M, Michael S, Harvie P, Alex S.

Essendon players visit junior teams

On Monday 2 June, Essendon players Rhys Unwin, Zac Johnson, and Kayle Gerryen visited the U9s and U11s during training. The young players were generous with their time, and the kids were thrilled to meet "real AFL players" and have their footies and other memorabilia signed.

Netball update

Congratulations to Isla Munro on representing RDFNL in the Interleague Championships.

Home games and training is now happening on our brilliant new facilities at Gilbert Gordon. We thank all our netball families and supporters for their patience and flexibility in the first half of the season.

Support the Hawks buy a raffle ticket!

Help support the WJFNC by purchasing a ticket in the Toyota Good for Footy Raffle. There are over \$289,005 worth of prizes to be won including three brand new Toyota vehicles. To enter, please look up <https://toyotagoodforfooty.raffletix.com.au/woodendhawks>

Save the date – Trivia night – July 26

Our major fundraising event for the year is our trivia night. Book your babysitters now for what will be a fun night of trivia and door prizes. Tickets are on sale now! <https://trybooking.com/events/landing/1414873>

If you're a local business and would like to contribute something for our raffle and silent auction for the night, please reach out to president@woodendhawks.com.au

SUBMITTED BY WOODEND VICE-PRESIDENT



Photo: Some members of the U13 RDFNL football, Bruno B, Lewis L, Lewis W, Edgar H and Ethan W



Photo: Isla M representing the RDFNL in U15 netball

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Club championship results update

All Woodend Club Championship events have now been completed.

Pat and Ruby win Ladies Pairs



The Ladies Pairs match was played between Pat Morgan and Ruby Priede (right) and Anne Dornau and Arlene Johnstone (left) over sixteen ends in sunny yet cool conditions.

There were many very close heads, with several seeing a sudden turnaround from being several shots up to several shots down. It was 3-all after four ends, with Pat and Ruby winning six of the next seven ends to lead 16-7 after eleven ends. Anne and Arlene then won the final five ends in a great comeback but just fell short, losing 16-12.

Congratulations to all players for putting on a great competition.

Dennis wins 100 up!



The Final of the Club 100 up was played in beautiful sunny conditions between Dennis Priede (left) and Steve Miles (right).

To reach the final, Dennis defeated Colin Fox in one semi-final, and Steve defeated Mike Dornau in the other. The result took 19 ends to complete, with Dennis taking an early lead. In fact, he had an 18-shot lead (54-36) after 9 ends, with Steve fighting back to trail by just 8 (69-61) after 13 ends. Dennis then pulled away to win 105 to 85. There were five even ends at 5-all, with Dennis winning six ends 7-3, which was really the difference in the scores. Steve only managed one 7-3, with both players scoring an 8-2 each. In what could be a keenly contested grudge match, both players were set to meet again in the 21 up final.

Dennis wins 21 up!

Dennis and Steve faced off once more to contest the Club 21 Up Grand Final. It was another closely fought match and a showcase of some brilliant draw bowls. Steve got off to a strong start, leading 8-2 after seven ends. Dennis then won the next five ends (2-2-2-4-2),

leading 14-8 after twelve ends. Steve then claimed five of the next six ends (1-2-1-1-3), drawing level at 16-all after eighteen ends. Dennis then won the last two ends, 2-3, to secure the victory 21-16 after a total of twenty ends. Thanks to Mike for marking both matches.

It capped off a great year for Dennis, winning three Grand Finals, including the Mixed Pairs with Ruby, while Steve made it to two Grand Finals. Congratulations to all players who entered this year's Club Championships and to all finalists and eventual winners.

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

Get active, stay social – Join our senior sports programs!



Looking for fun, fitness, and a great community vibe? Our senior sports programs are perfect for anyone aged 15+ wanting to stay active and connected!

Open Futsal – Fast-paced indoor soccer for all skill levels. Every Tuesday, from 7.30pm at Romsey Recreation Centre.

Women's Netball – A dynamic way to build fitness and friendships. Join us Tuesday nights from 7.10pm at Woodend Buffalo Sports Stadium.

Mixed Basketball – Social, fun, and open to all skill levels! Tip-off is on Thursday nights from 7.30pm at Riddells Creek Leisure Centre.

Open to players aged 15 and over, you can gather your friends and register a team, or sign up as an individual to be assigned to an existing team. Regardless of your experience level, you'll find a welcoming and supportive environment.

The next season begins in late July and lasts through early December. For more info or to register, contact your local centre or visit www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/leisure

Woodend Probus

May was a busy month for Woodend Probus. Members attended the Biggest Morning Tea at Trentham and enjoyed a day at the Kilmore races celebrating Probus Victoria's 40th anniversary.

The next meeting will be on 18 July. The guest speaker will be a member of the Woodend Rotary Club.

All welcome.

Enquiries: Chris 0402 380 990 or Pauline 0409 120 945

SUBMITTED BY
CHRISTINE GILLMAN

Photo: Best dressed couple Jenny and David at the Kilmore Races



Funding boost for sports focus

A funding boost will help Victorians to get involved in sport and active recreation, boosting participation opportunities across the state.

State Members for Bendigo, Jacinta Allan MP and Maree Edwards MP, Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas MP and Member for Ripon, Martha Haylett MP, announced last month that Sports Focus has been successful in receiving \$600,000 through the latest round of the Together More Active program.

Sports Focus supports and empowers sporting clubs to be safer, inclusive and welcoming spaces for the broader community to enjoy sport and active recreation. This funding is part of more than \$8.1 million statewide to bring to life 58 projects.

Together More Active draws on the power of sport to make a difference; helping organisations build safe, inclusive, and resilient environments that encourage participation and support volunteer skills development.

"By helping our local organisations build safe, inclusive, and resilient environments we are ensuring that people of all ages and all abilities can take part in sports they love," said Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas. This round, the program is backing the continuation of a Disability Sport and Recreation pilot program to support and enhance the capabilities of sport clubs competing at the 2026 Special Olympics Australia National Games in Melbourne.

For all the latest information about the program and successful grant recipients, visit sport.vic.gov.au.

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

Regional grants for all abilities sport

People living with a disability in Macedon can look forward to more opportunities to engage in the sports they love, through grants designed to support even more individuals in participating both on and off the field. Minister for Community Sport, Ros Spence, announced 88 grants worth over \$1.5 million from the Regional All Abilities Participation Grants program for grassroots sport and active recreation clubs, as well as not-for-profit organisations. With grants of up to \$25,000, the program strives to enhance access, inclusion, and options for people living with a disability to enjoy the benefits of sport and active recreation in regional Victoria. Flying Fox Services in Lancefield will receive \$23,018 to facilitate inclusive fitness and movement at camps. South Gisborne Tennis Club will obtain \$7,200 for the development of a new program and a permanent all-abilities coach.

For more information on the grants and a full list of recipients, visit sport.vic.gov.au

Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas said, "These grants will provide a massive boost for our local organisations giving more people the chance to take part in sports they love, close to home."

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

Player profile: from friends to finals



For Walt Thiele, futsal has provided opportunities to build friendships, create lasting memories, and challenge himself in new ways. His journey started with a simple invitation. "I first got involved in futsal when some friends from school offered me a place on their team," he explained.

When asked about his preferred position on the court, Walt prefers being in the midfield. "...you get to be in all the action running up and attacking as well as defending our own goals".

Sharing his love of the game, he describes one of his most memorable moments, "I was a defender and saved two goals from being scored accidentally because they kicked it into me twice when I was not even looking." He also recalls winning a grand final against a team that went undefeated all season, as a special moment too.

But it's not just all the action in a game of futsal or winning finals that keeps him involved. "It keeps me connected to all my friends from primary school and helps me make new ones," he said. "And it's just super fun to play."

When asked how it feels to execute a good pass to another player, his answer is simple but meaningful: "Pride that I've contributed to the team."

As for future goals, the answer isn't surprising. "Winning another grand final would be pretty good, but honestly, I just love playing it."

With a strong team spirit, love for the game, and a few unforgettable moments under his belt, this young player's futsal journey is just getting started.

SUBMITTED BY KRISTY MUTSAERS (COMMITTEE MEMBER OF MACEDON RANGES FUTSAL)

Photo: Macedon Ranges Futsal player – Walt Thiele and dad, Tom.



Visiting Family or Friends

Woodend and Kyneton visitor information centres now offer free information packs for residents who have family or friends visiting the Macedon Ranges.

The information packs include a cotton tote bag containing visitor maps, itineraries, and a copy of the newly released 'Rejuvenate' magazine, the ultimate travel guide to the Macedon Ranges and Daylesford.

Also included is a voucher for your friends and relatives to spend on a wonderful selection of locally made and designed gifts and souvenirs at the visitor information centres. Available to households only.

Woodend Visitor Information Centre is open 7 days a week from 10am to 4pm and Kyneton Visitor Information Centre is open from 10am to 4pm, Friday – Sunday

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Woodend Hawks Basketball Club news: winter season off to a flying start

The Woodend Hawks Basketball Club has had a fantastic start to our winter season of basketball, with 36 teams playing in Sunbury Basketball Association's (SBA) weekend competition.

We're so proud of our brand-new Under 10 Boys team, who took to the court for the very first time this season under the guidance of Coach JP and Assistant Coach Jeremiah. With plenty of energy, excitement, and growing skills on display, these young Hawks represent the future of our club – and the community spirit we're so proud of.

In total, the Hawks have 280 players across 36 teams competing each week. Behind every whistle and timeout are the 70 dedicated volunteers who coach, manage, and coordinate everything that keeps the club running. From organising uniforms to gameday coaching and training logistics – we couldn't do it without them.

To recognise this vital contribution, the club has launched a new 'Volunteer of the Week' award, proudly supported by The Vic Hotel. Our inaugural recipient is Amanda Knight, a first-time basketball coach, whose calm, kind, and positive nature, as well as her enthusiastic commitment to teaching skills, is making a huge difference with her Under-16 Girls team. Congratulations, Amanda! And a huge thank you to The Vic for supporting the Woodend Hawks.

Looking ahead, we're also excited to launch our Hawks Headstart – Game-Ready Skills program at the end of the month, designed for aspiring young players who want to learn game-ready skills in a fun and welcoming environment. This is a perfect opportunity for children born 2017 & 2018 to gain confidence, develop their skills, and fall in love with the game before joining a team. Everyone is welcome and no experience is necessary. Places are limited. Check out our socials or website for all the details.

With a strong start to the season, community spirit in full swing, and outstanding player and coach retention numbers, the Woodend Hawks are showing what local sport is all about. Go Hawks!

The Woodend Hawks Basketball Club is a thriving, inclusive, and supportive community for basketball players providing development opportunities at all levels. To find out more, or to register for Hawks Headstart, please visit: woodendhawksbasketball.org.au

SUBMITTED BY HELEN MORRONGIELLO, SECRETARY



Photo left: Inaugural Hawks 'Volunteer of the Week' Amanda (left) shown with committee member Chris.

Photo right: It's fun and games for our new U10.2 Boys team with Coach JP and Assistant Coach Jeremiah

Woodend Hasket Football Netball Club update



Community. Connection.

Club Pride.

It's been a huge few months at the Nest, and we've got plenty to celebrate – both on and off the field.

New netball courts opened at Gilbert Gordon Oval

We're thrilled to officially open our incredible new netball courts at Gilbert Gordon Oval – a project years in the making. A huge thank you to everyone involved.

Opened on Saturday 14 June, the new facilities include two competition-standard courts with lighting, shelters, seating, electronic scoreboards, and connecting paths. Already, they're helping increase participation and giving our netballers the professional, safe environment they deserve.

Club Milestones – Legends in the Making

This season we've celebrated some huge player milestones.

Congratulations to Jesse Sheppard, our first ever player to reach 300 club games since the club's 1978 amalgamation! A born-and-bred local and Life Member, Jesse's loyalty, leadership and grit make him a true Hawk legend.

We also recognise Al Rae on 100 senior games – a consistent, steady presence and fantastic role model on and off the field.

And a massive shout out to Mackenzie Brown for hitting 150 club games. A midcourt dynamo known for her tenacity and leadership, Macca's impact goes well beyond the scoreboard.

Thanks to Our Sponsors

We recently hosted our annual Sponsors Function – a small thank you for the generous individuals and businesses backing our club. The day featured lunch, tours of our new facilities, live music, and raffles. We're incredibly grateful for the support that helps us grow sport and community in Woodend

WHFNC Megadraw – 19 July QRCode

Don't miss our biggest event of the year – the 2025 MEGADRAW!

Saturday 19 July | 6.30pm–9.00pm

Gilbert Gordon Oval Clubrooms

\$100 tickets include all food & drink + chance to win \$10,000 in prizes

Call for ticket prices and grab your ticket now: <https://square.link/u/7xSC9Kot>

\$6,400 Raised for Fight MND!

We were proud to join forces with Sovereign Financial for Fight MND – raising an incredible \$6,400. Thank you to everyone who got involved and showed their support!

Go Hawks!

Follow us: @woodendhasketfnc or sign up for our newsletter: bit.ly/WHFNCNewsletter

WRITTEN BY PAUL POBBURY, CO-PRESIDENT WHFNC

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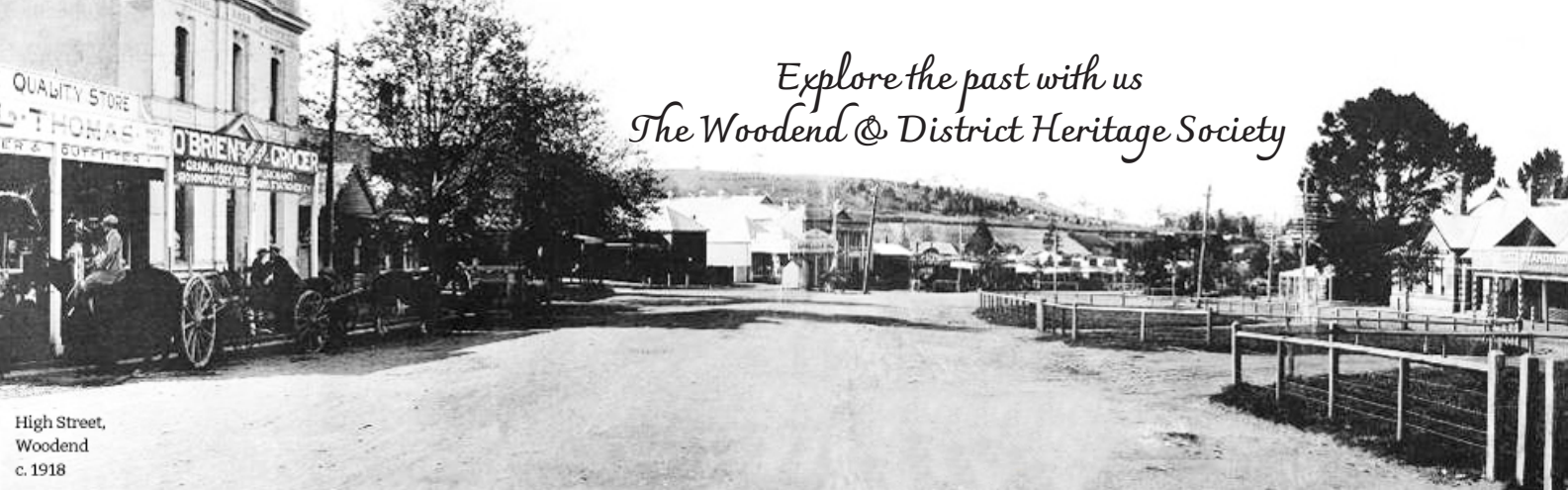

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Explore the past with us
The Woodend & District Heritage Society



High Street,
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c. 1918

Woodend in the 1950s – a social whirl

'A monster concert and dance entertainment' was organised in Mechanics Hall by the staff of Lincoln Mills on Friday, 3 October 1942, to celebrate its first anniversary. Each member of the staff at Woodend performed either a solo or in a chorus or recited a poem. Staff from other mills in Kyneton and Coburg also participated, some of whom had been successful in state competitions. The Coburg staff stayed for the weekend to explore the attractions of the area before returning home.

The program began at 7.45 with community singing conducted by Mr Roberts from Kyneton. After the concert, the hall was cleared for dancing, which the enthusiastic participants continued until two o'clock in the morning. They were sustained by a hearty supper provided by the girls. The proceeds were shared between the Red Cross and the Mechanics Institute.

Photo 1305: Lincoln Mills float in 'Back to Woodend' celebrations in 1956.

Such social activities were regular events in those days as Dos Warnock, one of the Mills girls, remembered: 'Wednesday night was the movies, Fire Brigade dances on Friday night or sometimes a ball. Saturday was the movies again and Sunday night a dance at the parish hall. Back to work Monday morning. It was a full and busy time.'

Every year the Mills put on a Christmas Break-Up. Dos remembered one at the 19th Hole Hotel, another at Fisher's Café, one at Mrs Coulter's Devon Lodge and a barbecue at the Cross on Mt Macedon.

Dos left in 1960 to have a child and intended to return to work at some stage. When the Woodend Mills closed, she was very disappointed. 'I loved my time at the Mill, it was the end of an era.'



Photo 2569: More Lincoln Mills girls in the 1950s.

Back row: Mary Hughes, Ivy Thorn, Margaret Muir (Scanlon), Ada London, Joyce Fraser, Ella Vistorini, June Johns (O'Connor.)

Middle row: Maureen Demack, Betty Hague (Howden), Olive Fuggle (Morris), June London (Frizon), Heather Bowen (Lee), Barbara Creely, Jean Granger (Bowen), Doss/Dorothy Bickerdike (Warnock)

Front row: Jess Fox, Doris Rollins (McGiffen), Mary King, Miss Rielly, Jess Hughes (Pearce), Mary Sullivan (Lamb)



SUBMITTED BY JANE HOLTH

Erratum: In the photo in the June issue, the front row should read: Miss Douglas, Mrs Barker, June London (Frizon), Mrs Reynolds, Miss Rielly. If anyone can add to these captions, please contact the Woodend & District Heritage Society on a Wednesday between 10am and 4pm.

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Clubs and Activities – social experiences beyond the classroom

The newly introduced Learning Studio is a welcoming space provided in the Year 7 area that provides opportunities to foster new connections and strengthen emerging friendships. Offering regular, year level focused, lunchtime activities provide the perfect opportunity for students to continue conversations while focusing on an area of shared interest. This space currently offers Minecraft Monday, Board Game Tuesday, Zen Zone, with plans for a Movie club to be introduced soon.

"Minecraft club is a wonderful opportunity to meet new people, grow in the Sacred Heart community, learn tips and tricks about your favourite game and most of all have fun! Minecraft club is on Mondays at lunch time where you can host worlds in creative or survival and you can play custom games like Bed Wars, one block, sky block and more!"

Will O, Year 7

For students in higher year levels keen to discover new interests or connect with peers, there are a variety of lunch break activities.

"Our lunchtime drama club is called Drama Llamas. This term we've been making little skits and short plays around the theme: "I know things are bad, but they could always get worse." It's all about how small choices we make one day can change the future. We worked in groups to create these short plays, and honestly, it's been super fun doing it with my friends. I really like that we focus on just one thing each session because it gives us time to practice and get better at it. What's cool is that a lot of it is improvised, so we don't have to stick to a script, and we get to decide what we want to say. You can be as dramatic as you want, which is awesome for me as I love acting!"

Maeve D, Year 7

The Catherine McAuley Library at Sacred Heart College is a lively and welcoming space for all students. Whether you'd like to relax with a book, catch up with friends, or enjoy a game of cards, chess, or one of our many board games — there's something for everyone.

Teacher Librarian, Tina Fattori, explains, "for students looking for more structured lunchtime activities, we offer a variety of fun and engaging Library Lunchtime groups throughout the year. Currently, you can join our Knitting Group, Dungeons & Dragons sessions, or the Book Club. We can't wait to welcome you to the library when you start Secondary School!"

When students commence their secondary journey at Sacred Heart College Kyneton, they meet and mix new classmates from a range of local primary schools. The Transition Program of the first weeks of term includes a mix of onsite activities, excursions and year level camp, all great chances to develop new friendships. Beyond these first weeks, time and space is provided for students in Year 7 to continue growing these connections, vital for wellbeing and social development.



Photo: Year 7 students enjoying Minecraft Mondays



Photo: The Drama Llamas in action



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Enrolment enquiries can be made via the Registrar.

Scan for tour bookings



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