

The New **Woodend Star**

Rotary  Club of Woodend

November 2025
Volume 29 | Issue 10



Ziggy and Miles Johnston: World-class guitar duo in Woodend for one concert

Article page 3

PUBLISHER
The Rotary Club of Woodend
ABN 32 685 225 161 No. A0021518E
PO Box 333 Woodend 3442
Published monthly (except January).
Distributing 4,200 free copies across
Woodend 3442 postal district.

CONTRIBUTE ARTICLES
First read our editorial policy on
www.newwoodendstar.com. Please
submit your story [with pictures, if you
have them] by email to content@newwoodendstar.org.au.
The cut-off date for copy is the 15th of
each month, preceding publication.

BOOK YOUR ADVERTISING
www.newwoodendstar.com

Advertising Rates – *plus GST

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

READ CURRENT + BACK ISSUES
www.newwoodendstar.com/view

CONTACT US

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

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

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



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

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

—NOVEMBER—

- 1.....Woodend Farmers’ Market
1..... Woodend Lions Community Market
4Melbourne Cup Holiday
5Kyneton Cup Holiday
5 Crafting Connections – Woodend Library
6 Author talk – Rachael Johns, Woodend Library
6 Rotary Woodend Meeting – Vic Hotel
7 Barry Golding, volcanic peaks in Central Victoria
7—23 *Puffs* – Mountview Theatre
11 & 14 Spring Safe Storytime – Woodend Library
11 Remembrance Day, Woodend RSL
12..... It’s, Time to Talk About Power – KTH
13..... Rotary Woodend Meeting – Vic Hotel
15..... Black Gum Conservation and Gorse Control Field Day – Woodend Landcare Group – Woodend Community Centre
15—16 Budburst Wine Festival
15..... ‘Sidekick’ Ziggy and Miles concert – St Ambrose Church
16..... *Movie The Social Climbers*, Norma Richardson Hall
17..... Annual Koala Count at Hanging Rock
18 Recycling Week Storytime – Woodend Library
19..... AFL Draft live WHFNC – clubroom
20CWA meeting – Woodend Golf Club
20 *Left Write Hook*, Documentary Screening
20 Rotary Woodend Meeting – Vic Hotel
21..... Probus Meeting
22 Woodend Artists’ & Makers’ Market
22 Bonjour Storytime – Woodend Library
23 Landcare Working Bee and end-of-year gathering
24 ... Walk Against Family Violence, Kyneton Community House
25 Start of 16 Days of Activism
29–30..... Castlemaine Rotary Truck Show

—DECEMBER—

- 2Woodend Senior Citizens general meeting
3International Day of People with Disability
5 “My Story” International Day of People with Disability Kyneton Town Hall
6Woodend Farmers’ Market
6 Woodend Lions Community Market
6CWA Annual Christmas Fair
10..... End of 16 Days of Activism
13... WWAF – A Cappella Christmas Carols, St Ambrose Church
19..... St Mary’s Christmas Carols
24 Christmas Eve
25 Christmas Day
26 Boxing Day

Ziggy and Miles Johnston

Get ready for an unforgettable afternoon of world-class music right here in Woodend! Internationally acclaimed Australian guitarists Ziggy and Miles Johnston are returning home to Australia and will perform a special concert that promises virtuosic playing, warmth, and captivating artistry.

Now based in New York, the Johnston brothers have been hailed for their “deeply considered musicianship, immaculate care and superlative technique” (5MBS). Winners of the 2023 Young Concert Artists International Auditions, they are rapidly earning a reputation as two of Australia’s finest young musicians on the global stage.

Their Woodend concert draws inspiration from their time in New York City, showcasing the guitar duo’s signature strengths – intuitive interplay, seamless unity, and the remarkable ability to conjure the depth and colour of a full orchestra.

At the heart of the program is Sidekick, a playful and powerful new work by Australian composer Katie Jenkins, written especially for the brothers. Jenkins captures their spirited dynamic perfectly, describing the piece as one that “makes fun of each other but needs each other – they compete with one another but are stronger together.”

Audiences will also be treated to Ziggy and Miles’ exquisite arrangement of Claude Debussy’s Suite bergamasque, which finds new life on the guitar, highlighting its intimacy and shimmering tonal palette. The concert opens with Astor Piazzolla’s fiery Tango no.1: Deciso and closes with Radamés Gnattali’s Suite Retratos – two masterpieces of Latin American guitar music that celebrate passion, rhythm, and freedom of expression.

When: Saturday, 15 November at 2.30pm

Where: St Ambrose Church, Woodend

All profits from this concert will go directly to supporting the Woodend Winter Arts Festival, helping us continue to bring exceptional music, art, and ideas to our community each year.

Come and experience the magic of two extraordinary musicians at the height of their craft – right here in the heart of Woodend.

Book early—this is one concert not to be missed!

www.woodendwinterartsfestival.org.au

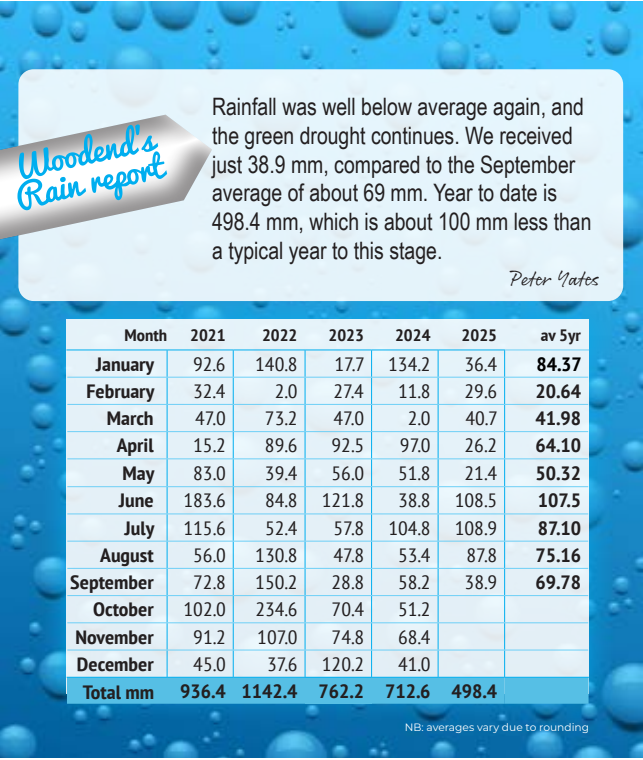


Photo: Ziggy and Miles Johnston

Photo Credit: Jiyang Chen

Cover photo credit: Romer Pedron

SUBMITTED BY WWAF COMMITTEE



 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.



MACEDON RANGES
TIMBER WINDOWS & DOORS

EVOLVEWINDOWS

UPGRADE YOUR HOME WITH HIGH-PERFORMANCE WINDOWS & DOORS

ALUMINIUM • TIMBER • uPVC
All window & door options under one roof.



03 8746 9777
info@evolvewindows.com.au
evolvewindows.com.au
988 Black Forest Drive, Woodend

SHOWROOM OPEN IN WOODEND



WHAT'S ON IN

Woodend



AFTER WORK Catchup

@ WOODEND
CELLAR & BAR

for 3442 Business
Owners & Staff

**TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 11**

@ 5.30PM

The Woodend Traders Inc. committee
meet on the third Monday of each
month at 5:30pm at the Victoria
Hotel. All are welcome to join and
contribute.

Woodend TWILIGHT SHOPPING

Locals
Supporting
Locals



**THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 27**
UNTIL 9PM

Christmas IN WOODEND SPONSOR A TREE!

Shine bright and
decorate your own
tree to display
in High Street in
December



LEARN
MORE



This update was brought to you by Woodend Traders Inc. A0107434V



woodendvictoria.com.au



Local hero chasing AFL dream

Congratulations are in order for Cooper Duff-Tytler, the Woodend Heskett Football Netball Club and Woodend Junior Football Netball Club player who has taken the football world by storm. From kicking the footy around at the local oval to playing on the MCG on Grand Final day, Cooper's journey is one that inspires every young athlete in our community.

For Cooper, it all started right here in Woodend.

"My footy memories as a young kid in Woodend are pretty basic," Cooper reflects. "I just remember looking forward to Sunday all week to the time I got to play footy with my mates. Some great friends like Willem Hanegraaf always made junior footy fun and why I loved it so much."

Like many kids in country Victoria, Cooper's early years were spent juggling multiple sports, showing natural talent across the board. Under the guidance of his junior coaches at Woodend – his Dad Jason and Tony Hanegraaf – Cooper developed not just his skills, but the character and work ethic that would define his pathway to the top.

"Some junior coaches were my Dad and Tony Hanegraaf and they both made sure I focused on getting my teammates involved, which is still important to me today," Cooper says.

That team-first mentality has become a cornerstone of his game.

Cooper's rise through the football ranks has been nothing short of remarkable. After representing Australia in basketball at junior level and excelling on the footy field, he faced a decision that would shape his future.

In 2024, when selected for the prestigious AFL Academy – a group of just 30 of the nation's best young players – Cooper made the tough call to focus solely on football. As he explained in a previous interview, "I think my love for the game, and ultimately I chose what I thought would give me the best opportunities and most successful in. Ultimately it came down to what I wanted to do every day in my future."

The decision wasn't about abandoning basketball, but about excellence. "I could have continued playing both. For me I didn't want to keep kicking along doing both and separating my time and trying to keep up with the others," Cooper said. "I wanted to put all my time into one sport and try to excel and get the best out of myself."

While football ultimately won his heart, Cooper's basketball career was far from ordinary. Representing Australia at junior level gave him a unique skill set that translates beautifully to the football field.

"I think spatial awareness and my ball control are strengths in my game that basketball has helped with," Cooper explains. Those skills, honed on the basketball court, have become defining features of his football game.

Cooper's 2024 season was a whirlwind of achievements. He made his debut for the Calder Cannons in round 12, earning best-on-ground honours in four of his six appearances. He also played in the AFL Futures Game on the MCG on Grand Final day – a stage most young players only dream of.

When asked about the moment he believed he could make it to the AFL, Cooper points to a specific game: "My first game for Vic Metro in U16 was probably the first time I thought I have a real shot at the AFL, although it had always been a dream."

But perhaps the most meaningful moment came closer to home. Cooper made his senior debut for Woodend Heskett in 2024, pulling on the same jumper he'd watched his heroes wear growing up. Playing alongside his brother Tobi made the occasion even more special. "It was exciting to play down at Woodend and make the senior debut for the local club," he said at the time.

When asked what the Woodend Hawks mean to him, Cooper's response is heartfelt: "The Woodend Hawks mean a lot to me. It's where I started my footy journey and the ongoing support from the club is pretty special."

In September 2025, Cooper kicked three goals in his VFL debut for Essendon, further cementing his credentials as a genuine AFL prospect.

As the 2025 AFL Draft approaches in November, Cooper remains focused and motivated. "If you put your head down and do the work you can get the results at the end," he said, "ultimately what I'm aiming for come November."

But Cooper's ambitions extend far beyond draft night. "I think it would be a pretty unreal experience to win a premiership in the AFL, but individually I want to carve out a long career and become a reliable teammate that people enjoy running out with each week."

For the young kids running around at Woodend Heskett, watching Cooper's journey with wide eyes and big dreams, his message is clear:

"My advice for young kids wanting to play AFL would be to find what you are good at and make sure to focus on that and try and use those strengths each week to help your team, but also just make sure to enjoy the journey."

Cooper Duff-Tytler's story is still being written, but one thing is certain – he's proof that with dedication, sacrifice, and the support of a strong community, dreams that start on country ovals can lead all the way to the AFL.

The Woodend Heskett Football Netball Club and Woodend Junior Football Netball Clubs couldn't be prouder of him.

The Woodend community invites everyone to come together and celebrate this historic moment. On Wednesday 19 November, the Woodend clubroom will open from 6pm to watch the AFL Draft live. Everyone is welcome to join us as we cheer for Cooper when his name is called – a moment that represents years of community support, from junior footy Sundays to this incredible milestone. And a testament to what happens when talent meets dedication and a community that encourages kids to dream big.

Come down, be part of the celebration, and show Cooper the support of the community that helped shape him into the young man he is today.

SUBMITTED BY PAUL PODBURY CO-PRESIDENT WOODEND HESKETT
FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB



Photo: Cooper's Dad and Under 10 Coach, Jason giving Cooper some tips before his first footy game at Woodend

Woodend Landcare – Hardy native ‘Strappy’ alternatives for Woodend gardens

When buying new garden plants this spring, we’d like to share some excellent native plant alternatives to replace common strap-leaved garden plants, which can spread into the native bush and become weeds. Our selections are specifically chosen to thrive in Woodend’s cold climate and clay soil, ensuring beautiful, low-maintenance gardens that support our local wildlife.

Let’s focus on two notorious weeds – stinking iris and agapanthus – and explore hardy native substitutes.

The baddies...

Stinking Iris (*Iris foetidissima*) may have typical iris-like flowers and scarlet berries, but don’t be fooled. The leaves smell offensive when crushed and cause skin dermatitis, while the toxic red berries can look enticing to children. Birds spread the berries, and as such the plant becomes an invasive weed.

Agapanthus can be invasive and very difficult to remove. Its fleshy leaves can be a skin irritant and it is difficult to remove once established. Although new sterile cultivars now exist, the old-fashioned varieties of agapanthus shed seed that is spread through the landscape by wind and water.

The goodies...

Instead, consider planting the robust native spiny-head mat-rush (*Lomandra longifolia*) and tussock grass (*Poa labillardieri*). These clumping strappies tolerate frost and clay soils, providing year-round greenery and habitat for small birds, frogs and insects.

Another excellent option is the bulbine lily (*Bulbine bulbosa*), which dies back over our cold winters. When planted en masse, it flourishes in spring with charming yellow floral displays.

Native flax-lilies, Tasman flax-lily (*Dianella tasmanica*) and black-anther flax-lily (*Dianella reflexa*) are other options. These hardy native strappies boast pretty contrasting blue and yellow flowers, followed



by purple berries. They’re perfect for mass plantings or as a border plant, with Tasman flax-lily preferring wetter sites than black-anther flax-lily.

For a list of native plants to grow in your home garden refer to the Recommended Plant List on the Woodend Landcare blog (woodendlandcare.org).

Remember, every garden can make a difference. By choosing these native alternatives, you’ll create a garden that not only looks beautiful but also provides food and habitat for insects and local wildlife.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, 15 November – Black Gum Conservation and Gorse Control Field Day from 1pm to 4pm, starting at Woodend Community Centre (next to the library). Free Black Gums will be distributed.

Sunday 23 November – Working Bee and end-of-year gathering (all welcome) – 9am to 12pm – Free public tennis court in Campaspe Park.



Bushfire season comes every year but it’s unpredictable.

This year’s conditions mean it’s important to take small steps now to keep your family, pets and community safe.

Bushfires can affect your mains water supply, so now’s the time to stock up on drinking water in your emergency kit, just in case.

Visit our website for more information.

gww.com.au/bushfires

Phone **13 44 99**



Translation & Interpreter Service **13 14 50**

Environment events

Hidden in Plain Sight: The wildflowers of our roadsides

Did you know that native vegetation along roadsides provides a connection for wildlife to move between isolated patches of vegetation? Join our Roadside Conservation Officer on a guided walk along a local roadside to discover wildflowers, grasses and native plants that make our roadsides biodiversity hotspots.

Tuesday 18 November from 5.30–6.30pm – Hobbs Road, Bullengarook

Annual Koala Count at Hanging Rock

Join our koala monitoring program! Come along to help us spot koalas while we walk to the summit of Hanging Rock. Bring your smartphone to learn how you can contribute to Hanging Rock Reserve’s biodiversity data via the iNaturalist app.

Monday 17 November from 10am–12pm – Hanging Rock

For more information and to register, visit www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/Environment-Events

Be cool, stay warm and reduce your bills

Do you want to keep your home cool in summer and warm in winter? Come along to a free workshop to help you understand your options and reduce your gas and electricity bills.

Please bring your recent electricity and gas bills.

Kyneton Community House

Tuesday 11 November 2025 from 10am–11.30am

To sign up for the Kyneton session, call the Kyneton Community House on (03) 5422 3433

Romsey Neighbourhood House

Tuesday 11 November 2025 from 1.30pm–3pm

To sign up for the Romsey session, call the Romsey Neighbourhood House on (03) 5429 6724



Intelligent Training Solutions

www.its.edu.au 010 22510

Need your First Aid or CPR Certificate?

Go with a trusted local provider!

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

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

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

Delivering First Aid in the Macedon Ranges since 2015!



ZYDLOW GROUP

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

ZYDLOW HOME ALTERATIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS PTY LTD

DIRECTOR: DANIEL SZYDLOWSKI

M: 0417 396 316
E: daniels@zydlow.com.au

HERITAGE HOMES AND RESTORATIONS



Discover our Healthy Landscapes Events

Whether you manage horses, cattle or sheep, these webinars, courses and farm walks are designed to help you improve the health of your land, pasture, and animals, while learning practical skills from local experts.

To register your interest in any of the following events, visit

mrsc.vic.gov.au/Healthy-Landscapes

Equine-Focused Events

Horse-Focused Farm Walk – Spring Grazing of Paddocks, Newham

Friday 7 November | 5.30–7.30pm | Newham

Do you have horses? Do you want to graze in spring but are concerned about “hot” grass? Come along to explore your options. A light supper will be provided.

Worm Egg Counts with WormCheck – Lauriston

Tuesday 11 November | 6.30–9.30pm | Lauriston Public Hall

Learn about worm egg counts and how to collect a worm sample. Expert speaker Jacqui Panozzo will cover everything you need to know about understanding worms in horses (and ruminants) and methods for management and control, including faecal egg counts (FECs) and choosing appropriate treatments. This session focuses on equine but is suitable for ruminants as well. A light supper will be provided.

Cattle/Sheep-Focused Events

Worm Egg Counts with WormCheck – Romsey

Wednesday 12 November | 10am–1pm | Romsey Community Hub

Learn about worm egg counts and sample collection. Jacqui Panozzo will provide expert guidance on worms in cattle, sheep and horses, covering management and control methods including FECs and treatment selection. Focus is on ruminants but suitable for equine. A light morning tea will be provided.

Demonstration of Moveable Fencing and Trough Farm Walk – Newham

Friday 28 November | 5–7.30pm | Newham

This farm walk demonstrates equipment used for moveable fencing and water troughs - critical infrastructure for effective and adaptive grazing management. The property predominantly has cattle but also a small sheep flock. Participants can ask questions about the strengths and weaknesses of the equipment. The session includes a light meal, paddock walk, and discussion.

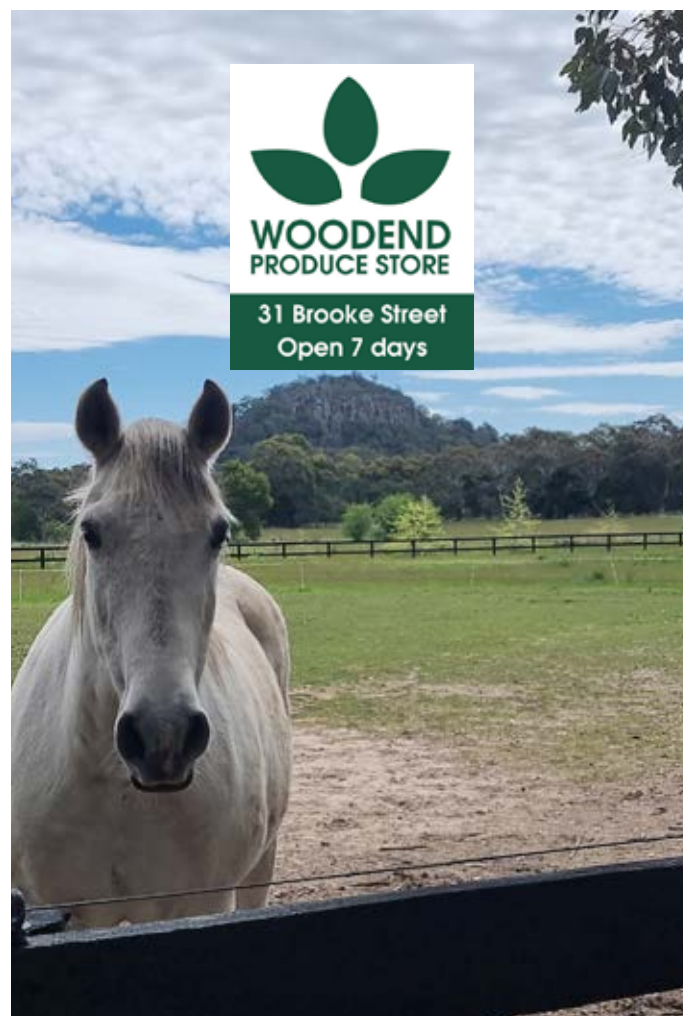


PETE'S GARDENING & MAINTENANCE

✓ MOWING
✓ WEED CONTROL

✓ GUTTERS
✓ PRUNING
✓ CLEAN UPS

0438 488 776



Six Peaks Speak – author talk Barry Golding



Newham & District Landcare Group invites you to hear Honorary Professor Barry Golding AM speak about his recently published book, *Six Peaks Speak – Unsettling Legacies in Southern Dja Dja Wurrung Country*. The stories of six volcanic peaks in Central Victoria thread insights and evidence from diverse historical sources, including First Nations, geological, ecological, community, and reserve management. It raises questions about how mountain peaks have been managed, providing ideas for creatively healing and reconnecting with them.

Barry is widely published internationally in the field of adult and community learning, is a former president of Adult Learning Australia and patron of the Australian Men's Shed Association since 2009. He is an entertaining raconteur, an astute reader of landscape, and a diligent researcher who is very knowledgeable across a range of disciplines. He will help us understand more about the country we live on. Author-signed copies of the soft cover version of *Six Peaks Speak* will be available for purchase at our event.

More information at <https://barrygoanna.com/2024/11/11/six-peaks-speak-book-published/>

Event details:

Friday 7 November 7pm–9pm.
Supper to follow, wine by the glass for a donation

Newham Mechanics Institute, 1292 Rochford Rd, Newham

Registration essential at <https://events.humanitix.com/six-peaks-speak-4pv3xmub>

Contact Jane Trikojus on 0413 499 252 or trikojus_j@fastmail.com if you have any questions



Photo: Guest speaker Barry Golding AM

SUBMITTED BY HELEN SCOTT

Black gum conservation event

Over the past 12 months, the Threatened Species Conservancy have been developing a strategic framework for prioritising the conservation effort of Black Gum (*Eucalyptus aggregata*) across private property around Woodend. To support landholders like you in conserving this important habitat, we're hosting a free community information session and panel Q&A event at the Woodend Community Centre on Saturday 15 November, 1pm to 4pm.

This event is a great opportunity to:

- learn more about the black gum's conservation needs and local recovery efforts;
- hear directly from local experts and partner organisations working to protect threatened species and habitats;
- find out what practical support and incentives are available to property owners who wish to conserve and manage native vegetation on their land; and
- learn how best to control gorse on your property with a practical demonstration of Gorse control best practice, facilitated by the Victorian Gorse Taskforce.

Panel organisations include:

- Threatened Species Conservancy
- Woodend and Newham Landcare Groups
- Macedon Ranges Shire Council
- Victorian Gorse Taskforce
- Trust for Nature
- Cassinia Environmental (BushBank and Trees on Farms Programs)

There will be free plant giveaways, dedicated time for questions to panel members, informal discussion opportunities, and a walk & talk with local conservation groups and landholders.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP by Friday 7 November via email to mitch.burrows@tsconservancy.org

We encourage all interested landholders, whether or not black gum occurs on your property, to come along and learn how you can be part of local habitat conservation. Thank you for your commitment to protecting our region's unique natural heritage.

We look forward to seeing you at the event.

SUBMITTED BY MITCH BURROWS, ECOLOGIST, THREATENED SPECIES CONSERVANCY



Photos: Top: Mitch and Stan collecting Black Gum seed on private property along Slatey Creek (Permit No: 10011409). Credit: Elle Fox
Bottom: Mitch and Stan preparing Black Gum seedlings for planting on private property. Credit: Stan Wawrzyczek

PREPARE YOUR PROPERTY FOR SPRING!

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

Our Services:

- Ground spraying
- Blackberry & weeds removal
- Paddock clearing & slashing
- Mulching of vegetation

0418 105 658
 mvcontracting.com.au

WOODEND COMMUNITY FARMERS MARKET

POWERED BY VOLUNTEERS

FRESH, LOCAL FOOD

ZERO WASTE

FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
9 AM TO 1 PM

SIGN UP

JOIN IN & VOLUNTEER

2 HR SHIFTS:

7AM - 9AM
9AM - 11AM
11AM - 1PM
1PM - 2:30PM

MACEDON RANGES SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

MRSG.ORG.AU/FARMERS-MARKETS

Upgrade and Save!

Want to upgrade your heating, cooking, or hot water appliances to cheaper up-to-date electric versions?

When electrifying: Not sure what to do first? Finding all the choices confusing and time consuming?

Volunteers from Electrify Macedon Ranges (EMR, a sub-group of the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group) are offering FREE one-on-one planning consultations to local households to ease the transition.

Hot off the presses! With the support of the Community Bank and Macedon Ranges Shire Council, EMR has created a straightforward planning booklet to assist your electrification journey. The booklet will be formally launched during the Macedon Ranges Changemakers Festival in March 2026.

But you don't need to wait until next year! The booklet and FREE one-on-one, on-site, in-person consultations with knowledgeable local volunteers are available right now.

Book in quickly as spaces are limited.

With an EMR volunteer at your kitchen table, you will:

- Extract the data you need from your energy bills
- Understand your household's energy usage
- Work through the easy steps in the booklet
- Identify the best options for your household.

To arrange a free consultation, contact EMR@mrsg.org.au today, provide your address and phone number, and a local volunteer will contact you to arrange a suitable date and time.

SUBMITTED BY THEONNE DE KRETZER



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

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

0403 028 044

Save our number
Just in case!

24/7 towing services
throughout the Macedon Ranges



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

Free green waste week in the Ranges

Macedon Ranges Shire Council is encouraging residents to get their properties ready for summer with a free green waste disposal week ending on Sunday 2 November 2025.

Residents can drop off green waste at resource recovery facilities in Kyneton, Romsey or Woodend. Only residential loads are accepted, and residents can visit as many times as needed. Free self-loaded mulch is also available to help with garden maintenance.

Mayor Dom Bonanno said, "Preparing your property isn't just about keeping your garden tidy; it's a crucial part of reducing fire risk. Clearing green waste, long grass and debris from your property helps protect your home, your family and our community ahead of the fire season."

"Summer in the Macedon Ranges comes with the risk of fire. Taking small steps now, like using our green waste facilities, makes a big difference in keeping everyone safe," he added.

The free green waste week program provides an easy, safe way to remove excess vegetation and reduce potential fuel loads on properties. Additionally, residents can also use Council's free green waste drop-off voucher, sent with the latest edition of ShireLife magazine, any time within the financial year.

Council encourages all residents to use this opportunity as part of broader bushfire preparation, which includes clearing gutters, trimming trees, removing woody weeds and creating or reviewing your Fire Plan.

For more information about the free green waste disposal week and bushfire preparation, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/green-waste and mrsc.vic.gov.au/fire-ready

SUBMITTED BY BRAD MATHIESON, MRSC COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

MACEDON GARDENING

Revitalise your garden.
or create a new one.

Essential services: pruning, hedging, weeding, mulching, mowing, planting, and green waste removal.

All aspects of Landscape and garden design.

19 years of local experience.

Ian and Melanie Matthews and trained staff

Fully insured

facebook.com/macedongardening



0402 464 600

Reclaim Energy hot water heat pump bulk buy

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

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

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

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

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



Suited to cold climates



Save up to \$950*

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

Duneira Estate

Historic hill-station and Grand Garden circa 1872

Open Garden

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

10am – 3pm

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



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



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

KN28518/K

MOVIES ON THE HILL

**Sunday
Nov 16th
2.00pm**

THE SOCIAL CLIMBERS

Balloon backed chairs, a butler, silver salvers, snap frozen flowers, ball gowns and dinner jackets all at 6800m with wine served at 'room temperature'. Its a dinner party you wont want to miss!

Q&A with dinner guest Sally (below in red), and cameraman Michael who became gravely ill, but not from the altitude...



**Adult tickets include a glass of wine, tea or coffee.
Snacks available to buy. Supporting Woodend ROTARY**

The St Mary's Mission acknowledges DjaDjaWurrung Peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land and waterways on which we gather. This land always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

Movies on the Hill



Movies on the Hill brings cinematic joy to Woodend, transforming the Norma Richardson Hall into a vibrant community cinema on select Sunday afternoons. With top-notch audio-visual equipment and panoramic views from 'the hill,' it's the closest experience locals have to a traditional theatre.

The series of movie screenings is introduced by its director, local filmmaker Michael Dillon. In its opening session, audiences scaled Australia's highest peak and embarked on a hilariously improbable journey from London to Sydney in an authentic London taxi – delivering both adventure and laughter in equal measure. The series promises to continue its trend of offbeat entertainment with the upcoming screening of *The Social Climbers* on Sunday, 16 November. This film chronicles the antics of a delightfully eccentric team—including Charles Darwin's great-great-grandson and an indefatigable butler – as they attempt both an Andean ascent and to host the world's highest-altitude formal dinner party at the summit. Adding to the film's allure, two surviving expedition members will appear in person, sharing first-hand stories behind this almost unexplainable adventure.

More than just entertainment, Movies on the Hill gives back – half of the proceeds from each event supports St Mary's Mission and the other half goes to local service organisations, with this month's ticket sales benefiting a local Rotary project.

Ticket prices, \$20 for adults, \$15 for concessions and \$10 for students.

Bookings are simple: scan the poster's QR code or visit <https://events.humanatix.com/the-social-climbers>.



Photo: (L-R) Grant Hocking, new member Donal Craig and President Rosemary Guyatt

Woodend Rotary welcomes new members



Woodend Rotary is pleased to welcome two new members, Donal Craig and Paul Wilkinson. Donal and Paul had been visiting the club for a few weeks, and during their inductions, both commented on the warm and friendly welcome they received and how accepted they felt from their very first meeting. They were also impressed with the variety of activities, projects, and opportunities on offer.

- Community and international projects—such as Vanuatu, Bali, and Bangladesh—are central to our work.
- Fundraising initiatives include TNWS and BBQs.
- Community events like Halloween and Australia Day foster a spirit of togetherness.
- There are opportunities for leadership roles, public speaking, and committee work.
- Members enjoy a busy calendar of social events that promote a friendly and inclusive atmosphere.

Woodend Rotary provides a unique chance to connect with like-minded individuals who are passionate about making a positive difference, giving back to the community, and developing personally and professionally. Regular meetings feature engaging guest speakers, hands-on volunteering, and a genuine sense of camaraderie.

As part of Rotary International, members can participate in global initiatives and connect with a network of over a million Rotarians worldwide. Whether you're seeking to make new friends, contribute to meaningful causes, or become more involved locally, Woodend Rotary is an ideal starting point.

Woodend Rotary welcomes all, regardless of age or background, who are committed to the principles of service above self. The club meets most Thursday evenings from 6.30pm upstairs at the Victoria Hotel, Woodend.

If you're interested in learning more about joining this vibrant and welcoming club, come along to our next meeting, visit our website or Facebook page, or contact Membership Chair Grant Hocking at granthocking64@gmail.com for further information or a friendly chat about how to get involved.

SUBMITTED BY GRANT HOCKING



Photo: (L-R) New member Paul Wilkinson with President Rosemary Guyatt and Rotarian Joop Ryssenbeek

JSLAW

Barristers & Solicitors



"Experienced local Lawyers who listen, understand and advise"

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

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

A: Woodend - 2/34 Urquhart Street

A: Bendigo - 72 Queen Street

w: www.jslaw.com.au

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation



International Day of People with Disability

To mark International Day of People with Disability, the community is invited to experience *My Story* – a powerful new theatre production that challenges stereotypes and explores disability rights and inclusion.

The free performance will be held at 1pm on Friday 5 December at Kyneton Town Hall, followed by afternoon tea. This follows the Sunbury premiere on Wednesday 3 December.

Co-designed and performed by people with disability and their carers, *My Story* draws on lived experience to create an authentic and thought-provoking production. The project is funded by the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission Grants Program and led by Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health.

The performance celebrates inclusion, creativity and community connection, and aims to spark meaningful conversations about disability rights and social change.

Book your place:

- Kyneton: mrsc.vic.gov.au/mystory
- Sunbury: sunburycobaw.org.au/my-story

16 Days of Activism

Macedon Ranges Shire Council is supporting the UN Women 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence, running from 25 November to 10 December, in partnership with Respect Victoria, Safe + Equal, and local organisations.

The Free to Be Me Photo Competition invites residents to capture images that challenge gender stereotypes and celebrate respect, equality, and safety. Entries close 9 November, and will be followed by voting for the People's Choice Award. Shortlisted works will be exhibited throughout the campaign.

Key events include:

- It's Time to Talk About Power – Wednesday 12 November, Kyneton Town Hall. Panel discussion exploring power, consent, and trauma.
- Left Write Hook – Thursday 20 November: Free film screening and Q&A. Bookings required.
- Walk Against Family Violence – Monday 24 November from 1.30pm. Walk from Kyneton Community House to the Mechanics Institute, followed by a sausage sizzle and activities. Participants are encouraged to wear orange.

Further activities, including Story Walk and additional film screenings, will be announced.

For more information and to vote for the People's Choice Award, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/16-Days

SUBMITTED BY COMMUNICATION UNIT, MRSC

Message from your councillors

Woodend and surrounds are beautiful, and as we move towards the warmer months, this also makes our area a higher fire risk. That's why we are grateful to all our CFAs across the shire who have held Open Days during October to assist in education about the importance of a fire plan. We know that 40% of people in bushfire-prone areas do not have a fire plan, and we hope that after this month, many more will understand how important this is. It is simpler than people realise, and the CFA are always open to discuss this further.

Council has a Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee. Work continues throughout the year, and you will notice the roadside slashing program and other actions commencing as we prepare for the season.

Hopefully you were able to use the recent free green waste disposal week to assist you to dispose of larger amounts of green waste at our resource recovery facilities.

We are very pleased to support a number of festivals and events taking place in our shire across the year. We know there is always a lot of work and planning involved which is undertaken by people in our community. This month, on 15/16 November is the annual Budburst Wine Festival and we wish all the vigneron, local food providers, artists and everyone involved, all the best for a successful event.

Council also recognises many important days throughout the year. The international campaign against gender-based violence runs from 25 November to 10 December, and it raises awareness and promotes action to end violence against women and girls. Council will be hosting an event to raise awareness.

There were many submissions to the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) 2026–2029 and Council's dog off-leash and prohibited areas review consultation period. Our thanks to all who took the time to share your thoughts. We understand that people are very passionate about their dogs, cats and animals, and they are an important part of many people's lives. There were varying views and opinions. As always, Officers and Councillors will consider all feedback for the final documents as we strive to find the right balance.

Current consultations that are open until the first week of November include Social and Affordable Housing, Immunisations and the draft Open Space Strategy.

You may like to consider registering on our website and making an account to receive updates on Council's various consultations and areas of interest to you. Follow the links or contact customer service

<https://yoursay.mrsc.vic.gov.au/>

Best wishes,

Janet, Kate and Jennifer

SUBMITTED BY MRSC COMMUNICATIONS UNIT



Photo: Janet, Kate and Jennifer

Shoes designed for your comfort



Hush Puppies®



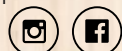
Propét

SKECHERS

Locally owned and operated and proud stockists of leading brands.

Kyneton
Shoes

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



23 High Street, Kyneton
03 5422 2090

DEVLIN FAMILY PEST SOLUTIONS

SPRING IS COMING BACK!

GET RESULTS TODAY!
Spring is here, the sunshine's back. Unwanted pests are planning their sneak attack! Bees, wasps, spiders – don't let 'em win. Treat your home now, before they move in!

Book Now!
For your **FREE Inspection!***
0417 738 410

SCAN THE QR CODE TO GET STARTED

Devlinfamilypestsolutions@gmail.com www.devlinfamilypestsolutions.com.au

Bentleys™
THINKING AHEAD
Advisors Accountants Auditors

Are you planning to transition your business? We'll help you plan for success.

Consult with your Bentleys advisor today.

Woodend Office | 17 Nicholson Street Woodend VIC 3442
Kilmore Office | 19 Bourke Street Kilmore VIC 3764
Phone: 9018 4666 | www.bentleys.com.au

September 2025 Council Meeting wrap



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

Draft Open Space Strategy for consultation: Council endorsed the release of the draft Open Space Strategy for community consultation for four weeks, launching in early October 2025. This strategy outlines how Council plans to manage and improve parks, reserves, sporting grounds and other public spaces over the next 10 years. The strategy looks at how open spaces can support population growth, protect the environment and provide opportunities for health and wellbeing. Residents will be invited to provide feedback to ensure the strategy, and our open spaces, reflect local needs and priorities.

Kyneton Airfield hangar sites: Council approved authorising the CEO to enter into a lease with hangar owners at Kyneton Airfield (ground lease – land only). This decision will support aviation users while creating opportunities for economic development linked to the airfield. Leasing these sites will also contribute to the ongoing operation and maintenance of the facility, ensuring it remains an asset for both the aviation community and the wider region. Community engagement was undertaken in consideration of the proposal, with 56 submissions being received, and 37 respondents agreeing with the key terms outlined in the Notice of Intention to Lease. A key outcome following the consultation process, in acknowledgement of significant feedback from hangar owners relating to the proposed market rental, was to reduce this rental from \$6 down to \$5 per square metre plus GST. This income supports Council to maintain ongoing Airfield operations.

Small Project Grant Recommendations: Council endorsed funding for two projects under the Small Project Grants Program, which provide a yearly pool of up to \$30,000 of which not-for-profit groups can apply for a maximum of \$3,000 per application. Council awarded \$1,120 to Kyneton Women’s Sports Club for their Growing Safe and Accessible Sport Locally project, as well as \$2,880 to Baynton Sidonia Landcare Group for their Taungurung Cultural Heritage workshop project.

Australia Day Grant Guidelines: The Australia Day Grant Guidelines have been revised to provide a clear framework for assessing applications for Australia Day (26 January) events and acknowledgement ceremonies. The updated guidelines allow for flexibility around grant round dates, allow for alignment with the Small Project Grants and Community Funding Schemes, and incorporate the requirements of the Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy. They also clarify legal obligations for events. These revisions will help Council continue to support the community in a consistent, transparent and effective manner.

Community Directorate Integrated Annual Report: Councillors noted and approved the final report on the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, Disability Action Plan, Participate – Positive Ageing Plan, and Create – Municipal Early Years Plan on their conclusion, and noted that future actions relating to these areas and cohorts have been integrated into the draft Shaping the Ranges 2025–2035 plan. This approach is designed to strengthen outcomes and ensure they remain central to Council’s long-term planning.

Council also endorsed the following:

- Scheduling of an additional meeting to be held on 8 October to consider the audited performance and financial statements as part of Council’s Annual Report, commencing from 5pm and to be held online.
- An updated Fraud and Corruption Control Policy which, alongside the Fraud and Corruption Control Framework, guides how fraud and corruption risks are managed through a structured approach to prevention, detection, reporting and response.
- Deferring an item surrounding Instruments of Delegation to the November 2025 Council Meeting, to provide additional time for Council officers to provide further information on outstanding queries to Councillors for their consideration.
- Receiving the Quarterly Financial Report as at 30 June 2025 and also adopting the carrying forward of budgets for projects from the 2024-25 financial year to the 2025-26 financial year.
- Receiving the annual CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee Report, which ensures transparent governance and accountability in line with the Local Government Act 2020. This process ensures the CEO’s performance and remuneration are regularly reviewed in a fair, transparent and accountable way.

SUBMITTED BY BODEY DITTOFF, MRSC COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

Your voice matters: Share feedback on key council projects

Council is calling on residents to have their say on three consultations now open on the Macedon Ranges’ Your Say website. This is your chance to directly influence decisions that affect everyday life across the Shire – from the parks we enjoy, to housing options, and vital health services.

Council is reviewing its immunisation program to ensure it remains accessible for all residents. Community feedback will help shape how the service is delivered and promoted in the years ahead, making sure it meets the needs of families and individuals across the region.

The Affordable Housing Policy and Strategy consultation invites residents, local organisations, and service providers to share ideas on how Council can best support a variety of housing options and respond to affordability challenges. Your input will help guide initiatives that make housing more achievable for local households.

The draft Open Space Strategy outlines a 10-year plan for the management and enhancement of the shire’s parks, reserves, recreation grounds, and natural spaces. Council is seeking final feedback to ensure the strategy reflects community priorities, balances recreation and conservation, and helps shape our shared outdoor spaces for generations to come.

Residents are invited to join workshops for the Open Space Strategy to learn more and provide input: online via Zoom on Thursday 30 October from 6pm to 7.30pm, or in person on Saturday 1 November at Romsey Community Hub from 10am to 11.30am. Registration is required to attend either event at <https://yoursay.mrsc.vic.gov.au/OSS>

Mayor Dom Bonanno said hearing from residents is essential for Council to make decisions that truly reflect community needs.

“These consultations are a fantastic opportunity for everyone to have their say on the things that matter most – from the spaces where we play and relax, to the homes we live in, and the health services that keep our community strong,” the mayor said.

“Every voice counts, and your feedback helps Council make decisions that reflect our community’s priorities. I encourage everyone to visit Your Say Macedon Ranges and share your views – it only takes a few minutes, but it can make a lasting difference.”

Residents can find out more and provide feedback by visiting yoursay.mrsc.vic.gov.au. All three consultations are open until early November.

SUBMITTED BY MRSC COMMUNICATIONS UNIT



Are you ready for an emergency?

Plan Now for Your First 72 Hours

Almost half of the people in bushfire-prone areas don’t have a plan. The time to prepare isn’t during a fire, storm, or blackout; it’s now.

The first 72 hours of any emergency can be the hardest. Power may be out, roads blocked, and services delayed. A simple household plan can make all the difference.

Ask yourself:

- How will we stay warm or cool without power?
- Do we have food, water and medications ready?
- How will we stay in touch if phones are down?
- Where would we go if we had to leave quickly?

To support your planning, Council has created the Ready Get Go Bag. Inside, you’ll find practical information and prompts to guide your plan and help your family prepare with confidence.

Pick up your free Ready Get Go Bag at Council’s customer service centres, Kyneton and Gisborne aquatic centres, and libraries in the Shire this November and December.

Start simple. Grab a bag. Make a plan. Be ready.

Visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/Live-Work/Fire-flood-storms/Fire-Heat/Get-Fire-Ready-Events

Preparing your property for the fire season

Roadside slashing

Each year, Council carries out roadside slashing to help reduce the risk of fires caused by hot vehicle exhausts, mechanical failures, or collisions. About 1,000 kilometres of roadside are slashed annually, with a focus on main roads, bus routes, and critical evacuation routes.

Property inspections and fire prevention notices

Council’s Fire Management Officers have commenced inspecting properties across the municipality for fire hazards and may issue you with a fire prevention notice, outlining the works that are required.

If you receive a notice, don’t ignore it as heavy penalties can apply to owners who fail to comply. Properties are expected to be maintained to the required standard throughout the Fire Danger Period.

If you are planning to bale and require more time, complete the extension application found on the back of the notice.

For properties where stock grazing is being used for fuel reduction, you must be able to demonstrate that stocking levels are sufficient to effectively reduce vegetation. If not, further fuel reduction measures may be required.

For further information visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/Fire-Plan



Woodend Bookshop
Quality second hand books

104 High Street | T: 5407 9181
ed.iron53@gmail.com | 0448 661 373

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

FOR SALE

1811 Mount Macedon Road, Woodend

\$3,350,000 – \$3,500,000

5 4 3 Approx. 5,769m²

“Benvenuto”

SOLD

145 Avenue of Honour, Woodend

SOLD

65D Old Lancefield Road, Woodend

Bespoke PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
services tailored to meet your
individual needs.

Meet our highly experienced Senior Property Manager.



(NICHOLA COULTISH)

0479 068 838

nichola@boundrealestate.com.au

Contact our agents:

(RHYS NUTTALL)

0438 383 221

rhys@boundrealestate.com.au

(LYNNE PAYNE)

0479 068 228

lynne@boundrealestate.com.au



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

Big on products.
Big on service.

And big on local banking



News from Trentham Branch

A screen to be seen!

Construction is underway for the installation of an Electronic Community Noticeboard/Scoreboard at Gilbert Gordon Oval.

Although the oval has been predominantly used by local sports clubs, the addition of this notice board offers opportunities to the community as a whole.

Supported by Woodend Fire Brigade as the designated emergency area for Mount Macedon Group of Fire Brigades, the Electronic Board could be vital in providing weather and situation messaging to fire crews in the event of an emergency.

Daniel Heaney President of Woodend Cricket Club said:

“The new electronic scoreboard shows what a community can achieve when everyone pulls together. It’s been incredible to see local businesses, volunteers, and community groups all contributed to bring this project to life. A special thanks to the Bendigo Bank Community Bank Trentham & Districts for their generous donation, which really got things moving — without their support, the project would still be a dream. This isn’t just about cricket — it’s about creating a space the whole community can enjoy”.

“The new scoreboard will support local sport, school events, and community gatherings for years to come. We’re aiming to have it ready for our 3rd Annual Community Christmas Party on Friday 12 December, when we’ll welcome the entire Woodend community onto the oval for an outdoor cinema screening of the Christmas classic Home Alone”.



Edyta Wyatt, Branch Manager & Mobile Lender
Community Bank Trentham & Districts
37b High Street, Trentham VIC 3458
(Woodend by appointment)
Email: trenthammailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au
Ph: (03) 5424 1608

News from Gisborne Branch

2026 Youth Impact Program unveiled at AGM

You’re invited to an exciting evening of community impact and future vision as Macedon Ranges Community Enterprises (MRCE) — the social enterprise behind Community Bank Gisborne & District — hosts our Annual General Meeting and officially launches our 2026 Youth Impact Program.

Event details:

Date/time: Wednesday 19 November, 6pm-8pm
Venue: Baringo Food & Wine Co, New Gisborne

Our Youth Impact Program is all about empowering young people across the Macedon Ranges — helping them build financial confidence, stay safe online, feel connected to community, and take charge of their futures.

Join us to learn more about the exciting initiatives we have planned for 2026 and beyond, including:

- The Maurice Bourke Scholarship – Honouring founding director Maurie Bourke’s legacy, this new scholarship will empower young people passionate about community and social enterprise.
- Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program – Supporting adult leaders to strengthen regional communities, with MRCE funding a fully sponsored participant place.
- Tertiary & TAFE Scholarships – Continuing our \$400,000+ investment in local education, helping young people ease cost-of-living pressures as they take their next steps into higher education.
- Magic Moments Youth Leadership & Business Summit – A five-day leadership experience for senior secondary students to be held right here in the Macedon Ranges in 2026.
- Money Mentor Program – An in-school initiative bringing financial literacy education to Year 9 students at Gisborne Secondary College in 2026.
- Cyber Safety & Digital Wellbeing Program – Supporting primary students at New Gisborne Primary School with healthy digital habits and online safety awareness.

Be part of the conversation shaping our community’s future — and see firsthand how local investment by your Community Bank is creating real opportunities for our young people.

Full details and annual report available from 27 October at www.mrce.com.au

Courtney Alexander, Mobile Lender
Community Bank Gisborne & District
11 Nexus Way, Gisborne, VIC 3437
Email: gisbornemailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au
Ph: (03) 5420 7210



Three of our Magic Moments participants, Alex, Tess and Sam

Woodend Library News



Author talk – Rachael Johns: *The Lucky Sisters*, Thursday 6



November, 10am

Award-winning author Rachael Johns’s latest novel is a deeply moving story about life, death and the miracles in between. Adopted twins Nora and Stevie Lucky have always been close, despite being total opposites. When their mother dies, they search for their biological parents, only to come face-to-face with a life-changing revelation that sends them spiralling in opposite directions – they’re going to need more than luck to survive ...

Bookings required. Book sales and signings available.

November Special Storytimes:

Spring Safe Storytime – Tuesday 11 and Friday 14 November, 10am

Come along for a fun-filled water safety themed Storytime for young children and families.

Recycling Week Storytime – Tuesday 18 November, 10am

Join us for recycling stories and songs to celebrate National Recycling Week.

Bonjour Storytime – Saturday 22 November, 10.30am

Sing songs and learn new words in French!

Crafting Connections – Every first Wednesday of the month. Next session: 5 November, 2pm–4pm

Join our relaxed and friendly gathering and connect over craft. Bring along your current crochet, knitting or craft project, share tips and learn new skills. No bookings required.

See you in the Library!

For all bookings, please head to our website or give us a call.

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

SUBMITTED BY EMMA KEENAN

Community round-up



Ho-ho my goodness! It’s nearly Christmas!

CWA Woodend Eves has enjoyed another terrific year of community engagement, fun, and friendship. We are just about to hold our AGM, and we thank outgoing executive members Megan and Lucy for their service, and those who’ve put their hands up for a position going forward. Good luck all!

We’re heading into a busy December, with preparations for the annual Christmas Fair at the CWA Mt Macedon Hall already underway. Save the date – Saturday 6 December from 10 till 3 – and come early to stock up on gifts and goodies. Members from other CWAs in our region will join us, so there will be something for everyone.

Later in the run up to Christmas we’ll once again publicize our Christmas Lights route! If you’re planning to light up the gate, the yard, or the whole darn house Griswold-style, you’ll be able to register your address so we can share with the town. What a lovely idea for an after-dinner stroll or drive around town, don’t you think?

As always, all women are welcome to join us and find out more about CWA at our monthly meeting: the third Thursday of the month, at 7pm at the Woodend Golf Club. Stay tuned to our socials for more info on the Fair and the Chrissie Lights and contact us at cwawoodendeves@gmail.com any time.

SUBMITTED BY MEL PRITCHARD



Tony Waters Legal

Your Local Woodend Lawyer

Contact Tony | 0418 528 509

E: tony@tonywaterslegal.au

➤ Conveyancing and property transactions

➤ Commercial law and business matters

W: www.tonywaterslegal.au



Little General Kids
 Your local destination for all things Baby & Kids.
 Join us for Woodend Late Night Shopping
 Thursday 27th November 5-9pm
 Complimentary Drinks & Door prizes on the night!



Woodend
 81 High Street
 Woodend
 Ph: 03 5427 2609
 Mon- Sat 9.30-5pm
 Sun 10-4pm

Shop Online &
 Pick up In-store
littlegeneralkids.com.au
 Join our
 Loyalty Program

Castlemaine
 18 Hargraves Street
 Castlemaine
 Ph: 03 5401 3953
 Tues-Fri 10-5pm
 Sat 10-4pm
 Sun 10-3pm

 **Rotallieo**
Support • Advice • Solution

**Individual Tax Returns
Bookkeeping
Business Returns and Advice**

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

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



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

SECURE SELF STORAGE UNITS

Woodend General

Late Night Shopping Thursday 27th November



Shop locally this Holiday Season
84 - 88 High Street Woodend 3442. Open 7 Days

Join us for Woodend Late Night Shopping.
Thursday 27th November 5pm- 9pm
Complimentary Drinks & Door Prizes on the night!

Proudly locally owned & Female led.

RT Edgar

Your Real Estate experts in Selling and Leasing



For Sales Enquiries contact:

Beverley Higgs 0448 271 222 | Jason York 0447 391 089 | Travis Cole 0428 202 672
Josie Borg 0448 271 878 | Nicole Janett 0448 271 333

For Leasing Enquiries contact:

Marissa Boyd 0448 271 155 | Sehar Verma 0447 463 909 | Mary Hrushkar 0448 271 110

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

Remembrance Day at the RSL Woodend

Poppy Week will run from 1 November and tokens will be available from our volunteer sellers at Coles Supermarket, Woodend, Woodend Farmers Market and participating businesses around town, as well as the local schools.

A Commemorative Service will be held at 10.30 am on 11 November at the Cenotaph at the Woodend RSL Hall.

Refreshments will be served in the Hall following the Service.



News from the Woodend Neighbourhood House



Reverse Advent Calendar Appeal

Our much-loved Reverse Advent Calendar Appeal is back for its fifth year! Last year, more than 70 boxes were distributed to local families and individuals experiencing hardship – and we'd love your help to fill this year's boxes.

It's simple: add one item a day – a non-perishable food, toiletry, or festive treat – to a box over 20 days. Once filled, return your box to the Woodend Neighbourhood House for distribution to community members in need.

Empty boxes can be collected from the House from Wednesday 5 November, and returned from Monday 24 November to Tuesday 16 December 2025.

Contact the House to register your interest in filling a box – or receiving one. Together, let's make this Christmas a little brighter for everyone in our community.

Santa Paws Pet Portraits

Our popular fundraising festive photo shoot is back for 2025! Santa will be on hand to pose with pets of all shapes and sizes at the Woodend Neighbourhood House.

Create a special Christmas memory with your furry (or feathered!) friend – each booking includes a digital photo, perfect for Christmas

cards. All proceeds support the activities of the Woodend Neighbourhood House and the Woodend Food Bank. Spaces are limited so contact the House for more information or to make a booking.

Personalised Leather Journal Workshop

Get creative at our Leather Journal Workshop on Sunday 9 November 2025 between 10am and 4pm.

In this hands-on class, you'll design, tool, dye, and stitch your own personalised leather journal, perfect for your own use, or as a special gift. The workshop costs \$213 per person. For more information and to make a booking, visit our website or stop by the House.

Just for Carers: Yoga, Tea & Connection

On Monday 17 November between 11am and 12.30pm, unpaid carers are invited to slow down, sip tea, and explore gentle yoga with Sarah from Shanti Studio. The session blends movement, breathwork, meditation, and conversation, creating space to recharge and connect with one another. This session is free to attend, though registrations are required.

Social Connections

Join us for Puzzles & Chat (Thursday 4 December, 1pm to 3pm), the November Community Lunch (Tuesday 18 November, 12 noon – 1.30pm) or Chatty Cafe (Tuesday 25th November at 10.30am) for good conversation with friends, old and new. Contact the House for more information.

For more details about any of our upcoming activities, workshops, courses, or events, drop by the House (Monday to Friday, 9am – 3pm), visit www.woodendnh.org.au, or call 5427 1845.

SUBMITTED BY MELISSA BAKER

KEEP OUR DOORS OPEN

Show your Support!



Neighbourhood
Houses Victoria

nhvic.org.au/2026-campaign





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

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

Founded and Grown in Woodend



Planning ahead: Finding the right final resting place

Many people know they would like to be buried but haven't yet thought through the details. Where might that be? Would you like to be laid to rest alone, or with another? What kind of vessel feels right, a coffin, a casket, or a shroud?

These choices help shape a burial into something personal and meaningful.

Sharon Tregoning, Practice Manager and Holistic Funeral Director at Natural Grace in Woodend, says one of the most common questions she's asked is, *"How much does it cost to be buried?"*

"The prices are set by independent cemetery trusts," Sharon explains. "There's a wide variation – from less than \$500 in some small regional cemeteries to tens of thousands of dollars in larger metropolitan ones. When planning a burial, some things to consider include:

Right of Interment

This is the purchase of the right to use the grave. You don't own the land, but you do buy the right to use it in perpetuity.

Interment Fees

This is the fee to dig the grave and for the cemetery administration.

Existing grave

If it's an existing site, check who currently holds the right of interment, as it may need to be updated if that person has already died.

Number of burials

Will this be a single resting place or shared with another loved one?

Choice of vessel

Some prefer a coffin or casket, while others choose a natural shroud made from linen or calico.

Natural or traditional burial

A natural burial allows the body to return gently to the earth, while a traditional burial follows the more familiar "six feet under" depth.

Location

Visit possible cemeteries and notice how each place feels, the landscape, the trees, the sense of peace.

Taking time to reflect and plan can bring clarity and comfort, a quiet gift of ease for those who love you.

You are warmly invited to contact our Woodend Sanctuary if you'd like to learn more about natural or traditional burial options, or to begin these conversations gently and in your own time.

SUBMITTED BY NATURAL GRACE



Probus Woodend

Our guest speaker this month was Tino Corsetti who is a local honey beekeeper. Originally from Canada, Tino started keeping honey bees because he "had the land to utilise so, bees," he says.

He joined the Victorian Apirists Association and has moved his hobby to a career.

Tino's talk was absolutely fascinating, as we learnt about the democracy of honey bees and that the honey and honeybee pollination industry contribute \$14-15 billion to the Australian economy.

Our next meeting will be held on Friday 21 November at 9.30am for a 10am start. The meeting will be held at Norma Richardson Hall, 15 Buckland St, Woodend. Please come and join, as all are most welcome.

Should you wish to, you are also very welcome to join us for lunch after the meeting.

SUBMITTED BY ROBYN BULL



Woodend Senior Citizens

The 2025 Annual General Meeting for the Woodend Senior Citizens was held on Tuesday 7 October, and we're pleased to announce that all executive and committee positions have been filled. Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to the meeting.

Our next bus trip is on Thursday 20 November to the Secret Garden at Mollonghip, then to the Daylesford Mill Market to wander through the various stalls and buy your own lunch.

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

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

General meetings are held 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.

Mount Macedon Memorial Cross Reserve works update

Improvement works at the Mount Macedon Memorial Cross Reserve are progressing well, with several key construction milestones recently achieved.

Hydro-excavation around the podium area has now been completed, supporting essential underground works while preserving the surrounding environment. Installation of spoon drains is underway to improve site drainage and manage stormwater more effectively.

Visitors may also notice upgrades to site lighting, with footing works finalised and light pole installation currently in progress. These enhancements will improve visibility and safety for visitors.

These upgrades form part of a broader commitment to improving visitor access and maintaining the Reserve's dignity as a significant commemorative landmark.

The site remains closed during works, and the community's patience and support are greatly appreciated.

For further updates, please contact MMMRCCOM@gmail.com.au

SUBMITTED BY KATE MEDHURST, SECRETARY MMMRCCOM





Woodend - 116 Whitelodge Road

A captivating and beguiling property with an excellent 4/5 bedroom home set within 3ha (7.5 Acres) of beautiful park-like gardens. **Price \$2.2m**

To View call John Keating 0419 880 444 or Ray Cashmore 0419 851 334



Newham 77 Sheltons Road (off Bolgers Lane)

"Mondolea" on 41.9ha (103 Acres) featuring a 4-bedroom Storybook cottage plus a separate self-contained granny-flat.

Auction Saturday 15 November at 12 noon. Reserve Price \$2.2m

To View Call John Keating 0419 880 444 or Ray Cashmore 0419 851 334



Want a bigger solar discount? Why STCs matter more than ever

Small-scale technology certificates (STCs) are part of the federal renewable energy incentive. Designed to help homeowners transition to renewable energy, STCs help reduce the upfront cost of eligible systems.

How STCs work

When you install an eligible system, such as solar panels, a battery or a heat pump hot water unit, you'll receive a number of STCs.

Earning STCs

The number of certificates you'll earn is based on your:

- System size
- Residential zone
- Date of installation

Your installer sells the certificates on the Renewable Energy Market and passes the value on to you as a discount.

What are STCs worth in 2025?

In 2025, a 10kW solar system in Gisborne generates about 82 STCs. At roughly \$35 per certificate, that's an immediate \$2,870 discount—no forms, no waiting.

Why STCs matter

STCs apply to a lot more than just solar. Multiple technologies are eligible within the scheme. However, the list of items are decreasing as we near the scheme's end in 2030.

STCs remain one of the most valuable, and easiest, ways to reduce your clean-energy upgrade costs. The sooner you claim, the more you can get!

Need help calculating your claim?

We'll help you understand:

- How many STCs your system qualifies for
- What they're currently worth
- How they work with other rebates including Solar Victoria and Victorian energy efficiency certificates (VEECs).

Call us today to start the process of calculating your claim!

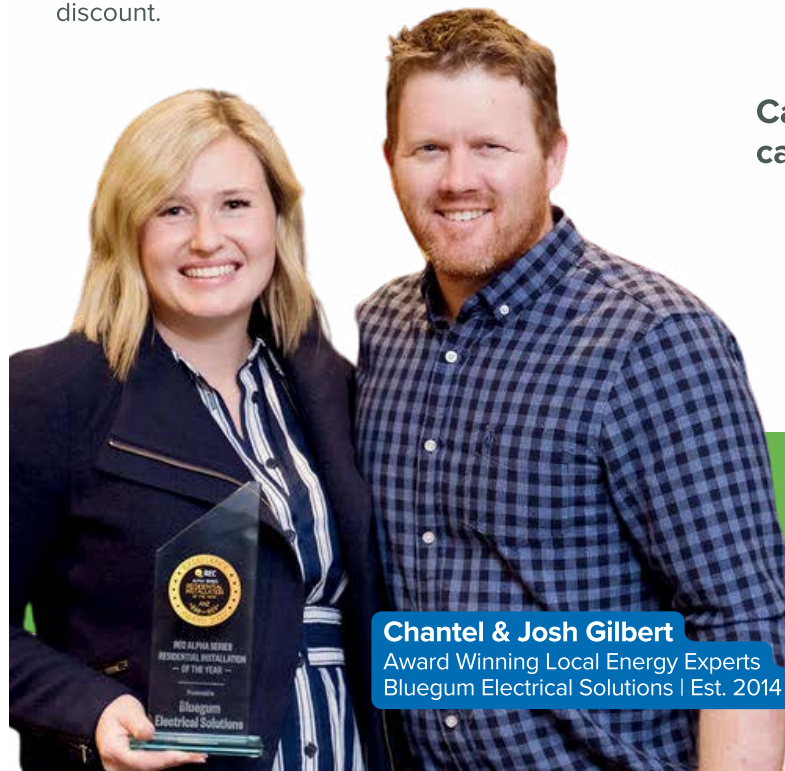
“★★★★★
“Bluegum were spot on!!
Professional attitude. A great team and a clean finished job. 34 panels and a big battery and we're happy campers!!” ~Sean

03 5264 5500

bluegumelectricalsolutions.com.au



Chantel & Josh Gilbert
Award Winning Local Energy Experts
Bluegum Electrical Solutions | Est. 2014



Men's Shed

Members of the Woodend Men's Shed built and delivered three timber teepees for Mount Macedon Primary School, creating unique outdoor spaces for students to play and relax.

Made from recycled materials, the project highlights the Shed's craftsmanship, teamwork, and community spirit. These projects bring generations together, giving men purpose, connection, and pride in supporting local schools and community groups – a great example of what Men's Sheds are all about.



Photo: from left: Andy, Peter, Kevin and Paul from Woodend Mens Shed with timber teepees for a local primary school.

SUBMITTED BY KEVIN DAVIS

Woodend Men's Shed at Woodend Farmers' Market

The Woodend Men's Shed is again conducting its Bumper Christmas Market Stall at the Woodend Farmers' Market on Saturday 6 December.

There will be a huge range of unique Christmas gift items for sale, all skilfully handcrafted at our Woodend workshop.

The range will include heirloom wooden toy trains and trucks, turned timber bowls and platters, various sizes of wooden Christmas trees, trays, candle lights, pot plant holders and bee hotels.

A small selection of bird and wildlife nesting boxes will be on display, and orders can be placed for your specific requirements.

We hope to see you there, and be early, as some items sell out quickly!

SUBMITTED BY KEVIN DAVIS



Drill Dance has come to the Macedon Ranges!



Shiloh is a brand new Drill Dance team in Central Victoria.

Drill Dance is synchronized marching and dancing, and our small team trains each Saturday in Macedon. We are in the early stages of learning new routines.

If you're interested, we would love to welcome you. Come and have a go! It's great exercise, we are trained by one of the top coaches in the state, and we have lots of laughs! Come learn about this great sport, join the fun and be a part of something new.

You can email Jill at centralvictoriadrilldance@gmail.com, or message via our Facebook page to learn more about our club and team.

We will be running our first fundraising raffle via our Facebook page soon, with some amazing prizes just in time for Christmas. We'd love your support!

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1GPDkAKBLj/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

SUBMITTED BY: DANIELLE JOLLIFFE



TERRY'S GROUND CREW

0400 909 303

TGC'S CHECKLIST ✓

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

FAST RESPONSE

www.terrysgroundcrew.com.au



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



Engineered Screw Piling Foundations Built for Victoria Conditions



- Screw piling supply & installation
- Fixed-price quotes (no hidden costs)
- Certified to AS 2159 Australian Standards
- Ideal for reactive or unstable soils
- Serving the Macedon Ranges & Victoria Wide

Call Luke today on 0458 919 198 for your free site assessment

Woodend Artists & Makers Christmas Market

November will see the Woodend Artists' & Makers' Market shining bright with a Christmas vibe! So many beautiful items to include in your Christmas gift list.

Beautifully styled and decorated ceramics, gift cards, gems and precious metal jewellery, naturally dyed fabrics made into tea towels, woollen socks, scarves, paintings, illustrations and prints, and natural ingredients made into soaps, moisturising creams and balms, woven baskets from natural materials, 'wow' factor fabric clutch bags, fun knitted items and brightly coloured silk apparel, Japanese kimonos made into scarves, elegantly styled clothing ranges, natural fragrances made into candles and beautiful gift packs, regionally themed art products, a huge range of prints and collage work – and so much more.

The Christmas WAMM will be held on Saturday 22 November from 10am till 2pm at the Norma Richardson Hall, 15 Buckland Street, Woodend.

The Hall is accessible to all and is opposite the Woodend Cemetery, or you can also hike up the hill from High Street through the large front garden.

Hope to see you there, for a bit of fun and festive gift hunting.

SUBMITTED BY AMANDA WILSON, WAMM AND NORMA RICHARDSON
HALL MANAGER.



Open Studios Macedon – Summer event

Open Studios Macedon artists will again open their garden studios on the last weekend of November from 10am to 4pm. You are invited to come and see where these artists work and what they produce in the Macedon Ranges.

There are nine artists to visit, all within a short drive from each other. You will encounter a broad range of creative processes including pottery, jewellery, painting, drawing, printmaking and textiles.

Come for the day and enjoy our wonderful summer environment – there are local cafes and eateries aplenty to refresh you.

Brochures are available at The Trading Post and The Gallery at Mt. Macedon, as well as at local cafes and businesses in the area. Check Visit Macedon Ranges website or our Instagram @openstudiosmacedon.

For any enquiries: Sue Anson 0413 581 632, Marian Alexopoulos 0418 884 281

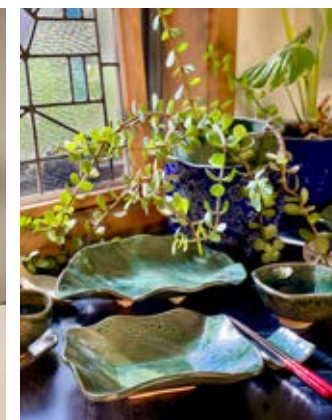


Photo Left: Craig Lidgerwood's watercolour botanical art.
Photo right: Pottery for a range of domestic uses by Carolyn Pain

Events at Kyneton Town Hall

It's Time to Talk About Power

Wednesday 12 November
2025 | 7pm

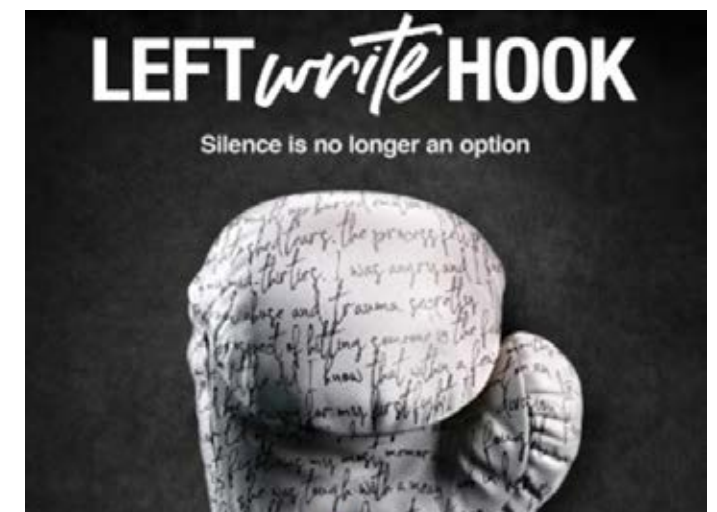
Grace Tame, Mat Stevenson, Sonia Orchard and Madison Griffiths talk about their stories of abuse and discuss the importance of educating young people about intimacy and sexual violence with host, Kemi Nekvapil.



Join us on National Survivors Day for what will be a powerful, informative and not-to-be-missed conversation because ... It's Time to Talk Power.

Left Write Hook - Q&A Documentary Screening

Thursday 20 November 2025 | 6pm



This compelling documentary follows eight female and gender-diverse survivors of childhood sexual abuse as they embark on a groundbreaking trauma recovery program.

Combining the strength of boxing with the vulnerability of creative writing, the program empowers survivors to release trauma, reclaim their bodies and reimagine their futures.

Through powerful participatory filmmaking, an amazing journey of self-discovery, resilience, recovery, transformation and friendship is captured, as they begin to take back their agency and power.

DOUBLE GLAZE YOUR EXISTING TIMBER WINDOWS

REDUCE UP TO
70% HEAT LOSS
IN YOUR HOME

Free, no-obligation
quotes

*Your Local Glaziers
for Over 50 Years*



macedonrangesglass.com.au

Gisborne
☎ 03 5428 2899

Kyneton
☎ 03 5422 1724



RANGES WRITE NIGHT

MACEDON RANGES WRITERS GROUP

ALL WRITERS WELCOME
DEDICATED TIME, SPACE & COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT YOUR WRITING GOALS

1ST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH
7PM-9PM
MACEDON CWA HALL
662 MOUNT MACEDON RD

VISIT WWW.RANGESWRITENIGHT.COM
 @RANGESWRITENIGHT RANGES WRITE NIGHT



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

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

A Creative Christmas in Kyneton: Buttlejorrk Artist Collective's annual show

Celebrate the festive season with colour, craftsmanship, and creativity at the Buttlejorrk Artist Collective's much-loved Annual Group Exhibition at The Old Auction House, Kyneton. Running from 13 November to 24 December, the show brings together a vibrant mix of painting, sculpture, pottery, jewellery, textiles, woodwork, and more – all handcrafted by talented local artists. The exhibition includes two local Woodend artists Marg Altman and Pat Beasley.



This year, the exhibition welcomes special guests from the Macedon Ranges Potters, adding an exciting new dimension to the show.

Perfect for art collectors and holiday shoppers alike, the exhibition offers a chance to acquire distinctive, locally crafted pieces – each telling its own story and grounded in the creative energy of the Macedon Ranges.

Meet the Makers: Join the artists in person on Saturday, 15 November, from 2pm to 4pm for an afternoon of conversation and connection.

Follow the artists on Instagram: @buttlejorrk @macedonrangespotters

Venue: The Old Auction House, 52–56 Mollison St, Kyneton Open 7 days 10am–4pm

A Cappella Christmas Carols in Woodend

Featuring Ensemble Gombert – Saturday 13 December, 3pm

St Ambrose Church, Woodend

Celebrate the joy of the season with an afternoon of glorious a cappella singing as the renowned Ensemble Gombert, directed by John O'Donnell, fills St Ambrose Church with the sounds of Christmas.

Recognised as one of Australia's finest chamber choirs, Ensemble Gombert is celebrated for its exquisite tuning, clarity, and beauty of tone. Their Woodend performance promises a rich and varied program of Christmas carols spanning centuries and continents – from the luminous harmonies of the Medieval and Renaissance eras to contemporary favourites that capture the warmth and wonder of the festive season.

Audiences will be treated to beloved carols from Europe, the Americas, and Australia, alongside a few delightful and lesser-known gems sure to become new favourites. This is a concert for the whole family to enjoy – uplifting, timeless, and filled with Christmas spirit.

When: Saturday 13 December, 3pm

Where: St Ambrose Church, Woodend

Join us for this heartwarming celebration and let Ensemble Gombert transport you through centuries of song and tradition.

A perfect way to welcome the festive season in the heart of Woodend.

SUBMITTED BY WWAF COMMITTEE





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

The country habit has me by the heart

Come one and all and immerse yourselves in magic!



The Mount Players' final show for 2025 is one for the whole family (10+ years) to enjoy together, and you might be lucky enough to still secure a ticket!

Puffs or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic, and *Magic*, is a fast-paced, heartwarming play that reimagines the story of a famous boy wizard – from the perspective of the overlooked and underdog students in the 'Puffs' house. Across seven chaotic years, this story follows Wayne and his misfit friends as they navigate spells, dangers, and growing up, proving that being third place isn't so bad after all. Perfect for wizards and non-wizards alike, *Puffs* is a magical and charming celebration of friendship, bravery, and finding where you belong.

The season runs from 7–23 November. For full details and bookings go to www.themountplayers.com

Note: There is a change to our usual performance times for this show: Friday evenings at 7.30pm and Saturday/Sunday performances at 2pm.

See you at the theatre.



Photo: Young wizards rehearse the show (Credit: Karlana Santamaria)

St Mary's Christmas Carols are coming up!

On Friday 19 December, St Mary's Parish in Woodend will once again hold its annual Community Carols event.

It runs from 6pm to around 7.40pm, after Santa has drawn the raffle and the last carol/Christmas song has been sung.

Weather permitting, the audience can enjoy sitting on picnic blankets or deck chairs with a picnic snack, all BYO.

In poor weather, the event will be held in the Norma Richardson Hall.

The St Mary's singing group will lead the Carols and the program will include solo, group and a capella performances.

There will be raffles, free icy poles and a visit from Santa with treats.

All proceeds from the raffles are donated to our local Woodend SES and Fire Brigades.

Hope to see you all there supporting your local community.

SUBMITTED BY SYLVIA MATHEWS



CARE & MAINTENANCE AWARENESS MONTH

DON'T SUFFER FROM BLIND ABUSE!

Give your blinds and curtains a little TLC this spring:

- **Curtain Tracks** – A quick spray of plant-based silicone keeps runners gliding smoothly.
- **Roman Blinds** – Blow out the cord locks with air and vacuum along the top to clear dust.
- **Roller Blinds** – Make sure they rolling up straight; a squashed fly stuck to the back can make them run off.

After a long winter, dust and soot can make blinds hard to use – a few minutes of care prevents damage and keeps them working beautifully.

BRADLEY'S CURTAINS & BLINDS
 Caring for window furnishings since 1972
 72 High Street, Woodend • 03 5427 2361

DRAFT NIGHT CELEBRATION

Join us to cheer on Cooper Duff-Tytler!

Wed 19 November, 2025
 Clubrooms open from 6pm

WATCH THE DRAFT LIVE | CHEER FOR COOPER WITH FAMILY, FRIENDS & THE WIDER COMMUNITY | DRINKS AT BAR PRICES
 SAUSAGE SIZZLE FOR SALE | FAMILY FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE

EVERYONE WELCOME








HANDMADE GIFTS & ART SUPPLIES



ART & CRAFT WORKSHOPS & PARTIES



CONTEMPORARY ART GALLERY

HOME OF CREATIVITY IN THE MACEDON RANGES SINCE 2017

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

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



THE OLD AUCTION HOUSE

For a Monday

During the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic, most of us in the Macedon Ranges were on the other side of the 'ring of steel' from some of our friends. It was during this time that Candice Boyd started posting photos of flowers from her garden on social media, hoping to share a little bit of regional life with those she cared about in locked-down Melbourne. This was much appreciated. When the "ring of steel" was lifted and she stopped posting, these friends asked Candice to bring back her cheery posts. So it has continued each year since, from September to May, as a weekly post called "For a Monday".

Each of the works in this exhibition comes from one of Candice's social media posts but has been transformed from a basic digital print by hand distressing the surface of the image with an artist's rubber, revealing the texture of the handmade paper underneath. This process allows these works to 'blur the line' between digital and non-digital art.

With twelve works in all, these images represent Candice's favourite exotic plants from her garden.

"For a Monday" runs from Tuesday 4 November to Sunday 30 November at The Gallery Mount Macedon. There is an opening event on Sunday, 9 November at 2pm.

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

SUBMITTED BY SUE ANSON

Friday Nights — Aperitivo at Mount Monument!



Make your Fridays memorable with Summer Aperitivo nights at Mount Monument. Sip on refreshing cocktails and local wines, enjoy bites from our expanded a la carte menu, and soak up the sunset over the vineyard.

A perfect start to the weekend — relaxed, seasonal, and delicious.

Reserve your spot today:

1399 Romsey Road, Romsey | **03 5427 0703**

www.mountmonument.com.au

Summer APERITIVO friday NIGHTS at Mount Monument

Mount Monument is inviting locals and visitors to enjoy Summer Aperitivo Friday Nights, offering a relaxed and sophisticated start to the weekend. The event will take place every Friday evening during the summer months, beginning at 5pm.

Guests can enjoy the winery's expanded a la carte menu, featuring fresh, seasonal dishes paired with local wines and handcrafted cocktails. The vineyard setting provides a picturesque backdrop, with long summer evenings and views over the Macedon Ranges creating the perfect atmosphere for friends and family to gather.

The events are hosted by Mount Monument's experienced team, who have designed the evenings to be casual yet elegant. Visitors are encouraged to arrive early to enjoy the full aperitivo experience, which includes small plates, refreshing drinks, and an opportunity to relax in the vineyard's tranquil surroundings.

Mount Monument's Summer Aperitivo Friday Nights are more than a meal; they are a celebration of seasonal produce, locally crafted wines, and the social culture of shared dining. The evenings provide an ideal opportunity for those new to the winery to explore its offerings or for regular visitors to enjoy a fresh seasonal experience.

Reservations are recommended to secure a table, as spaces are limited and the events are expected to be popular throughout the summer.

For more information or to book a table, contact Mount Monument directly or visit their website at mountmonument.com.au.

SUBMITTED BY HEATHER SMITH, MOUNT MONUMENT

Woodend Chamber Poets — a warm unique afternoon

People come from far and wide for Woodend's Chamber Poets. It's an afternoon of moving poetry, music, humour, and friends. All are welcome to join in and experience this warm, home-grown experience. This year marks 12 years of Chamber Poets monthly poetry and performance in the Macedon Ranges.

Chamber Poets was founded by renowned local Woodend poet, Myron Lysenko, and he remains the convenor and creative driving force.

Each meeting of Chamber Poets incorporates live poetry, literature and music.

There is an Open Mic event for the first half of the meeting. Aspiring and established poets alike are welcome to read their work. During the second half, an invited guest poet reads their work.

In October, acclaimed poets Andy Jackson and Rachael Wenona Guy read a selection of their poetry.

The Poet of the Month is also chosen from the Open Mic readings, and the winner is presented with the monthly trophy.

Black Forest Smoke play every meeting, a band like none other, led by Myron. Compositions are the band's own, with Myron writing many of the lyrics. Each month, the band chooses a poem from the featured poet's collection and sets it to music.

For hungry souls, delicious lunches are available to order from the RSL Bistro and bar.

Come along to the next Chamber Poets meeting:

2nd Saturday of the month, 1pm to 4pm

Woodend RSL, 32 Anslow Street, Woodend

Entry \$10



Photo: Samantha Beranic wins Poet of the Month

SUBMITTED BY DI PERCY

Managing Your Money



Have you maxed your credit card and are not sure where to turn? Are you approaching retirement and wondering if you can afford to stop work? Do you understand how your superannuation scheme works? Do you have a will?

These are among the issues that will be discussed at the 'Financially You' workshop to be held on Wednesday 12 November, at Sunbury Cobaw Community Health in Kyneton, from 12 noon to 2pm. Women and gender diverse people of all ages are invited to attend. There is no cost for this event, which is hosted by the Zonta Club of Kyneton and presented by WIRE (Women's Information Referral Enterprise). A light lunch will be provided.

If you would like to attend the 'Financially You' workshop, please book through Humanitix. <https://events.humanitix.com/financially-you-workshop>.

For further information or for help with your booking, please phone Jenny (0438 628 668). Places are limited, and bookings close on Friday 7 November.

SUBMITTED BY JENNY KERR, ZONTA CLUB OF KYNETON



A DAY OF FINE WINE, FLAVOUR & INDULGENCE

Private tastings at the region's most celebrated wineries, a two-course lunch, and access to unreleased vintages - all effortlessly arranged for you.



Scan for more details & to book online



\$190pp | Min 4 guests | Fri-Sun

0480 480 691

kimco.com.au/winery-tours

CLOUD DISTILLERY
— MACEDON RANGES —
DOUBLE GOLD
AWARD WINNING GIN
LOCALLY DISTILLED

[@clouddistilleryau](https://www.clouddistillery.com.au)
www.clouddistillery.com.au

Mort & PESTLE

PESTLE PANTRY
IS NOW OPEN!
FULL OF DELICIOUS LOCAL PRODUCE

www.pestle.com.au
4/130 High St, Woodend



HOLGATE *brewhouse*
TAPROOM & VISITOR CENTRE

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

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

Open 7 Days from midday

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



An introduction to Destination Central Victoria

Our local tourism industry is entering an exciting new chapter, with Daylesford Macedon having recently transitioned to Destination Central Victoria (DCV).

Supported and funded by both State and Local Governments, this region-wide organisation is committed to leading tourism development, promotion, and collaboration across the four local government areas of Hepburn, Macedon Ranges, Mount Alexander, and the Central Goldfields shires.

As part of the transition, a fresh consumer-facing brand identity is being developed for the region. While preserving the strong brand equity already associated with Daylesford and the Macedon Ranges, the new identity will spotlight the region's key brand pillars and hero destinations, reinforcing its appeal to visitors.

A new consumer website and visitor app are also currently in development. The new brand, website and app are due to launch at an industry event in Castlemaine on Tuesday 2 December, 2025.

Local tourism and hospitality businesses are encouraged to get in touch with DCV to discuss how the new entity can support and help their business grow. A new tiered partnership model has been designed for promoting and growing businesses, with strong support already from across the industry.

The three levels of partnership – Connected, Engaged, and Strategic – offer increasing access to marketing tools, business intelligence, and networking opportunities. All include a business listing on the new consumer-facing website, regular industry updates, event promotion, and exclusive access to industry events, training, and resources. Higher tiers unlock enhanced listings, detailed reporting, and greater visibility through the new visitor app.

Read more about Destination Central Victoria and partnership opportunities by visiting destinationcentralvictoria.com.au.

If you run a tourism business or event in the region and want to stay up to date with the latest news and opportunities, you can subscribe to both our industry and consumer newsletters here: destinationcentralvictoria.com.au/contact-us. If you'd like to learn more and get involved, reach out to the Destination Central Victoria team at info@dcvtourism.com.au.

SUBMITTED BY MADELINE BLAKE

Castlemaine Rotary truck show – Great family entertainment

Looking for a great - and affordable - day out with the family on the last weekend of November? There's something for all ages at the Castlemaine Rotary TRUCK SHOW over the weekend of Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 November at the Campbells Creek Recreation Reserve.

This family-friendly event, now in its 37th year and considered one of Australia's premier truck shows, celebrates the important contribution of the trucking industry and raises funds for the community. Shamick Transport is this year's proud sponsor.

A truck show is so much more than trucks! Live music on stage will feature special guest

Greg Champion of Coodabeen Champions fame, supported by Truck Show favourite, award-winning country singer and songwriter, Sandee Facy.

There's lots of free entertainment for the kids, everything from pony rides to facepainting and adventure parks – did we mention entry is free for under-16s? – along with a wide range of food and light refreshments, and a licensed bar. And of course, we can't forget the incredible sight of three hundred or so – that's 300! – gleaming, glistening big rigs vying for the honour of Best in Show.

The show is open from noon on Saturday and 10am on Sunday, and a highlight for many

locals is the Truck Convoy passing through the centre of Castlemaine from 9am Sunday morning. If you don't know where the venue is, just follow those trucks!

When the crowds have left and silence once again settles on the Campbells Creek Recreation Reserve, Castlemaine Rotary uses the funds raised to support projects and community organisations both locally and overseas.

SUBMITTED BY TERRY MURPHY







Hesket Estate Cellar Door

Relax at Hesket Estate's Cellar Door for a wine tasting or glass of wine accompanied with a regional produce platter.

Immerse yourself in award winning wines that express the unique terroir of the Macedon Ranges. Enjoy from a selection of Methode Traditionelle Sparklings, Riesling, Chardonnay, Gewürztraminer, Rosé, Pinot Noir, Sangiovese, and Shiraz.

Better still, get a bottle to take home.

Saturday and Sunday 11:30am - 4:30pm
 815 Romney Road Healesville 3642
www.hesketestate.com.au
 03 9466 1000

Big Tree Distillery reopens for summer

After a winter break, Big Tree Distillery is reopening its Tasting Room on Jack's Springs Farm from Saturday, 1 November, marking the start of another summer season in the Macedon Ranges.

Visitors can enjoy a relaxed afternoon with tastings, cocktails, and grazing boxes every Saturday until Christmas, while Sundays are reserved for special events and private functions.

The distillery's much-loved Sunday Sessions also return, celebrating local music, pizzas, and award-winning gin. The first session kicks off on Sunday, 2 November, with musician Harry Nanos, followed by another on Sunday, 7 December. Each ticket includes two G&Ts and a pizza, offering great value and a perfect way to unwind with friends.

Sunday Sessions: 2 November & 7 December 11 AM – 5 PM
(Music from 1 PM)

Big Tree Distillery, Jack's Springs Farm, 307 Hennerbergs Road, Newham

Tickets and details at bigtreedistillery.com.au

Big Tree Distillery continues to be one of the region's favourite weekend destinations – combining handcrafted local gin, live music, and the laid-back charm of farm life in the Macedon Ranges.

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CROTHERS



Creating Beautiful Gins You'll Love

DISTILLED BY PEOPLE WHO LOVE THEIR GIN

www.bigtreedistillery.com.au



Big Tree
DISTILLERY





Living with pain doesn't have to be your normal

Osteopathy can help relieve persistent pain, improve mobility, and restore confidence in your body

BOOK ONLINE

woodendosteo.com
5427 3293
10 Brooke St, Woodend



We take a whole-body approach to chronic pain.

Whether you're managing:

- Arthritis
- Back pain
- Migraines
- Sciatica

AGI
WINDOWS & DOORS
ALUMINIUM & GLASS INNOVATIONS

VANTAGE
WINDOWS & DOORS

ELEVATE
ALUMINIUM SYSTEMS

THERMAL HEART

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

Proud Manufacturers of AWS Australia

Manufactured in the Macedon Ranges

Bartay Agency

Specialising in Aged Care and Disability Care

your local Home Care Package Provider

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

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

Mortgage Choice

part of realestate.com.au

FREE - Home Loan Check Up

5427 4262

87 HIGH STREET WOODEND 3442

182 Station Road, New Gisborne

We had a little whoopsie a while ago and the fix decided to take the scenic route ... Insurance bureaucracy 🤔

Keep an eye out for some building action soon.

Thanks for your patience, we'll be looking fabulous again in no time!

Black Friday fitness sale

Looking to get fit this summer? Kyneton Toyota Sports & Aquatic Centre, Gisborne Fitness Centre, and Gisborne Aquatic Centre are offering an exclusive Black Friday sale on Friday 28 November only.

Join or renew any 3-month upfront membership and receive 25% off – available across Gym, Gym/Swim, Swim, and Aqua Aerobics options (prices vary by membership type).

Concession memberships can be purchased (at the venue only), while full-fee memberships can be bought online using the promotional code 'BlackFriday25'. This offer is open to new, existing, and expired members, with one discounted membership per person.

Memberships must be purchased on Friday 28 November 2025. Terms and conditions apply. Visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/AF-promo for details.

Don't miss this great opportunity to kick-start your fitness goals and save!

SUBMITTED BY COMMUNICATIONS UNIT, MRSC

Election report calls for change to meet emerging challenges

A report tabled by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) on the conduct of Victoria's 2024 local council elections has called for changes to Victoria's local government legislation.

The election was a success, with more than 4.3 million Victorians casting their vote and the lowest informality rate on record. However, the VEC has recommended broad reform to ensure it can continue to meet the expectations of all Victorians for transparent and fair elections, and safeguard against increasing integrity threats.

The report makes 10 key recommendations and 27 operational commitments, including:

- a continued focus on strengthening safeguards to detect and prevent postal vote fraud
- exploring options to publish provisional results in real time
- expanding the candidate questionnaire to include party membership, so voters have clear information about candidates' political affiliations.

'The 2024 council elections were the most complex to date and they were successfully delivered,' Electoral Commissioner Sven Bluemmel said. 'Our focus is on the integrity of elections. When issues arose, our people and systems caught them quickly and responded rapidly.'

Mr Bluemmel also highlighted the unprecedented challenges and the increasing complexity of election delivery.

'We are committed to continuous improvement in the delivery of elections,' Mr Bluemmel added, 'I look forward to providing updates in future election service plans and reports on the progress of our commitments.'

The full report is available at vec.vic.gov.au/about-us/publications/local-council-election-reports-and-plans

SUBMITTED BY VMRSC COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

Woodend Self Storage (Vic) Pty Ltd



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

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

Romer Maud FAMILY LAWYERS



Expert family law advice and
support in the Macedon ranges.

SERVICE AREAS

Pre-Separation Advice
Amicable Separation
Divorce
Property Division

Parenting Arrangements
Binding Financial
Agreements
Collaborative Practice

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

Macedon Ranges HOME CARE



Let me help you or your loved one stay at home by providing personalised, support and care. Working through the Mable platform, I am committed to fostering well-being and independence by ensuring continuity of care to older residents of the Macedon Ranges.

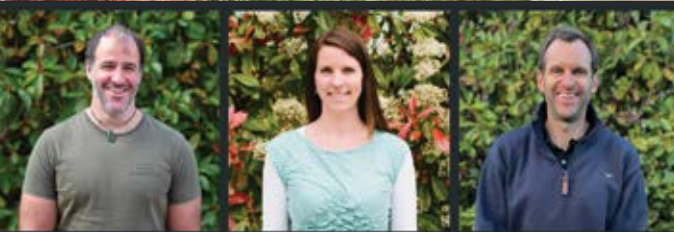
SERVICES

- ✓ Social Support
- ✓ Shopping and Transport
- ✓ Light housework
- ✓ Meal preparation and delivery
- ✓ Personal Administration
- ✓ Sports and exercise
- ✓ Community Activities and outings

Free Consultation

0467 034 723

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/heather-mccaffrey/>



Chiropractic | Myotherapy | Acupuncture | Onsite X-Ray

MACEDON CHIROPRACTIC

(03) 5426 3945 - Book Online
26 Victoria st, Macedon
www.macedonchiropractic.com.au

COMPLIMENTARY 45-MIN EARWAX & HEARING CHECK

AVAILABLE UNTIL DEC 15TH 2025

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

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

Delivered by experienced audiologists in a warm and informative consult.
(*Conditions may apply)

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



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



71 HAMILTON ST, GISBORNE 03 7065 2652 [WWW.SCHERERDEANAUDIOLOGY.COM.AU](https://www.schererdeaneaudiology.com.au)

Creatives to receive funding boost

Community groups are encouraged to bring their creative ideas to life in 2026, with the next round of the Small Regional Presenters program now open.

Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas recently invited regional community groups and not-for-profit organisations to apply for the State Government’s Small Regional Presenters program, enabling them to attract and present performing arts events in their communities.

Grants up to \$15,000 are available to support the presentation of events, as well as enabling local venues and presenters to build their skills and capacity, develop long term plans for their businesses and reach new audiences.

Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas said,

“Victoria’s regions are a wealth of exciting creative talent. The Small Regional Presenters program ensures that no matter where they live, our creatives have the opportunity to share their ideas and work with their communities, and reach new audiences across right across the state.”

Previous rounds of the program have supported a comedy show and mentoring workshop for young people in Tallarook, a series of acoustic performances in Warragul, a children’s music concert and dance party at Castlemaine Community House, and cabaret and circus performances in Mansfield and South Gippsland.

The Small Regional Presenters program is delivered by Regional Arts Victoria, the state’s peak body for creatives and creative organisations in the regions.

Victoria’s creative economy provides employment to more than 327,000 workers – from performers and producers to designers, editors, technicians and beyond.

For further details about the program and to apply, visit the Regional Arts Victoria website.

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

Better roads blitz rolls out across Victoria

A major road maintenance blitz is rolling out to rebuild, repair, and resurface roads across Victoria.

Minister for Roads and Road Safety Melissa Horne recently launched the Labor Government’s \$976 million road maintenance blitz in Kyneton, where crews will begin fixing potholes and upgrading road surfaces across the state.

The Better Roads Blitz, crews will begin delivering hundreds of major maintenance projects between now and mid-2026 on roads – with 70 per cent of all the funding going towards our regional roads.

Projects will range from road rehabilitation and resurfacing to patching potholes and maintaining bridges, and installing traffic lights

Boosting participation in regional sport

More people are being supported to get involved in sport with grants for sports clubs and community organisations to strengthen and expand opportunities for people living with a disability in regional communities.

Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas announced recently that applications are open for a second round of the Regional All Abilities Participation Grants and encouraged local clubs and organisations to apply.

Grants of up to \$25,000 are available in three categories: Equipment and Travel, Inclusion Workforce, and Programs and Disability-led Initiatives.

The grants can be used to purchase specialised or modified equipment and uniforms, such as sports wheelchairs, sensory balls, throwing frames, accessible starting systems, modified bats and racquets and other adaptive technologies enabling safe and inclusive participation. For clubs that already have the right equipment and uniforms, funding can be used to subsidise wages or salaries towards creating a skilled workforce to help boost participation – such as disability sports coaches, support workers or volunteers who are keen to broaden their skillset.

The funding can also be used to cover travel to competitions and festivals, and for clubs to create their own all-abilities sports programs.

Ms Thomas said of the program, “Creating an inclusive environment will boost participation and open new pathways, whether it’s playing, coaching or volunteering.”

Organisations that support community participation in sport and active recreation such as local clubs, state sporting associations, disability or self-advocacy groups, and health or disability providers are encouraged to apply.

Increasing opportunities for more Victorians to participate in sport and active recreation is a key objective of the State Government’s Active Victoria 2022-2026 – a strategic framework for sport and active recreation in Victoria.

For more information and to apply visit sport.vic.gov.au/funding

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

and signage, targeting the state’s busiest travel and trade routes.

As well as repairing some of our busiest roads, crews will also mow, slash and spray tens of thousands of kilometres of roadsides, inspect and repair thousands of bridges and other structures.

Hundreds of sets of traffic lights and electronic signs will be repaired, graffiti cleaned up and other maintenance works delivered as needed.

“Whether it’s fixing potholes, resurfacing roads or improving safety, this blitz will deliver better and smoother journeys for drivers right across regional Victoria – keeping our communities connected,” said Ms Thomas.

To learn more about the Better Roads Blitz and to find out when crews are fixing roads in your area, visit transport.vic.gov.au.

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

ADVERTISEMENT

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

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

Mary-Anne Thomas MP
Member for Macedon

5428 2138
mary-annethomas.com.au
mary-anne.thomas@parliament.vic.gov.au

Scan to contact me





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

Free pads and tampons have arrived in the Macedon Ranges and Hepburn Shires

Locals living in the Macedon Ranges and Hepburn Shires are set to benefit from the rollout of free pad and tampon vending machines – helping remove barriers to work, education and community life.

Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas announced that vending machines have been installed at Central Highlands Rural Health, and Woodend, Romsey and Gisborne libraries.

Women and girls across Victoria have already saved thousands of dollars, with more than 100,000 packs of pads and tampons dispensed in the first six months of the program.

Once the rollout is complete, up to 1,500 free pad and tampon machines – both smart and battery-operated – will be available at more than 700 public locations across Victoria. Sites include regional libraries, hospitals, TAFEs, train stations and other community hubs.

Lack of access to period products is a real issue for women and girls in regional areas, where local services may be limited. It can affect health and wellbeing, school and work attendance, and social participation.

Councils across Victoria were invited to nominate sites for the machines – ensuring the rollout reflects the needs of communities right across the state.

Access to pads and tampons is a basic need, but one in five women reported struggling to afford period products.

A full list of locations is available at freepadsandtampons.vic.gov.au.

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

Restoring Forests for the Future at Mount Macedon

Mount Macedon’s future appears much greener, thanks to a landmark reforestation project underway, which restores native forests to former pine plantation sites and sets the stage for a more sustainable, resilient future.

This large-scale forest regeneration will help create a healthier environment for future generations.

The project received \$1.13 million funding through Victoria’s BushBank programme, demonstrating the state’s commitment to biodiversity and ecological restoration.

About 22,500 native tree saplings were planted during winter across the 94-hectare site on the south-east side of Mount Macedon.

Seeds from native local trees were collected from Macedon Regional Park in July 2023 to ensure the new forest originates from species with local progeny.

The seeds were carefully gathered, nurtured, and grown into healthy saplings by a local nursery, ready for planting.

Monitoring sites were established across the project area to observe the effects of browsing animals. Protective fencing was installed in March 2025. Drone-based weed mapping and spraying occurred in spring to prepare the ground for planting.

Once established, the forest will offer more green spaces for the community to enjoy. It will significantly increase habitat for native wildlife, boost soil health, and improve water quality.

For more information, visit www.environment.vic.gov.au/bushbank

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



Photo: L to R: Parliamentary Secretary for Outdoor Recreation, Luba Grigorovitch
Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas



Celebrating 10 years of footy for fun!

A new team has rolled into the region — introducing the Macedon Ranges Masters

After 10 years as the Woodend Masters we are now gearing up for our first season under the new name in the Victoria Country Masters League in 2026. Whether you are a former player, a sideline strategist, someone who just wants to train, or just someone who wants to be involved socially — come along and get involved.

With the 2025 football season done and dusted, we have moved into the social season.

To kick things off, the crew headed out for their annual camping trip to Newbridge on the weekend of October 11th/12th. It was a weekend of campfires, river views, and relaxed vibes — the perfect way to close off the 2025 season. The Friday night campfire dimmies had a bit more sand and charcoal in the pot than the dim sim purists would like, but they were still scoffed down with no complaints.

Then it was time to swap tents for turf at the Caulfield Cup Social on Saturday, October 18th at the Pig & Whistle Hotel in Trentham, one of the club's major sponsors. Thanks to Eamonn and the team for their support.

It was a cracking day in the beer garden as the racing ran second to good food, cold drinks and even better company. Luckily the racing integrity unit was not around as Peter McRigged ran the sweeps and managed to end up with the favourites.

Training has officially resumed with sessions shared between the Kyneton Showgrounds, Buffalo and even Tylden, keep an eye on the socials for training locations and times each week. A BBQ and some cold beers after the first session was the perfect way to get back into training.

Behind the scenes, the masters committee have worked on a fresh new logo, colours and playing jumper for 2026, capturing the spirit of the Macedon Ranges, and masters footy. You don't need to be match-fit or footy-mad to get involved. Whether you want to train, support, or just enjoy the socials — you are welcome.

If you have any interest at all, then come along. There is no commitment to play, we have plenty of guys involved who only train. Then there are the guys who don't even do that, and are in it for the social side of things. All skill levels are welcome, and as you will see on the track, there are a number of guys with not much skill at all.

Masters footy is all about footy for fun.

Follow the Macedon Ranges Masters on Facebook and Instagram to stay in the loop and be a part of it.



Season success and looking ahead: The Nest continues to soar

What a season it's been at the Nest! The Woodend Hesket Football Netball Club has once again demonstrated the incredible community spirit and competitive excellence that makes our club truly special.

Our A Grade netball team has made history, claiming the Grand Final victory and securing an incredible three-peat! Three championships in a row — what a phenomenal achievement that showcases the skill, dedication, and teamwork that defines our club culture.

The excitement continues as we prepare to celebrate another milestone moment for our club. On Wednesday 19 November, the clubrooms will open from 6pm to watch the AFL Draft live on the big screens as our own Cooper Duff-Tytler takes the next step in his football journey. Cooper's path from junior player at Woodend to genuine AFL Draft prospect is an inspiration to every young athlete in our community. Everyone is welcome to join us as we cheer for Cooper when his name is called.

We're incredibly proud to announce that our Co-President, Paul Podbury, has been awarded the 2025 AFL Victoria Metropolitan Community Volunteer of the Year Award! Each year, the AFL (in partnership with Toyota) recognises volunteers and administrators for their outstanding contribution to Australian Football. Paul's dedication to our club and community has been nothing short of exceptional. Congratulations, Paul — we couldn't be prouder!



As we look toward 2026, we're excited to welcome new members to our football and netball family. Whether you're a seasoned player, returning to sport, or trying something new, the Nest offers a welcoming environment where everyone can thrive.

Netball trials are taking place on 6 November and 13 November, from 6pm to 8pm at Gilbert Gordon Oval. Please register ASAP at <https://bit.ly/2026NetballTrials>

Senior football preseason will commence 12 November.

We're currently seeking passionate individuals to join our coaching team for 2026. Specifically, we need a C Grade Netball Coach and other support staff across footy and netball. If you're interested, please reach out to president@woodendheskftnc.org.

Our gratitude extends to our major sponsors and broader sponsorship family whose support makes everything possible. If you're interested in being a sponsor in 2026 and would like to view our sponsorship packages, give James Chettle a call on 0402 013 288. To our dedicated coaches, hardworking committee members, and every volunteer who contributed countless hours — thank you. Your commitment drives our success.

As Co-Presidents, Paul and I have been developing an exciting succession planning vision for our club's future. We encourage anyone interested in contributing to reach out via president@woodendheskftnc.org.

Stay connected over the off-season via our email newsletter at <https://bit.ly/WHFNCNewsletter> or follow us on Facebook and Instagram for all the latest news and updates from the Nest.

We love having everyone at the Nest and can't wait for another incredible 2026 season. Here's to continued success, community, and the Hawks soaring high!

Go Hawks!



SUBMITTED BY RACHEL SUMPTER

Woodend Hanging Rock Petanque Club

Now that daylight saving has started, the summer season of petanque has begun!

The season will now run until daylight saving finishes in March.

We have two venues: the Racecourse Reserve on Forest Street, Woodend, where we play on Mondays from 2pm until about 4pm, and Hanging Rock Reserve, South Rock Road Newham, where we play on Thursdays from 3pm until about 7pm.

We began the season at Hanging Rock with the President's Cup, in October, in honour of one of our founding members, Marilyn Steel.

Forty-one players, including several players from Mount Macedon Petanque Club, and the Maldon and Pyrenees petanque clubs, gathered at Hanging Rock to fight it out, with seven of the players winning all of the three games.

Each Thursday, now that we start a bit later, we put a BBQ together for the members, with Maria Liew bringing her delicious guacamole to tide us over till the dinner of hamburgers and sausages and salad with ice creams to finish off the night. It is different each week as members like to put their spin on the menu!

For the next several months, there are several petanque tournaments around the state each week, including in Smythesdale, Ballarat, Nagambie, and Pyrenees clubs, and on Sunday 23 November, we will be holding our Mixed Triples competition at Hanging Rock.

So, if you are free, come to the Rock to see what this funny game is all about!



Photo: Peter Barry, winner of The President's Cup being presented with the trophy by Louise Potter

SUBMITTED BY LOUISE POTTER

Proudly sponsored by





Woodend Cricket Club launches season with wins, milestones, and community spirit

The Woodend Cricket Club has kicked off the 2025/26 season in fine style, with strong performances across all grades.

The First XI opened with back-to-back wins against Broadford and Wallan. Captain Marcus Stewart has led from the front with scores of 49* and 52* respectively.

The Second XI also notched up two wins, highlighted by Lachie Sheahan's commanding 81 against Broadford and an outstanding all-round performance from skipper Brett Gardner, who carried his bat for 86* and took five wickets in the win over Wallan.

The Third XI had a quieter start after Blackwood's First XI forfeited, while Club Grade North celebrated their first victory of the season with a narrow 7-run win over Hanging Rock. Standouts included James Fiford and Alistair Gray, both retiring on 50* and taking 2/30 and 3/38 respectively, with Ben Thompson claiming a crucial 3/19 off seven overs. Club Grade South posted 10/159 in their loss to Melton Centrals (6/161 from 30 overs), with solid contributions from James Black (29), Dale Ranson (25), Stewart Black (28*) and Angus Black (3/29).

Our Under 15 Girls team has officially played its first game – a fantastic milestone for the club. Alongside our two Under 13 Girls teams, this marks another step forward in making girls' cricket an integral and ingrained part of the Woodend cricket community. The future of cricket in Woodend is bright, and it's great to see so many young girls getting involved and enjoying the game. There are still spots available in both the Under 15 and Under 13 Girls teams, so any new players interested are encouraged to come along and join the fun!



Our popular Cricket Blast program is also back on Monday nights from November 10, perfect for kids aged 5–9 who want to get active, learn new skills, and have some fun with friends. No experience or equipment is needed – just bring your energy and enthusiasm!

The club's first Family Dinner of the season was a highlight, celebrating Life Member John "Jack" Code with a signature jacket presentation to the Coterie, Kay's famous lasagne, and live music from Darcy Nolan. Upcoming events include more Family Dinners, the Bingo Night on November 22, and the much-anticipated T20 Double Header against Macedon on December 13.

Woodend Cricket Club will also host its 3rd Annual Community Christmas Party on Friday 12 December, inviting the whole community to Gilbert Gordon Oval for an outdoor cinema night featuring the original Home Alone. The evening will also mark the official launch of the new electronic scoreboard, currently being installed. It promises to be a great night of family fun – and if we're lucky, Santa might even stop by to see the new scoreboard!

The club extends its thanks to Macedon Ranges Shire Council for their support in repairing the turf on the run-ups, goal squares, and centre square at Gilbert Gordon Oval. We hope to be back out there in Mid-November.

Macedon Ranges twilight summer series orienteering returns

Central Highlands Orienteers' popular Wednesday twilight family orienteering series returns to the Macedon Ranges in November 2025.

Take the family on a stroll or a run through our beautiful local parklands, with a range of courses suitable to all fitness levels and aspirations.

Central Highlands Orienteers welcome newcomers and experienced orienteers. The entry fee per participant includes individual coaching, map and hire of an electronic timing chip. Start between 6.30 and 7pm. Courses close at 8pm.

12 November	Kyneton - Quarry Reserve – Piper Street
19 November	Gisborne - Jackson Reserve
26 November	Woodend - Campaspe Park
3 December	Macedon - Tony Clarke Reserve

To find out more, visit <https://centralhighlands.weebly.com/>

SUBMITTED BY MARK HENNESSY, PRESIDENT CENTRAL HIGHLANDS ORIENTEERS



Local futsal players shine at national school championship

During the September school holidays, a number of Macedon Ranges futsal players aged 8 to 19 years, were lucky to compete in the National School Futsal Championships (National Championships), held in Brisbane. To earn their positions at the National Championships, each player first had to represent their school at a regional competition. And from there, Victorian selectors identified the best of the best and offered these kids the opportunity to travel to Brisbane.

Two teams featuring a strong Macedon Ranges presence made it all the way to the finals in their divisions – the Boys U11 and Boys U19. Both teams performed exceptionally well, finishing as runners-up in their respective age groups.

And just when we thought it couldn't get any better, three local players were selected for the prestigious AllStar Teams: Nate Warner (U12), Harper Kowlessur (U11) and Mitch Burton (U19). Congratulations lads!

Brett Sinnett, Central Victoria Technical Director for the Australian Futsal Association and President of Macedon Ranges Futsal, said, "It's fantastic to see so many talented kids from the Macedon Ranges representing Victoria on the national stage and competing so well at this level. We're proud to provide pathways that allow our local futsal players to test themselves against the best in the country, improve their game and most importantly, have fun doing it."

Well done to all those futsal players who participated in the regional school competitions, those who were invited to represent Victoria and those who made the trip up to Brisbane!

SUBMITTED BY KRISTY MUTSAERS (MACEDON RANGES FUTSAL COMMITTEE MEMBER)



Photo: Woodend's Charlie Podbury represented Victoria in U9 Boys

Woodend wins silver medal at games



The Woodend Bowling Club was represented at the recent Victorian Police and Emergency Services Games held in Bendigo, contested by players from all emergency services across Victoria. The team of (pictured) Derek Barber (MFB & Ambo), Mike Dornau (CFA) and Steve Milesi (VicPol) came away with a Silver Medal from the two-day event.

They played seven matches over the two days, including the Grand Final, winning three from four on Day 1 and two from two on Day 2. They finished second on the table and played in the Gold Medal Match against team from Border Force (the only six game winners), which they lost 13-11 after taking the lead late in the match.

A fine start to the new Pennant Season

The start of the new Pennant Season began on Saturday 4 October and Tuesday October 14, with Woodend teams competing in the Ballarat Highlands Bowls Region (BHBR) in both Divisions 1 and 3 in the Saturday Competition and Divisions 2 and 3 in the Midweek Competition.

Last season, we won the Saturday Division 2 Championship and were therefore promoted to Division 1.

At the time of writing, all teams were performing well, with several battling for, or in, Top Four positions.

We are also about to conclude our Club Championship events, with the Men's and Women's Singles Championships to be completed by late December. Other events will continue into the New Year including the Consolation Singles, Men's Pairs, Women's Pairs, Mixed Pairs, 21 UP and 100 UP. Good luck to all competitors.

A huge thanks to our sponsors

We would like to thank all sponsors of the Woodend Bowling Club for their generous support over the years. They're local businesses supporting our local clubs.

For more information visit our website at www.woodendbowlsclub.weebly.com



SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, PRESIDENT WOODEND BOWLING CLUB INC.

BALZAN ELECTRICAL

OUR SERVICES :

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

CONTACT US :

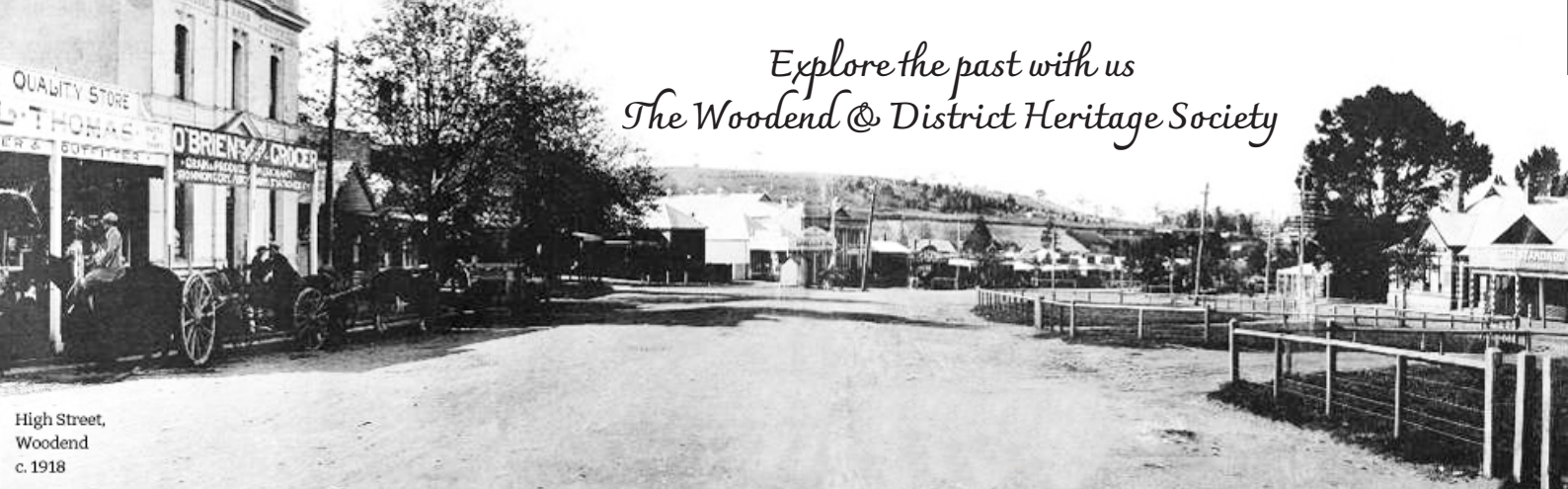
0458 336 702
info@balzanelectrical.com.au

CDM Earthmoving & Landscaping

For all your driveway & garden construction needs

- Lawn Areas
- Paving
- Watering Systems
- Retaining Walls
- Driveways
- Crossover
- Site Cuts
- Post Holes
- Water Features

0417331085
Craig@bobcraig.com
www.cdmeearthmovingandlandscaping.com.au



Explore the past with us
The Woodend & District Heritage Society

High Street,
Woodend
c. 1918

Rachael Thomas

Rachael Thomas, nee McKenzie, dedicated lay member of the Methodist Church and secretary of the Rechabite Church in Newham for twenty years, was one of the large family of Alexander and Christina McKenzie of Newham. Alexander was the third son of Kenneth McKenzie and Hannah Glass. He married Christina Baldwin in 1885, and they bought forty acres on what is now Dons Road and built a four-room cottage called Craigilea. There they grew potatoes, rye and oats and had a family of ten children, one of whom, Dorothy, died young. In 1916, Alexander took on the lease of the General Store in Rochford and it was run by daughters Christina and Margaret. A son, Kenneth, became an apprentice to a local farrier, Dave Cook. Another son, Colin, became an accomplished musician and played in a band that was popular throughout the district for many years.



Photo 160: Craigilea in Dons Road, Newham. Built for Alexander and Christina McKenzie. They had ten children: Christina, Margaret, Dorothy, Alexander, Rachael, Robert William, Kenneth, Stewart, Colin and Helen.

Rachael was born in 1905 and attended the local school. She learnt piano and drove her pony in a jinker to teach the instrument in the homes of her pupils. She developed a number of other skills, teaching sewing, knitting, crochet, reading and writing at the local primary school and playing the organ in churches. She was also secretary of the Young People's Guild in Newham where debates were held in the 1930s.



Photo 176: The McKenzie family at Craigilea on 20 April 1920.
Back row: Robert William (Bill); Margaret, Kenneth John, Rachael, Alexander Jnr
Front row: Helen, Stewart, Christina (mother), Alexander (father), Christina, Colin. Taken after Alexander and Kenneth came home from World War 1.
The day after, Alexander Jnr was married to Maud Cook of 'Mt View' Rochford.

SUBMITTED BY JANE HOLTH

Rachael returned often to the family farm to join her sisters, Margaret and Helen, and brother, Colin, who ran the farm. She lived there after the death of Margaret and then, after Colin's death, the farm passed to a nephew; Helen moved to Kyneton and Rachael had gone into care at the Trentham Bush Nursing hospital, where she died three days after turning ninety-five. The family kept the property until 2007.

trades & services

ARBORIST



Josh Nicholas | 0431 764 750

Professional Arborists servicing the Macedon Ranges

jueshuex@yahoo.com | thetreedavinci.com.au

ELECTRICAL SERVICES



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

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

0403 889 437

HOME AND OFFICE CLEANING

GOLDSTAR ★

HOME & OFFICE CLEANING
WINDOW CLEANING

Call Joe or John for a quote

0429 361 698

PAINTING



Call Steven
0402 079 482

PLUMBING & GAS FITTING



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

Servicing Macedon Ranges - No job too small

Paul Murphy 0438 298 659

TREE SERVICES



Mitch Keating 0448032003

Qualified and insured arborist providing residential and commercial tree maintenance

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

CARPENTRY SERVICES

Paul Gaskin

Qualified Carpenter

0438 440 986

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

paulgaskin12@yahoo.com.au

HANDYMAN SERVICES

HANDYMAN SERVICE

Servicing the Macedon Ranges
honest, reliable, friendly and local

Phone Peter

0431 252 477

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



LANDSCAPING



Landscape design | Paving
Decking | Pergolas
Retaining walls | Lighting
Irrigation | Real & artificial turf
Planting | Excavator wet hire
and much more

Contact Adam for a FREE Quote 0424 033 087

aghent_@hotmail.com

www.aghentlandscapes.com

PAINTING



Steve

0433266689

sjbaxterpainting@gmail.com

Servicing the Macedon Ranges and surrounds

Fully qualified with over 25 years experience

Call for a free quote

Fully insured

TAXI SERVICES



Catch a Cab - Catch a Crown Cab

Bookings: 1300 12 13 14

www.crowncabs.com.au

VERMIN AND PEST CONTROL



1800 198 041

www.vippestcontrol.com.au

DRAFTING SERVICES



**DESIGN AND
DRAFTING
SERVICE**

Construction plans
Design concepts
Town planning
applications

With over 25yrs experience
servicing the Macedon Ranges and beyond

Brett Franke: Registered Building Practitioner

Call Brett 0408 054 472

THIS SPACE TO RENT

Advertising Space
available

\$50 per edition + GST

LANDSCAPING & GARDEN MAINTENANCE

CALL TODD

Landscaping and Garden Maintenance

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

1300 768 599

PLUMBING



Contact us for all your
plumbing solutions on
0437 249 683

lctplumbingsolutions@gmail.com

TIMBER WINDOWS & DOORS



Standard & Custom Sizes

Matt 0432 674 536

castlemainetwd@gmail.com



WOOD CUTTING SERVICES

RANGES WOOD CUTTING



Call Jamie on:

0474 704 615

Pedal Power: Year 9 students keep Sacred Heart's Great Vic tradition Alive

The Great Victorian Bike Ride (GVBR) began as a one-off event in 1984, organised by The Bicycle Institute of Victoria, to celebrate Victoria's 150th anniversary. The event was such a success that it has been running ever since (with a Covid break). Sacred Heart College, Kyneton has been part of the ride since 1998, when inspirational teacher, Di Taylor, initiated the college's participation. Di was always full of energy and enthusiasm and loved working with young people. Di challenged students to get out of their comfort zone and try new things. She was forever a smiling face, encouraging, challenging and dedicated to her profession. Di passed away in 2008 after battling cancer. Since then, Sacred Heart College has dedicated its annual ride to Di Taylor, with her family continuing to generously sponsor and support the College's team. Year 9 students are invited to take part in the event, and over the past 27 years, more than 350 students have participated. Their uniforms bear the team's name: 'Di's Crew'.

- Benefits for students participating in the Great Vic Bike Ride include:
- Learning practical bike maintenance and road cycling skills
- Developing spatial awareness and group communication
- Improving physical fitness and overall wellbeing
- Building confidence, resilience, and a sense of achievement
- Strengthening teamwork and collaboration

In 2025, the GVBR rides approximately 364 km over five days travelling from Mortlake to Camperdown in the Western District of Victoria. The team will average 73 km of riding per day, staying overnight in the towns of Mortlake, Koroit, and Port Campbell and finishing in Camperdown. Although the ride is challenging, it is well within the reach of those willing to prepare for the event.

Training for the GVBR started in early Term 2, with after-school theory sessions leading into training rides on local roads. Training rides grow longer and more challenging as the year progresses and all participants are working to improve skills, knowledge and fitness. Each year the students, teaching staff and parent helpers have a fantastic time completing the ride. An annual GVBR Achievement Award is presented to a student who has best acted out Di's values of courage and service to others.

2025 will be staff member Craig Darroch's final year as SHC ride coordinator, having held the role since 2012. When asked to share a highlight, Craig said, "It is always fantastic to see how students support each other and staff members on the ride, the sense of camaraderie that develops each year is amazing." Students and parents, both past and present, express their gratitude to him, current staff riders Jamie Walker and Lauren White, and all the staff and volunteers involved across the years.



Photo: Each year students ride in memory of staff member, Di Taylor.
Photo: Student members of the 2025 SHC Great Vic Bike Ride Team, 'Di's Crew'



Learn. Care.
flourish



The best environment for the senior years

Limited vacancies available for Years 10, 11 & 12, 2026.

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



Scan for tour bookings

SACRED HEART COLLEGE KYNETON

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

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