

The New Woodend Star

Rotary  Club of Woodend

MARCH 2024
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Help us recruit Rotary Peace Fellow candidates



Each year, the Rotary Foundation awards fellowships to leaders in peace and development to study at one of the Rotary Peace Centers at premier universities around the world.

[Read more on page 8 ...](#)

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Interested in a new Woodend Probus Club?

We'll soon be holding the first meeting of the new Probus Club in Woodend, and we're inviting all interested retirees to come along and learn all about it – see the advert below for details.

Make new friends, listen to interesting guest speakers, learn a new skill, explore new interests and hobbies – there is so much to choose from when you become a member of your local Probus Club.

Membership is open to anyone who is retired or semi-retired.

The meeting will be held on April 19 at 9.30am–12.30pm at The Norma Richardson Hall, 15 Buckland St, Woodend VIC 3442.

Please complete your details below to RSVP to the interest meeting, and we'll see you there.

Questions?

Contact Elvis on 1300 630 488 or membership@probussouthpacific.org

SUBMITTED BY ELVIS LAW, PROBUS SOUTH PACIFIC LIMITED

WOODEND COMBINED PROBUS CLUB

April 19th 9:30am–12:30pm.
 Norma Richardson Hall

A new Club is coming to town and you are invited to join us for morning tea.

Good friends are like four-leaf clovers, hard to find and lucky to have.

Scan to Enquire

Contact Elvis on 1300 630 488
 Email: membership@probussouthpacific.org
www.ProbusSouthPacific.org

January was a very wet month, with 134.2 mm recorded, which is almost three times the average. The town is looking abnormally green for late summer!
Peter Yates

Month	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	av 5yr
January	73.6	92.6	140.8	17.7	134.2	91.8
February	67.8	32.4	2.0	27.4		
March	79.6	47.0	73.2	47.0		
April	139.8	15.2	89.6	92.5		
May	79.0	83.0	39.4	56.0		
June	80.1	183.6	84.8	121.8		
July	49.3	115.6	52.4	57.8		
August	93.0	56.0	130.8	47.8		
September	56.3	72.8	150.2	28.8		
October	99.5	102.0	234.6	70.4		
November	54.4	91.2	107.0	74.8		
December	42.4	45.0	37.6	120.2		
Total mm	914.8	936.4	1142.4	762.2	134.2	

NB: averages vary due to rounding

Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival 2024

Choose your own adventure and experience the vibrant Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival from 5–28 April.

Nine charming villages are set to come alive and flourish with iconic autumnal delights. Enjoy local culinary treats, artisanal workshops, live music in rustic country halls, and unique events.

Explore genuine farmers' markets and indulge in tippable trails featuring fabulous local gins, craft beers, cool climate wines and ciders.

Follow the Autumn Festival Treasure Trail, taking you to the best autumn picnic spots around the region, all featuring beautiful leafy locations. Solve the Treasure Trail puzzle as you meander across the Macedon Ranges to be in the running for a fabulous festival prize.

Remember to pick up your Festival Food and Drink Passport and collect your stamps as you eat and drink your way around the region for another entry into the festival prize draw. Discover more at visitmacedonranges.com/autumn-festival

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.

Woodend Lions Art Show 2024

A Celebration of Local Talent



Mark your calendars for the much-anticipated Woodend Lions Art Show, a three-day extravaganza taking place from March 9 to 11 2024, at the St Ambrose Hall in Woodend. This event promises to be a visual feast, featuring a diverse array of artworks from both established and emerging local artists.

Art enthusiasts will have the unique opportunity to explore and acquire pieces across various mediums, including oils, watercolors, photography, and pottery, showcasing the rich tapestry of artistic expression in Victoria. With an impressive 265 entries last year, this year's show is poised to be an even greater spectacle.

Raffle enthusiasts will be delighted to hear that last year's prizes featured exceptional works by renowned artists such as Helen Cottle, Carolyn Marrone, and John Walsh. The anticipation for this year's offerings is already building.

The major sponsor for this year's event is The Old Auction House in Kyneton. The Old Auction House provides a creative hub, gallery, workshop and art supplies to regional Victoria and beyond. Their generous support is instrumental in fostering a vibrant arts community in the region. (theoldauctionhouse.com.au)

Adding a layer of prestige to the Woodend Lions Art Show are the esteemed judges, Brad Hooper and Simon Jondow. Their discerning eye will determine winners in seven categories, including the highly coveted "Best in Show," along with two junior prizes, recognizing the emerging talents of young artists.

Whether you're an art connoisseur, an aspiring artist, or simply someone looking for a delightful cultural experience, the Woodend Lions Art Show is an event not to be missed. Immerse yourself in the vibrant world of local artistry, while contributing to the betterment of the community. Join us for a celebration of creativity, community spirit, and the boundless possibilities of artistic expression.

The entry fee is a gold coin donation. All profits generated from the show will be dedicated to funding vital community projects, reinforcing the positive impact of the local art scene.

SUBMITTED BY GAIL JONES

The Woodend Lions Annual Art Show is always a popular event.



Lior to perform in Woodend



With the Launch concert of the 2024 Woodend Winter Arts Festival just weeks away, the festival committee is excited by the prospect of a sold-out concert with Lior on Sunday 24 March at St Ambrose Church.



Lior is one of Australia's most treasured singer/songwriters, renowned for his beautiful voice and songs that radiate truth and sincerity. Two times ARIA Award winner Lior burst onto the Australian music scene in 2005 with his debut album 'Autumn Flow'. He has released seven albums to date.

"People have booked early to ensure they have a ticket for this concert," says Festival Artistic Director Jacky Ogeil. "It demonstrates that people still value taking time to engage in cultural and artistic events, especially when they are right on our doorstep."

Lior's concert will also serve as an opportunity to launch the program for the 2024 edition of Woodend Winter Arts Festival, which will take place over the King's Birthday long weekend in June. The June Festival will see concerts from acclaimed musicians, an engaging Words and Ideas program, along with the return of the community fireworks event at Buffalo Stadium. Stay tuned for further details.

Over almost 20 years, the Woodend Winter Arts Festival has brought Australian and International musicians, performers, artists and writers to Woodend. The festival prides itself on bringing events to the region at an affordable price. It also attracts tourism and provides a boost to the local economy during the colder winter months.

There are opportunities for local people to participate as volunteers. If this is of interest, please get in touch with the WWAFF team via email at woodendwinterarts@gmail.com.

Tickets for the Launch concert are selling fast, so don't delay. Tickets can be purchased by visiting www.woodendwinterartsfestival.org.au

SUBMITTED BY MADELEINE BLAKE



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Your community diary

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

— MARCH —

- 7 Birds of a Feather guest speaker @ The Vic Hotel
- 8 International Women's Day Charity Lunch, Trentham
- 8 International Women's Day event @ Kyneton Town Hall
- 8 ... MRFS: The Lost City of Melbourne @ Norma Richardson Hall
- 9-11 Woodend Lions Club Annual Art Show
- 11 Labour Day Holiday
- 16 Macedon Ranges Community Volunteer Expo
- 16 St Ambrose Parish School Fete
- 17 Woodend Lions Market
- 23 Macedon Ranges Music Festival, Hanging Rock
- 23 Easter Egg Hunt, Jacksons Creek Reserve, Gisborne
- 23-24 Open Studios, Macedon
- 24 WWAF Launch Concert with Lior, 2.30pm
- 24 Woodend Landcare Working Bee
- 29 Good Friday
- 31 Easter Sunday

— APRIL —

- 5-28 Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival
- 6 Woodend Farmers' Market
- 7 Daylight saving time ends
- 12 MRFS: The Forgiven @ Norma Richardson Hall
- 13 Concert series Christ Church Daylesford
- 19 Probus club meeting, Norma Richardson Hall
- 21 Woodend Lions Market
- 25 Anzac Day
- 28 Woodend Landcare Working Bee

— MAY —

- 4 Woodend Farmers' Market
- 10 MRFS: Dirty Rotten Scoundrels @ Norma Richardson Hall
- 12 Mother's Day
- 26 Woodend Landcare Working Bee

— JUNE —

- 1 Woodend Farmers' Market
- 7-10 Woodend Winter Arts Festival
- 14 MRFS: Queen of the North @ Norma Richardson Hall

2024 Macedon Ranges Music Festival



When: Saturday 23
March 1pm-10pm

Supplied: Macedon Ranges Music Festival

Where: Hanging Rock East Paddock

All ages.

More info and tickets at www.macedonrangesmusicfestival.org

Lineup includes headliner Mahalia Barnes & The Soul Mates; Taylor Sheridan, Immy Owusu, Alana Wilkinson, Doc Halibut, Grim Fawcner, Aunty Blue and the MRMF Youth Stage Winner.



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Saturday 23rd March 2024

*Jacksons Creek Reserve (behind Coles)
Registration and Activities Open 10 am*

\$5 per child

3 Age Groups: Under 5 years 5 - 8 years 9 - 12 years

All funds raised go to Community Projects

- Egg Hunts*
- Animal Petting Farm*
- Easter Egg Painting*
- Egg & Spoon Races*
- Primary School Colouring Competition display*
- Photos with the Easter Bunny*
- Food & Drinks*

INQUIRIES: LYN 0407 777 344

International Women's Day

Charity Lunch

- When: Friday 8 March
- Where: Cosmopolitan Hotel, Trentham

Three course lunch. Features local guest speakers and live music from the Castlemaine Chamber Orchestra. Proceeds to Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health's Family Services and Housing Support programs, who provide support to women and children experiencing family violence in Sunbury and the Macedon Ranges.

Tickets are available for purchase now via <https://events.humanitix.com/international-women-s-day-charity-lunch-the-cosmopolitan-hotel>

Christ Church concert series

Jakob Lindberg, lute and theorbo—13 April, 2.30pm in Stanbridge Hall, Daylesford

Jakob Lindberg is one of the world's foremost and prolific lutenists, who in this concert explores the great works of the French and Italian Baroque on the theorbo. Works by John Dowland, Robert Johnson, Alessandro Piccinini, Giovanni Kapsperger, Robert Ballard and Robert de Visée.

Tickets: www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1174785

SUBMITTED BY FRANK PAGE

Birds of a Feather

The Victoria Hotel will be the venue for another interesting and inspirational guest speaker as part of the Birds of a Feather regular lunchtime gatherings. The first speaker for 2024 will be media professional Julie Peters.

Julie worked at the Australian Broadcasting Corporation for 50 years and in her late 30s she became the first employee there to openly transition. This was at a time when there was little understanding around what it meant to be transgender, and there were no organisational policies in place to support her.

Now in her 70s, Julie has had a varied career. As well, working behind the scenes at the ABC, she is a doctoral researcher in public health and the anthropology of gender/transgender, and a teacher, sessional academic, cabaret performer, writer, parliamentary candidate and environmentalist.

Organised by Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health's Country LGBTIQA+ Inclusion Program (CLIP), Birds of a Feather offers the opportunity for adults who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex to come together in a safe and affirming space, to share stories and feel a sense of belonging.



Photo credit: Australian Broadcasting Corporation

The event takes place 7 March at 12pm. Entry is free and meals and drinks are at bar prices. RSVPs are essential – to book your place go to www.trybooking.com/CPDVW. Contact belinda.brain@scschc.org.au or call 5421 1666 if you have any questions.

SUBMITTED BY SARAH TURNER

Read us online: www.newwoodendstar.com/view

Join us for International Women's Day 2024

Council is proud to celebrate International Women's Day 2024, exploring this year's theme 'Count Her In. Invest in Women. Accelerate Progress' with a special evening at Kyneton Town Hall on Friday 8 March.

An incredible panel, featuring Taungurung elder Aunty Joanne Honeysett, Shamila Gopalan (Chief Commercial Officer) from Sisterworks, Miranda Johnson-Jones and Laura Crozier (hosts of the Growing Up Clueless podcast) and Mary Attard (Deputy Director of Her Place Museum), will explore the achievements, challenges and strengths of women's economic empowerment through their unique experiences.

The event also features the opening of the Unmasked exhibition by Mary Attard, celebrating nursing and midwifery in Victoria, and pop-up stalls featuring ethically made products created by women from migrant, refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds. This will be a night not to miss.


Bookings are essential for this free event. People of all genders are welcome. To register, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/IWD

A table will also be available to showcase local women-owned businesses in the Macedon Ranges. To be included, contact Melissa Telford via MTelford@mrsc.vic.gov.au.



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News from the Woodend Neighbourhood House



March is the time to get creative

The House will be a whirlwind of creativity this autumn, with our lineup of crafty workshops:

Basket Weaving Workshop (with Libby)

- Saturday 16 March, 11am–2pm.
- Learn the art of coiling and stitching to craft a basket.

Blacksmithing (with Rob)

- Saturday 23 March, 1pm–4pm.
- Forge a cheese knife to take home.

Creative Sewing and Mending (with Libby)

- Sunday 5 May, 11am–2pm
- Bring along worn-out clothes for mending.

All workshops are suitable for those aged 12 and upwards (children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult).

March Community Lunch

Join us for the March Community Lunch at the Woodend RSL on Tuesday 19 March at 12 noon. There’s always lots of laughter and good conversation as we share a two-course meal with friends, old and new. Bookings are needed to help with catering and a donation on the day is most welcome, but not essential.

Woodend Food Bank

The Woodend Community Food Bank is open on Mondays and Thursdays between 12.30pm–2.30pm in the Undercroft of the Woodend Neighbourhood House. Access to the Undercroft is via the gates by the Skate Park, off Margery Crescent.

Donations are also very welcome via the collection bins in Coles and IGA in Woodend, and cash donations can be made in person or via bank transfer. Contact the Woodend Neighbourhood House between 9am–3pm Monday to Friday to donate.

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

SUBMITTED BY WOODEND NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE



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Open Studios Macedon 2024

In 2024, Macedon area artists will again open their studios to the public on the weekend, March 23-24. This is the first of two events and is being held slightly earlier than previous years.

The eleven artists will welcome visitors to their studios set in their late summer, early autumn gardens, sharing their particular artistic expressions, processes and working environments, including pottery, painting, drawing, jewellery, textiles and printmaking. There is also a display at Top of the Range Tearooms on the summit of Mt Macedon.

The studios are within a short distance from each other and are marked on a map in the brochure and online on Instagram. Experience Macedon area and combine art with food at nearby cafes.

Brochures will be at The Gallery, Mt Macedon and Mt Macedon Trading Post, Mt Macedon as well as in local cafes and businesses in the area.

We are on Instagram: @openstudiosmacedon

SUBMITTED BY SUE ANSON



Ladies' netball in Woodend

A ladies' netball competition is played on Tuesday nights from 7.15pm at Buffalo Sports Stadium in Woodend.

You can enter the competition as an individual or enter a team. For information including game fees and registration, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/netball

Zonta Club of Kyneton

Recognising and rewarding volunteer leadership

The Zonta Club of Kyneton is pleased to announce that applications are now open for the 2024 Zonta Young Women in Public Affairs awards program. This prestigious Zonta International program encourages the young women of today to become the leaders of tomorrow.

The successful applicant will receive an award of \$400 from the Zonta Club of Kyneton and will then be nominated for a District 23 Award, valued at US\$5,000.

Applicants should be aged between 16 and 19 years on 1 April 2024, and studying at a secondary school, college or university. Applicants are asked to reflect on their own voluntary commitment to their school and to their community, and on the issues that limit the empowerment of women in Australia and around the world.

Applications are due by March 8, 2024. Please contact secretary@zontakyneton.org.au for an application form or telephone 0417 541 371 for further information.

Zonta International is a leading global organisation of individuals working together to build a better world for women and girls. The YWPA award is one of the many programs for women and girls that are sponsored by Zonta International.

SUBMITTED BY RONDA WALKER

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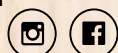
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Help us recruit Rotary Peace Fellow candidates

Each year, the Rotary Foundation awards fellowships to leaders in peace and development to study at one of the Rotary Peace Centers at premier universities around the world. The fellows can earn a master's degree or a postgraduate diploma through the professional development certificate program.

Applications will be open until 15 May, and the peace fellows who are selected will begin their studies in 2025. Find out who is eligible and how they can apply at <https://my.rotary.org/en/peace-fellowship-application>

Help midcareer change-makers and young professionals who have peacebuilding experience apply for a fully funded Rotary Peace Fellowship.

Among the applicants who are accepted this year will be members of the first cohort at Rotary's newest peace centre, Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul, Turkey. The new centre will offer a certificate program in peace and development studies for candidates who plan to focus on peacebuilding in the Middle East and North Africa region.

Since the Rotary Peace Centers program began in 2002, more than 1,700 fellows have graduated. They are now working on peace and development initiatives in more than 140 countries. Many serve as leaders in government, nongovernmental organizations, education and research institutions, peacekeeping and law enforcement agencies, media and the arts, and international organizations such as UNICEF, the United Nations, the World Bank, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.



Follow the Rotary Peace Centers Facebook page for updates about peace fellows work. More than 40 peace fellows have come from District 9800, more than any other district in the world.

For more information, please contact District 9800 Peace Fellow Committee Chair, PDG Murray Verso. Email: verson@netspace.net.au

Rotary Club of Woodend

SUBMITTED BY JOSEPHINE FALZARANO, FOUNDATION CHAIR ROTARY WOODEND

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The Mount Players Happenings



Our first production for the year opened on 23 February and is being directed by Lancefield local, George Benca. This is George's debut role with The Mount Players and he is very excited to bring to life this dark comedy, Wild by Mike Bartlett.

George is an accomplished actor and director with over 30 years' experience in the Victorian Community Theatre scene. First appearing with Powderkeg Players in the 1980s, he has since appeared on stage with several theatre companies including Williamstown, Adelphi, Encore, Malvern, STAG, Peridot and Eltham.

In recent years, he has directed plays at Eltham, Essendon and STAG (Strathmore) theatre companies. Interestingly, it is also the first time all three actors are treading the boards at the Mountview Theatre!

Wild runs until 10 March, so there is still time to check out our website for full details and tickets at www.themountplayers.com or call 5426 1892.

Our second production for 2024, Looped, a comedy by Matthew Lombardo, is now in rehearsal and will open on 10 May – lots more about that one next month (or read about it on our website!).

All in all, the theatre is buzzing, so we look forward to welcoming you into The Mountview Theatre to enjoy a great show, complimentary sherry on arrival, tea/coffee and biscuits at interval and a well-stocked bar!

See you at the theatre!

SUBMITTED BY KAREN HUNT



Photo: George Benca directing his cast of Wild. Both photos by Karilana Santamaria



Photo: George Benca, Director of Wild



Contact Vlad 0400 563 563
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A great day out at the Woodend Rotary Celebrate Australia event with the support of the National Australia Day Council. Photos by KGMG.

Time to prepare and get organised for your autumn vegetable garden

Broccoli, cauliflower, carrots, beetroot, lettuce



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In the hustle and bustle of modern life, where convenience is king, it's easy to fall into the trap of quick fixes that feel like they're saving us time but cost the Earth—literally. As a CEO juggling work and three kiddos, I'm the first to admit to using the dryer in summer or pumping the air conditioner when there's a more sustainable way. But here's the twist: going green doesn't mean giving up the conveniences.

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SUBMITTED BY CHANTEL GILBERT, CEO
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Woodend Playgroup unveils vibrant mural, inspiring creativity and community spirit

The air was buzzing with excitement at the Woodend Playgroup (WPG) end of year event for 2023 when the community joined to celebrate the unveiling of a spectacular new mural from local artist Chalky. The mural, which depicts the Macedon Ranges area and native Australian animals, is a vibrant and captivating representation of the unique biodiversity and natural beauty found in this region. Spanning a large wall, the mural seamlessly blends elements of the landscape and the indigenous fauna, creating a harmonious and visually striking scene. But some might say the most special part of the mural is along the bottom section, where Chalky painted on animal depictions, which the WPG children had originally drawn during an art workshop with the artist.

The idea for the mural was born out of collaboration between the WPG committee and Natalie Davis, known as Chalky, who envisioned transforming the play area into a visually stimulating space for children to explore their imagination. The project was only possible due to the WPG committee successfully securing a grant through MRSC's Community Funding Scheme. The project began as a way to enhance the playgroup's environment and create a lasting impact on the members of the community passing through these doors each year. The mural is a tapestry of vibrant colours and calming scenes, and every detail has been carefully crafted to inspire creativity and curiosity among the young minds that frequent the WPG. The result is a masterpiece that not only captivates the eyes but also resonates with the spirit of the community.

Another activity, led by Chalky, with the help of children, was to collect and recycle everyday plastic items, then turn them into colourful flowers, which have been placed along the fence line for children to enjoy while they play in the grounds. There was also the addition of beautifying the grounds at WPG by adding a sustainable and native Australian tyre garden with an eye-catching arch entry.

Woodend Playgroup is a not-for-profit community organisation run by volunteers. Our purpose is to support pre-school aged children in their early years' development through the power of play and friendship, while encouraging community connection, participation and inclusion for their families.

WPG still has one remaining art workshop with Chalky, so Woodend families, sign up now to see what the final workshop will include! Now is your chance to join Woodend Playgroup, to become both a part of this wonderful community and to contribute to these exciting art installations – which will be enjoyed by families for years to come.

Website: <https://www.woodendplay.org.au>

Email: woodendplaygroup@gmail.com

Address: 45 Forest Street Woodend Victoria 3442

SUBMITTED BY FELICITY BRENNAN



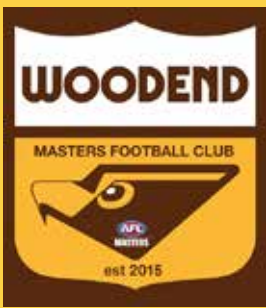
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Woodend Masters kicking goals early

Are you aged 35 or older and want to keep fit while enjoying the best social club in town?

The Woodend Masters Football Club has resumed training in preparation for the 2024 Victoria Country Masters AFL season.

The Hawks have had a great turnout with plenty of new faces joining the club this season, and we welcome you to come along and have a kick whether you have played plenty of footy, or never picked up a ball before.

Masters is all about fun - our motto is “we still get a kick out of footy!” - and our aim is to provide men in the Woodend community a space to improve their physical and mental health while making a bunch of new mates in town.

Training is at 6.30pm on Monday and Friday nights at Buffalo Stadium during cricket season, and at 6.30pm at Gilbert Gordon Oval during football season.

Anyone interested in playing is encouraged to join in no matter your skill level, or even help out with training or game day roles.

On Friday March 1st the club held a community game and season launch with a BBQ to follow, which was a great success with many locals coming down for a kick to see what Masters footy is all about. It was great to welcome more new faces to the club.

Coming up, the club will be involved in some events for anyone keen to learn more.

On March 17, the Masters will have a stand at the senior club’s Hawks Big Day Out event for chance to meet players from the Masters and find out how you can get on board.

On April 6, we will play our practice match against Ballarat, which is a popular annual game and catch up with another great club in the league.

For more information email woodendmasters@gmail.com

Check us out on Facebook here.



www.facebook.com/groups/WoodendHesketMastersFC





Drug driving? The consequences will blow your mind.

Police are conducting drug tests across Victoria, which helps to keep our roads safe. Being caught with illicit drugs in your system could result in a minimum fine of \$577 and possible licence suspension. Drug driving? Chances are you will be caught. Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone.

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Making Good Things Happen in Our Community

Woodend Cricket Club – Girls Cricket Initiative

Local girls have really taken to the opportunity this year to “Come and Try” Woodend Cricket Club. We are super proud to be sponsoring the encouragement of girls’ sport. But it doesn’t look like they need much encouragement – the club has reported an overwhelming response with huge attendance at “Come and Try” days and “Cricket Blast” nights. We look forward to our future girls’ cricket teams smashing it!

Woodend Lions Club – Free Skin Check Bus

We are very pleased to be funding the Woodend Lions Club’s excellent free skin cancer check initiative. Running over two weekends in April, look out for the Skin Check buses visiting our local towns. Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer globally, so well done Lions Club for encouraging early detection and prevention.

Woodend Golf Club – Womens’ Golf & Land Rehabilitation

We are lucky to have a long-term sponsorship partnership with Woodend Golf Club supporting: Women’s “Get Into Golf” initiative, offering group lessons with complimentary food and drink, gear if needed and free six-month membership; and secondly, a land rehabilitation project at the ground’s quarry site. A team of llamas are now happily clearing the blackberries whilst practicing their swings!

Woodend Hesket Football Netball Club

The footy and netball seasons will take off soon, with Hawks training now underway. For this community partnership, another long-term one, funding is shared between Senior and Junior team club running costs. We look forward to another exciting season ahead!

Community Bank Trentham & Districts

If you would like to know more about Community Grants and Sponsorships, please get in touch with Anjee Anderson aanderson@tcce.com.au.



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- Email: trenthammailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au
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Warrabah and Gundooee Western Desert Aboriginal Art Show

Contemporary and traditional Western Desert Aboriginal artists will be featured in an art showing and sale in Woodend this April.

In conjunction with Hugh Warden of Gundooee Art, Sophie Lynch invites you to her home to view the works from 10–5pm on Friday 19, Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 April at 15 Dianella Court, Woodend.

Gundooee Art has established longstanding and positive relationships with many artists from the Western Desert and has been supporting many of these artists and their families for over 30 years. We are excited to show a range of over 100 works from artists including Gloria Petyarre, Dorothy Napangardi, Jorna Newberry, Kudditje and many others.

Everyone (including small children) is welcome to attend the showing and we look forward to explaining more about the works and our relationship with the artists themselves.

For more information, please contact Sophie on 0478 313 191 or you can follow along for more updates via the Warrabah Instagram page [@woodend_aboriginal_art_sale](https://www.instagram.com/woodend_aboriginal_art_sale).

Warrabah Western Desert Aboriginal Art
in conjunction with Gundooee Art

Invite you to the
2024 Autumn Showing & Sale

19th, 20th, 21st April
10-5pm

15 Dianella Crt, Woodend (Off Goldies Lane)

Works by Gloria Petyarre, Barney Campbell Tjakamarra, Maisie Campbell,
Judy Watson and many more established and emerging contemporary
Western Desert Artists

woodend_aboriginal_art_sale

For all enquiries contact
Sophie 0478 313 191

SUBMITTED BY SOPHIE LYNCH



THE NEW WOODEND STAR | 17 |

Woodend Library News

Book Club – Meet and Greet: Wednesday April 17, 2pm



Book clubs are a great way to connect with others and make friends while discussing the stories and themes of your favourite (or not so favourite) books. If you are interested in joining a book club but don't know where to start, please come along to this afternoon tea 'meet and greet' session. Bookings required. Afternoon tea provided.

French Storytime: Wednesday 13 March, 10am

Bonjour! Come along to a special Storytime in French in celebration of Cultural Diversity Week. Ages 3-5. No bookings required.

Cultural Diversity Week: 18-24 March

Cultural Diversity Week is a time to celebrate the power, influence and stories of Victoria's rich multicultural communities and all Victorians are invited to participate. Come in and check out our display!

This year's theme is Our Shared Stories - Celebrating Together – Intro to Family History: Monday March 18, 10.30am

In this friendly workshop, learn how to get started with researching your family history, using library resources like Ancestry and Find My Past. Bookings required.

Look out for the Easter School Holiday Program!

The program will be full of activities to do in all of the Macedon Ranges Libraries.

Staff Development Day Wednesday, 20 March – library closed

The library will be closed for staff training on Wednesday, 20 March. Please make sure to stock up on reading materials ahead of time to avoid disappointment, or jump online and browse our eLibrary – it never closes! www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au/elibrary

The library will also be closed over Easter from Friday, 29 March re-opening Tuesday, 2 April.

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

See you in the Library!

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

SUBMITTED BY EMMA KEENAN

Message from our local Victoria Police Sergeant

As the days start to get shorter, it feels like Christmas and the New Year are now only a faint memory. The tradies have gone back to work, and the kids are back at school (don't forget school zones) and we look forward to the last few weeks of summer, before we head into autumn.

Woodend Police have been busy during this period: we've had a number of things at Hanging Rock, both events and horse racing. We've also been busy working with other police resources and several dedicated SES teams, searching for a missing person from Western Australia, who for some reason appears to have abandoned his car within the Woodend area – and just vanished into thin air. If anyone has any tangible information about this missing person, then please let us know either by contacting the Woodend station or via Crime Stoppers.

As you would know, in 2023, road fatalities were higher than the last few years, and as such we have been asked to ensure we do everything in our powers to address this. So please don't be surprised when we are out in the middle of the day, doing breath tests or checking on your speed. I'm somewhat disappointed that we are still finding people who think that having a few alcoholic drinks and hopping behind the wheel is okay. We have a convenient ride sharing run by locals for locals – please don't run the risk of one, losing your licence, or worse, hurting yourself or someone else.

I hope that 2024 will be a good year for us all, and I'll try and think of some more positive things within the community as talking points for my next instalment.

SUBMITTED BY SERGEANT DAVID ARNOLD, WOODEND POLICE STATION

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www.mrfl.com.au

MRSPAG call to action

Are you someone who cares about wellbeing in your local community? Come and join us!

The Macedon Ranges Suicide Prevention Action Group (MRSPAG) is putting out a call to action for passionate people in our community to join forces with us, to help improve mental health and emotional wellbeing in the Macedon Ranges community.

Our group is committed to addressing the impact of suicide in our community. If you'd like to learn more, and maybe consider joining us, please come along to our community forum:

Date: Tuesday 5 March 2024

Time: 6.30pm-8.00pm (followed by the MRSPAG AGM)

Place: Woodend Community Centre, corner High St and Forest St, 117 High St, Woodend

The forum will be an opportunity to hear about work that's being done by locals for locals to improve community mental health, and to meet and talk with others who are interested in these issues. There will be time to mingle and chat over refreshments.

Who is MRSPAG?

We're a group of committed volunteers and service providers from across the Shire. Our ultimate aim is to reduce the number of deaths by suicide in the Macedon Ranges. We've been around for almost ten years, and several of us have lived experience of losing a loved one to suicide, or of experiencing our own mental health crises or helping loved ones with theirs.

Today, with the support of Macedon Ranges Shire Council and other partners, MRSPAG is involved in a range of important activities.

We strive to raise community awareness about suicide and reduce stigma, through local and social media, community events such as our annual Suicide Prevention Walk, and partnerships with other community groups and service providers.

We provide peer support for people bereaved by suicide, through monthly group meetings where people are free to come and go as they need.

We offer and promote training to help people recognise signs that someone is struggling with their mental health, be confident to talk with them, and support them to stay safe.

We bring together service providers and work with them on a range of important programs and projects. Together we are advocating for better services for our community.

We're on the lookout for more volunteers who can help us with this important work. Whether you can offer one-off help or longer-term help, we'd love to hear from you. Please come along to our forum, or if you'd like to get in touch directly, please contact us at info@mrspag.com.au.

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You could experience low pressure or no supply. Make sure you've got enough drinking water in your emergency kit for everyone in your household. Please visit our website for more information.

Woodend CFA

Forty-one years since Ash Wednesday

On February 16, it was 41 years since the devastating Ash Wednesday bushfires destroyed over 425 houses and claimed seven lives in the Macedon and Mt Macedon areas. We also passed 15 years since Black Saturday on February 7. We should therefore not become complacent.

Even though summer is officially over at the end of February, and we haven't had the driest of summers, this month still remains a very dangerous part of the fire season, with history showing that most grass and bushfires in the Macedon Ranges occur in February and March.

The Royal Childrens Hospital Appeal The Woodend CFA will once again be collecting on behalf of the Royal Children's Hospital on Good Friday March 29. Woodend CFA volunteers will begin collecting at around 9am and will cover as much of the Woodend area as we possibly can during the day. The Heskett-Kerrie and Newham CFA brigades will also be collecting at the same time.

Hopefully, the weather will be better than last year's heavy rainfall, which did not help our physical collections around town. We will also do more promotion on our Facebook Page as the day gets closer.

The Macedon Ranges Community is normally very generous and we're sure this will continue. If you are not going to be home on Good Friday, you can drop donations off at the CFA Stations on any Sunday morning or visit the Woodend CFA Virtual Tin Shake at:

<https://fundraise.goodfridayappeal.com.au/fundraisers/woodendnewham>

Everyone needs a fire plan

We covered this in last month's article, but it is worth another reminder. One of the most important things we all need to do is prepare and practice a clear Fire Safety Plan.

During summer, we tend to concentrate on preparing a Bushfire Safety Plan, which covers your preparation and procedures during a grass or bushfire. But as we head into the cooler months, your attention should turn to a Home Fire Safety Plan.

While we attend most of our bush, grass and scrub fires over the warmer months, the CFA attends more structural fires (such as houses, sheds and chimneys) in the cooler months. This is the time when people start using their fires, heaters and electric blankets again. In fact, cooking, heating and electrical equipment are among the leading causes of home fires each year.

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

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, FORMER CAPTAIN WOODEND CFA



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9am-1pm

mrsg.org.au

Authorities sick and tired of cleaning up

Environmental authorities are urging Victorian households and businesses to spare the environment and dispose of their used tyres legally and responsibly after more than 2700 car and truck tyres were found dumped on public land last year.

The Conservation Regulator and Parks Victoria recorded at least 60 separate illegal dumping incidents involving personal or commercial quantities of tyres across Victorian public land in 2023, with the State's Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) estimating that thousands more have been dumped, burned, or stockpiled.

Dumped car tyres can have serious impacts on human and environmental health. Old tyres also contain harmful chemicals that leach into the environment and groundwater as they break down, potentially poisoning plants and animals.

Discarded tyres also present a serious fire risk, as tyre fires are harder to control or extinguish than regular fires. As rubber burns hotter and more easily, tyres dumped in forests can fuel bushfires with devastating effects.

David McIlroy, Director of Regulatory Operations, Conservation Regulator said, "Illegally dumped rubber tyres can seriously risk the health of communities, environments, and native wildlife, and Victorian individuals and businesses need to clean up their act." Legal disposal of old tyres reduces these environmental and safety risks, and recycled tyres can often be turned into other products, including roads and artificial playground turf.

Individual or small quantities of tyres can be responsibly disposed of at recycling centres, such as local council transfer stations, for a small fee so that they can be repurposed. Most tyre outlets will also accept old tyres as part of government recycling schemes, either for free if people have purchased new tyres from their shop, or for a small fee if brought from elsewhere.

When disposing of tyres through one of the above options, people should check with their local council, recycling facility, or individual tyre seller to see if they accept them.

Victorian businesses also have legal obligations for safely storing and transporting large amounts of waste tyres. EPA Victoria produces guidance on managing these responsibilities, which can be found at: www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-business/find-a-topic/manage-industrial-waste/waste-tyres

In Victoria, it is an offence to dump litter or waste under the Environment Protection Act 2017, with maximum penalties ranging between \$3,846 and \$230,772.

For more information on local council waste services, visit: www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/recycling-and-reducing-waste/at-home/recycling-at-home/council-waste-and-recycling-services

The public can report illegal dumping on public land to 136 186 or to EPA Victoria on 1300 372 842.

SUBMITTED BY ALICE POHLNER, OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSERVATION REGULATOR

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Presently used as a luxury Guesthouse B&B (approximate income per annum \$60,000), the sale of Piper & Powlett offers an opportunity to purchase as an income producing investment, to use as a residence with excellent capital gains potential or as an office/s or business premises, or to develop for multiple commercial premises (subject to Council approval).

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The Renewable Energy Action Group Kicks off



REAG, a part of the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group (MRSG), is looking to broaden its appeal this year and help more Macedon Ranges residents get into renewables. To this end, in the course of its regular meeting schedule REAG will be hosting site visits to local renewable installations operated by members and inviting experts, both local and from afar, to present on a range of renewable energy topics relevant to the curious and experienced. This is a great way to get to know more about renewables and join a group of people of varying backgrounds to share experiences, good and bad.

To kick this off a site visit has been arranged at 7pm on Tuesday 12 March to a recycled classroom, off-grid electric home in Gisborne. The visit will demonstrate how a small off-grid system works, with its reverse cycle air-conditioning, induction cooktop, electric vehicle charging and Vehicle to Home (V2H) systems, as well as battery operated garden equipment.

In April we will be hearing from a local expert on heat pumps and how they can dramatically reduce your gas and electricity consumption, while still keeping your water piping hot.

In addition to these meetings, there are two projects running in conjunction with REAG that are also a great way to get involved in reducing our footprint on this planet. Refer to the Electrify 3442 article on the next page.

Details on how to get involved, register for these events, meeting locations and times are on the MRSG website at: mrsg.org.au/reag

SUBMITTED BY PETER MCTAGGART

Macedon Ranges Obedience Dog Club

The first Induction for the year saw a very hot Sunday and lots of white cabbage butterflies. Seventeen new pups braved the early morning heat.

February is almost over, and the weather will be cooling down. Just remember that we can still get several hot days between now and Easter, which comes early this year, and dog's paws are not designed to walk on hot surfaces.

Walking your dog during the heat of the day can cause severe burns to paw pads, which will be very painful for your pup. So how to tell a surface is too hot? Take the 5-second-test - If it's too hot for you to put your hand on the surface for five seconds, it's too hot for paws!

Dogs lose heat through panting and only sweat through their paws. They are at high risk of heatstroke, so make sure they have constant access to shade and ensure there is always cold, clean, fresh water available.

Some other tips include: not running or cycling with your dog when it's hot, and instead of heading out in the heat of the day, head out in the early morning or late evening instead, when it's cooler; using sunscreen on the dog's ear tips and nose to prevent sunburn; making frozen treats using fruit, like berries and watermelon; putting ice cubes in their drinking water and setting up a sprinkler or paddling pool, in the shade of course, to entertain them and keep them cool.

For information on joining Macedon Ranges Obedience Dog Club, see our website at www.macedonrangesdogclub.org.au

Induction is the first Sunday of the month, and once you have done your online member registration you will be contacted by email with your induction date and time.

Take care, be safe and keep your dog cool in the hot weather.

SUBMITTED BY CAROL, INSTRUCTOR/TREASURER, MRDOC

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Electrify 3442

Welcome to autumn! This is the season when our household energy use starts to ramp up, as our fabulous crisp Macedon Ranges mornings and evenings have us turning on our heaters. That makes it a great time to check that your household is buying energy at a good price. It's also the perfect time to let the Electrify 3442 team know what support your household needs to progress on your electrification journey.



First up, the energy bills

Grab recent energy bills (both electric and gas if yours is a dual-fuel household) and head to Victorian Energy Compare (**compare.energy.vic.gov.au**). With very little effort you can get quotes for a range of plans delivering your household needs. Weighing up the options takes a little more time but usually repays effort invested with savings – sometimes up to several hundred dollars per year.

If you're a concession card holder and are having trouble affording your energy bills, the Victorian Government has an Energy Assistance program to help you navigate the market and access support. Drop in at Woodend Neighbourhood House and ask them to help connect you with the program.

And the Community Survey

Electrify 3442 exists to help local households transition to all-electric, powered by solar energy. In February we launched a Community Survey to help us understand what will help our community electrify their homes. The survey will run until Easter and is accessible online at **mrsg.org.au/electrify3442**. If online access is difficult for you, drop in at Woodend Library. The team there can help you access the survey online or provide you with a paper copy to complete.

We want to hear from everyone, no matter where on the electrification pathway your household may be. Encourage your family, friends and neighbours to participate. The results of the survey will inform the tailored support we will provide later in the year. We look forward to sharing the results at a community forum in Woodend on Sunday 21st April.

Catch us at the Woodend Community Farmers Market on Saturday 2nd March and Saturday 6th April. We're happy to talk about solar, batteries, electric heating, electric hot water, electric vehicles and electric cooking. We're even happy to talk about bills if you want some help wading through comparisons! The Community Survey is at **mrsg.org.au/Electrify 3442** and will run until Easter. We look forward to your input!

SUBMITTED BY SUE BARKER, ELECTRIFY 3442, MACEDON RANGES SUSTAINABILITY GROUP



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Illegal fruit netting causes rapid rise in wildlife harm

Victorian gardeners are being urged to ensure they're using wildlife-friendly fruit netting when trying to protect their backyard crops, as wildlife carers and authorities report a spike in animal injuries and deaths from entanglements this summer.

The Conservation Regulator is warning the community about the dangers illegal netting poses to native wildlife, such as birds, bats, and possums, and are reminding household growers that they must use safe, compliant fruit netting with mesh no bigger than 5mm x 5mm.

In Victoria, it has been illegal to use or sell netting with a mesh size bigger than this since 1 September 2021, as larger mesh netting on fruiting trees or plants is more likely to entangle, distress, and fatally injure animals.

Wayne Robins, Acting Chief Conservation Regulator said, "We know Victorians love their fruit and vegetable gardens, but as backyard visits from native animals become more common, it is the responsibility of households to protect vulnerable wildlife from harm by complying with fruit netting laws." He said that stories of unnecessary wildlife injuries and deaths caused by entanglements in unsafe and illegal household fruit netting were disappointing. "The Conservation Regulator is working to assess any reports we receive and take the appropriate action," he added.

In addition to an appropriate mesh size, experts also recommend using netting that is white and has a cross-weave design, as it reduces the risks to wildlife and is easier for nocturnal animals to see and avoid at night.

Other tips for safer netting:

- Try protecting selected branches with bags or sleeves, rather than netting the whole tree.
- Never throw netting loosely over trees or let it lay on the ground. This can trap reptiles and other animals.
- Fix netting tightly to the tree trunk to help stop rats and birds from reaching fruit.

Native species play an important part in our ecosystem, and following a dry spring with stunted plant growth, Victorians are more likely to see wildlife, such as vulnerable grey-headed flying foxes, in their backyards looking for food.

If you find entangled, injured, or distressed wildlife, you can find temporary care information and contact details for the closest wildlife services by calling DEECA on 136 186 or using the Help for Injured Wildlife tool: **www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/injured-native-wildlife/help-for-injured-wildlife**

In Victoria, all wildlife is protected by law. It is illegal to use or sell non-compliant household fruit netting under Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations 2019 and Authorised Officers can issue on-the-spot fines of \$384 to users and \$769 to sellers of illegal netting. Offenders also face a maximum penalty of \$2,884 if prosecuted in court.

The community is encouraged to report any information about wildlife crime to Crime Stoppers Victoria on 1800 333 000.

For more on how to protect both crops and wildlife, visit: **www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/managing-wildlife/wildlife-and-fruit-trees**.

SUBMITTED BY ALICE POHLNER (SHE/HER) PROGRAM MANAGER – MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS, OFFICE OF THE CONSERVATION REGULATOR

Gorse Control Demonstration Day

Sunday 24 March, 10am–12pm, Kyneton

The Victorian Gorse Taskforce, together with Macedon Ranges Shire Council and Pipers Creek Landcare, brings you practical information and demonstrations of best practice gorse removal. Come along to learn more about grants and to chat with local contractors and environmental representatives.

To register, visit **www.trybooking.com/COXDW**





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Photo: Sam, owner of Sizzler Restobar, with Stephen and Stephanie, owners of Flying Pigeon in Gisborne; joint Winners, Edgy Veg Awards 2023 for the restaurant with the best plant-based dish.

Return of the annual Edgy Veg Awards

Will Woodend's own Sizzler Restobar defend their title of the restaurant in the Macedon Ranges with the best plant-based dish?

Will newcomers 600 Above hold their own next to the other Woodend establishments, Milko, Vics, and Holgates, who are again entering a vegan dish into this years comp?

Make sure you get down to your favourite participating cafe, restaurant or pub during this Autumn Festival and celebrate gourmet local food and produce, delectable regional flavours and meals that give back to the planet on the Edgy Veg Trail, organised by the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group, and funded by Council.

You can score the dishes to support the venue and help them win, just ask staff when you're there how to do it, or visit edgyvegawards.com.au

Increasingly, people are acknowledging the need to eat more veg for their own health and to reduce their carbon footprint; ordering a plant-based dish during the Edgy Veg Awards will help you do just that!



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Woodend Scouts

Over the Christmas holidays, 1st Woodend Scouts continued attending some amazing activities.

Our Venturers attended 'Venture24', starting with a 4-day expedition, then a 6-day camp based in Warragul – full of off- and on-site activities. Our Venturers participated in the Melbourne adrenaline tour, Let's get Vertical and Quad Adventure.

As part of this event, Scouts were able to come and try out Venturers, with a 5-day event 'Explore24'. This saw Scouts participate in an 'Amazing Race'-type event in Melbourne, then on-site activities at the base camp.

In addition, we had Scouts attend the 23rd New Zealand Scout Jamboree. Once again, an action-packed 10 days full of activities at the base camp in Mystery Creek near Hamilton.

Here are the comments from some of the Scouts and Venturers:

Kaelyn – At Venture24, I learned how to surf and wakeboard, improved my skills at go-karting and high ropes. I met new friends from all around Australia.

Joseph – I attended Explore24. We were put in a patrol with other Scouts to compete in an 'Amazing Race' around Melbourne. We also visited Gumbuya World and spent two days at the Venture24 base camp. The best part for me was the Lazy River at Gumbuya World.

Cooper – The amazing race round the city was challenging. I really enjoyed Gumbuya World except the roller coaster. Other activities that I enjoyed were laser tag, computer games and archery, and the food was pretty good too. Making new friends is always fun.

Breanna – In New Zealand, I went whitewater rafting, went through glow worm caves and to a kiwi zoo. It was an unmissable experience, and I would recommend it to every new or old Scout.

Damon – At the 23rd NZ Jamboree I shot rifles, watched geysers, and kayaked on a really big lake. I really enjoyed making new friends from all around Australia and New Zealand.

SUBMITTED BY CHRIS EAGLE



Photo: Adrenaline Tour – Surfing



Photo: Quad bike Tour



Photo: New Zealand Jamboree site



Photo: Explore24 – Amazing Race

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A new Pilates Studio launches in Woodend

Forme Pilates is an inclusive Pilates Studio based at 14 Brooke Street Woodend, Victoria.

Mat and Reformer classes are held in a small group setting, suitable for all levels. For newbies and those experienced in Pilates alike, our classes are taught to be fun and challenging.

Mat Pilates Classes

45-minute all-body workout suitable for all fitness levels. The class is focused on strength and mobility training in a friendly and welcoming environment. Classes are small and supportive with 10 people maximum.

Reformer Pilates Classes


Low impact strength-based training. The class combines the traditional principals of Mat Pilates with a reformer bed in a fun 45-minute session. Classes are small and supportive with three people maximum.

Anna Humphrey is a qualified Pilates Instructor, certified in pre and post-natal training. She started Forme Pilates to create a space where the community could access Pilates training in an inclusive and supportive environment. As a parent, Anna understands the challenges of making "you time" and the daunting feeling of returning to fitness. She wanted to create a space where someone feel enjoyment and encouragement to make a positive impact to their lives.







Client testimonials

"Having not done any formal exercise since the birth of my two children, I was trepidatious starting Pilates... Anna's Mat Pilates classes have been the perfect way for me to start back on my fitness journey. It's a comfortable environment, no pressure, and Anna runs the class in a friendly, gentle manner, so you immediately feel comfortable – no matter your fitness level!" *Alice E*

"I have been in and out of Pilates for a few years and starting at Forme Pilates has been such a positive experience. Anna is kind and encouraging, gently motivating us along. The classes are small groups



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and everyone is so inclusive and friendly, it's the perfect mix and has become the highlight of my week!" *Katherine*

Class bookings can be made via the website www.formepilates.com.au or you can contact Anna directly on 0448 812 768.

We look forward to welcoming you in the studio soon!

SUBMITTED BY ANNA HUMPHREY

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Photo: Dr Will Randich, recently returned to the region, with his wife Kate Randich and their daughter Leila.

Back in Town

The Macedon Ranges region welcomes back one of its own, as chiropractor Dr Will Randich returns to his roots. Raised in the Macedon Ranges, Dr Will attended Gisborne Primary and Secondary schools before embarking on a journey to study Chiropractic at RMIT University, dedicating five years to his education. Following graduation, he ventured to Cairns in Far North Queensland to work for nearly a decade, eventually owning multiple clinics.

Now, with a growing family, Dr Will and his wife have chosen to return to the Macedon Ranges. Their return marks an exciting chapter for Total Body Health Gisborne, where Dr Will's expertise will contribute to the dynamic team of chiropractors and massage therapists.

Dr Will's upbringing was marked by his active involvement in the community. He played football for Gisborne, participated as both an instructor and student in taekwondo, and took on roles as coach and player at the Gisborne Soccer Club. These experiences, coupled with his work with the Filipino Paralympic team and further education in common sporting injuries, uniquely position him to enrich chiropractic services in the Macedon Ranges.

Total Body Health has ambitious plans to transform into a "hub for health and relaxation," and Dr Will's return is instrumental in realising this vision. He brings advanced techniques such as dry needling, sports taping, and exercise rehabilitation to the patient base.

In a concerted effort to make healthcare more accessible for the Macedon Ranges, Total Body Health provides a diverse team of male and female chiropractors, offering early morning, late afternoon, and weekend appointments. Their commitment to make an impact each session is evident, with standard appointments lasting between 30 to 60 minutes.

Dr Will Randich is more than just another caring chiropractor; he is a community-oriented professional dedicated to enhancing the health and vitality of Gisborne and its residents.

SUBMITTED BY TOTAL BODY HEALTH GISBORNE



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News and opportunities from Community Bank Gisborne

We hope everyone has had a great start to the year. We've been busy!

A record number of students applied for our 2024 Early Tertiary Scholarships, including many from Woodend. We will announce the recipients as soon as possible.

1st Woodend Scout Group and Woodend Winter Arts Festival were successful in our last funding round, and we look forward to seeing the benefits their projects will bring Woodend.

Other local groups big on ideas but short of funding are invited to apply for a grant or sponsorship in our Autumn 2024 funding round, which is open this month (March).

This month we will also be inviting applications from 14–17-year-olds for our scholarships to attend the five-day 2024 Magic Moments Youth Leadership & Business Summit in Sydney during the July 2024 school holidays.

Contact our Community Engagement Officer, Corinne Shaddock, at mrcepublicrelations@gmail.com for more information on our community funding programs.

Finally, our operation is growing and we are currently recruiting for two new board support roles. See details below.

A big shout out to everyone who banks with Bendigo Bank at Community Bank Gisborne & District for making our grants, scholarships, and local jobs possible! We truly appreciate your support of win-win community banking.

Bookkeeper and Board/CEO Support Openings

Macedon Ranges Community Enterprises Ltd is the operator of Community Bank Gisborne & District, a franchise of Bendigo Bank. We have been in operation for over 15 years, and have proudly contributed over \$2 million to clubs, groups, and charitable causes across the Macedon Ranges.

We operate via a volunteer board and are currently looking to expand our small dedicated paid staff under the direction of a Chief Executive Officer. Skills required include:

- Bookkeeper; 6-8 hours per week.
- Board and CEO Support; 6-8 hours per week. Tasks would include scheduling of meetings, compilation and distribution of agenda and attachments, minute-taking, and general governance and administrative duties.

Potentially one candidate may be able to undertake both roles. As these are expansion roles, we are looking to recruit on a casual basis for an initial term of six months, and then review. Remuneration will be negotiated based on level of experience.

Candidates will need to be able to work remotely, and the Board and CEO Support role will also attend board meetings after normal business hours; prior experience, flexibility, and the ability to work with limited supervision are therefore essential.

Applicants should forward their most recent CV and a cover letter to our CEO Jo Irwin, eo@mrce.com.au, by 15 March closing.

SUBMITTED BY CORINNE SHADDOCK

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Community Bank
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Working with Council to prevent family violence

The Macedon Ranges Shire Council will share in almost \$3 million to prevent family violence and all forms of violence against women.

The program, announced last month, will see Councils around the state delivering a range of initiatives as part of the Victorian Government's Free from Violence Local Government Program 2024-27.

Programs and activities that will help people in the community understand the role they can play to make their community safer.

As large employers with unique connections to their local communities, councils are well placed to support communities to both prevent family violence and stop violence against women.

This is the second round of the program, which is already supporting 15 councils to carry out primary prevention initiatives in their local area.

State Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas MP said that in focusing on ending family violence, the state government is investing in local communities to support family violence intervention programs. "All women and children have the right to be safe at home," she said.

Investing in Macedon women to change the game

The Victorian Government has announced the opening of applications for grants to get more women and girls from all backgrounds involved in sport.

Applications for the 2023-24 Change Our Game Community Activation Grants program have opened.

Grants of up to \$10,000 are available to support community sport and recreation clubs or organisations to increase participation, build capability, promote gender equity and support the professional development of women volunteering and working in community sport.

The current round of the program also has a strong focus on supporting club or organisation initiatives that encourage the equitable inclusion of women and girls from all backgrounds and experiences.

The program is part of the Change Our Game initiative, which works to make sport more accessible, increasing local participation and providing opportunities for all Victorians to be leaders in their local sporting community.

Now in its seventh year, the Change Our Game Community Activation Grants program has provided more than \$2.2 million towards 461 grants that have benefitted community sport and active recreation clubs and organisations across the state.

Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas MP is encouraging all eligible organisations to apply, lauding the program as "a great opportunity for local community sport and active recreation clubs, to showcase the important roles women and girls play and deserve."

Applications for this program close at 5pm AEDT, Monday 4 March 2024. For more information about Change Our Game programs visit changeourgame.vic.gov.au.



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Mary-Anne Thomas MP
Member for **Macedon**

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Authorised by MA Thomas, Shop 3A, Nexus Centre, 9 Goodie Street, Gisborne



Ready to launch regional tourism projects to the stars

A new round of funding has been launched to get regional tourism ideas off the ground and ready for investment and to bring more regional tourism projects to life.

Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas has launched the latest round of the Enabling Tourism Fund, which will make available up to \$8 million to create a pipeline of more tourism infrastructure.

The grants, of between \$20,000 and \$500,000 are open to tourism businesses, not-for-profit and Traditional Owner organisations, and more, and will be delivered in two streams: the first providing support to test the concept of a large new infrastructure project like a feasibility study or masterplan, and the second to fund detailed design packages, funding strategies or community engagement plans.

In launching the fund, Ms Thomas said that these grants were an important step in welcoming more tourists, and supporting our local economy as we share our region with the world.

The fund is guided by five priorities of experiences: First Peoples-led experiences, wellness, arts and culture, food and drink, and nature.

A new guide for tourism operators will also help them deliver projects that are ready for investment, maximise their returns and provide a better experience for visitors.

Applications for the Enabling Tourism Fund are open until Friday, 28 March 2024. For more information on the grants and the new guide, visit tourism.vic.gov.au.

SUBMITTED BY KATE LEE, OFFICE OF MARY-ANNE THOMAS,
MEMBER FOR MACEDON

News and events from Macedon Ranges Shire Council



Designing for Resilience Webinar

5 March, 7–8.30pm, online

Are you considering a new build or renovation? Come along to this webinar to find out some ways to increase your home's resilience to climate change and save you money on your energy bills.

To register for events or sign up for the monthly Environment eNews, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/environment-events

'For the Love of Paws'

Keep an eye out for some cute characters created by local artist Chris "Roy" Taylor that are about to pop up around the shire, reminding cat and dog owners about what it takes to be a 'pawsome' pet owner.

It's all part of Council's new 'For the Love of Paws' campaign, which aims to deliver important messages about responsible pet ownership to our community.

For more information, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/pets

New Les Mills virtual classes

Two new exciting Les Mills Virtual classes have arrived to join the existing Body Pump, Body Balance, Body Combat and RPM formats at the Kyneton Toyota Sports and Aquatic Centre:

Grit Series – offers three high energy, high intensity 30-minute workouts

Grit Cardio – improves cardiovascular fitness, increases speed and maximises calorie burn

Grit Athletic – a sports conditioning workout for the serious athlete

Grit Strength – designed to improve strength and cardio fitness, and build lean muscle

Dance – a fun, high energy 45-minute workout including a wide variety of dance genres, choreographed by dancers.

For more information, or to book a class at a time that suits you, contact the Kyneton Toyota Sports and Aquatic Centre on 5421 1477.

3 and 4 year old kindergarten registrations for 2025 now open

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

Our kindergartens have highly qualified and experienced early childhood Teachers and Educators and, with their beautiful natural features and outdoor play areas, are rich in nature-based and creative learning experiences.

For more information on when your child is eligible to start kindergarten, and guidance on making an informed decision about when is best to start, go to mrsc.vic.gov.au/kindergarten

Register online by 31 May 2024
Visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/kinder-rego
or call our Enrolment Officer on (03) 5422 0239

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Council community grants opening soon

Council's Community Funding Scheme and Events and Festivals Grant Program will open again in May. To support community groups interested in applying, Council is holding a Q&A drop-in session at the Woodend Community Centre on Thursday 14 March from 10.30am–12pm.

If you are a community group with an idea for a project or event, this will be an opportunity to chat with Council officers and get ideas and advice to support your application. Bookings are essential.

For information and to find out about other opportunities for grants and support, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/grants or email grants@mrsc.vic.gov.au.



A message from your West Ward Councillors

Hello everyone. Councillors are currently busy with budget deliberations for the 2024/25 financial year. Unfortunately, as with councils right across Victoria, this year's budget is facing some tight constraints for several reasons, including the fast-rising costs that are affecting everyone across the board and demand on resources of managing shire-wide emergencies such as weather events. In addition, our capacity to raise more money is restricted, as annual rate rises are limited by the rate cap that is typically well below the CPI, and the increased costs local governments must meet. However, we continue to listen to community feedback, and to create a budget that reflects community priorities, as outlined in our council plan and community vision, and with the funding mechanisms we have available.

Apart from budget deliberations, your councillors continue to be very busy, working with staff and the community on some major priorities, particularly in the strategic planning area, that we are hoping to progress and/or finalise. For the West Ward, this includes the Kyneton Urban Design Framework. Across the Shire, we are also planning to complete the Gisborne Futures process this year and are currently engaged with developing the Romsey Structure Plan and the Riddells Creek Movement Network Study. Once again, we encourage everyone to stay involved and engage with these consultations when they happen. Councillors and Council officers listen to and value the feedback we receive and whilst we cannot adopt everything that is suggested, Council consistently works very hard to incorporate community feedback into the final product.



A reminder that late last year, Council set up a textiles collection trial at our three Resource Recovery facilities around the Shire. The trial will continue to run until September this year and aims to provide residents with the opportunity to recycle unwanted, worn out or damaged textiles that are unsuitable for op shops. Residents from Woodend, in particular, made use of this service with the Woodend Resource Recovery Facility processing 6.8 tonnes of textiles last year – over half the total amount processed across the shire.

Watch out for the latest program of events to be held at the Kyneton Town Hall in 2024. Tickets for events are now on sale, and the program again features a diverse range of performances and activities designed to appeal to people of all ages and interests. During April, Council is also running a range of 'Live and Local' events across the Shire featuring local bands and artists who will perform across the shire's charming community halls, as part of the 2024 Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival. The program feature You Am I's Tim Rogers, Juliarna Clark, The Whiskey Rogues, Valley Road and more, complemented by local wines and food trucks featuring regional produce. Details at: <https://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/See-Do/Arts-Culture/Arts-and-Cultural-Events/Live-Local-in-Community-Halls>

Remember to check our website for council programs and activities at: <https://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/Home>

You can subscribe to our e-news at: [https://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/System-pages/Search-Results?dlv_OC%20CL%20Public%20Site%20Search=\(keyword=enews\)](https://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/System-pages/Search-Results?dlv_OC%20CL%20Public%20Site%20Search=(keyword=enews))

You might like to also try our new online engagement hub: YourSay at <https://yoursay.mrsc.vic.gov.au/>

We are always happy to hear what you are doing, if you would like to send an email or have a chat.

Best wishes,
Mark, Janet, and Jennifer.

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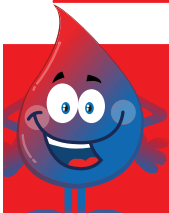
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t2zero has secured a bulk purchase discount on high quality, Apricus All-in-One hot water heat pumps. Soaring gas and electricity prices make this an ideal time to upgrade to an energy efficient hot water heat pump. Because it's so energy efficient, there are Federal and State Government rebates available to eligible applicants.

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*Ts & Cs apply - assumes "standard" installation conditions including but not limited to: external, ground-based existing system, same location as existing system, compliant electrical installation with space on circuit board for new circuit. Photos will be requested to determine whether additional non-standard charges apply. All rebates assigned to t2zero. Solar Vic rebate is means tested.

Have your say through new online engagement hub



Council has launched a new online hub to enable a clearer, more engaging way of informing and obtaining valuable feedback from the community on key Council policies or initiatives.

People will be able to view current public consultations and have their say in new ways through the new Your Say hub, which has the capacity to host surveys, interactive maps, Q&As, forums and more.

The launch of Your Say supports a strategic priority in the Council Plan 2021-2031 to 'Enhance customer experience through the transformation of our services, to ensure they are easy to access and provide user-friendly experiences'.

Your Say also supports a specific Council Plan action also set to be completed this financial year, with new Community Engagement Guidelines under development to better guide Council staff in undertaking effective, relevant, and transparent community consultation.

Chief Executive Officer, Bernie O'Sullivan, said it was integral to hear from the community to help tailor the projects, policies and services Council delivers.

"We have subject matter experts here at Council who work hard to develop initiatives relevant to their field, but two-way conversation is essential to make sure we're hitting the mark," he said.

"Council is committed to genuine consultation and closing the loop with the community. This new online engagement hub – together with the new staff guidelines – will support that commitment. I encourage residents to continue taking the time to review public consultations and provide feedback."

A number of draft policies or initiatives endorsed by Council for public consultation late last year are set to invite feedback from 5 February, including:

- Romsey Skatepark designs – proposed designs for a new skatepark that would feature a large bowl, a quarter pipe, a pump track and a series of hips and corners. Funding of

\$550,000 has already been committed by the Victorian Government towards construction, while Council allocated \$20,000 towards initial planning works in the Budget 2023/24.

- Draft Complaint and Unreasonable Behaviour Policy – this policy outlines how Council will manage complaints and unreasonable behaviour and provides clear guidance for both the complainant and Council.
- Draft Special Charge Scheme Policy – this policy applies to Special Charge Scheme (SCS) infrastructure projects such as resident-funded upgrading of roads and drainage.
- Draft Fair Access Policy – this policy supports Council in the identification and removal of systemic factors contributing to gender inequality relating to the availability of quality community sports infrastructure at times that are suitable.

Visit yoursay.mrsc.vic.gov.au to view current consultations, provide feedback and sign up to receive tailored alerts about future consultations as they are listed.

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN, COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

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Activities for young children

Active Kids Sports Program



Learn correct sporting techniques and skills to develop confidence and knowledge of sport.

Children use a range of equipment from soccer, netball, hockey, basketball and more; and learn skills for catching, rolling and throwing in a relaxed, fun environment.

Sessions are held from 10–10.45am on Wednesday mornings at Buffalo Sports Stadium in Woodend for children aged 3-5 years. Parent/guardian participation is required.

Kindagym

Held in the stadium, this program is based on developing motor skills, confidence, balance and social skills. Kindagym is a structured class with free play options for children to explore the array of equipment on display. Parent/guardian participation is required.

Sessions are held on Fridays at Buffalo Sports Stadium in Woodend:

- 10–10.45am for 1–3-year-olds
- 11am–11.45am for 4–5-year-olds

Both programs are casual; no need to book. For class costs and more information, call 5427 3411 or email buffalo@mrsc.vic.gov.au

Dance classes for children

Dance classes are held at Buffalo Sports Stadium in Woodend and the Gisborne Community Centre.

Tiny Tackers dance classes are for pre-schoolers aged 2-5 years and include ballet, tap and jazz (2-year-olds, ballet and jazz only).

Studio2 MIX dance classes are for school-aged students from 6-12 years with a mix of ballet, tap and jazz in the one-hour class.

Studio2 Hip Hop classes and Tap dance classes are held on Thursday afternoons for children aged 8-12 years and 13-18 years.

For class times and information visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/dance

Staying Strong for over 50s

Council runs a number of low-to-moderate intensity group circuit classes for men and women 50+ years of age across Kyneton Toyota Sports & Aquatic Centre, Gisborne Fitness Centre, Buffalo Sports Stadium in Woodend and Romsey Recreation Centre.

Staying Strong is a circuit-based class designed to improve muscular strength, aerobic fitness, flexibility, balance and coordination in a safe and social environment. Experienced instructors provide exercises that cater for a range of exercise abilities.

For further details, or to discuss your suitability for the program, contact your local centre or visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/leisure

Council to conduct asset assessments

Infrastructure asset condition assessments are regularly performed to align with Council's Asset Plan and capital works programs, to ensure services are provided to the community to meet functional, safety and amenity standards.

Council has recently engaged an independent contractor to assess our Open Space and Recreation infrastructure assets. The assessment will commence in March and is expected to be completed by the end of May 2024.

Assets to be inspected include sports grounds, kindergarten play areas, playgrounds, parks and gardens. During the assessments, the contractor may be seen taking photos in our public spaces, measuring and taking notes electronically about each asset.

For information, contact Kylie Park, Coordinator Asset Management on 5422 0333.

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Meet the Kyneton Sales Team



Introducing the RT Edgar Macedon Ranges Kyneton Office Sales Team Sharon Colliccoat, Matthew Bourke & Harriet McHugh.

Sharon has a passion for property, renovating and country life and brings an extensive corporate sales, contract negotiation and channel development background to her role in the Kyneton office. With her warm and welcoming smile, cheeky sense of humour and laid-back style, you will feel immediately at ease in Sharon's company and confident in her capabilities.

Matthew is a familiar face in the area, having headed up the Kyneton office since it opened in 2016. Having grown up in Trentham and with a passion for local football, netball and cricket, his insight, integrity and professionalism is highly regarded. Matthew has over 16 years' experience as an agent and has an exceptional record of getting top results for vendors and buyers.

Harriet is a true country girl who has deep connections to the Macedon Ranges and the real estate industry. She grew up on a 260-acre farm in Kyneton, surrounded by sheep, cattle and a sprawling garden, and her grandfather was a local real estate agent who instilled the values of integrity and commitment. Harriet has a professional demeanour, friendly disposition and an approachable charm, honed in both the hospitality and fashion industries previously.

With the weather warming up and the feeling of Spring in the air across the Macedon Ranges, now is the perfect time to reach out to one of our team members to discuss your property options in the current market.

Sharon Colliccoat
0448 852 803

Matthew Bourke
0448 271 880

Harriet McHugh
0417 789 153

THEO'S GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL

Prize Draw

\$20 donation = 1 entry

\$50 donation = 3 entries

\$100 donation = 7 entries



1st Prize: Valued over \$1500

Escape to Macedon Ranges Package

2 nights accommodation at Fellcroft Farmstay Cobaw, Dinner at Kuzu Woodend, Breakfast at Fox in the Chamber Woodend, 60 minute Facial & 60 minute massage at Adore beauty Lancefield plus Wine and tapas at Still Moon House Trentham. The Collective Gisborne voucher, Bespoke Preserves hamper, local wines and more*

2nd Prize: Valued over \$800

Wellness Package

60 minutes Yoga at Shanti Studio Woodend, 60 minute remedial Massage at REN Woodend, Intimo underwear voucher, Unique Blonde Hair voucher, Made brows Gisborne voucher, Lashes & Beauty by Rachel Woodend Voucher, classic facial at Eavan Beauty Sunbury, Organicspa Skin care pack, and more*

3rd Prize: Valued over \$400

City Adventure Package

\$200 Crown voucher \$100 Gold Class voucher, ChinChin \$100 voucher, local wines and more*

**extra prize additions to be confirmed*

Winners will be drawn & notified on Easter Monday 01/04/24



Theo's long road

As part of this year's Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal, Ramai has organised a raffle supported by businesses from all over the Macedon Ranges. Ramai wants to not only raise much-needed funds for sick kids, but also to give back to the local community.

Theo's journey: it's a long road

Theo was born with bilateral renal cystic dysplasia. He was fed through a nasogastric tube from birth until the age of two. In layman's terms, this involves placing a tube down his nose into his belly, helping to support his growth and manage his kidney condition.

Theo is now three years old and no longer requires a feeding tube, and instead is administered a special formula from The Royal Children's Hospital five times a day.

Over the years, Ramai has been a vessel for mums from all over the Macedon Ranges to share their stories privately. And I've noticed a recurring theme amongst mums of sick kids, one that revolves around not feeling comfortable to ask for help, and of feeling alone within a community of healthy babes.

When it feels that everyone is celebrating the norms in life, these parents are celebrating a different normal. All of a sudden, it's clear blood tests, nights without feeding tube accidents, little bodies having an hour without pain, no longer having to rack up kilometres on the family car driving to specialist appointments; these become their 'wins', often celebrated in silence. These parents are our neighbours, our friends, members of our community that need our help and our love.

I feel privileged that these mums confide in me and that I can provide a safe space for them. I feel lucky that Theo's doctors have a clear plan for him. And I feel overjoyed to have The Royal Children's Hospital supporting my family. Donate if you can, buy a ticket (or 7), gift some tickets to parents you know who need love and support. Gather our community and let's offer support to all.

Tickets are available through the link or QR code (see ad on the adjoining page).



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Congratulations to our club champions



The Woodend Bowling Club recently completed

its Ladies' and Mens' Singles Championships in very pleasant and sunny conditions in front of a very enthusiastic crowd.

Anne Dornau was playing in her third consecutive grand final, and Norm Bickerdyke was in an amazing eighth grand final appearance in a row, whilst new members Ruby and Dennis Priede were in their first grand final appearance for the club.

Anne is the new Ladies' champ

In the Ladies' Final, Ruby started well before Anne caught up and then gradually built a solid lead for the rest of the match, leading 19 to 7 after thirteen ends, and then winning 26 to 9 after nineteen ends for her second consecutive Ladies' Singles Championship.

Norm is the new Mens' champ

The Mens' Final was a much closer match, with Dennis taking an early lead of 9 to 2 after seven ends, before Norm fought back to level 10-all after twelve ends. It was then a very close tussle over many ends, including 16-all after twenty ends and then Norm leading 19 to 18 after twenty-four ends. Norm went on to win 25 to 18 after twenty-seven ends, for his fifth Mens' Singles Championship.

Club President Mike Dornau said after the match, "It was a great effort for Anne to win her second Club Championship and Norm to win his fifth, but I have to say the Priedes are the Pride of Woodend. For new members of the club and relatively new bowlers – Dennis is in his third year and this was Ruby's first season of bowls – it was a terrific to see them both play in their respective grand finals.

"Also a huge thank you to those who cleaned the rinks, set-up the rinks and scoreboards and also cooked and prepared the sausage sizzle – Trevor, Rob, Tony well done!"

Rosalie and Chris are the new Ladies' Pairs champs

The Ladies' Pairs Championship was won by Rosalie Campbell and Chris Gillman who played Pat Morgan and Ruby Priede in the final. After a close start, Rosalie and Chris went away to win 20 to 10.

Anne and Norm will represent the Woodend Bowling Club in the regional Champ of Champs rounds, while the Club is still to finish the Mixed Pairs and Mens' Pairs and 100 Up and 21 Up events. For more information, please call 5407 9220, or visit our website at www.woodendbowlsclub.weebly.com. You can also follow us on Facebook.

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, PRESIDENT WOODEND BOWLS

Club Photo: (Left to right) Anne Dornau, Geoff Symons (Marker and Vice-President), Ruby Priede, Norm Bickerdyke, Mike Dornau (Marker and President) and Dennis Priede.



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Woodend Hanging Rock Petanque Club



Well, the Petanque world continues on over the summer season, if that is what we can call a summer!

With a mixture of weather varying day to day, on a Thursday at the end of January, we had a huge downpour. That didn't stop an enthusiastic group playing petanque out at Hanging Rock in the rain! A revised game was played from our shelter, and then a friendly BBQ was prepared by a few members and enjoyed by the hardy group.



The next week was a beautiful evening, and once again, out at Hanging Rock, it was a perfect evening for playing petanque. Surrounded by rosellas and kangaroos, 24 members gathered for our "Teams Night", as a part of the Hanging Rock Challenge. Good competitive play was pursued with Shane Wellington, Shirley Marshall and Ed Lowe taking top spot!

In February, our Mayor Annette Death and Councillors Jennifer Anderson and Bill West joined us at the Rock to join in our games and for us to demonstrate the low impact we have on the surrounding environment.

The Community Day at Cleveland Winery in Lancefield was also held in February. Another perfect sunny day, where we joined in the family day picnickers, had a few games of petanque and enjoyed all that local traders and the wineries had to offer.

Another month of fun and socialising, playing our favourite game of petanque.

Join us on Mondays at 2pm, at the Old Racecourse in Woodend. Thursdays, Hanging Rock at 4pm, with dinner included!

Ring Louise for enquiries on 0438 302 218.

SUBMITTED BY LOUISE POTTER

Woodend Cricket Club

The past month at Woodend Cricket Club has been nothing short of remarkable, with exciting developments and achievements across the board. Our commitment to promoting girls' cricket has seen incredible results, with more than triple the number of girls attending our Cricket Blast on Friday nights and strong participation at our recent Come and Try Day. This surge of interest is inspiring, and we're thrilled to announce our plans to establish a girls' team next season. Let's continue to spread the word and empower more girls to fall in love with cricket!



As we dive into finals season, both our Senior and Junior Teams are gearing up for competition, and we wish them all the very best. Keep an eye on Play HQ and on our social media for updates on Game Locations and Results.

Looking ahead to next season, the Woodend Cricket Club is on the lookout for passionate individuals to fill key roles within our club. If you have a love for the game and a desire to be part of our cricketing family, we want to hear from you.

Senior Coach – Seeking a coach (playing or non-playing) to take our team of talented junior and senior players to the next level.

Junior Development Coach – Work closely with our talented juniors and focus on refining their batting, bowling, and fielding techniques while instilling valuable cricketing knowledge.

Junior Coordinator – Be the driving force behind nurturing our young talents, fostering a lifelong love for the game, and building a vibrant junior cricket community.

Girls Cricket Coordinator – Passionate about empowering girls in cricket? Lead and inspire, as we create an inclusive and exciting space for girls to shine in cricket.

Reach out to Daniel Heaney on 0400 600 186 or send him an email at daniel@dh-steel.com.au to express your interest and join us in shaping the future of our club.

In addition to our ongoing initiatives, we've recently celebrated several significant milestones within our club. Barry Mann's 200th game and career 5000 runs, Warren Else's 7000 career runs, James Fiford's 1500 career runs, Senior Coach Greg Matthews's 250th game, and First XI Captain Marcus Stewart's 100th game are all testament to the dedication and talent within our ranks. Congratulations must also go to Daniel Eastley (104) and Warren Else (140no) and who scored a Record 7th Wicket Partnership of 171 to win the vital First XI match against Diggers Rest – keeping our finals dream alive.



Perhaps the highlight of the month was our Hall of Fame Celebration Night at the Gisborne Golf Club on February 24, and what an incredible night! Not only did we induct the finest Woodend Cricket Club players of the last decade into our Hall of Fame, but we celebrated some of the greatest cricketers of the last century. We also inducted Jamie Walker as a Life Member of the Woodend Cricket Club. The Hall of Fame night wasn't just a ceremony, it was a celebration of the values and principles that underpin our club. It was a reminder of the excellence that we all strive for, the friendships that we cherish and the commitment that we hold dear. It was an evening that brought generations of cricketers together, bridging the past and the present and uniting us in a shared appreciation of the game.

As we reflect on the past month, we're filled with gratitude for the incredible support and enthusiasm from our members and community. Together, we'll continue to strive for excellence on and off the field, fostering a love for cricket and creating lasting memories for generations to come.

SUBMITTED BY DANIEL HEANEY



Woodend Heskett Football Netball Club

Hawks Season Kicks Off!

Hawks Family Fun Day
Sunday 17 March, 1-6pm
Gilbert Gordon Oval, Woodend



For information on costs and to purchase tickets: <https://www.trybooking.com/CPJYNv>

Let's get together for our annual Hawks Family Fun Day at our home ground, celebrating the start of the season. Bring the kids for live music, kids activities, food & drinks!

Football Practice Matches

Friday 2 March vs Daylesford, at Daylesford
Midday – Details to be confirmed on our social pages

Friday 16 March at noon.
Match vs PEGS Essendon Grammar
Gilbert Gordon Oval, Woodend
Details to be confirmed on our social pages

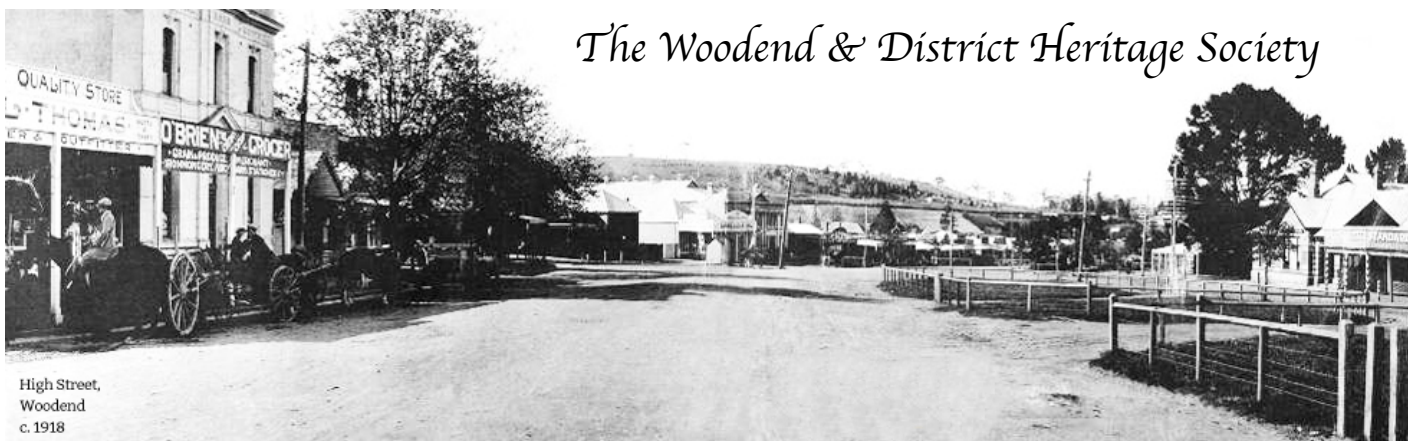
Club Season Kicks Off

Round 1 vs Kyneton
Good Friday 29 March at 2pm
Away: Kyneton Showgrounds

Round 2 vs Macedon
First home match under lights
Saturday 13 April 6pm
Gilbert Gordon Oval

Get around the club as we build one of the most successful seasons the club's had in recent memory!





High Street,
Woodend
c. 1918

The special recruiting train

On 24 April 1916, a special train left Spencer Street station on a mission to recruit young men around the state to the AIF, with a view to sending them to the war front. On 30 May, *The Argus* reported that "The first meeting of the tour was held at Woodend. The Royal Park Military Band, which had been in the district over the weekend, met the train, and with a detachment of the 65th Battalion of senior cadets, marched down the main street to the Mechanics Institute. There, an improvised platform had been erected, and from it, Mr Hutchinson (Minister for Lands), Mr Chanter and the recruiting sergeants addressed the crowd, which comprised nearly all the townspeople, as all places of business had been closed during the meeting. More than an hour was occupied ... speaking to eligible young men, but only five volunteered. Woodend and its district have already sent men to the front, but there are still several eligible men in the town." When you drive down the Avenue of Honour at Woodend, remember each tree represents a person from the Woodend District who went to the battlefields of World War I.

The train then continued on to Kyneton, where the Chairman of the Committee remarked that if insufficient young men joined up, compulsory conscription might be introduced. However, many of the young men of Kyneton volunteered and added to the enormous contribution made by the men of the whole country.



Photo 894: The Special Recruiting Train at Woodend Station 1916 (Source: State Library of Victoria's Victorian Railways photographs collection).

We have recently lost a much-loved volunteer at the Woodend Heritage Society in Tony Stidwell. There will be a tribute to Tony in next month's issue. We are in need of volunteers to keep our excellent Society continuing

with its work of research, documenting our history and helping the myriad of people who contact us to find their family history or the story of their house.

SUBMITTED BY JANE HOLTH

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Caring for the whole student at SHC

Sacred Heart College Kyneton is a Catholic school in the Mercy tradition. The College has a commitment to excellence in learning and teaching and strives to support the wellbeing and growth of each young person in our community.

As the new Year 7 Level Leader, it has been a joy to support these newest members of our community as they join the College during transition week. As you can see from happy faces in the accompanying photographs, it has been an enjoyable but busy week.

This is my second year at the College, having led the Junior Literacy Intervention Program, as well as being a teacher of English in 2023, and I'm excited to broaden the work I do with our Year 7s across the year. I know how important the transition period is for our young people and look forward to working with Year 7 students and their families during this time.



Our College is immensely proud of the wellbeing programs in place for students. The SHC Wellbeing Framework underpins areas of personal development, the Year 7 focus being the Mercy Value of Respect. During the transition period, our Year 7 students engage in several key activities. This begins with Transition Week, where students immerse themselves in the SHC culture, developing an understanding of what learning and effort looks like and reflecting on their own learning habits. Students spend lots of time fostering strong relationships with their peers as well as staff, while having fun on excursions to the Botanical Gardens and Splash Waterpark.

Beyond Transition Week, our Year 7s attend a three-day adventure camp in Kinglake to strengthen their understanding of how to respect and care for each other, themselves, and the environment in which we live. This is complimented by our Peer Support Program, where groups of our newest students work with a group of Year 9 students who have undertaken training as members of the Peer Support Team. These students plan and deliver activities to help with the transition of Year 7s across the first half of the year. The program also offers an opportunity for connection to students in a higher year level, which can be beneficial when first moving around the College grounds.



Throughout Year 7, we regularly revisit and reflect on the learning established during transition period within our Compass (wellbeing) lessons and with the support of Homeroom Teachers, Year Level Leaders and Heads of House. A key component of our Wellbeing Program is working in partnership with parents, with the aim of nurturing each student to reach their potential.

We encourage all those currently considering options for their children's secondary journey to learn more about our supportive Wellbeing Program, as well as the diverse educational offerings of Sacred Heart College Kyneton. For more information, families can either visit the College website, or attend our approaching Open Evening on Monday 22 April, from 4pm – 8pm: eEvent details are provided on the College website – www.shckyneton.catholic.edu.au

SUBMITTED BY MS KELLIE BOORMAN, YEAR 7 LEVEL LEADER, SACRED HEART COLLEGE



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Vacancies available for Years 7 - 11, 2024.

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

A Principal's Tour will be held on Wednesday 6 March and our Open Evening is scheduled for Monday 22 April. Visit the College website for tour bookings.



Scan for tour bookings