

The New Woodend Star

The Graders of Woodend send their best wishes to the Woodend community for a safe and happy Christmas and New year. Thank you for shopping locally and supporting your local economy and local employment. December 2023



Happy Holidays to all, and a special thanks to our customers over more than 30 years!

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Woodend General

Merry Christmas to all of our wonderful customers! We hope you have a Happy festive Season celebrating with your family & friends.

Thank you for all your support throughout 2023. We wouldn't be here, doing what we love without your ongoing support. Wishing you all a fabulous New Year!

Much love - Lou, Ange, Anna, Georgie, Mandy & Ally. x



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Christmas cheers from team Mick, Tee, Courtney, Dan and Harry.



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natural grace

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Thank you for your Support

Adam, Chantelle, Wayne Kerry & Mel

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Dom Sara Paul Anna Shane

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Supporting Woodend CFA in December with a donation from each treatment.

coles

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Wishing all a fun & safe festive season & Thank You for your ongoing support!

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Honouring Heroes: A Remembrance Day Tribute in Woodend

The members of Woodend RSL were joined by 150 members of the local community on Saturday 11 November to mark Remembrance Day 2023.

A special guest at the service was Second World War veteran and Woodend resident, Joy Damon (98) who served as an RAAF flight mechanic. Her late husband, Reg, was an RAAF airframe fitter and was serving in Darwin during the Japanese bombing.

The service was led by the RSL sub-branch president, John McCausland (a veteran of peacekeeping operations in

Kashmir and the Middle East). He spoke about the importance of 11 November to Australia and how the original Armistice Day, which remembered those who died in the First World War, was replaced by Remembrance Day, where we remember those who have died in all conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

Mr McCausland spoke of the writings of Australia's First World War official correspondent, Charles Bean, who had served alongside troops on Gallipoli and the Somme and had observed the evolution of a unique Australian character. He

observed that this character was based on four values – courage, endurance, sacrifice and mateship (a term coined by Henry Lawson). Mr McCausland noted how this unique character had, over time, become evident in times of non-military crises, such as bushfire and floods, and was evident in last week's community response to the tragic traffic incident at nearby Daylesford.

Mr McCausland observed that, on this day, all Australians should pause, reflect and remember. Mr McCausland also thanked the principals and staff at all local schools for helping to instil in our young people the spirit and meaning of Remembrance.

The service contained readings by senior students from five local schools – Woodend Primary School, "A Poem for Remembrance Day"; Sacred

Heart College, Kyneton, "The 11th of November"; St Ambrose Catholic Primary School, "In Flanders Fields"; Newham Primary School, "To the Sunburnt Ear"; Heskett Primary School, "For the Fallen".

Braemar College Cadet Unit provided the catafalque party and flag orderlies. The Ode from "For the Fallen" was delivered by Vietnam veteran Mr David Crockett. At the end of the service, wreaths were laid at the RSL Cenotaph by local support and service groups and school representatives.

In closing the service, Mr McCausland thanked the community for its generous support to the Poppy Appeal, which raised around \$9,200 for the support of veterans.

SUBMITTED BY JOHN MCCAUSLAND

PUBLISHER

The Rotary Club of Woodend
 ABN 32 685 225 No. A0021518E
 PO Box 333 Woodend 3442
 Published monthly (except January).
 Distributing 4,100 free copies across
 Woodend 3442 postal district.

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This paper is a member of  **CNAV**
 Community Newspapers
 Association Victoria

Supported by  **Macedon Ranges**
 Shire Council

Printed by Mulqueens Printers
 147-151 Allingham St,
 Golden Square, VIC 3555



Thank You!

The year is almost over, so it's time to reflect and express our gratitude to the great communities we have been a part of in 2023. A heartfelt thank you to all for your overwhelming support and for always being the extraordinary excellent bunch of people that you are.

With the support of our existing customers increasing their banking facilities, and new customers choosing to bank with our branch, we have been able to continue our support to your community with a significant number of sponsorships and grants. It is pleasing to recall what we have been able to achieve over the past year together.

We would like to expand this support further so we are calling on the wider community to consider our services, through everyday banking you can make a real difference. We provide a great personalised banking experience with all the products and services you need.

From all of us at Community Bank - Trentham & Districts we are looking forward to continuing our support in 2024 and being there for your community. During the holidays, please find time to celebrate your wonderful, whatever that may be.

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Woodend's Rain report

We were right on average in October with 70.4 mm, for a year to date of 5672 mm. About half the month's rain fell on a single day early in the month. Heading for a dry annual total, courtesy of El Niño
Peter Yates

Month	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	av 5yr
January	9.8	73.6	92.6	140.8	17.7	66.9
February	12.0	67.8	32.4	2.0	27.4	28.3
March	12.2	79.6	47.0	73.2	47.0	51.8
April	7.6	139.8	15.2	89.6	92.5	68.9
May	114.8	79.0	83.0	39.4	56.0	74.4
June	168.2	80.1	183.6	84.8	121.8	127.7
July	63.2	49.3	115.6	52.4	57.8	67.7
August	78.1	93.0	56.0	130.8	47.8	81.1
September	38.3	56.3	72.8	150.2	28.8	67.7
October	29.4	99.5	102.0	234.6	70.4	107.2
November	64.8	54.4	91.2	107.0		
December	10.0	42.4	45.0	37.6		
Total mm	608.4	914.8	936.4	1142.4	567.2	

Public notice

St Mary's Guild is pleased to announce that the MRSC has confirmed that under the new Footpath Trading Policy, St Mary's Guild, will be able to continue with its monthly street stall on the second Saturday of the month in front of the Woodend News agency and Sassy.

St Mary's Guild wishes to thank the community for the support it has expressed.

WRITTEN AND SUBMITTED BY SYLVIA MATHEWS, ST MARY'S GUILD MEMBER

Stop kidding yourself. If you drink, don't drive.

Thinking about driving after a couple of drinks? Think again. If you blow .05 or over, you could face serious penalties, including fines, losing your licence, getting an interlock installed in your car and having to blow zero for three years.



Newham Primary reaches sustainability stars



A small school in the Macedon Ranges has been recognised as a sustainability champion, achieving the highest level of certification through Victoria's ResourceSmart Schools program.

Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos today presented teachers and students at Newham Primary School with a 5 Star certificate. The school joined the ResourceSmart School program in 2014 and are one of the program's longest standing active schools.

The school has worked tirelessly over the last nine years to actively reduce their waste to landfill and energy consumption. The school has achieved reductions in their energy use by 92,000 kilowatts, reduced emissions by 96 tonnes of carbon emissions, and planted over 1000 trees, boosting biodiversity along the banks of Deep Creek tributary, creating a nature corridor for wildlife that connects with the Cobaw Biolink.

"I congratulate Newham Primary School on their 5-star certificate for their amazing achievements on reducing their waste to landfill and energy consumption. Their success is an example of what can be achieved by working together to combat climate change," said Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas.

Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos said that Victoria, a world leader on climate action, had set strong renewable energy targets that will create a more climate-resilient and prosperous future for the next generation. "The work happening in schools like Newham Primary is having a real impact on meeting these targets," he said.

The ResourceSmart Schools program, delivered by Sustainability Victoria, supports Victorian schools to embed sustainability across school facilities, community and curriculum.

Since 2008, the ResourceSmart Schools program has assisted more than 1,400 schools to save 1.8 million kilolitres of water, divert 194,000 cubic metres of waste from landfill and abate 118,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions. Through the program, participating schools have saved a total of \$41 million on school operations bills.

As part of Sustainability in Schools month, throughout November, schools can participate in a wide range of free activities. For further details about the host of free activities please visit <https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/energy-efficiency-and-reducing-emissions/resourcesmart-schools/resourcesmart-schools-events>

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



Safety on Public Land Act 2004

NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY ZONE DECLARATION

I, Mark Mellington, Acting Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Grampians Region, as delegate of the Secretary to the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, give notice pursuant to section 7(1A) of the *Safety on Public Land Act 2004*, that I have made public safety zone declarations published in the Victoria Government Gazette (Special Gazette S506-23) dated 25/09/2023.

The declaration made on 25/09/2023 takes effect from 02/10/2023 to 02/01/2024 inclusive specifies areas of State Forest which have been declared public safety zones for the purpose of the maintenance of public safety and the safe management of fuel reduction activities.

The declaration specifies the period for which the areas have been declared public safety zones; the times or periods during which access is restricted or prohibited; restrictions or conditions (if any) applying to the public safety zones; and persons or classes of persons exempt from their operation.

A copy of the declaration, and maps showing the location of the public safety zones, may be inspected at:

1. Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action offices at Bendigo, Ballarat and 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002
2. Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action web site: www.ffm.vic.gov.au/permits-and-regulations/closures-of-parks-and-forests

MARK MELLINGTON

Acting Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Grampians Region
as delegate of the Secretary to the Department of
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POETRY ALIVE AND WELL IN THE MACEDON RANGES

Australia has a rich history of vibrant and creative poetry, and Woodend is home to one of the country's most successful poetry events. Monthly Chamber Poets sessions have been running for several years now and will continue into 2024. On Saturday 9 November, we were treated to a lively and very enjoyable performance by Joe Dolce (of "Shaddup You Face" fame), as well as poems from creative people young and old, from as far afield as Melbourne and Bendigo. As always, local band Black Forest Smoke kept the audience warmly entertained. Food and drink is available at Chamber Poets, and beginner poets can feel assured of a supportive and friendly environment.

The first Chamber Poets event for 2024 will be a Valentine's Day special on Saturday 10 February at 1pm, for which the theme is Love – good love, bad love, love of trees, love of donkeys, romantic love, ridiculous love, doing without love ... the possibilities are endless. Write a poem and bring it along to share.

Please join us at the RSL Hall in Anslow Street. \$10 at the door, or \$5 concession (cash only, please!) for an afternoon of laughter, wit and wisdom. Please contact Jenny Zimmerman 0438 498 869 for further details.

SUBMITTED BY JENNY ZIMMERMAN



Photo: Left – Myron Lysenko, lead singer of Black Forest Smoke, with some of our local poets



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A Collective 125 years of Scouting leadership experience at an end

Retiring Scouting leaders, Pam Lenders, Marli Traill, Elaine Young, and Colleen Dwyer-Grey have shared their knowledge and wisdom over countless Scouting troops, and their years of expertise in the outdoors has unfortunately come to an end. Between them, the four women share 125 years of experience, and their legacy and impact will live on not only in Scouting, but also in the wider community.

For years, 1st Woodend Scouts has been a safe place for growing and learning for the youth of the Macedon Ranges. According to Marli Traill, the family-friendly Scouting program prepares Scouts for obstacles they may encounter as they grow up. The Scouting program guides youths to make their own decisions; Pam Lenders explains that the program is most focused on giving children the chance to be self-led, allowing every opportunity to express themselves. She defines a Scouting leader as somebody who doesn't take over, and has a willingness to adapt to a child's needs to fully support them. Scouting programs are solution-focused, so when a Scout encounters a problem, the leaders encourage them to come to a solution as a team and with as little input from the leader as possible. Elaine Young describes it as a tool to design your goals, and create your own adventure, as every child is different. The Scouting program is accommodating to people of all ages and skill levels, and having a desire for outdoor adventure gives the kids a chance to explore new connections with other people their own age.

Colleen Dwyer-Grey reminisced on her first encounter with the 1st Woodend Scouts, and how her son's entry into Cub Scouts and her interest for the outdoors led her to join the program as a leader. At the time, girls were not allowed to be Scouts, but that didn't stop Colleen from getting involved. She struggled with a speech impediment at that time, and worried a lot about what other people would think of her. Through the Scouts, Colleen built up confidence from many speeches and the kids encouraged her to trust herself more.

Marli and Elaine recall the Scouting Zooms that occurred over the pandemic, when the program couldn't run face-to-face due to COVID-19. They say that while not everyone found it easy to engage with online meetings, those who joined the Thursday night Zooms were able to continue enjoying Scouts, even though they couldn't be outdoors together. Marli and Elaine had to work around this,

with lots of cooking activities, scavenger hunts, obstacle courses and tasks to set the kids. A lot of the children looked forward to the weekly meetings online, and it also helped keep the kids connected and not lonely.

All four women remarked on the Anzac Dawn Service, describing it as an amazing opportunity for the Scouts to remember the Anzacs, and how important it is to experience the service. The kids camp up at the Cross at Mt Macedon, and they are always ready at 3am for the Dawn Service. "It's such a privilege to be able to camp up there, because nobody else is allowed to," says Pam. In the morning, they set up the tables and chairs and start what is called the Gunfire Breakfast, where the Scouts hand out coffee, tea, and sausages, all for free and for people to enjoy. For the 100th commemoration of the Dawn Service, Pam recalls about 2,000 people being up on the mountain.

Awards are also present in each of the four women's Scouting careers, as Marli and Colleen alike have both been awarded the Silver Emu, awarded to an adult member in a leadership role for great responsibility and service, awarded four to five years after they are awarded the Silver Koala, which is awarded to an adult member who has been in a leadership role for a period of around 14-16 years. Elaine has been awarded the Meritorious Service Award, which is defined as performance at a higher standard for longer than it would be expected. She has also been given the Silver Wattle, an achievement award for outstanding service for a period of around ten to twelve years. These awards are very prestigious achievements, but Pam Lenders describes the experience of leading and being with the children as more fulfilling than any award. As Marli, Elaine and Pam have all had a background in childcare and teaching, they recount the same kind of experience from teaching days to being a Scout leader. Pam says that a lot of the problems you will encounter as a Scout leader will also be evident in teaching.

Recalling their most memorable moments, it was clear to see how much the four retiring leaders loved the program and how much it meant to them. All described the Scouting program in Woodend as not only a safe place for children, but also a place where they were able to grow themselves. They talked about how much they loved Woodend, a community-minded and welcoming town, which was a great place for children to develop people skills and connect with the community in a small rural setting.

We wish the best of luck to all four of these ladies going forward, and emphasise the importance of their legacy they have left behind.

WRITTEN BY ALICE RAMSHAW, AGE 17



Photo: Colleen Dwyer-Grey



Photo: L-R Marli Trail and Elaine Young



Photo: Pam Lenders

Guest Speakers

Dr Elissa Waters

The guest speaker for 9 November was Dr Elissa Waters, who is a political geographer and lecturer in Human Geography at Monash University. Elissa spoke to us about her research on the social and political dimensions of climate change adaptation and disaster governance in Australia and the Pacific. In particular, she is now an adviser to island nations on climate adaptation and disaster management. Her key message was that there is so much more that can be done to protect these tiny nations from the impact of climate change, with many opportunities for Australia and other nations to assist.



Photo: L-R Vice President Charles Bender and Tonia Todman



Photo: L-R Pen Longton, Terry Longton, Rosemary Guyatt, Dr Elissa Waters and Tony Waters

Tonia Todman

Tonia Todman, Australian Queen of Craft. Tonia is a well known TV personality and author who lives in the Macedon Ranges, entertained and delighted us with her personal stories and anecdotes.

Tonia Todman gained popularity as the host of the long-running television show "The Great Southeast" in the 1980s, where she shared her expertise in various crafts and homemaking skills. Her warm and engaging personality made her a beloved figure among viewers.

Tonia Todman has also authored several books on crafts, home decor, and DIY projects. Her books often provide step-by-step instructions for a variety of creative endeavours, making them accessible to individuals interested in crafting and decorating their homes.

During October, Rotarians and friends were also treated to inspiring addresses by Diana Ellis, Principal, Woodend Primary School and Chris Eagle, Acting Group Leader, 1st Woodend Scout Group.

Diana spoke to us about her career and her passion for education as well as the dedication of our teachers in the face of the many challenges of the past few years. Chris shared with us his own

journey in Scouts, which he joined as a boy, and the modern focus in Scouts on developing young people as leaders by encouraging them to lead all the activities, and taking on more responsibility as they grow older. It is not surprising that 1st Woodend Scouts has a waiting list of young people wanting to join.

Photo: L-R President Deidre Willmott, Terry Longton, Chris Eagle, Ed Brown and Anne Brown on a tour of Woodend 1st Scouts Hall.

Photo: Diana Ellis, Principal, Woodend Primary School



Introducing Rotary Woodend newest members

Kathryn Footner and Leigh Wren met through their shared passion of horses and commitment to equine welfare. Circumstances arose which enabled them to join together professionally, as well as personally. Kathryn is the Principal Solicitor at Footner Wren Legal and has over two decades of experience in the legal profession, largely working for various stakeholders in the personal injury sphere. Leigh is responsible for the conveyancing practice, as well as overall management of the firm.

Both Leigh and Kathryn enjoy being involved in volunteer roles. Leigh was President of Triple R Equine Welfare and played an integral role in providing relief assistance to the horse community following the Black Saturday, Coonabarabran, Kilmore and Adelaide Hills bushfires and various Victorian floods.

Kathryn has provided pro bono legal advice at several Community Legal Centres. She has held various committee positions and is immediate past President of Project Hope Horse Welfare Victoria Inc. She currently sits on the Animal Welfare Committee in the Administrative Law and Human Rights Section of the Law Institute of Victoria.

Leigh and Kathryn moved to the Woodend area in December 2020. They are very much looking forward to becoming involved in the Woodend Rotary Club and serving the community.



Photo: L-R Leigh and Kathryn on their farm.



Collaborations and the positive impact on the community

The acquisition of a new washer/dryer made possible by joint funding from the Rotary Clubs of Woodend and Melbourne Central Sunshine, is a significant contribution that directly enhances the facilities and services for The Living Room.

The recognition of the ongoing support from Rotary Clubs, as well as the acknowledgment of their invaluable role in funding essential items and aid, highlights the collaborative effort in addressing homelessness at The Living Room.

The Living Room is a primary health service that provides free healthcare and support to improve the physical, mental and social well-being of young people who are homeless, or are at risk of experiencing homelessness. The only service of its kind in Melbourne, The Living Room focuses on the social determinants of health to look beyond disease or illness, to see a person's overall situation.

Find out more about The Living Room at <https://www.youthprojects.org.au/the-living-room>

SUBMITTED BY JOSEPHINE FALZARANO

Vale Shane Bartley 1956-2023

Rotary is saddened to hear that Shane died last weekend. He was a valued member of the Woodend club through its early years. After leaving Rotary he was still actively participating and it was Shane that produced all the signs around the Woodend walking track.

Shane was especially well known in the cycle road racing world and competed internationally for Australia. He established Macedon Ranges Signs more than thirty years ago, and handed over the business to the next generation fairly recently. Shane received his final diagnosis last June, but was able to leave at a time of his choosing.

Our condolences go to the family.

Embracing the All-Electric Future: Your Guide to a Sustainable Home

The shift towards an all-electric future raises crucial decisions about replacing common gas appliances. This is true whether you're building anew, renovating, or upgrading an old appliance. The move to all-electric isn't just a passing trend – it's a significant step towards a more sustainable future. Let's explore the switch to electric, acknowledging the practicalities and benefits.

Cooking

Induction Cooktops: Transitioning from a beloved gas stove? Induction cooktops are a compelling alternative.

While they might require a bit of a learning curve for avid gas users, they offer superior energy efficiency, precise temperature control, and enhanced safety. However, assessing your home's electrical capacity first is important, as induction cooking can be power-hungry.

Hot Water

Look for an efficient hot water upgrade, especially if you have solar power or a traditional electric element hot water; consider a heat pump hot water system. They are incredibly efficient, using less electricity to deliver four times the energy output, this is one of the most cost-effective changes you can make.

Heating & Cooling

Reverse Cycle Air Conditioning employs heat pump technology similar to the hot water systems, offering an efficient solution for heating and cooling. It's an ideal replacement for gas heating, giving you greater control and being

powerable by renewable sources, possibly even your own solar panels.

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At Bluegum, we take a holistic approach to your home's energy needs. Creating solutions that ensure your solar systems, heat pump hot water, electrical upgrades, EV charging, and air conditioning work together to give you the right solutions long term. Our team is here to help you every step of the way, ensuring that your move to an all-electric home saves you money and makes your life more comfortable and convenient.

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SUBMITTED BY CHANTEL GILBERT, CEO OF BLUEGUM ELECTRICAL

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“The Cottage”

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New group to electrify the community

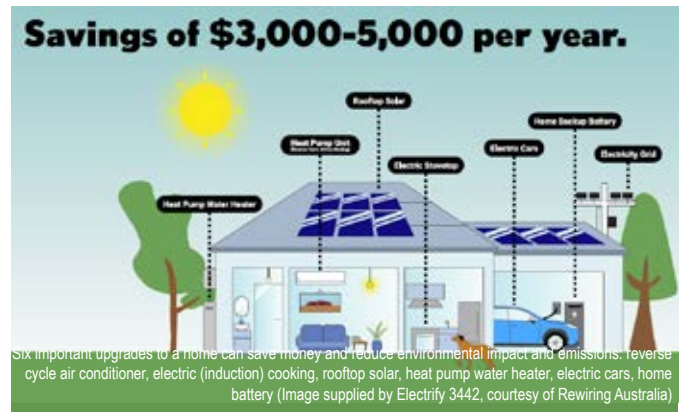
When a hot summer approaches, we Woodenders tend to have a lot on our minds. Bushfire risk. Buildings that are in various stages of readiness for rising temperatures and adverse weather events brought by El Niño and climate change. When the weather cools, our thoughts turn to how to keep warm; and all the while, electricity and gas costs go up.

A new project, Electrify 3442, aims to put the power in the community hands - so that households and businesses in postcode district 3442 can make their buildings more comfortable and energy efficient and reduce greenhouse emissions. And in a recent coup for the project, Rewiring Australia – a not-for-profit research and advocacy organisation dedicated to “electrifying everything” – has selected Electrify 3442 as one of only ten community partners nationwide tasked with bringing the electrification message to our front doors.

Led by local high school student activist Olivia Hedge and comprising leadership members from Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group’s Renewable Energy, Go Renewable Energy! and Sustainable Homes action groups, Electrify 3442 wants to find a group of families, and eventually, businesses, willing to pledge to fully electrify.

But why electrify? Rewiring Australia says that a great proportion of Australia’s domestic greenhouse gas emissions come from households and businesses. To address this, Electrify 3442 wants to get us all thinking about the “six things” – four significant energy users within our homes that can be upgraded to efficient electric, which, along with rooftop solar and a home battery, will save a lot every year on power bills (see graphic) and reduce energy-related carbon emissions.

Filling the knowledge gap is crucial, says Electrify 3442 member Sue Barker. She notes that while this community is no stranger to energy efficiency – according to solarquotes.com.au, our postcode district has over the national average of rooftop solar installations per 100 households – there is still a lot to know about going electric:



what’s available, what’s involved, how to choose products and tradespeople. And besides the technology, says Sue, not everyone knows about other resources, like government rebates that can help with the upfront costs. There’s value in being armed with the knowledge ahead of time, she says, before an inefficient appliance – from my own current experience, an LPG bottled gas-heated hot water system – reaches the end of its life.

Sue Barker says the first task for the group will be to start the conversation, as the group assesses where we are as a community transitioning to energy efficient electric, and she says watch this space. Early in 2024, Electrify 3442 will kick off activities with a survey, and after that will set the first group of households on the road to electrification. Will yours be among them?

If you are interested in hearing more about Electrify 3442, email team leader olivia.hedge@mrsrg.org.au

WRITTEN BY KELLIE FLANAGAN FOR ELECTRIFY 3442

(Interest statement: Kellie Flanagan is copyeditor and management committee member of The New Woodend Star and is a member of Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group)

Resources:

<https://www.rewiringaustralia.org/#Why-Electrify>

<https://www.solarquotes.com.au/location/woodend-3442-vic/>



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Christmas 2023 bin collection changes

If your normal bin collection day is Monday (Christmas Day – 25 December), your bin will be collected on Tuesday 26 December.

If your normal bin collection day falls between Tuesday 26 December and Friday 29 December, please put your bin out as usual and leave it out until collected (this will likely be delayed by one day including a Saturday collection).

Collections will not be affected on all other public holidays and will resume as normal from Monday 1 January 2024.

Mulch and compost

If you're looking to spruce up your garden over the spring/summer season, free self-loaded mulch is available at all resource recovery facilities (formerly known as 'transfer stations').

If you're looking for a bit more than a trailer load, mulch and compost can be ordered at any resource recovery facility. (Please note mulch delivery orders made after 19 December may be delayed by up to three weeks).

For information, visit mrc.vic.gov.au/mulch

New Nature Guide!

Introducing our fifth Nature Guide: The Grasses of Central Victoria, an easy reference guide for beginners to use in the farm paddock or your local bushland reserve.

The guide includes over 50 local species and information to help you on your way to being an expert. Copies are available at Council offices or to download at mrc.vic.ov.au/grass-guide

Environment events

Grass Identification Field Days

Thursday 7 December, 10 - 11.30am, Malmsbury

Friday 15 December, 10 - 11.30am, Clunes

Join us for a practical session for beginners to learn more about the grasses that populate your property and surrounds. Using our newly designed Grasses of Central Victoria Nature Guide, our skilled grass identification practitioner will show you how to put our guide to use.

To register, visit mrc.vic.gov.au/environment-events

Summer calendar

We have several exciting events coming up over summer including:

- Horses and sustainable grazing, field activity (21 January)
- Grazing and farming discussion group, field activity (9 February)
- Local farmers on small properties, webinar (13 February)
- Rascally rabbits, workshop (17 and 18 February)
- Reducing the wildlife road toll community forum, workshop (23 February)

To register for events or sign up to the monthly Environment eNews, visit <http://www.mrc.vic.gov.au/environment-events>

Waste reduction over the holiday season

It's that time of the year again! The holiday season is upon us and Council would like to remind the community of the recycling options available in the shire.

Remember to:

- flatten cardboard boxes before putting them in the recycling bin
- scrunch up foil into a small ball before putting it in your recycling bin
- take the lids off glass bottles and jars before putting them in your glass bin

Excess cardboard, polystyrene, e-waste and textiles can be recycled at your local resource recovery facility for free.

Other waste reduction tips:

- When giving gifts, consider using reusable wrapping paper to reduce waste.
- Plan your meals and only buy what you need. If you have leftovers, consider freezing them to reduce your food waste.
- Consider purchasing gifts from local businesses to support the local economy.

For more waste reduction tips or information about Council's resource recovery services, visit mrc.vic.gov.au/waste



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NEW CANASTA CLUB IN MACEDON!

For those who enjoy card games, casual Canasta sessions are now taking place every Tuesday afternoon (2pm) at the Macedon Community Centre, 47 Victoria Street. All welcome, including beginners. Canasta is a fun and easy game to learn, and we're a very friendly bunch! \$3 per session includes tea and coffee (please bring cash only). Come every week, or whenever you feel like it.

Further details, contact Jenny Zimmerman 0438 498 869.

SUBMITTED BY JENNY ZIMMERMAN

Pamper yourself or someone special with a gift voucher at Ramai this Christmas!



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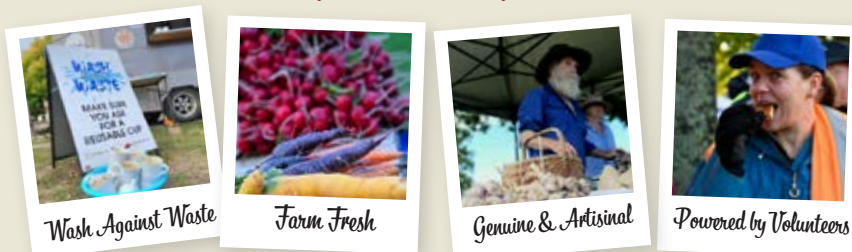
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www.ramai.com.au



Photo: Magpie feeding time by Hubert Weisrock

Sustainable, Local, Zero-Waste



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

1st Saturday of every month



9am-1pm

mrsg.org.au

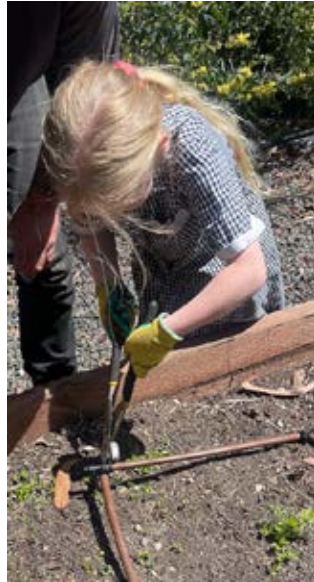
Saving water in the garden

Woodend Primary School's Community Children's Garden is the lucky recipient of a Greater Western Water Thriving Communities Grant for 2023-24.

Auspiced by Woodend Landcare, the \$3,780 grant covers hardware and installation of an automated irrigation system in the school vegetable garden.

The programmable watering system enables:

- irrigation of the garden at the most beneficial times of day (i.e. early morning or late evening), so less water is lost through evaporation,
- water delivered directly to the soil, where it is needed (rather than on the leaves), and
- sufficient quantities of water to be dispensed, so that it soaks far down into the soil to encourage deep root growth.



Together with mulch on the soil surface and compost-rich soil (both of which help to keep the soil moist), this results in healthier, more resilient, more productive crops, water savings and less time school parents need to spend watering the garden over summer holidays!

Jason and the team from Midland Irrigation reused some of the old watering system that was salvaged when the garden was refurbished in 2017-2018. Not only did reusing old fittings and pipes save them from landfill, it also reduced the project costs.

Installation of some of the driplines was left to WPS Garden Club students. With the help of parent volunteers, the students had fun constructing the dripper systems ("It's just like a big toy set"), while also learning about water-saving and plant water needs.

In mid-December, supporters and sponsors of the project, Minister for Water Harriet Shing, Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas, Greater Western Water MD Maree Lang and Woodend Landcare President Peter Yates will be visiting Woodend Primary School's Community Children's Garden to see the irrigation system and Children's Garden Club in action.

With or without an automated irrigation system, follow the tips above to efficiently use water in your garden this summer. Your plants, both edible and inedible, and your bank balance, will thank you for it.

Next Working Bees:

Woodend Landcare is taking a 2 month break over summer. Our next working bees are scheduled for:

Sunday 4 February – Jeffrey's Street - Ivy attack

Sunday 25 February – site TBC



SUBMITTED BY NICOLE MIDDLETON, WOODEND LANDCARE



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This delicious, flaky buttery shortbread has been my go to recipe for years because it is so versatile; it can be made into a traditional short bread shape or kids can help cut the dough into fun shapes. You can serve them as is or add icing for a special Christmas touch. This quick and simple recipe is perfect for family gatherings.

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The Mystery monument of Woodend

Many of the town folk who have either played golf or just gone for an enjoyable walk on the Woodend Golf Club golf course will have seen the pictured directional monument or marker or cairn (a mound of rough stones) close to the current 17th green.

The questions I have been trying to resolve for quite some time are:

Who put this there?

When did they put this there?

Why did they put this there?



I have been researching this with the help of the Woodend & District Heritage Society, Council archives and many other people. With what has been found, and interpretation of the information from the directional tablet, the date of the structure is thought to be around 1900. We have a positive record that it existed in 1933, and the objects directed to indicate it may have been erected in the late 1800s.

I am hoping that this article may bring about recall of some family tales or knowledge of the structure that will assist with further research. Any information relating to the monument would be appreciated and can be sent to johnht5000@hotmail.com.

SUBMITTED BY JOHN TOWNSEND

A tribute to a member of the Royal Australian Air Force

Aircraftman Class 1, Thomas Dorney's life was lost in World War Two.

Three generations of the Dorney family from the Macedon Ranges attended a Last Post Ceremony to honour Thomas Dorney. The service was held on 20 October at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

Thomas Dorney of the No. 10 Squadron of Sunderland aircraft was killed in action during WW2 when the aircraft in which he was travelling was shot down into the Bay of Biscay with no survivors. The aircraft was near the French coast whilst conducting a search and rescue mission for a crew of a Wellington aircraft.

All crew members aboard the Sunderland aircraft were reported as missing in action. There had been no confirmation of the outcomes released. But recently, it was found that records were reported by another allied aircraft crew who witnessed the Sunderland crashing into the ocean and bursting into flames.

The Australian War Memorial now offers families the opportunity to have a Last Post Service. As a family we researched the history of Tom's life, details of which were sent to the War Memorial staff, who

were then able to research military records to complete an accurate and informative history of Thomas Dorney.

At the Last Post Ceremony, the ten family members present felt honoured to hear service of Thomas Dorney to his country, which was read by a servicing senior officer of the Royal Australian Air Force.

SUBMITTED BY MARGOT THIELE, NIECE OF TOM DORNEY

Photo: A large framed photograph of Tom beside the Pool of Reflection. Right Tom in full uniform





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Woodend Library News – What’s on?



Closing over Christmas

The Library will be closed from Monday 25 December to Monday 1 January, re-opening on Tuesday 2 January at 9.30am. The returns chute will remain open, so you can return items anytime.

Working in the library and summer program

Do you know we have free wifi and tables and chairs to use in the library? Whether you are working, studying or just need a change of scenery, drop into the library and check out the space. There will also be activities for children over the holidays – keep a look out for our summer program and Big Summer Read!

Need help navigating the ever-changing digital world? Access free one-on-one training and support at your local library. Drop in or give us a call on 5427 2074; tell us what you would like to know about or learn, and we’ll make an appointment for you.

Supported by the State Government of Victoria Digital Literacy for Seniors program.

eLibrary over the Holidays

Need some books to read over the holidays? Why not try the BorrowBox or Libby Apps?

Borrow, download and enjoy. BorrowBox is home to the greatest Australian and international authors of the world’s best eBooks and eAudiobooks. There’s a great selection of adult and children’s books. Or try the award-winning Libby App! Check out the huge selection of magazines.

From all of the Woodend Library team, thank you to everyone who has come in and borrowed books, attended events, found a piece of a jigsaw puzzle or just had a chat! Thank you too, to all of our volunteers and students who have helped us over this year, we really appreciate everything you have done for us! Have a wonderful, happy and safe festive season everyone! See you in 2024!!

SUBMITTED BY EMMA KEENAN



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Will there be a bad fire season this year?

People often ask me whether this year is going to be a bad fire season and my answer is simple. We live in one of the most dangerously fire-prone areas in the world, so every fire season has the potential to be a bad one ... it just depends how bad!

All of the forecasts indicate that this year will be an extremely dangerous summer. In fact, with reasonable rains in recent years and strong spring growth, this year promises to be yet another very dangerous fire season. And now is the time to continue preparing and maintaining your property to reduce the risks of fire danger to you and your family.

The Fire Danger Period started Monday November 27 – any burn offs will require a council permit.

Now that burn off restrictions are in place, you will be forbidden to conduct a burn-off in any form, no matter the size of your property, unless you have an official permit from the Macedon Ranges Shire Council. Please check the Macedon Ranges Shire Council website for all information about burning off, including links to getting a permit.

If the CFA is called to an illegal burn off during the Fire Danger Period, the Police will be called to the scene and serious charges and penalties may be incurred. In fact, lighting a fire in the open without a permit is an offence and can bring a heavy fine or 12 months imprisonment.

The use of chainsaws, lawn mowers, ride-ons and grass trimmers during the Fire Danger Period.

In recent years, we have attended a number of fires that were started by machinery of some kind. Many of these were started by people using ride-on mowers in long or longish grass.

There are actually laws in place during the Fire Danger Period for using such machinery – ride-on mowers, chainsaws, lawn mowers, grass trimmers and other equipment.

To find out more please visit the CFA website and download a copy of the ‘Can I, Can’t I’ brochure. Or pick one up from your local CFA Brigade.

See you at the Woodend Farmers’ Market

We have now started our annual summer Community Safety Information Sessions, including our presence at the Woodend Farmers’ Market in December and in the new year. A huge thank you to the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group for giving us this opportunity.

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

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, FORMER CAPTAIN, WOODEND CFA



December is a Time for Giving

There are many ways you can support the Woodend Neighbourhood House in our mission to help locals facing tough times this Christmas.

Donate a gift: we are gratefully accepting donations of gifts and presents to pass on to those in need of Christmas cheer. Last year we noted the generosity of our community to provide toys for pre-school and primary aged children, however we'd love to receive gifts for teenagers and adults in our community, too.

Fill a Reverse Advent Calendar box: Our hugely popular Reverse Advent Calendar Appeal is back for its third year. Unlike a regular advent calendar, where the focus is on receiving a treat every day,

the Reverse Advent Calendar encourages participants to place an item a day into the box in the lead up to Christmas (non-perishable food, toiletries, small gifts or a Christmas treat). Those interested in participating can register via our website. Boxes can be picked up from the Woodend Neighbourhood House during opening hours and are due back to the House by Friday 15 December.

Donate to the Food Bank: Donations of pantry staples, cleaning products or personal hygiene items are very welcome through the collection bins in Coles and IGA in Woodend or in person at reception at the Woodend Neighbourhood House. We are seeing increased demand at each session.

Donate money: We also welcome cash donations from local individuals or businesses to help support our gift giving and Food Bank appeal. Donations can be made either in person at the House or via bank transfer. Contact the Woodend Neighbourhood House for more information on how to donate.

If you know someone in our community who would benefit from receiving a gift or Reverse Advent Calendar box, or would like to make a request for yourself, please get in touch with the Woodend Neighbourhood

House on Monday to Friday between 9am to 3pm via telephone 5427 1845 or email reception@woodendnh.org.au.

December Community Lunch

Join us for our annual end-of-year Community Lunch at the Woodend RSL on Tuesday 12 December at 12 noon. The December luncheon is always a special one, as we celebrate the year gone by with friends, old and new. Bookings are essential for this popular event that is likely to book out. Bookings can be made online via our website, over the telephone or in person. While we'd love a small \$5 donation per person on the day to help cover costs, it's not essential.

On behalf of the Woodend Neighbourhood House, we would like to extend our warmest wishes to our local community for a Merry Christmas and a safe, healthy New Year!

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

SUBMITTED BY MELISSA BAKER

OPENING HOURS

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturdays 9.00am - 4.00pm. Sundays 10.00am - 4.00pm

We would like to thank all our customers and suppliers for supporting our little farm shop throughout the year of 2023, and take this time to wish you all a safe Christmas and New Year. Hope to see everyone back in 2024.



We sell fresh produce from the farm along with fruit from around Victoria. We also sell local honey, cheese, sourdough breads, pastries, crumpets, eggs, olive oils and an extensive range of The BUTTERFLY & THE BEE's old English traditional jams, chutneys, pickles, ketchup, curds and passata.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR OPENING TIMES

CLOSED - Mon 25th, Tue 26th & Wed 27th December
OPEN - Thurs 28th, Fri 29th, Sat 30th & Sun 31st December
CLOSED - Mon 1st, Tue 2nd & Wed 3rd January, 2024

New for the shop - Xmas hampers and gift vouchers

Mountain View Garlic Farm Shop is as 26 Andrew Ave, Woodend Victoria 3442
 Contact: Baz 0409 594 971 | info@mountainviewgarlic.com.au



The value of reading

There is little debate about the value of reading to young children. Every Wednesday, Goodstart Early Learning Centre in Woodend gets a visit from the second hand bookshop owner, Ed Irons.

In his trademark long coat, waistcoat and bowtie, 70-year-old Ed reads to toddlers, pre-kindergartners and kindergarten children. It is the ideal set-up, Ed says, as he has a large supply of books to choose from.

But it's more than just grabbing books: age appropriateness, opportunities for children to participate, and good stories are criteria for selection.

"I just love it. It makes my week," Ed says, "When I get back to the shop, I need to calm down with a coffee!" Excitement is mutual. When Ed gets out of his car, toddlers at the fence announce his arrival and run to the reading mat.

As an educator and parent, Ed is concerned to enable literacy at all levels. He spent many years in universities helping the transition of students from secondary school. He allays the fears of parents who think the screen will take over from books, by stressing how young children get a lifetime association with books from the adults who read to them at an early age.

A typical reading session will be two stories, then questions and comments. "Children just want to engage. Sometimes it's about the stories and sometimes it isn't. I get knock-knock jokes, or they tell me about their pets or holiday plans. I have been given drawings and hugs."



Photo: Ed Irons reading to children at the Goodstart Early Learning Centre

"He's a star! We get lots of good feedback from the children and parents, we are so lucky to have Ed visit weekly, he is a big part of our centre," comments centre director Matina Niehs.

The Centre encourages volunteers with skills to visit to give children a variety of experiences.

SUBMITTED BY ED IRONS



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The Mount Players Winds Up another Year!

Our final production for 2023 "Peter Pan - A Musical Adventure" has been a resounding success, playing sixteen sellout shows. This production was the epitome of community theatre with almost everyone who put up their hand to be involved being catered for. It has been a wonderful opportunity to showcase the young talent we have in this area. Backed, of course, by our unseen heroes working so hard behind the scenes - our scenic artists, set builders, lighting designers, costume designers and makers plus everyone who helped backstage and front of house. Without their efforts none of this would have been possible. And thank you of course to everyone who attended. We truly appreciate your support.

Mount Players Youth Theatre Showcase – Saturday 9 December 4pm is a showcase of the different acting skillsets that have been developed in weekly classes over the semester in a performance evening presented to parents/carers and friends of the Mount Players Youth Theatre (MPYT) students. This opportunity provides a platform for students to showcase the progress they have made

in their acting skills and celebrate their hard work, dedication and growth as performers. If you or someone you know would like to be involved with The Mount Players Youth Theatre, we invite you to go to our website www.themountplayers.com for full details on enrolling for Term 1 in 2024.

Our first show for 2024 "Wild" by Mike Bartlett, directed by George Benca is a dark comedy that explores the unexpected, bewildering and life-changing consequences of challenging the status quo at a global level. Last week, Andrew was that guy with his girl lunching at KFC discussing their plans for the future. Today he's in Moscow, in an undisclosed hotel room, on the run and at risk of assassination. Last week a nobody. This week, America's most wanted. The season runs from 23 February – 10 March. Tickets via our website.

The Mount Players sends out a huge thanks to everyone who comes to our shows and of course to our wonderful Sponsors – Bendigo Community Bank Gisborne, Office Barn Gisborne, Bradleys Curtains & Blinds Woodend, Jellis Craig Woodend and Hanging Rock Winery for their ongoing support.

We wish you all a peaceful, safe and happy Christmas season with friends and family.

See you at the theatre in 2024!

SUBMITTED BY KAREN HUNT



Message from your Woodend Police Station Commander

By the time this is published, it will only be weeks before we are looking back at 2023. Crime-wise we remain relatively similar to prior months; just the odd theft and damage and many communities would be envious of the fantastic community we have here in Woodend. I've mentioned this repeatedly, but I will bore you again and not only because we're heading into the silly season: the road toll is the highest in more than a decade and most of you will be aware of the recent tragedy we had not far from our community. All Police across

the state will be tasked with traffic enforcement, so don't be surprised when we stop you for a preliminary breath test, or far worse, for a traffic indiscretion.

I'm aware that some of this information was on the front cover of last month's Woodend Star, flagging that all the emergency services are busily preparing for the upcoming fire season. I recently was in a state level meeting where a fire expert was asked, "What are you expecting this year?" He answered, "I'll tell you after Easter!" Needless to say, they are concerned. Now is the time to prepare, not once the temperature is regularly over 30 and you'd be cooking in the sun. It's far too late when you see smoke rolling down Black Forest Drive or Ashbourne Road. The CFA and the Red Cross have a number of useful documents available to help you prepare your homes. In summary, have a plan, but also have a plan B and then a Plan C. If your plan is to not be home in high-risk days please leave early, as its far too late once you see smoke.

Whilst we aren't the anti-fun police, the Fire Danger Period for Macedon Ranges Shire has been declared from 1am on the 27th of November 2023, and any fire lit in the open air within Macedon Ranges without a Permit will result in a court appearance. "You light it you own it". Police won't be issuing warnings and the consequences to life and property won't be glossed over. If in doubt, jump onto the CFA website to be clear on what you can and can't do.

Lastly, please have a safe end of year, it's nice to know that we will be out and about, but hopefully you don't need our expertise.

SUBMITTED BY DAVID ARNOLD, SERGEANT, WOODEND POLICE



The MRFs is planning a special program for 2024 with a variety of carefully selected films showing each month, commencing in February. In addition, we have scheduled another popular short film festival for next November.

The Film Society approaches the end of 2023 with a strong membership and a program of monthly screenings that have been well received by audiences. In August we mounted a gourmet film afternoon. The French film Delicious was shown and followed by an afternoon tea to match the temptations in the film.

The Society has established an equipment fund. This will help ensure we can meet upgrades in our technology for sound and projection. We have invested in state-of-the-art 4K projection and sound equipment. These are complemented with a new large full screen.

The MRFs President Christine Caley said, "The committee aims to provide a social environment with a wide choice of well rated films." She added that the committee had agreed to maintain the existing membership subscription of \$70 for 2024.

SUBMITTED BY NEIL APLIN



Mahjong - Come and Try

Learn the strategy and skills required to play Mahjong, a popular tile-based game originating from China at three come and try sessions, all guided by an experienced Mahjong teacher.

Dates: Monday 4, 11 and 18 December, Romsey Community Hub, 96 Main Road.

This event is free. Registrations essential. Light refreshments provided.

Village Coffee Gathering

Sparkle up with a touch of tinsel to gather, meet and keep connected with other like-minded individuals in our community over the age of 55. Join us for some complimentary coffee and cake at our last village coffee gathering for 2023.

The next gathering is on 14 December, 11am-12pm, Dromkeen Gallery, Riddells Creek. Seating is limited, so bookings are essential.

Registration is for Pathways for Carers, Mahjong, and coffee gatherings are essential. Call the Village Connect team on 5422 0333 or visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/village-connect

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E: michelle@nixonfs.com.au

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Woodend Senior Citizens

The bus trip to Corio Bay in Geelong was enjoyed by all, with good weather and a smooth sea.

Our last bus trip for the year is on Thursday 14 December to the Highland Society in Maryborough for Christmas lunch, with a stop at the Chocolate Mill at Mount Franklin on the way home.

Button Bingo on Tuesdays (1pm to 3pm) and Cards on Fridays (1pm to 4pm) are now in the Undercroft of the Woodend Neighbourhood House, with access via the gates next to the Skate Park off Margery Crescent. Our last session for the year will be on Tuesday 19 December and we will resume on Tuesday 16 January. Please come and join us.

New members are always welcome. If you are interested in joining, please call Margaret (0458 272 767), Irene (0417 676 843) or Alma (0400 134 478).

Wishing everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year

SUBMITTED BY SENIOR CITIZENS GROUP



U3A Kynetron provides a stimulating environment for Macedon Ranges residents who have retired from full time work, and who enjoy meeting people and want to keep active.

The next U3A Kynetron enrolment day is 19 January, 2024, at 9.30am to 12pm. New members can join in person on the day at the Red Brick Hall, 23 Yaldwyn Street West, Kynetron, or via the website. Existing members can enrol either online or in person.

There are no entry requirements and no exams. Our organisation is a voluntary, not-for-profit group and a member of U3A Network Victoria.

Our programs include guest speakers; choir; movies; poetry; folk dancing; social activities; cycling; games and much more.

Further information is available via email at u3akynetron@gmail.com and on the website <https://u3akynetron.org.au/>, or by phoning 0439 360 763.



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Woodend Golf Club open new clubhouse

Woodend's golfers, its members and the community are now enjoying the newly renovated Golf Clubhouse, opened on Saturday 11 November. Interim President James O'Brien welcomed members and guests to the new accessible rooms.

Deputy Mayor Cr Anderson spoke of the council's contribution to the costs of the renovation and shared some particular aspects about the project including the use of materials repurposed from the 2021 storm in the landscaping and decking. In addition, Cr Anderson spoke of how the renewal of the clubrooms has contributed to Council's strategic objectives in Connecting Communities.

Sustainability is a high priority for the club, such as support from Greater Western Water with recycled water for the gardens. Woodend Landcare has supported the redevelopment through landscaping efforts.

The club has been operating for 115 years in Woodend and has been an important part of the Woodend community in that time, with many events and functions held each year. The honour boards capture so much of the history of Woodend, with familiar names from the past.

High on the club's priority for the redevelopment was accessibility, so that club members and guests of all abilities could access the rooms. This also extends to the new bathroom facilities, with accessible toilets and showers.

The makeover of the kitchen facilities means that catering for functions is easier. The club welcomes enquiries from individuals and groups for events and is offering a discounted rate of \$250 for the first year of membership. Taking a lead from Golf Australia's women and girls scholarship program, keep an eye out for the announcement of the Club's new initiative to welcome female participants. Contact the club through their website www.woodendgolfclub.com.au

WRITTEN BY IRENE O'DUFFY, FOLIO FORTY



The value of showroom appointments

Welcome to our small business, where we manage a diverse array of products, ranging from external roof systems to elegant wallpaper and trims – each with its unique features. Operating within limited capacity, we understand the value of time and efficiency.

Appointments are crucial for us to seamlessly manage phone calls and coordinate deliveries, ensuring that we are fully prepared to cater to your specific needs. Whether you're exploring options or planning a project, appointments enable us to dedicate undivided attention to you.

While some may question this approach, for us, appointments represent our unwavering commitment to delivering the best service possible. Your time is valuable, and we want to make every interaction count.

Visit our website, check our Facebook page, or give us a call to arrange a showroom appointment. Prepare for a visit that revolves around your schedule, your requirements, and our sincere effort to provide quality products at our humble small business.

Thank you for considering us for your needs. We look forward to serving you with dedication and expertise.

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w www.bradleyscurtains.com

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

3-26..... — DECEMBER —

- 2..... Woodend Farmers' Market
- 2..... Outdoor pools open for summer
- 4..... Mahjong - Romsey Community Hub
- 2-3..... Pheonix Art & Craft Group Exhibition
- 9..... Woodend Men's Shed Open Day
- 11..... Mahjong - Romsey Community Hub
- 17..... Woodend Lions Market
- 14..... Village Coffee Gathering, Dromkeen Gallery
- 14..... Senior Citizens - Highland Society - Maryborough
- 16..... Woodend Cricket Club Christmas Party
- 17..... Lions Community Carols - Woodend Community Centre
- 18..... Mahjong - Romsey Community Hub
- 22..... Carols in the Garden - 6.00pm - St Mary's Woodend
- 24..... Children's Crib Service - 6.00pm- St Mary's Woodend
- 24..... Christmas Eve Service - 9.00pm- St Mary's Woodend
- 25..... Children's Day Service - 9.30am- St Mary's Woodend
- 25..... Christmas Day
- 26..... Boxing Day

— JANUARY —

- 1..... New Year's Day
- 6..... Woodend Farmers' Market
- 19..... U3A enrolment day
- 21..... Woodend Lions Market
- 26..... Celebrate Australia @ the RSL

— FEBRUARY —

- 3..... Woodend Farmers' Market
- 4..... Woodend Landcare Working Bee
- 9..... MRFS - The Big Steal @ Norma Richardson Hall
- 10..... Chamber Poets, RSL
- 11..... Ross Wilson & the Peaceniks @ KTH
- 23 - 10 March..... Mount Players "Wild"
- 25..... Woodend Landcare, Working Bee

— MARCH —

- 2..... Woodend Farmers' Market
- 8.. MRFS - The Lost City of Melbourne @ Norma Richardson Hall
- 11..... Labour Day Holiday
- 29..... Good Friday
- 31..... Easter Sunday



Kyneton Town Hall Events

Ross Wilson & The Peaceniks

4pm, Sunday 11 February,
Kyneton Town Hall

Ross Wilson is hitting the road with his all-star band The Peaceniks to celebrate over 50 Years of Hits including all the Daddy Cool and Mondo Rock favourites and more. With 26 ARIA Top 40 hits to his credit as a singer, songwriter and producer, Ross Wilson is one of Australia's most awarded, respected and well-known artists.



To purchase tickets visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/buytickets or call 1300 888 802 (10am-4pm, weekdays).

We are celebrating our 40th Anniversary

The Phoenix Macedon Ranges Art and Craft Group Exhibition and Sale

Dates and opening times

Saturday 2 December – 10.00am to 4.00pm
Sunday 3 December – 9.00am to 2.00pm.

(To coincide with the Gisborne Olde Time Market on Sunday).

Where: At the Old Gisborne Court House. 4 Hamilton St, Gisborne VIC 3437

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Woodend Mens Shed 10th Anniversary and Open Day

Saturday 9 December 2023 –10am until 2pm

The Woodend Men's Shed invites the community to join us in celebrating 10 years of mateship, collaboration and service.

Our workshop will be open to show what we do and many and varied items will be available for sale.

A range of heirloom toys, turned timber items, garden and household furniture have been made or restored by the members and would make ideal unique Christmas presents.

If you are unable to make it on the Open Day, Woodend Men's Shed invites you to drop in on either Monday or Wednesday between 9am and 12noon.

Contact us for further details on 0418 322 680 or info@woodendmensshed.org

SUBMITTED BY KEVIN DAVIS



A Festive Feast of Fun at Woodend Cricket Club's Free Community Christmas Party

'Tis the season to be jolly, and the Woodend Cricket Club is rolling out the red carpet for a night of festive cheer like no other. Mark your calendars for December 16, because the Community Christmas Party is just around the corner, and it promises to be an event that you won't want to miss! Picture this: a warm summer's evening, a starry sky, and the timeless Christmas classic 'Elf' starring the uproarious Will Ferrell. Grab your comfiest blankets, bring your loved ones, and settle in for a heartwarming outdoor movie night. It's a fantastic opportunity to relish the holiday spirit in the great outdoors. Feeling peckish? Not to worry! The Woodend Cricket Club has you covered, with popcorn and a sausage sizzle, plus plenty of refreshing drinks available for purchase. The best part? Entry to this magical event is entirely free. Yes, you read that correctly – and everyone is welcome! The Woodend Cricket Club is spreading the joy far and wide, bringing together the entire community for a night of shared laughter and memorable moments. The Woodend Cricket Club extends a heartfelt thank you to SGA Engineering for their generous sponsorship of this event. Their support has made it possible to create a wonderful evening for our community to enjoy.

SUBMITTED BY DANIEL HEALY

Rotary Club of Woodend  Australia Day  Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

Celebrate Australia

A free family event
Friday 26th January, 2024
Woodend RSL, 32 Anslow Street

Gates open at 12 noon
Free lunch provided
Drinks at bar prices - NO BYO alcohol

Everyone welcome / BYO picnic rugs and chairs.

The Rotary Club of Woodend with support from the National Australia Day Council is hosting this event as an opportunity to come together and celebrate the great community we live in.

To help us manage numbers please register your attendance at 
<https://www.trybooking.com/CNJON>

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE WOODEND CRICKET CLUB

COMMUNITY OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT

CHRISTMAS PARTY

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THE FUN STARTS FROM 6:30PM.
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DECEMBER



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Victorian Clubs rewarded for Road Safety commitment

Victorian football and netball clubs will share in more than \$600,000 for their efforts in campaigning to eliminate road trauma in their communities.

The state government and the Transport Accident Commission have announced this year's recipients of the TAC Club Rewards program, which incentivises grassroots clubs across the state to show a commitment to promoting road safety during the 2023 season.

Delivered in partnership with AFL Victoria, 251 clubs will receive rewards of up to \$10,000 through the program, the highest number of recipients in the program's five years.

The program encourages clubs to engage with players, members and their communities on key road safety issues and promote safe behaviours, with the dangers of distracted driving a key focus of this year's campaign.

Successful clubs, which include the Woodend Heskett Football Club, are able to use the money for a range of initiatives, including education programs, club transport initiatives, new equipment and uniforms and facility upgrades and improvements.

So far this year, 236 people have died on Victoria's roads and more than half of those deaths have happened in regional areas, where tens of thousands of local footballers and netballers travel for games and training.

Distracted driving is one of the major causes of fatal and serious injury crashes on Victoria's roads and is particularly concerning on regional roads where people are travelling at higher speeds.

AFL Victoria-affiliated clubs from across the state were able to apply for the program by showing how they supported road safety throughout the year, including taking part in the TAC's Road Safety Round 'Band Together' campaign.

Minister for Roads and Road Safety Melissa Horne said, "Victoria's grassroots football and netball clubs are influential in their communities, so it is wonderful to be able to incentivise them to roll out critical initiatives that promote safer driving." The TAC Club Rewards Program is part of the TAC's 31-year partnership with AFL Victoria, which aims to empower clubs to develop a culture where all players and members are expected to be safe on the roads.

More information and a full list of 2023 TAC Club Rewards program recipients can be found at tac.vic.gov.au/about-the-tac/community/grants/tac-club-rewards-program

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

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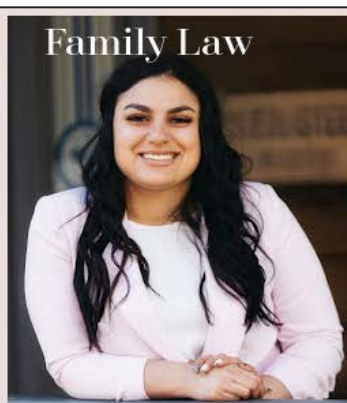
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Mary-Anne Thomas MP

LABOR MEMBER FOR MACEDON

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Mary-Anne Thomas



A: Shop 14, Nexus Centre, 9 Goode Street, Gisborne, VIC 3437

P: 5428 2138 **E:** mary-anne.thomas@parliament.vic.gov.au

W: www.mary-annethomas.com.au

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A Message for McEwen

As we approach the end of the 2023, I wanted to take a moment to send my warmest wishes to each and every one of you in our vibrant and resilient community.

Merry Christmas!

When reflecting on the year gone by, I am filled with gratitude for my role as your representative.

Our shared commitment to supporting one another and working together to overcome challenges and make improvements to our world truly sets our community apart.

Woodend was at the forefront of support for the Voice Referendum and can be proud it returned a strong Yes vote during the campaign this year.

It also hosted my wonderful friend and colleague Anne Aly, Minister for Youth and Minister for Early Childhood Education when I introduced her to the amazing team at Live4Life at their headquarters in Woodend.

I was also very proud to congratulate local organisations Woodend Bowling Club and Woodend Men's Shed for their successful grant applications.

Woodend Bowling Club can now ensure they can cater to the whole community's function needs with a successful \$17,800 Stronger Communities grant application for new chairs and tables and the great work of the Woodend Men's Shed will only improve thanks to a \$3,245 successful Volunteers Grant application for new power tools.

The unity of this community makes McEwen a wonderful place to call home and has inspired me as your representative. The countless stories of kindness, generosity, and selflessness that I have witnessed throughout our electorate are a testament to the exceptional people who make up our community.

As we gather with loved ones to celebrate the joy of the season, let us also take a moment to appreciate the bonds we share and the collective resilience that has seen us through the highs and lows of the past year. Your dedication to each other and the well-being of our community has not gone unnoticed.

May this Christmas be filled with joy, warmth, and the company of loved ones. Wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Here's to a fantastic 2024 filled with continued collaboration, prosperity, and the shared spirit that makes McEwen truly special.

Warm regards, Rob Mitchell MP Member for McEwen

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE MOGRIDGE, OFFICE OF ROB MITCHELL - MP | MEMBER FOR MCEWEN



Getting that rent back on track and managing your property the best way!



Meet our RT Edgar Macedon Ranges team:

Erin Guarino (Assistant Property Manager), Angelina Quiroga (Property Manager at Woodend office), Alisha Clarke (Property Manager at Gisborne Office) & Marissa Boyd (Rental Department Manager/Partner) are here to provide you exceptional service for your property management needs.

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Contact: Woodend Office 5427 1222 or Gisborne Office 5428 8633 to chat about your property.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Local cemetery seeks volunteers to lend a hand

Are you a gardener, history buff, green space enthusiast, cemetery enthusiast or a local seeking to get involved with the community? If you are interested and have some time, Macedon Cemetery is looking for individuals to join its volunteer team.

The historical and beautiful Macedon Cemetery, which is managed by volunteer trust members, provides a peaceful and respectful environment for families and visitors, and volunteers play a crucial role in helping to achieve this goal.

If you are interested in volunteering at Macedon Cemetery, please email macedoncemetery88@gmail.com or message us via our Facebook Page. We look forward to hearing from you!

SUBMITTED BY SHARON BONDY



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Macedon Cemetery Trust is looking for dedicated individuals to join the Trust. Previous experience in admin, finance, IT, horticulture/landscaping, or engineering is a plus, but anyone with relevant skills and a passion for preserving local heritage are encouraged to apply.

As a Macedon Cemetery Trust member, you'll attend trust meetings for approximately two hours every second month (on Monday at 4pm). Additionally, you will be called upon for extra hours at the cemetery (up to 2 hours per week) at various times to assist families and/or funeral directors.

If you're ready to make a difference and be a steward of our heritage and have available time, we welcome your application. Whether you bring expertise or enthusiasm, your contribution is invaluable.

Applications should be emailed to: The Chairperson Sharon Bondy, Macedon Public Cemetery Trust macedoncemetery88@gmail.com

Phone enquiries to the Chairperson can be made on 0421 054 796.



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Recognising the contributions of older Ranges residents

The significant contributions of older residents across the shire were celebrated through a Seniors Festival event hosted by Council last month.

A total of 21 worthy recipients – nominated by fellow community members for their volunteer service – were recognised, with Council’s Deputy Mayor Jennifer Anderson in attendance to present each recipient with a ‘thank you’ hamper filled with local products.

Nominated residents represented a wealth of volunteering experience and engagement across groups including Lions Clubs, sporting groups, churches, seniors groups, neighbourhood houses, University of the Third Age (U3A), defence forces support, emergency services and Country Women’s Association (CWA).

Of the event, Cr Anderson said: “Age truly is no barrier to contributing to our community – it was great to be able to recognise so many outstanding individuals and it is doubly special that they were nominated by others around them.

“Volunteering is such a win-win, both for the volunteer and the community. I encourage anyone with some spare time to look into volunteering through Council or one of our many valuable local groups.”

Guest speaker Helen Yorston, from the Bendigo Volunteer Resource Centre, talked about the many benefits of volunteering, both to the community and to the volunteer. She encouraged everyone to think about ways they might contribute their energy, enthusiasm and skills as a volunteer.

SUBMITTED BY BODEY
 DITLOFF, MRSC
 COMMUNICATIONS
 UNIT

Photo: Recipient Kathleen Keating with Deputy Mayor Jennifer Anderson.



Christine Walker to fill South Ward Councillor vacancy

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) has declared Christine Walker as the successful candidate to fill an extraordinary South Ward Councillor vacancy, following a countback held online last month.

On the vacancy being filled, CEO Bernie O’Sullivan said: “I warmly welcome Ms Walker to Council, and look forward to working closely with her to deliver positive outcomes for the South Ward and the Macedon Ranges community.”

Mayor Annette Death said: “On behalf of all Councillors, I’d also like to welcome Ms Walker to Council and I know we’ll all endeavour to support her as she transitions to the Councillor role.”

The VEC-led countback was held to fill the vacancy left by the recent resignation of Anne Moore, with all formal South Ward votes from the 2020 Macedon Ranges Shire Council Election redistributed to candidates who were unsuccessful in 2020, but still eligible to be elected.

Ms Walker has commenced her role as Councillor after being sworn in on 15 November.

SUBMITTED BY BODEY DITLOFF, MRSC COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

Macedon Ranges
Shire Council

Register your child for 3 or 4 year old kindergarten 2024

Give your child the best start to their learning journey at one of Council’s eight kindergartens.

Visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/kindergarten or call our Enrolment Officer on 5422 0239 to:

- register online by 30 June 2023
- find out information regarding eligibility
- receive guidance on making a decision about when to send your child to kindergarten.

Council Works updated



Brooke Street works completed

An upgraded Brooke Street in Woodend is now reopened ahead of schedule, following the completion of major works in early November.

Alongside a fresh new section of the road, these road safety improvements – including a raised safety platform and central island – will provide safer connections for pedestrians, especially for students attending the nearby St Ambrose Parish Primary School.

Council would like to thank the community for their patience during the works, which were funded as part of Council's 2023/24 Capital Works Program.

Visit mrc.vic.gov.au/works to find out more about some of the other works planned across the shire.

Chanters Lane road reconstruction to start next year

Preparations are underway for works to reconstruct a key section of sealed road in Trentham East on the south-western border of the Macedon Ranges.

Chanters Lane will be upgraded from the Ashbourne Road intersection to the Pearsons Road intersection, with works to include:

- 1.4km of road pavement reconstruction
- an upgraded bus shelter at the intersection of Ashbourne Road
- roadside drainage improvements.

The project is currently in the procurement stage, with works expected to get underway in early 2024.

Minor delays are expected for road users during the works, which are funded as part of Council's 2023/24 Capital Works Program.

Visit mrc.vic.gov.au/works to find out more about some of the other works planned across the shire.

Merry Membership – Christmas Gift Give Away

Get into the holiday spirit with this Christmas promotion available at our Gisborne and Kyneton aquatic and leisure centres!

From 4 to 22 December, when you purchase a swim, gym, gym/swim, or aqua aerobics membership, you'll receive a special gift from us.

Pick a gift from our Santa sack brimming with goodies! Our offerings include upfront membership extensions, a four-week free direct debit membership period, merchandise, personal training, group fitness sessions, a 20 per cent discount on a membership purchase for a friend – just to name a few.

You can secure your membership at Kyneton Toyota Sports & Aquatic Centre (KTSAC), Gisborne Fitness Centre (GFC) and Gisborne Aquatic Centre (GAC). Terms and conditions apply.

For information contact your local centre:

KTSAC: telephone 5421 1477, email ksac@mrc.vic.gov.au

GFC: telephone 5428 3318, email gfc@mrc.vic.gov.au

GAC: telephone 5421 1452, email gac@mrc.vic.gov.au

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN, MRSC COMMUNICATIONS UNIT



It's been a busy November for Council as we prepare for a break at the end of the year.

Council and the CFA are working together to increase awareness of the importance of fire season preparedness. Please look at the resources provided online by CFA and Council.

Following the resignation of Cr Anne Moore, a count-back occurred for South Ward and Christine Walker was elected. We thank Anne for her dedication and contributions, and welcome Christine to the team.

Thank you to everyone who put in a submission for the 2024/25 budget. We are doing things differently this year: this was the only formal opportunity for submissions; we hope that we can endorse the final budget by May, so that all successful tenderers can be ready to commence work on the first day of the new financial year. Of course we welcome your feedback and ideas throughout the year so keep writing to Council, copying Councillors in, on ideas that come to mind at any time.

It was great to see a project that came to fruition out of this process, with the renovations of the Woodend Golf Club House finally completed. It was our pleasure to attend a celebration of this milestone with the club. We all know how important clean and accessible all-abilities and all genders toilets and showers are. Well done to all involved.

With the Romsey Football Netball Club advertising their intention to submit an application to install 50 gaming machines at 90 Main Street Romsey, it is important to know that any member of the public can provide a submission to the Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission (VGCCC) in response. The VGCCC is in charge of determining the application, not Council, and it is important to know that what happens in one town in the Macedon Ranges can influence what may be allowed or not allowed in the future in other towns. Our website has some more details about this application.

Remember some staff will be on leave in late December/early January but the 54220333 number will still be answered. Don't forget that the Woodend pool will be open from Saturday 2 December and every year we offer season passes at reduced rates if you purchase before the opening date.

Best wishes to everyone over the festive season. We hope you find time to relax and recharge.

Jennifer, Mark and Janet

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Fire Danger Period and heat preparations this summer

Residents are being urged to prepare for an increased likelihood of warmer and drier conditions over summer, with the Country Fire Authority (CFA) declaring the Fire Danger Period for the Macedon Ranges to begin at 1am on 27 November 2023, to end on 1 May 2024 (unless otherwise advised). During the Fire Danger Period, no fire may be lit in the open air without a permit.

Council is focused on working with the community to collectively reduce our shire's fire risk, including undertaking an annual roadside slashing program across Council-managed roads to reduce the likelihood of fires starting from hot vehicle exhausts, mechanical failures and collisions.

Council's Municipal Fire Prevention Officers are also conducting property inspections across the shire to check for fire hazards and issue Fire Prevention Notices where appropriate.

Residents are reminded of the importance of being prepared for fires, and to ensure their properties are maintained to ensure there are minimum flammable fuels including stockpiles of green waste and foliage in gutters. Free green waste disposal is available for ratepayers and tenants at Council's transfer stations in Kyneton, Romsey and Woodend.

For more information on:

- preparing for fire and heat – visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/fire-heat
- Fire Danger Ratings and the Fire Danger Period – visit cfa.vic.gov.au
- applying for a permit – visit firepermits.vic.gov.au
- the latest information on current incidents and alerts – visit emergency.vic.gov.au

TERRY'S GROUND CREW

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TGC'S CHECKLIST

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

FAST RESPONSE

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New fences for Woodend Outdoor Pool

Woodend Outdoor Pool's external fences have been upgraded ahead of the 2023/24 swimming season, to improve safety and amenity for pool patrons.

Council's two outdoor pools (Woodend and Lancefield) will be open for the summer season from Saturday 2 December 2023 until Monday 11 March 2024. Popular amongst locals and visitors alike, Woodend Outdoor Pool has three separate pools, including a toddler, intermediate and lap swimming pool.

For opening hours, season passes and entry fees, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/outdoor-pools

Kyneton splash park re-opening in December

The Kyneton Community Park interactive splash pad is back in operation from 1 December 2023 until March 2024, between 9.30am and 8pm each day.

Recent upgrades to the splash park have improved water quality and system reliability, so people of all ages and abilities can enjoy an interactive nature-based splash pad experience. The splash pad features a range of timed jets and bubblers linked to foot sensors to provide children a place to explore, splash, connect, create and play.

The Community Park includes activities and picnic areas for the whole community and offers a connection with local history, nature and the beauty and significant trees of the botanic gardens and Campaspe River. The play space sits within the informal section of the Kyneton Botanic Gardens and can be accessed from McKenna Drive (off Mollison Street) or from Clowes Street.

For information, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/Kyneton-Community-Park

ACVVS – we're coming to you!

In February 2024, Council staff will be out and about visiting local markets and libraries to invite community members to volunteer with the Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme (ACVVS).

ACVVS, funded by the Australian Government, aims to tackle social isolation and loneliness in older people.

As people get older, it can get harder to socialise or keep in contact with family and friends. Volunteers are matched with an older person with whom they share a passion or interest for regular visits.







The program started in July and it now has a waitlist of keen older residents looking for a volunteer visitor. Could you be one?

Come and meet us in February next year to find out how you can become involved with this rewarding program or to find out more, visit Council's ACVVS web page, contact Council on 5422 0333 or email volunteervisiting@mrsc.vic.gov.au



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Village Connect for over-55s



Are you 55 years or older, residing in the Macedon Ranges and looking to connect with others in the shire?

Village Connect supports you to connect by providing:

- information about free or low-cost activities in the Macedon Ranges
- pop-up activities and events to support you to connect with others locally
- opportunities to learn new skills such as navigating digital technology
- a quarterly newsletter containing information about programs, events and health and wellbeing services for over-55s.

Pathways for Carers

This initiative offers carers of older people, people with a disability or mental illness a chance to attend free walking events in Victoria together, and to learn more about news, services and supports available to them.

The next dates are Friday 1 December 2023 and 3 February 2024. Meet at 9:45am at Barry Doyle Memorial Rotunda, 2 Campaspe Crescent, Kyneton.



182 Station Road, New Gisborne



Dr Anne Peterson



Dr Bronwyn Edmunds



Dr Jacques de Groot



Dr Tanya Katz



Dr Ashvin Arul



Dr Ahmed Al-Obaidi



Dr Pritinsh Singh



Dr Rhian Pickard



Dr Goetha Sundaram



Dr Kerry McGlynn

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 Tuesday 26th December - Closed
 Wednesday 27th December - 8.30am - 5pm
 Thursday 28th December - 8.30am - 5pm
 Friday 29th December - 8.30am - 5pm
 Saturday 30th December - Closed
 Monday 1st January - Closed
 Tuesday 2nd January - Normal Hours (8.30am - 5pm)

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Myotherapy at Macedon Chiropractic

Whether you are feeling sore from long days at the office, training for a marathon or feeling sore from working on the farm – myotherapy can help you! Myotherapy is a specialised field of manual therapy that focuses on the treatment of muscle and joint pain.

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Social Support Groups

If you live in the Macedon Ranges and are looking to meet people whilst visiting local attractions, the Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health social support bus trip program could be for you. The program offers small group outings to galleries, gardens, shopping centres and other regional and metropolitan destinations. This year, trips have included the Garden of St Erth, The Great Stupa in Bendigo, The Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne, Edgar’s Mission in Lancefield and Living Legends in Bulla.

The groups run on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and door-to-door pick-up and drop-off is available from a number of towns, including Woodend, Newham, Romsey, Lancefield, Tylden and Kyneton.

“The program is ideal for those wanting to socialise, but who may need support accessing the community,” says Roz Walton, team leader of the program. “We vary the destination depending on what group members want to do, the weather or what’s on locally.”

The cost of the program depends on your funding eligibility, and for many, the cost is fully funded. Examples include those who are over 65 and have a My Aged Care referral or Home Care Package that specifies social support, adults with a disability who are under 65 and not eligible for NDIS, and NDIS participants.

If you want to find out more, call 5421 1666 or email admin@scchc.org.au.

SUBMITTED BY SARAH TURNER

Thank you from Ben

Hi everyone! I have now braved the shave! In October, I decided to start raising money for brain cancer because my grandfather was recently diagnosed with brain cancer.

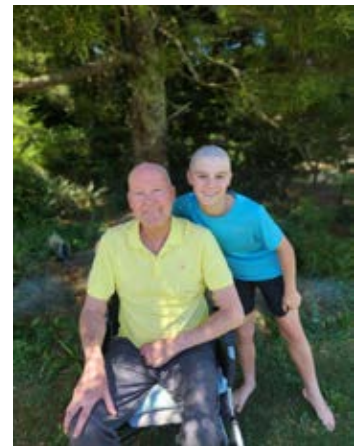
Thank you for all your support, look at how much we have raised together! With your help, we have raised over \$8,000, and I hope to raise even more before Christmas.

I know I can’t fix Pa’s cancer, but I hope this fundraiser will help other people live beautiful lives.

The Walter and Eliza Institute have invited Pa and me to go on a tour soon, which I am so excited about. I get to see the labs and experiments and see where they work on finding a cure.

You can visit my fundraising page at <https://bit.ly/bens-shave>

Thank you,



SUBMITTED BY BEN SUMPTER

Funding locked in for Sports Precinct's second stage

A second stage of the Macedon Ranges Regional Sports Precinct has been financially secured, through confirmation of a 2021 election funding commitment.

On 31 October, Council hosted a site visit with Federal Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories Kristy McBain and Federal Member for McEwen, Rob Mitchell, who viewed progress on Stage One of the priority project, which is on track for completion by May 2024.

Following construction starting last year and builder Monaco Hickey taking on the works

in June 2023, the first stage is progressing well to deliver a three-court sports hub, a natural turf oval and sports pavilion, passive recreation facilities, landscaping and associated infrastructure.

The Australian Government's \$15 million, alongside \$2 million from Council, will expand on this first stage to include the extension of the sports hub with three more multi-sport courts, more amenities, a second AFL/cricket oval, two outdoor sports courts, more car parking and landscaping.

Mayor Annette Death welcomed confirmation of the Australian Government's Stage Two funding, which would unlock even more benefits for user groups and the community.

"These new, modern facilities will ultimately mean that more people can actively participate in the sports and recreational

activities that they enjoy, both now and for generations to come," she said.

"I'd like to thank the Australian Government for its support to make the next stage a reality, and I'd also like to thank all our other funding contributors – including the Victorian Government, Melbourne Water and AFL Victoria – for helping us to get the first stage off the ground."

The Council-managed precinct will open to the public with limited use following the completion of Stage One works. The revised Stage Two of the precinct is currently being tendered out for detailed design and documentation, with construction targeted to start in late 2024/early 2025.

SUBMITTED BY BODEY DITTOFF, MRSC COMMUNICATIONS UNIT.



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Woodend Lions Club Christmas Joy



Letters to Santa

What a wonderful surprise it would be for a child to receive a letter from Santa.

Woodend Lions Club have once again volunteered to help Santa with his preparation for Christmas. Letters can be addressed to – Santa, PO Box 25, Woodend 3442

All letters and drawings will get a response. The post has been very busy now so don't delay too long. Please supply a self-addressed return envelope to speed delivery of your reply.

Lions Christmas Cakes and Puddings

The Lions Christmas Cake and Pudding program has been a major fundraising project of Lions Australia since 1965 and has raised an estimated profit in excess of \$50 million.

The profits from this the Cake and Pudding program are donated back into the community in many ways, but just to name a few Lions community programs that benefit: SightFirst, Medical Research, Children's Mobility Foundation, Eye Health Program, Hearing Dogs, Disaster Relief, Aged Care, Drug Awareness, Youth Programs.

Cakes will be available at the Woodend market on 17 December, at Woodend Carols and at Woodend Pharmacy.

Woodend Community Carols 17 December

A popular family event, Woodend Lions Community Carols promises an array of vibrant talent.

The evening is filled with the spirit of Christmas and is a magical night for families in Woodend. Join us on Sunday 17 December on the lawn behind the Woodend Community Centre, Forest St Woodend. Pack a picnic and blanket, enjoy a free sausage sizzle; we'll be kicking off the event from 5.30pm; carols from 6.30pm. Santa will be paying a visit too.

Keep up to date with Woodend Lions by following them on Facebook, Instagram and website www.woodendlions.org.au

SUBMITTED BY LINDA HEALY, WOODEN LIONS CLUB

LumberZach's – Landscape and Garden

- General garden maintenance/weeding
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Phone: 0457 959 843 Email: lumberzachs@proton.me

Macedon Ranges Dog Obedience Club update

Our last induction for the year saw 20 new members. Our next induction will be on Sunday February 4. See the website below on becoming a member in the new year.

Wow I can't believe Christmas is almost here! What a great year it has been for us, with many new members. Each year we have an interclub trial, called Rocky Shield, between Melton Obedience Dog Club and Macedon Ranges Obedience Dog Club. The day was beautiful. Riddells Creek put on a fine weather display for us – not too hot.

We had approximately 45 entrants in classes 1 to 4. Unfortunately for us, Melton took the Rocky Shield home with them. We will try to win it back next year.

Congratulations to all our winners, and well done to all the competitors. It was a great day, and everyone had fun.

Lastly, from our family at MRODC to yours, have a Merry Christmas! We'll see you in 2024.

Visit our website or our Facebook page, or email info@macedonrangesdogclub.org.au.

Remember a dog is for life, not just for Christmas.

SUBMITTED BY CAROL, INSTRUCTOR MRODC



Want a rewarding, flexible job looking after our local community?

become a **School Crossing Supervisor!**

Permanent part-time positions are available, scan the QR code or visit: mrsc.vic.gov.au/SCS

Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Split system air-conditioning



Woodend Hydronic Heating & Cooling is a locally owned and operated small business. Servicing the Macedon Ranges and surrounds, they have over 20 years experience in the heating and cooling industry and are specialists in the supply and installation of reverse cycle wall hung split systems.

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 **Macedon Ranges**
Shire Council

Leisure activities for adults:

Netball

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 a team. Season one runs from February-June, and season two from July-December.

Fees are \$75.60 per game; registration per player is \$27 per season. For information or to register, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/netball

Staying Strong - strength training sessions 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 information, contact your local centre or visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/leisure

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN, MRSC COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

Christmas is nearly upon us, and the CWA Woodend Eves are turning their minds to all things festive.

As usual the lead up to Christmas has involved many a stall filled with Christmas goodies including our award winning preserves, amazing slices and cakes and, of course, the famous elderflower cordial and edible "reindeer poo" which have become crowd favorites over the last few years. We would like to thank the Woodend Newsagency for their continued support and allowing us to sell our wares on the main street. We also had our annual chance to join CWAs from across the Central Highlands at the Macedon CWA Hall for our annual Christmas Pop-up.

We look forward once again this month to attending Bupa Woodend for Christmas Craft. This visit we are making upcycled Christmas Trees out of magazines. We have truly enjoyed our visits to Bupa as part of our goal this year to engage with the elderly in our community. We have also been able to offer our Community Awards to a primary school graduate at each of the local schools in our area. We look

forward to sharing the recipients with you in the coming weeks.

One of the Christmas activities we look forward to every year is the Christmas Lights Trail. This year will be the fourth time we've done it and we're changing it up a bit.

Many of you have told us one of your favourite traditions is driving around with the kids in pyjamas looking at Christmas lights. We have many amazing homeowners who create beautiful displays in Woodend and the surrounding towns, but sometimes they can be hard to find. This year you can nominate yourself, a neighbour, or even a street to be part of the Christmas Lights Trail. The only thing we'll need from you is an address. As well as the big displays, we want to see all the quirky and fun displays - upcycled decorations, Christmas themed mailboxes or sparkling.

As always, we'll publish a map online so you'll be able to plan out your Christmas Lights expedition.

Keep an eye on our socials for more information on these activities - or if you want to make sure that you don't miss the Christmas Lights Trail announcements just send an email to cwawoodendxmaslights@gmail.com and ask to be added to our mailing list.

WRITTEN BY MEGAN SHARKIE AND ANITA LA FORGIA FOR THE CWA WOODEND EVES



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TIDINGS OF COMFORT AND JOY!

Get your jingle bells on and add some melody to your Christmas celebrations by coming along to sing with the Woodend Warblers this December! We're performing with other community groups at the annual Lions Club Carols outside the Woodend Library on Sunday 17 December (6 pm), and then we're going to lead the singing upstairs at the Vic Hotel on Friday 22 December at 6.30 pm. Both of these events are always very popular and filled with joy – we'd love

to see you there! We'll be singing all the old favourites as well as a medieval song in Latin and an Australian carol featuring dancing broilgas.

The Warblers are always open to new members, whether beginners or more confident singers, and we especially welcome those who believe they can't sing – we have all found a voice in this very friendly local choir and encourage everyone to come

along and have a try. We rehearse every Wednesday night at 7.30 pm at the Norma Richardson Hall: we will only be holding sessions on 6 and 20 December, and then we start up again on Wednesday 31 January 2024 after the school holidays. For more information, contact choir director Andrew Price on 0419 604 444.

Photo: Woodend Warblers rehearsing at last year's Christmas carols



HANGING ROCK PETANQUE CLUB NEWS ARTICLE



Our summer season continues with great gusto from our members gathering to play petanque at the Old Racecourse in Forest Street Woodend on Monday afternoons, and of course, on Thursdays at our beautiful Hanging Rock.

Last Thursday was no exception, with 31 members gathering to play three competitive games of petanque. All teams are picked out of the hat, so we all play with different members each game, giving us the opportunity to play and chat with many of our club members. It was a cool evening and jackets were required!

Each week is different, but one must always be prepared for weather changes at Hanging Rock!

Last weekend was a big one for our club, with some members forming teams with other clubs' members to play in the Victorian Triples Championships at the Weird Entertainers and Pétanque Club, Endeavour Hills.

Our Ruth Giddings joined with two members from the Mount Martha Club and they won the over 60s division. Then our Shirley Marshall joined with two friends to form her team, which came third. Rod Gell joined with two members of the Ballarat Petanque Club and came equal fifth in the Principal.

We also welcome new members Sheena and Barry.

If you think you would like to share in the fun, call Louise on 0438 302 218

SUBMITTED BY LOUISE POTTER

December at The Gallery

The Gallery Mt. Macedon has yet again a wonderful selection of Christmas gift ideas to suit everyone and their pockets. These are all made by local artists, so come in and shop locally.

In December, The Gallery will have its Christmas display in the Focus Room. This promises to be rich with beautiful craft and art. For your convenience, we are extending our opening hours in December from 10am to 5pm on Saturday 16, Sunday 17, Friday 22 and Saturday 23.

Over the year there has been a variety of exhibitions, including abstract photography, ceramics and wildlife paintings. The seasons were acknowledged with Autumn and Spring in the Focus Room, as well as the Winter Art to Wear at Jubilee Hall. In April and May, the winners of non-photographic and photographic landscape prizes were announced.

We are looking forward to next year's portrait competitions: April – Non-photographic, May – Photographic. Look out for entry details early next year.

All the members of our Arts Collective thank you for your support throughout the year. We wish you the very best season's greetings.

The Gallery is open from 10am to 4pm Friday to Tuesday, with extended hours on 16, 17, 22, and 23 December as mentioned above. The Gallery is located at 684 Mt. Macedon Road, Mt. Macedon (behind the Trading Post Cafe)

The Gallery will be closed December 25 and 26, and on New Years Day, January 1, 2024.

SUBMITTED BY SUE ANSON 0413 581 632





Book now for barefoot bowls or your Christmas function

Last year, we had a very successful summer season of barefoot bowls. Several local clubs and businesses also incorporated this into their Christmas parties.

Social/barefoot bowls is available all year round at the Woodend Bowling Club, but is obviously more fun and enjoyable in the warmer months. You can book it for a night of fun, a great party, work Christmas party, fund-raising and so much more.

We can provide all bowls and equipment you will need. We have a well-stocked, fully-licensed bar, which can be opened with people to serve you, and you pay our very reasonable Crackerjack bowls club prices.

Bookings are essential and booking forms are available on our website or directly from the club.

The new pennant season gets rolling!

The Club has teams in both Midweek (Tuesdays) and Saturday competitions, starting in October and going all the way through to March, with a break over the Christmas period. Results have been mixed thus far, so we are naturally hoping that we can get as many teams as possible into the finals.

At the time of writing, all teams were performing well, with several battling for the Top Four or even top of the ladder.

We have also started our Club Championship events, with the



Men's and Ladies' Singles Championships to be completed by late December. Other events will continue in the new year, including the Consolation Singles, Men's Pairs, Ladies Pairs, Mixed Pairs, 21-Up and 100-Up. Good luck to all competitors.

Come on down for a free trial.

If you have wondered what playing lawn bowls is like, why not come down to the Club and have a go?

We can provide everything you need, the bowls and important guidance from one of our experienced players. And it's free!

Check out our Website and Facebook page

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

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, PRESIDENT WOODEND BOWLS CLUB

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Triumphs and Performances Across the Teams

Our McIntyre First XI team are having a successful start to the season and are currently sitting third on the ladder. This

is partly due to the outstanding start from the exciting opening pair Marcus Stewart and Harry Lawson, who have scored 317 and 227 runs from the first six rounds respectively. It is also great to see Daniel Eastley and Andrew Cullen hitting patches of form. The Second XI had a slow start to the season, but registered their first wins against Gisborne and Sunbury Kangaroos – where Daniel Heaney (158 not out) and David Robinson (113) put Woodend in a commanding position at 2/317. Jamie Pettigrew is also having a good season with bat and ball. Club Grade South and North are sitting third and sixth on the ladder respectively after four rounds. Paul Jamieson has been amazing this season, with 137 runs at an average of 45.67. In his first season at the club, Simon Close has also been impressive with both bat and ball. In a recent match against Melton Centrals, there were early runs by James Gray (24) and Steward Black (28), followed by a stoic Ben Thompson innings of 23 not out, batting with young guns Angus Black and Riley Coundon, which saw Woodend put on just enough to hold out Melton Centrals for the win.

We are not just Cricket

Our Family Dinners have been a hit this season, offering mouth watering food at reasonable prices with the local band Mojo Working playing all the classics at our last gathering. Bring your family down to the next one on January 27 and join in the fun as another local band Cyrus are going to rock out afterwards.

At the Woodend Cricket Club, we believe in more than just cricket; we prioritize the well-being of our members. Recently, we hosted a successful Mental Health Workshop in partnership with 'Tomorrow Man.' This enlightening workshop explored how we can better



Photo: Our First XI opening batsmen Marcus Stewart (captain) and Harry Lawson.

support ourselves, our friends, our teammates and families, and the broader community, while embracing a positive Aussie sportsperson mindset.

Exciting news is on the horizon!

We're actively seeking a Girls Cricket Coordinator to lead the charge in promoting girls' cricket at the Woodend Cricket Club. If you're passionate about empowering girls through the sport and want to be part of our cricketing family, reach out to Daniel Heaney at daniel@dh-steel.com.au or on 0400 600 186.

Looking further ahead, we're busy planning for our Hall of Fame celebration on February 24, 2024, where we'll induct the legends who've shaped our club over the past decade. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to keep up-to-date with the latest news and social events.

SUBMITTED BY DANIEL HEALY



Leisure activities for children:

Dance classes for children

Dance classes are held at Buffalo Sports Stadium in Woodend on Mondays and Thursdays, and the Gisborne Community Centre on Tuesdays.

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

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 and Tap dance classes are run on Thursday afternoons in Woodend for 8-12 years and 13-18 years.

For information visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/dance

Active Kids sports program

Children will learn a variety of ball games to improve motor skills and techniques to play sports, while interacting with other children. 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.

or a casual visit is \$12.10, or a 10-session pass is \$108.90 (six months expiry).

This program is casual, no need to book. Parent participation is required. For information call 5427 3411 or email buffalo@mrsc.vic.gov.au

Kindagym

This program is based on developing gross motor skills, confidence, balance and social skills. Kindagym is a structured class with free play option for children to explore the array of equipment on display.

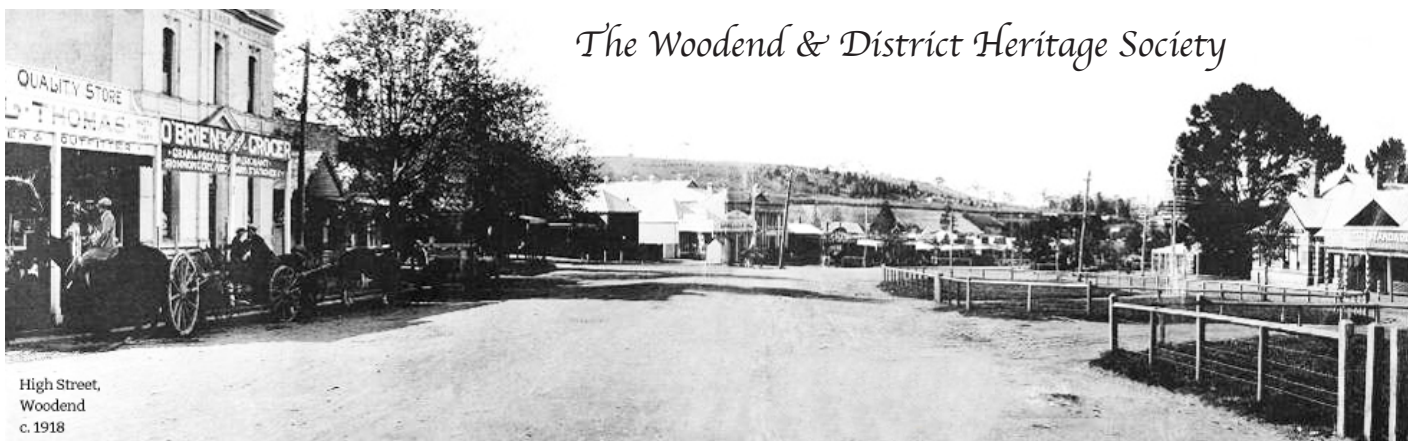
The program runs Friday mornings at Buffalo Sports Stadium in Woodend for casual sessions and pass card holders.

- 10am-10:45am (1-3 years)
- 11am-11:45am (4-5 years)

The cost for a casual visit is \$12.10, or a 10-session pass is \$108.90 (six months expiry).

Places are limited for each program. For information or to book in for term-based programs, email buffalo@mrsc.vic.gov.au

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMANS, MRSC COMMUNICATIONS UNIT



High Street,
Woodend
c. 1918

Woodend Guest Houses

Surrounded by hills and forests, with access to Hanging Rock, Trentham Falls and the benefits of mountain air, Woodend was by the 1920s a popular tourist destination. Several guest houses welcomed visitors until the 1930s, when numbers waned.

Braemar House, built in 1890, promoted the benefits of mountain air, and the extravagant style and luxurious accommodation attracted wealthy visitors but Braemar House struggled in the 1990s depression. It was sold in 1896/97 to William Knox, who had a new kitchen and servery built, servants' rooms and a children's hall. A billiards room replaced a south-facing verandah. However, eleven years later he sold to Miss Henderson, who opened Clyde School.

Devon Lodge in High Street, originally the site of Fahey's hotel from the 1850s, was run by the O'Brien family. In the 1940s it was advertised as a guest house in 'Where to Go', before becoming a special accommodation facility until the 2000s. Fontainbleau in Turner Road was a holiday house for Frederick McCubbin and his family until his death in 1917. Two years later, his widow, Annie, had built separate accommodation with 24 rooms and opened a guest house. Being fairly unsuccessful, she sold the property and the family moved. In 'Where to Go' 1961, it was still advertised as a guest house with eight rooms run by Mrs Ablitt.

Kynersley in Bowyers Road was another private home converted into a guest house during the busy tourist times of the 1920s. Where to Go' advertised it as being 1850 feet above sea level, with frequent train service to Woodend from the city, '... fresh milk, cream, butter. Conveyance meets all trains. Trips to beauty spots optional with tariff.' Mrs Florence Coop, widow of George, was the proprietress. Terms were 8 shillings per day, 42 per week.

Benvenuto, an historic country house built in the 1870s in Mt Macedon Road, is thought to have been a guest house for about ten years from 1929.

SUBMITTED BY JANE HOLT



Photo 1426: Braemar House from a postcard c1900



Photo 997: Fontainbleau, home of artist Frederick McCubbin, later a guest house.



Photo 1081: Benvenuto Guest House in the snow

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LINCS Program cultivates student engagement through community garden project



Sacred Heart College Kyneton offers a unique approach in supporting students who may grapple with disengagement and a lack of motivation towards their academic pursuits during the transition to Year 9. This approach comes in the form of the Learning, Initiating, Networking, and Connecting for Success (LINCS) Program.

Targeting the 8% of students disenchanted with Year 9, LINCS offers an alternative learning environment. It eschews conventional classroom focus for applied learning and hands-on experiences, seeking to rekindle enthusiasm. Central to this approach is the integration of the renowned Duke of Edinburgh Award framework, ensuring students not only explore diverse challenges but also receive formal recognition upon completion.

Within the LINCS program, students collaboratively design their learning experiences, encompassing physical activities, individual skill development,

community service, and adventurous pursuits. An illustrative example of this initiative was the collaboration between LINCS students and The Kyneton Community House for a significant Community Service Project started in 2021.

The joint endeavour aimed to revitalize the Community House Garden, a neglected space in need of rejuvenation. Despite initial setbacks due to the unforeseen challenges of the pandemic and inclement weather, the students persevered. Engaging a local garden designer and securing state government funding, they embarked on the ambitious task of transforming the overgrown garden into a multifaceted landscape comprising a fairy garden, sensory wall, water features, native plants, and vegetable gardens.

The subsequent two years presented hurdles, with COVID restrictions and harsh weather impeding progress. Nonetheless, the baton was passed to a new LINCS class in 2023. Undeterred by past setbacks, these students continued the original plan, modifying it as necessary. Fuelled by unwavering support

from the Community House staff, they forged ahead, unimpeded by the challenges that had plagued their predecessors.

The result of their dedication and teamwork is a vibrant and inviting garden that enriches the community space. Through this project, the LINCS students gained invaluable lessons in teamwork, patience, practical gardening skills, and an enduring sense of accomplishment.

The Sacred Heart Kyneton's LINCS program stands as a testament to the power of hands-on learning, fostering not just a garden but a profound sense of achievement and resilience among its students.

SUBMITTED BY ANTHONY DIAMOND



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flourish



Merry Christmas

Sacred Heart College wishes all in the Woodend Community and surrounds a peaceful and joyous Christmas.

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