

Theme set for 2024 Mount Macedon Anzac Day Dawn Service

Planning is underway for the 2024 Mount Macedon Anzac Day Dawn Service, and the theme for the event has been unveiled by the volunteer organising committee. The focus for the 2024 service will be 'Honouring Every Role, Every Sacrifice', showcasing the different ways that Australians have served, and continue to serve, in wartime, conflict or peacekeeping. President of the Mount Macedon Anzac Day Dawn Service (MMADDS) Committee, Leona Latcham said the roles that constitute 'service' are so varied. "Our minds often jump to the commonly represented images of those who served, such as soldiers on the ground at the front line at the most familiar places of conflict throughout history, like Vietnam and Gallipoli," said Leona. "We want to acknowledge the many ways that Australians work to serve and protect our country, from the mechanics who maintained the army's fleet of vehicles, to the peacekeepers in Rwanda. The stories, sacrifices and contributions of all who served are powerful, important and deserving of our thanks and attention." Leona said they are keen to hear from any locals who may want to help out, and encouraged people to get in touch with the committee.

"We're calling out for anyone interested in volunteering on the day. The event now attracts around 2,000 attendees from the Central Victoria region and also from Melbourne and broader Victoria. Many people don't realise that the Mount Macedon Anzac Day Dawn Service is put together by a small, dedicated group of volunteers with the generous financial support from our sponsors.

"On the day of the service, we have wonderful assistance from community groups including CFA, SES and Scouts, but we are always in need of additional hands to help coordinate on the morning and ensure it flows smoothly and safely. If you're interested in donating your time, please get in touch.

"Alternatively, if you would like to financially contribute to the event, we would be very grateful."

To contact the Committee about volunteering on the day, please email mtmacedondawnservice@gmail.com.

To make a donation, please visit <https://www.mycause.com.au/p/328422/mt-macedon-anzac-day-dawn-service-2024>.

MMADDS thanks its sponsors, including the Victorian Government through Victorian Veterans Council, Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Bendigo Community Bank Gisborne and Region, Public Transport Victoria, Gisborne Region Events Activities & Tourism and KGMG Creative.

For more information or photos, please contact: Sarah O'Brien 0408 401 502 sarah@hptobesquare.com.au

SUBMITTED BY SARAH O'BRIEN



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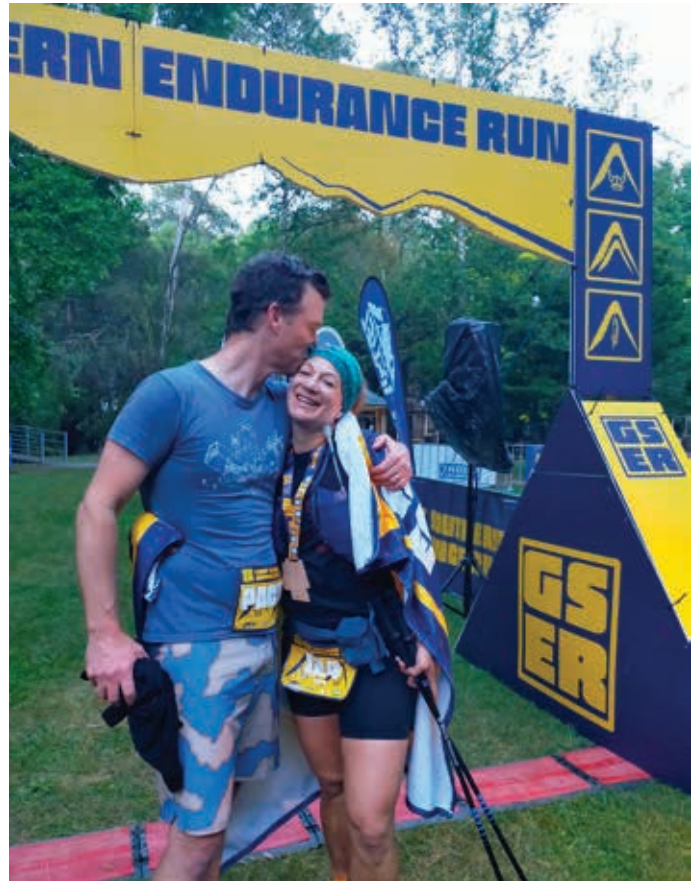
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Kate's big run

Hearing about this I knew this story had to be told. Kate MacMunn, a woman from Woodend, a midwife and mother of three just completed the Great Southern Endurance Run.

Starting the 100-mile (162 kilometre) event from Harrierville, out and up over Feathertop, out to the Viking and back; Kate completed it in 36 hours and 19 minutes of continuous running. She was the fastest woman in the event by five hours, and she was fourth-placed overall in an international field. Runners drink and eat on the run, fuelled at a number of points on the course, running through the night on walking tracks climbing 10,600 metres in elevation.

When I talked to Kate about this incredible achievement, she reflected that she has always been looking for ways to find the limits of her capacity. This ultra-marathon, while a profound test of physical endurance, was primarily a test of mental fortitude, about which she is deeply proud. Kate has taken on challenges before: the motorbike ride from Vladivostok to Copenhagen with her husband Ben Cumming through Mongolia, the “-stans” and into Europe. Then a little later, Copenhagen to Cape Town, down the west coast of Africa. That’s another series of big stories.

While proud of herself and the Amazonian achievement of this recent marathon, she speaks glowingly about her community of support: the women she trains with who bolstered her morale through the months of training (90–140km/week), and her husband, kids, parents, outlaws and siblings who stepped up and supported her through the rigours of training, preparation and the event itself. A stirring, inspiring story of belief and support for a brave woman’s goal.

SUBMITTED BY BARRY MCDONALD

November was a weird month of weather! There were very few rain days, but we ended up bang on the long-term average, thanks to a wet system at the end, with half the rain falling on the last day! A few stormy days helped us to the wettest December for 20 years, with 120.2 mm. That brought the total for 2023 to 762.2 mm, which is only about 5% less than the long-term average.

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	74.8	78.4
December	10.0	42.4	45.0	37.6	120.2	51.0
Total mm	608.4	914.8	936.4	1142.4	762.2	871.1

NB: averages vary due to rounding

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

Award for local Rotary members



I am delighted to share the wonderful news that our esteemed members, Allan and Shirley Cann, have both been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia, in recognition of their outstanding service to the community through various organizations and roles.



Allan and Shirley's commitment to community betterment is truly commendable. Their tireless efforts, often behind the scenes, reflect their selflessness and dedication to making a positive impact. The Rotary Club of Woodend takes great pride in having such exemplary individuals as part of the Rotary family.

It is particularly noteworthy that Allan and Shirley go about their work without seeking accolades or attention. Their humility and genuine passion for service set a remarkable example for us all.

This well-deserved recognition is a testament to their unwavering commitment and the significant contributions they have made to our community.

Warmest congratulations once again, Allan and Shirley!

SUBMITTED BY JOSEPHINE FALZARANO

Young graduating achievers announced

The Rotary Club of Woodend is pleased to announce the recipients of the Rotary Achievement Award.

- Hunter McCulloch – Woodend Primary
- Izzy Western – Woodend Primary
- George Short – St Ambrose
- John Pearce – St Ambrose

The graduating primary school students are recognised for their positive attitude to learning and community, and for their leadership, selfless attitude and committed effort to make a difference. A scholarship of \$300 is also awarded to each student to go toward the cost of secondary school.



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Macedon event lends a compassionate ear to inventions that could change the world

In a world of self-aggrandising presentations and AI-authored promotions, it's heartening to find a group of medical technologists advocating for a return to simpler, more direct communications with their customers—connecting with the very human needs that should drive all meaningful innovation.

Perhaps it was the Zen-like calm of Mount Macedon, where the Woodend-based hearing scientist Dr Elaine Saunders convened the inaugural session of Mountain Mentoring, a novel networking event to help biomedical researchers share their projects and discuss new commercialisation strategies.

Or perhaps it was the underlying inspiration provided by Elaine and her partner, Dr Peter Blamey, who made audiological history in 2019 with the sale of their pioneering system for self-assessing and managing customised hearing aids.

Whatever the inspiration, Mountain Mentoring – held at the kindly-donated premises of Mount Macedon Realty – provided a unique forum for 12 trailblazing scientists to exchange ideas on several potentially life-changing projects, and to reflect deeply on the potential of medical breakthroughs in a headlong world.

Take-home inspiration

The humanist 'take-home message' was powerfully captured by Dr Sophie Brice, a digital researcher at the Australian Institute of Health Service Management, who concluded the day's presentations by observing, "What's inside the customer's head is rarely the same as what the clinician is thinking. The service side is where we need more conversation – on engaging customers, earning their trust, and finding out what they really think and need."

The founding members of Mountain Mentoring had a wide range of human needs in their sights, including several that could put Australia on the world map. They include a diagnostic device for dry eye disease being jointly developed by researchers at the University of Melbourne and RMIT University; a Bionics Institute project that's using infrared light to map changes in the tinnitus-afflicted brain; and an Eltham man who's breeding algae in his garage to show farmers how they might grow this compelling, climate-friendly fuel.

Much of the day's discussion focused on the propensity of medtech startups to drift from the human need for their products in the race to adopt the latest whizzbang technology, to tick the right 'boxes' for investors, or – worse – to focus on the most lucrative or headline-grabbing market.

World-first inventions

Tinnitus was high on the agenda, with the Bionics Institute researcher, Dr Mehrnaz Shoushtarian, joined by Sydney-based bioengineer Matthieu Recugnat, whose startup MindEar has devised "the world's first AI companion" for tinnitus sufferers.

Both Mehrnaz and Matthieu acknowledged the steep challenges of seeking investment for their work: while it may affect up to 15% of the population, the sheer complexity of tinnitus – its mysterious causes, multifaceted treatments, and "unmonetisable" diagnoses – remain major hurdles to investment.

Perception was central to the discussion, as participants weighed the "disconnect" between the number of people who suffer from hearing loss and those who actively seek out a hearing aid. Some may be put off by the appearance or the cost, or have tried a sub-standard device and simply lost faith in the idea.

"It's all about understanding the market, positioning yourself and targeting your niche," advised Elaine, whose remote 'tele-audiology' system was bought by global hearing giant Sonova in 2019. "The most important information you need to build a business is always going to come from your customers."

Making it personal

Melbourne audiologist Dr Caitlin Barr gave the participants pause for thought with a moving account of her battles with neurodiversity, and how her experiences with "medication-focused" doctors had driven her appreciation of a more empathetic, holistic approach to hearing loss. Today, she is CEO of Soundfair, a charity that runs a social-enterprise hearing centre which aims to address the huge range of social, emotional and behavioural impacts of hearing loss through audiology, psychology, and everything in between.

"The problem is far more than hearing loss, it's all the different impacts on your life," asserted Caitlin. "In order to move to a more holistic and meaningful service, clinicians need to adopt a whole-of-person approach to their patients, and really get emotionally involved."

Matthieu cited research that showed 60-70% of hearing aid customers say the relationship with their audiologist is the most important part of any hearing service. "Being a human being and providing a caring service, not just a hearing aid," is how he put it.

Connecting with customers

He was backed by Rob Poulsen from Audeara, a Brisbane-based startup that tailors its sound-enhancing headphones through a sophisticated online hearing test. Rob described his team's delicate balancing act between a software package to help clinicians program its headphones, and the direct links it can establish with customers through its in-house app.

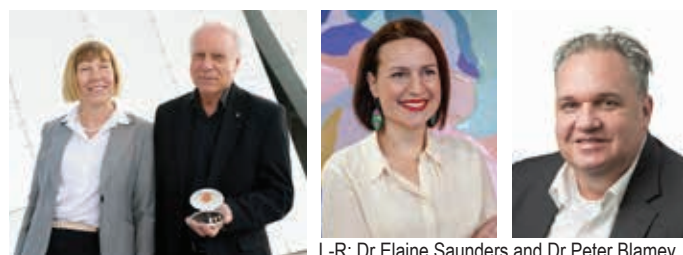
"Marketing departments are often so far removed from the experiences of their customers," said Rob, "when ultimately, nothing is more important than that relationship and trust."

If there was one overriding lesson from the day, it was the importance of this personal approach – this establishment of care and connection with the end user – as a vital component of any new health product.

When Elaine and Peter set up Blamey Saunders Hears, they employed a group of tele-audiologists to guide users through their then entirely novel approach to online hearing diagnosis. One of their first employees was Dr Sophie Brice.

"It was immediately clear how important it was to listen to the customer, and have the knowledge and understanding to answer their questions in a genuinely caring manner," said Sophie. "We were providing a hearing service – which is, after all, also a listening service."

WRITTEN BY RALPH JOHNSTONE



L-R: Dr Elaine Saunders and Dr Peter Blamey, Dr Caitlin Barr, and John Morrison.



L-R: Rob Poulsen, Dr Mehrnaz Shoushtarian and client.



L-R: Dr Sophie Brice and Matthieu Recugnat.

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Open Garden raising funds to help refugees settle in Woodend

“To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow” – Audrey Hepburn

In the Macedon Ranges we are lucky to live amongst some of the most beautiful gardens in Victoria, if not Australia. One such private garden will soon be open to the public for the first time. Stone Hill is a private garden in Woodend North that is known and admired worldwide.

Designed by Woodend local Michael McCoy, author and host of ABC TV’s Dream Gardens, Stone Hill has been featured in such prestigious magazines as *Gardens Illustrated* (UK) and *Garden Design* (USA), as well as lavishly illustrated garden books *Dreamscapes*, *Australian Dreamscapes* and *Wild*.

With naturalistic planting based largely on perennials, Stone Hill is a garden full of flower colour and foliage texture in a constant state of seasonal flux. It was designed to require minimal irrigation, a perfect example of planting thriving in local conditions.

Owners Sue and Gerry Moriarty will make their garden available as a special fundraising initiative for Woodend Refugee Resettlement (WRR). Recently formed, WRR is a group of locals who will be assisting newly-arrived refugee families to settle in Woodend through financial and practical support. Working closely with CRISP, Community Refugee Integration and Settlement Pilot, a federal government initiative, the group welcomes one family at a time, helping them find accommodation, employment, translation/ language services, as well as to navigate the health and education systems and to connect directly with our community and culture upon arrival.

WRR is currently raising funds to receive a new family with the hospitality Woodend is known for. Let’s make a better tomorrow for others. Donations can be made at shoutforgood.com/fundraisers/woodendrefugeeresettlement. Visit the WRR Facebook page for more information and updates.

Tickets for entrance to Stone Hill can be purchased via www.trybooking.com/COLVA or at the gate.

Stone Hill, 97 Boundary Road, Woodend North
(note the ‘North’ aspect of this address – 1km north of Anderson Rd. Otherwise you may end up elsewhere)

Open 10am–4pm, Saturday 17 February

SUBMITTED BY EMMA GOODSIR



Festival Launch & Fundraising Concert

24 March, St Ambrose

Woodend Winter Arts Festival 2024 launches with Lior, one of Australia’s most treasured singer/songwriters, renowned for his beautiful voice and songs that radiate truth and sincerity.

Two-times ARIA Award winner Lior burst onto the Australian music scene in 2005 with his debut album *Autumn Flow*. He has released seven albums to date. Most notably however, in 2014 Lior collaborated with Nigel Westlake on *Compassion*, a symphonic song cycle for voice and orchestra based on ancient texts in both Hebrew and Arabic centred around the wisdom of compassion. It has been performed with all major Australian orchestras.

This is a chance to hear the acclaimed singer songwriter Lior in a manner harking back to archetypal ‘salon’ concerts; where both audience and performer share a matinee concert, enjoying the connection that only proximity can offer.

2.30pm, Sunday 24 March 2024

St Ambrose Church, 47 Urquhart St, Woodend

Info/tickets: www.woodendwinterartsfestival.org.au or QR code.



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**Green Opportunity: Iconic
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Woodend, Victoria – Woodend Nursery, a verdant oasis cherished by the community, is now seeking a new proprietor. With a legacy stretching over 35 years, this horticultural haven, celebrated for its diverse array of native flora and essential garden supplies, is up for sale. The green touch of owner Cassius Armitage, who took the reins in 2019, has seen the nursery flourish and secure its place as an integral part of the local landscape.

During Cassius' tenure, the nursery has been lauded with several Business Excellence Awards from the Macedon Ranges Shire Council. The recognition includes the "People's Choice Award" and the honour of being a finalist in the "Business Excellence – Small and Thriving" category, reflecting the nursery's robust financial health, operational prowess, and unwavering dedication to customer satisfaction, especially during the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Located on Urquhart Street, the nursery's doors are open seven days a week, serving as a green beacon to Woodend's residents and those from across the Macedon Ranges.

"It's the perfect venture for a dynamic duo or family ready to cultivate success in a well-rooted business," says Cassius. His departure is fuelled by an eagerness to focus on new endeavours, including the continuation of Garden Design; and returning to teaching.

He has pledged to support the incoming owners with up to a year of mentorship, ensuring a seamless transition and continued prosperity.

"The dawn of 2024 heralds a unique prospect for those yearning to embrace a business ripe with potential," Cassius states. Woodend Nursery represents more than just a business; it's an opportunity to continue a tradition of customer service excellence and offer a bespoke range of plants that thrive in our unique climate."

Interested parties eager to cultivate this green legacy are invited to reach out to Cassius Armitage directly at the contact details below.

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Switching on to the benefits of household electrification



A recent Monash University report has highlighted a range of benefits flowing from household electrification.

“Switching on: Benefits of Household Electrification in Australia” lists among the benefits:

- Cost savings: Victorian households stand to save over \$1000 per year by electrifying their gas heating, water heating and cooking. New electric appliances are more efficient than gas, producing less waste heat, and elimination of gas connections (or bottle hire) add to the cost savings.
- Future proofing: gas prices are rising almost twice as fast as electricity prices. If that trend continues, the cost savings from electrification will increase.
- Health benefits: burning gas indoors results in particulates and combustion products that are hazardous to health, increasing the risk of asthma and respiratory conditions.

Local project Electrify 3442 will work with households to realise those benefits and to expand the cost savings that are made through household solar and battery installations and uptake of electric vehicles.

Sue Barker, Electrify 3442 project team member, says: “A community survey in March will explore uptake of electric appliances, solar and home batteries and electric vehicles and the factors preventing households going “all electric”, as a basis for future support activities. Catch us at the Woodend Farmers’ Market in March and look for invitations to participate all around the district.

“Switching on: Benefits of Household Electrification in Australia” can be accessed using the QR code.



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These changes may benefit landholders who are currently paying land tax on a covenanted property, or for those who are exploring the possibility of covenanting land that is not their primary residence.

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Nature Stewards Program

16 March to 25 May 2024 (excluding Easter long weekend).

Daylesford, Beveridge and Woodend. Venues rotate during the program.

Learn more about your local environment and hear from experts spanning Traditional Owners, Council, CSIRO, volunteering and industry. Known as the ‘NW Hub’, Macedon Ranges are partnering with neighbouring shires Hepburn and Mitchell.

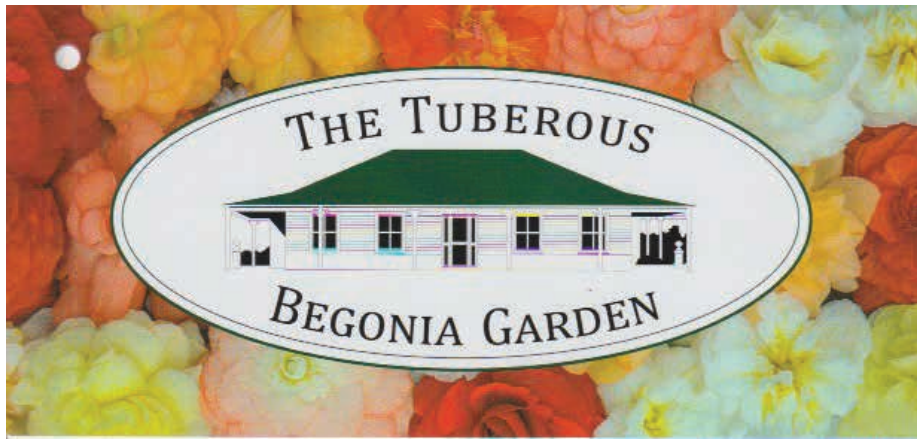
To find out more and apply, visit vnpa.org.au/nature-stewards



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**This is a FREE event
OPEN EVERY WEEKEND
February 2024, March 2024 & April 2024, 10am till 4pm**

Growing instructions supplied with each purchase and a YOU TUBE video named: "Tuberos Begonia Maintenance Tips" available online.

We have hundreds of Tuberos Begonias, Fuchsias, Peony Roses, Hydrangeas, Pacific Coast Iris, Cusonia, Amorphophallis and climbers such as Gloriosa Rothchildiana, Snail Vines, & more.

For more information, please contact Jesse on 0419 002 651 or Peter on 0400 313 703

We will also coincide with the Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival in April 2024

Please note - there are no public toilets available on site due to increase of Covid cases in Victoria. There are some clean public toilets in Anslow St near the corner High St, Woodend.

Sustainable, Local, Zero-Waste



Wash Against Waste



Farm Fresh



Genuine & Artisanal



Powered by Volunteers

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

Clean Up Australia Day

As we continue to tackle our national waste challenges and protect our environment, Clean Up Australia is calling on all Australians to join with their local communities and take more immediate action by registering now for Clean Up Australia Day 2024 on Sunday 3 March.

In 2023, over 760,000 Australians pulled on their gloves and gathered for the iconic Clean Up Australia Day. This year, Clean Up Australia is hoping to see a similar, if not better response, as generations come together to help tidy our local communities while seeing first-hand why we need to work together to prevent litter from entering our environment in the first place.

Registrations for Clean Up Australia Day 2024 are now open. All volunteers receive a free clean-up kit containing gloves, bags and other resources, with packs for individuals, families and community groups available (businesses are asked to pay a small fee to cover costs).

For information and to register, visit cleanup.org.au

SUBMITTED CATHERINE CHAPMAN, MRSC



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- ✓ CLEAN UPS

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Sustainable homes webinar series

Make this year the year to take steps toward making your home and lifestyle more sustainable. We know it can be tricky to find trusted independent advice. To help, Council is holding three online events from the sustainability and energy experts at Renew, which has been providing independent advice for over 40 years.

- All-Electric Homes, 6 February, 7-8.30pm, webinar
- Electric Vehicles, 20 February, 7-8.30pm, webinar
- Designing for Resilience, 5 March, 7-8.30pm, webinar

Register at: www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/See-Do/Events-and-Awards/Whats-on-around-the-shire/Sustainable-homes-webinar-series

February Environmental events

Several exciting events are coming up including:

- Grazing and farming discussion group, Newham, 9 February
- Local farmers on small properties, webinar, 13 February
- It's rabbit season, Kerrie, 17 February; and Romsey, 18 February
- Reducing the wildlife road toll community forum, Newham, 23 February
- Small property grazing course: 23 and 25 February, and 19 March

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

EPA Fire Prevention Program will use drone flyovers this summer

EPA Victoria will use drone flyovers this summer to check that waste and resource recovery businesses throughout the northwest region are doing all they can to prevent fires breaking out. As summer temperatures rise, so does the potential for fires at facilities that store waste materials. EPA's Fire Prevention Program plans to operate random flyovers using drones and thermal imaging technology to check for hot spots, ensure waste piles are being properly managed and fire risks have been reduced. Between November 2022 and October 2023, 380 fire prevention inspections of waste and recovery facilities were conducted.

Some of the hazards and unsafe practices found include the improper management and storage of combustible and recyclable waste, failing to identify risks on site and inadequate maintenance of fire suppression equipment.

Under Victoria's new environment protection law, duty holders must understand fire risks and use appropriate measures to eliminate or reduce them.

To find out more about how to prevent fires at your waste and recovery business, and fire prevention at your business visit Environment Protection Authority Victoria at epa.vic.gov.au

In the youtube links below, an EPA drone flies over a waste facility using ordinary and thermal imaging camera. In the vision, the whiter the object in view, the hotter it is.

- <https://youtu.be/eTWf2-C2OJo>
- <https://youtu.be/4KsjqSah9N4>

SUBMITTED BY JOHN REES

Woodend Landcare wins MRSC Community Award 2024

Woodend Landcare members past and present are grateful and proud to have been awarded Macedon Ranges Shire Council's Community Awards 2024 – Healthy People and Environment Award.



Woodend Landcare Inc. and its predecessor 'Friends of Five Mile Creek' have been active in Woodend for nearly 30 years. Run and organised by volunteers, the group has done an enormous amount of work on public land along Five Mile Creek and its tributaries within and around Woodend, such as Slatey Creek Reserve and various railway reserves. Woodend Landcare conducts about ten Sunday morning working bees every year and the 'Thursday Crew' works every week when weather permits. These are open for anyone to attend, and the group is always happy for non-Landcare members to join in and join up (see woodendlandcare.org).

As well as along Five Mile Creek, Woodend Landcare provides advice and guidance on request to local groups and private landholders. Woodend Landcare is a member of the Upper Campaspe Landcare Network and works closely with the Macedon Ranges Shire Council (MRSC), North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA) and local community groups and schools.

The aim of Woodend Landcare has always been to restore areas which have been degraded by introduced weeds, and to preserve and enhance areas of indigenous vegetation. In all, its volunteers have planted over 30,000 native plants. One particular focus has been ensuring the survival of Woodend's unique threatened tree, the Black Gum (Eucalyptus aggregata).

Woodend Landcare also supports the Indian myna trapping project (MRIMAG) and one committee member performs 'Waterwatch' in collaboration with NCCMA, to monitor water quality in Five Mile Creek. We have provided numerous letters of support and have auspiced projects run by other groups and private landholders that align with our 'caring for the land' values.

In 2023, Woodend Landcare also oversaw the construction of a new pedestrian bridge over Five Mile Creek, thanks to a bequest from Woodend Landcare's ex-President, Jo Clancy. This, together with all the work undertaken by Woodend Landcare volunteers, is for the benefit of all Woodenders to enjoy.

Next working bee: 9am–12noon, 4 February 2024 – end of Jeffreys St, Five Mile Creek Reserve.

See woodendlandcare.org for further details, or contact David on 0429 333 942.

SUBMITTED BY PETER YATES, PRESIDENT, WOODEND LANDCARE

Woodend Self Storage (Vic) Pty Ltd



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

Important conference for recreational beekeepers

Melbourne, Saturday 9 March: "Ahead and ready for the likely arrival of Varroa destructor"

The Victorian Apiarists' Association (VAA) is organising a conference for hobbyist beekeepers, who number at least 14,000 across Melbourne and regional Victoria.

The Recreational Conference for beekeepers will inform home apiarists about a real threat to beekeeping that looms on the horizon in the form of the Varroa destructor. This pest, approaching Victoria from across the Murray, may arrive in Victoria within the next twelve months, and could lead to a total loss to beekeepers of their bees.

The Recreational Conference will build recreational beekeepers' skills, inform them of remedies, and help them meet today's biosecurity challenges in the time of varroa, protecting their often quite substantial investment in hives, bees and the recommended safety equipment, all of which can cost \$1,000 or more.

Commencing at 9am on 9 March, the full-day conference is broken up into two parts – Improving Your Skills and Biosecurity Challenges. Supporting these themes will be live beehive openings and demonstrations explaining the secrets of the hive! VAA President John Van Weeghel says that an impressive program of speakers has been confirmed, with leading practitioners, educators and scientists including Vin Anderson, Mike Love, Michael Johnson, Dr Jodi Gertz, Dr Andrew Wootton, Professor Travis Beddoe, and Professor Madelaine Beekman as guest presenters.

The Recreational Conference for beekeepers will be held at the Victorian Croquet Centre at 65 Nobel Banks Drive in Cairnlea on Saturday 9 March.

To find out more about the conference including costs, and to make your booking, use the address www.vicbeekeepers.com.au/events or email rec.conference@vicbeekeepers.com.au

SUBMITTED BY TINO CORSETTI

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Delivering First Aid in the Macedon Ranges since 2015!



Opportunity for local businesses to be recognised

Local businesses kicking goals and achieving great things are encouraged to enter the 2024 Macedon Ranges Business Excellence Awards.



After taking a break for the Community Choice Awards in 2023, these self-nominated, biennial business awards return with Josh's Rainbow Eggs as naming sponsor and Bendigo Bank and Workspace Australia as gold sponsors.

Mayor Annette Death said the awards were a great opportunity for businesses in the Macedon Ranges to get the word out about the amazing work they are doing.

"Our local businesses play such a pivotal role in our community, supporting our local economy by providing local products, services and opportunities for employment," she said.

"These awards are an opportunity for businesses to be recognised for their outstanding service and to acknowledge deserving staff that contribute to their business. If you own a business locally, I encourage you to check out the categories and submit a nomination."

Businesses have until 15 March 2024 to submit a nomination. Award categories include:

- Excellence in Agribusiness and Food Manufacturing
- Excellence in Manufacturing, Trades, Retail and Innovation
- Excellence in Health, Wellness and Care
- Small and Thriving Award
- Excellence in Professional Services
- Excellence in Tourism and Visitor Experience
- Young Achiever Award
- Champion of Social, Environmental or Sustainability Principles
- Business Resilience and Adaptability
- People's Choice Award
- Business of the Year

A mentoring session will be held on Wednesday 31 January 2024 at Macedon and Mount Macedon Community House for businesses who would like support and guidance on making their submissions.

For information on how to submit a nomination or register for the mentoring session, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/business-awards

Any organisations interested in becoming a category sponsor for the awards can email ecodevadmin@mrsc.vic.gov.au

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN, MACEDON RANGES SHIRE COUNCIL



A black sign for HOLGATE brewhouse Taproom. It features the HOLGATE logo (a bull's head in a circle) and the text "HOLGATE brewhouse" in a white, sans-serif font. Below that, "Taproom" is written in a large, white, cursive font, followed by "Your new local" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a white icon of a beer tap. Below the main text, it says "Happy Hour on Thursdays from 5pm", "Open for lunch every day", and "Bottleshop open every day". At the bottom, it provides the address: "Enter via Anslow St, at rear of historic Holgate Hotel", "79 High Street, Woodend", and the website "holgatebrewhouse.com". There are small white circles scattered around the sign.

The logo for Bourkies Bakehouse, featuring a circular emblem with a chef's hat and a stack of bread, surrounded by the text "BOURKIES BAKEHOUSE".

OPEN DAILY from 7am

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Enjoy a Big Tree Distillery Summer

Summer is just getting started, so now is the time to come and visit Big Tree Distillery in the Macedon Ranges!

As the warmth of summer is finally here, there's no better time to escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life and embrace the serenity of the Macedon Ranges. Nestled amidst picturesque farmland on Jack's Springs Farm, the distillery overlooks the Cobaw Ranges; we invite you to visit our distillery door and tasting room.

This season, we are thrilled to unveil our brand-new deck and veranda area, providing stunning panoramic views that capture the essence of our beautiful region. Immerse yourself in the tranquillity of the landscape and the distillery garden, as you sip on our award-winning gins and savour the seasonal flavours of the gin botanicals that are expertly crafted by our passionate distillers.

The Distillery Door at Big Tree offers a unique and immersive experience. Our knowledgeable staff will guide you through the story of our distillery and the art of crafting Big Tree gin that has earned international accolades for quality and flavour.



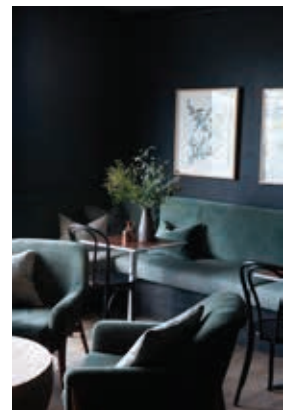
But that's not all – our new deck and veranda area provides the perfect setting for you to unwind with family and friends. Relax and enjoy the distillery gardens and breathtaking views, and don't forget to indulge in our generous and delicious picnic boxes; specially curated with local produce such as cheeses, salamis, olives, and crackers.

At Big Tree Distillery, we take pride in offering more. Whether you are a gin enthusiast or are simply looking for an escape to the country, our Distillery Door is the perfect destination for a memorable summer day out.

So, why not make the most of the weekends ahead? Gather your loved ones and join us at Big Tree Distillery for an unforgettable visit. Cheers to summer and adventures in the heart of the Macedon Ranges!

Big Tree Distillery Door is open every weekend, Saturday, and Sunday 11am – 4pm and Monday 10am – 3pm.

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE
CROTHERS, BIG TREE
DISTILLERY



A 'Wild' start to 2024 for The Mount Players

Another year kicks off at the Mountview theatre with WILD by Mike Bartlett.



A darkly comic play 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 in KFC, making plans for the future. Today, he's in Moscow in an undisclosed hotel room, on the run and at risk of assassination. One day an ordinary guy, the next one of America's most wanted! The play is loosely based on the story of Edward Snowden who leaked highly classified information when he was an employee of the National Security Agency. It's a riveting story with an ending you won't see coming. The season runs from Fri 23 February – Sun 10 March. Tickets via themountplayers.com or call 5426 1892.

Auditions for our second production in May will be held on Sunday 18 February at 2.00pm. Looped is a comedy by Matthew Lombardo. During the summer of 1965, celebrated actress Tallulah Bankhead entered a LA recording studio to re-record (or "loop") just one line of dialogue from her final film Die, Die My Darling. What should have taken about 8 minutes is a guesstimation as to what may have happened in that room on that day.

One female and two male actors are required. For full details, go www.themountplayers.com Bookings by appointment only with director, Peter Newling at peter.newling@gmail.com

Looking forward to a great year in 2024! See you at the theatre.

SUBMITTED BY KAREN HUNT



Photo: A WILD cast rehearsal. L-R: Warwick Smith, James Banger, Ruby James (Credit: Karlana Santamaria)

Woodend Senior Citizens

We are settled in at the Undercroft of the Woodend Neighbourhood House, with access via the gates next to the Skate Park, off Margery Crescent.

We resumed on Tuesday 16 January 2024 with Button Bingo at 1pm to 3pm and Cards on Friday 19 January at 1pm and 4pm and will continue each week. Please come and join us!

The next bus trip is to Bendigo Dragon Museum on Thursday 8 February 2024 with lunch at the Shamrock Hotel. 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).

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St Mary's Anglican Church

St Mary's Anglican Church held its annual Carols in the Garden on the evening of Friday 22 December. Started by past vicar, the Reverend Melissa Clark, Carols in the Garden has become a regular and popular community event on the Macedon Ranges Christmas calendar, with people coming from as far afield as Romsey, Bendigo and even Adelaide.

Community participation in singing the carols was encouraged, supported by St Mary's Singers and musicians, and the wonderful Woodend Ukulele Group. The Woodend CFA was also in attendance, along with Santa and two elves, which proved popular for children and families alike. People brought picnic rugs and snacks to make a great occasion for all. It was also a chance to catch up with long term Woodender Reverend Neil Fitzgerald, who has been recently appointed to St Mary's on a part-time basis, shared with Daylesford's Church of Christ.

The Bumper Christmas raffle – with tickets only sold on the actual evening – raised \$650. This, together with another \$650 donated by the St Mary's Church Guild, was given to the Woodend CFA and Woodend SES, in grateful acknowledgement of the work they do for our community.

A big thank you must go to Woodend Hardware, who generously donated a wheelbarrow, ensuring a popular first prize. Thanks also to Sign Obsession who have supported the event since its inaugural days with Reverend Mel.

With Reverend Neil now on board, we look forward to seeing new and regular visitors at our 2024 Carols in St Mary's Gardens event this coming December, with hopefully just as pleasant weather as last year. (Oh yes, and Santa said he will be back).

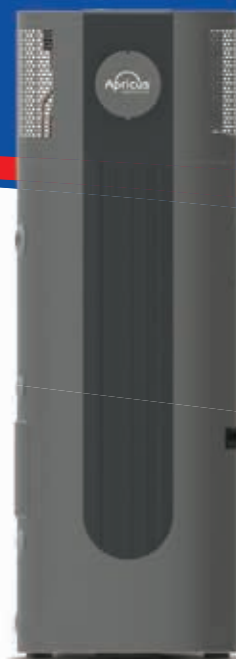
SUBMITTED BY JANE MONK AND SYLVIA MATHEWS



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

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Offer B

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replacing gas storage

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Everyone needs a fire plan

Free CFA workshop in Woodend – but places are limited

One of the most important things we all need to do is prepare and practice a clear Bushfire Safety Plan, particularly whether you are going to stay or go.

Will you have time to leave the area safely? When will you go? Where will you go? What will you take? Who will you tell? What about your pets? Will you know in which direction the fire is travelling?

What's your plan in an emergency?

Do you have a plan?

Are you yet to make a start?

This special workshop will empower you and give you tools to identify local risks and plan for what you will do in an emergency. Planning for bushfire can be tough, so why do it alone?

There is no cost to attend this small-group Fire Safety Planning workshop, but numbers are limited to just 16 places.

Fire Safety Planning Workshops run for around three hours. That might seem like a long session, but taking a bit of time now will help you to think clearly and make decisions when it really counts.

Remember – if you are caught in a bushfire, it will be noisy, smoky, hot and extremely stressful. A well-thought-out plan can make all the difference.

Develop your fire plan step-by-step at the workshop and during these sessions you will:

- use local knowledge to prepare for a range of fire scenarios
- receive practical, hands-on guidance from CFA to help you start, improve or review your plan
- work alongside others and share ideas.



FIRE SAFETY Planning Workshop

WHAT'S YOUR PLAN IN AN EMERGENCY?

Do you have a plan? Or are you yet to make a start?

This workshop will empower you with tools to identify local risks and plan for what you will do in an emergency.

Get help to review or develop your plan at one of CFA's FREE Bushfire Planning Workshops

To secure your spot, register to attend by scanning the QR code or visiting - <https://forms.office.com/r/BKjiSAsXX>

Saturday 3rd February 2024 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Woodend Fire Station

The Woodend Fire Safety Planning Workshop

- Saturday 3 February 2024
- 1.00 pm–4.00 pm
- Woodend Fire Station, 9 Urquhart Street, Woodend

To secure your spot, register to attend by visiting – <https://forms.office.com/r/BKjiSAsXX>

See you at the Woodend Farmers' Market

We will again be present at the Woodend Farmers Market on Saturday February 3. So, if you are unable to get to the workshop or have any questions about your fire preparations and planning, please drop by for a chat.

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

SUBMITTED BY FORMER CAPTAIN MIKE DORNAU, WOODEND CFA

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.

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Woodend Library News



Storytimes are back for 2023!

We have some very exciting news, not only is Storytime starting back on Tuesday 6 February, we have added an extra Baby Rhyme Time session on Fridays!

- Storytime: 10am Tuesday and Friday
- Baby Rhyme Time: 11am Tuesday and Friday
- Saturday Storytime: First Saturday of every month, 10.30–11am

Upcoming Events

Chinese New Year drop-in craft activities

Friday 9 and Saturday 10 February

Join in the celebrations! Drop in and create a Chinese zodiac, lucky charm or simple dragon puppet. No bookings required.

Helen Elliott: *Eleven Letters to You*

Wednesday, 14 February at 11am

A profoundly original memoir and an intimate account of growing up in the suburbs of Melbourne in the 50s and 60s, before feminism. This sparkling and absorbing book is written in the form of eleven letters to those neighbours, relatives, friends, teachers and mentors who shaped the young Helen. Each letter recreates life in sensuous and indelible detail, bringing marvellous characters back to life, along with the lost worlds they inhabit. Helen Elliott is a prominent literary critic, journalist and editor who lives on an acre of garden in Mt Macedon.

Book sales and signings. Bookings required – goldfieldslibraries.com or call 5427 2074

Join us for Make & Take or Craft & Chat or both!

Wednesday 14 February 2–4pm

Make & Take

Upcycle old books to celebrate your love of reading and words and of the libraries they live in! Drop by and visit our Making Station to create something quirky and wonderful – a paper rose, dictionary magnet, vintage bookmark or book house, you will love them. Adults and teens.

Craft & Chat

Bring along your current craft project for sharing ideas and skills in a friendly gathering. Premie Hearts materials will also be available. All will be warmly welcomed.

There will also be a second Make & Take session on Saturday 17 February, 10am–12pm. No bookings required.

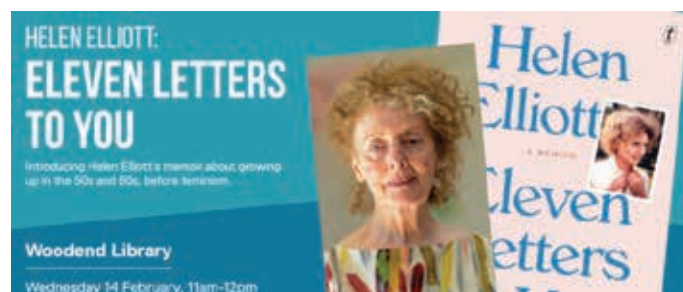
Happy New Year everyone and see you in the Library!

5427 2074

woodend@ncgrl.vic.gov.au

www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au

SUBMITTED BY EMMA KEENAN



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info@mdmlawyers.com.au

CWA Woodend Eves

Just like that, 2023 has come to a close. It's a time when the Woodend Country Women's Association reflect on what we've done in 2023.

The CWA Woodend Eves branch would like to thank the community of Woodend and the wider Macedon Ranges. Your purchases at CWA stalls have enabled us to donate to the Woodend Community Chest and continue scholarships to girls graduating Grade 6 at St Ambrose, Woodend Primary and Tylden Primary schools.

We are delighted to announce the winners of the 2023 CWA Woodend Eves Scholarship Award:

- St Ambrose – Tahlia Johnstone
- Woodend Primary – Lacie Cummings
- Tylden Primary – Matilda Hickey

We appreciate the Woodend Newsagency for allowing us to run regular street stalls on High St so look out for us again in 2024. Our 2023 Scone-a-thon was popular, and we ended the year on a high with the recent Christmas Market at Mt Macedon. We were thrilled to coordinate the town Christmas Lights trail for the third year. This community engagement project builds every year and we thank everyone for participating.



As well as making goodies for our stall, we deployed our cooking talents to provide goods to events for the Macedon Ranges Rural Australians for Refugees and emergency clean-up crews in the area. One of our key goals this year was to connect with the elderly in our community. We have been very fortunate to visit our local Bupa on multiple occasions this year and have enjoyed crafts and scone-making classes, of course a few got sampled.

A really simple way to support the CWA Woodend Eves is to nominate us as a community organisation on the Ritchies IGA loyalty card program. Thanks To Ritchies IGA for organising such a wonderful initiative.

If you would like to join us, we are meeting at 7pm on the third Thursday of the month starting 15 February at our new home at the Woodend Golf Club. For more information, please contact us on cwawoodendeves@gmail.com

WRITTEN BY CATHERINE AINSWORTH, MEGAN SHARKIE AND ANITA LA FORGIA



Photo: CWA member Kelly and Junior member Isabelle with Lacie Cummings, Woodend Primary recipient of the Scholarship Award.

Remnant Extravaganza: Bradley's celebrates twelve years of craft, community, and charity!

It was a party atmosphere as we celebrated twelve incredible years of our Annual Remnant Fabric Sale, an event that for Bradley's Curtains and Blinds has evolved into a tradition of uniting our vibrant craft community to create a buzz that's impossible to resist.

A win-win for all

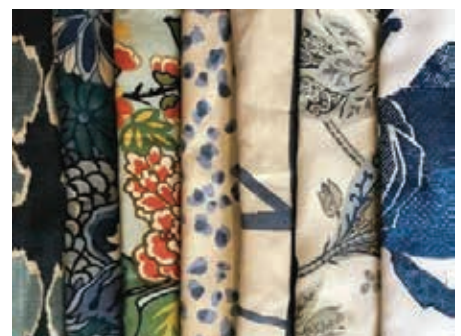
It's the ultimate win-win! We decluttered our workroom, from ex-displays to sample books, off cuts and unique finds from projects that took an unexpected turn; craft enthusiasts scored unbelievable bargains; and every dollar they spent went to the wonderful charity Very Special Kids, supporting their local retreat, Glen Osmond Farm, and creating a meaningful impact for families facing challenging times.



Cheers to twelve amazing years!

As we toast to twelve years of shared moments and creative discoveries, we raise our glasses to the incredible community that has made our Remnant Sale a roaring success. Here's to more years of crafting happiness, supporting hope and making a positive impact together!

The Remnant Sale is always mid-January, on the last Friday before we start the new year. Follow us on Facebook to find out the exact date.



72 High Street, Woodend 3442
t 03 5427 2361
e bradleyscurtains@outlook.com
w www.bradleyscurtains.com

Don't rely on your mains water supply in a bushfire.

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

gww.com.au/bushfires

Phone 13 44 99

Translation & Interpreter Service 13 14 50

Get your water sorted for fire season

With a hot, dry summer expected, Greater Western Water (GWW) is urging residents to know what to do if their water supply is affected by a bushfire or grassfire.

Just as it's important for residents to prepare their properties and fire plans, GWW also prepares its teams, equipment and infrastructure for the annual fire season.

In a major fire event, water supply can't be guaranteed as it comes under extreme demand from firefighters and residents.

There are simple steps GWW customers can take to prepare, including:

- Keep a supply of drinking water in your emergency kit.
- Make sure your mobile phone number is up to date by calling 13 44 99 or visiting gww.com.au/contact, as GWW uses text messages, their website and social media to provide updates.
- Find your closest fire hydrant and clear any grass or shrubs that could slow down access to it.

Jodie Hallam, GWW General Manager of Operations and Delivery Solutions, said that in a bushfire customers may experience low water pressure, lack of supply or reduced water quality.

"We service municipalities that are at increased fire risk, including Hume, Macedon Ranges, Melton, Moorabool, Wyndham, Brimbank and Hobsons Bay," she said.

"I encourage everyone to review the Fire Ready Kit available on the CFA website, as it provides lots of helpful advice on how to prepare for fire season, including setting up water supplies that are independent from mains.

"Our crews will be active in communities over the coming months maintaining network reliability. We will work closely with CFA in the event of a bushfire, to ensure access to water supplies and minimise disruption to customers."



For more information, visit gww.com.au/bushfires

SUBMITTED BY STEFAN DELATOVIC, MEDIA AND CONTENT, GWW



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Resource Recovery Facilities (formerly 'transfer stations')

Textiles, clean white polystyrene, soft plastics, scrap metal, white goods and e-waste are all free to be disposed of at your local resource recovery facilities (RRFs).

If items are in good quality condition, we encourage residents to take them to their nearest op-shop in the first instance. Any items that are no longer in good condition can be taken to any of Council's three RRFs.

To see a full list of accepted items, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/RRF

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

— FEBRUARY —

- 3 Woodend Farmers' Market
- 3 Woodend CFA Workshop 1pm
- 4 Woodend Landcare Working Bee
- 9 MRFS: The Big Steal @ Norma Richardson Hall
- 10 Chamber Poets, RSL
- 10 One Woman-Many Roads, The Gallery Mt Macedon
- 11 Ross Wilson & the Peaceniks @ KTH
- 11 Classic Car Show at Hanging Rock
- 17 Open Garden @ Stone Hill, see page 7
- 18 Woodend Lions' Market
- 23 Feb - 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
- 16 St Ambrose Parish School Fete
- 17 Woodend Lions' Market
- 24 WAAF Launch Concert with Lior, 2.30pm
- 29 Good Friday
- 31 Easter Sunday

— APRIL —

- 5-18 Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival
- 6 Woodend Farmers' Market
- 7 Daylight saving time ends
- 12 MRFS: The Forgiven @ Norma Richardson Hall
- 21 Woodend Lions' Market
- 25 Anzac Day

— MAY —

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

— JUNE —

- 1 Woodend Farmers' Market
- 7-10 Woodend Winter Arts Festival

One Woman — Many Roads

Tatiana Korinsky is exhibiting photographs from her time in the US, Japan and Australia at The Gallery Mount Macedon from February 6 until March 3.

Tatiana often pairs her photographs with her original haiku, inspired by her two decades of residing in Japan.

Her main inspirational impulses come from Buddhism, which she has studied for many years, and "the greatest of all teachers, Nature and the Cosmos".

"As a child, I remember often lying on my back in the backyard and gazing at the heavens – and that fascination has continued ever since – the effect of the day and night skies on the natural and built landscape continues to be a dominant theme in my work.

And a key part of that is the effect of light – the same view can be re-experienced in myriad ways – and though my life has taken me on many roads, one of my favourite things to do is to sit quietly on my veranda and experience endlessly unfolding Nature."

Tatiana grew up in Melbourne, residing in the Mt Macedon and Kyneton areas for many years. She has also studied, lived and worked in London, Tokyo and New York. She has exhibited her art and photography in London and New York. She is also an award-winning playwright and has directed her original material in Melbourne and New York.

Join Tatiana for a meet-the-artist session and the official opening of her exhibition at The Gallery Mount Macedon on Saturday February 10 at 2pm.

The Gallery Mount Macedon, 684 Mount Macedon Rd, Mount Macedon. Open Friday-Tuesday, 10-4.

SUBMITTED BY TATIANA KORINSKY

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The Gallery Mount Macedon invites local artists to enter the 2024 Portrait Prize

Calling portrait artists and photographers living in the Macedon Ranges Shire

The Gallery Mount Macedon would like to invite you to enter the 2024 Portrait Prize. There are two exhibitions and competitions, the first in April for non-photographic works, and the second in May for photographic works. This is the first time we have had a photographic portrait prize.

Bendigo Bank is generously sponsoring this exhibition, with first prizes of \$1000, and \$250 for the people's choice award, in each section.

Work is to be 2D, and must be smaller than 45x65 cm (landscape or portrait orientation), as we are limited by the space available in our small gallery. The subject of the portrait must be known to the artist and have given permission for the portrait and its exhibition at the Gallery. Shortlisted entries will be exhibited at The Gallery Mount Macedon.

Entry forms and full terms and conditions are available on the website. www.thegallerymountmacedon.com.au. Applications for both exhibitions, which include an online entry form and an image of the entry, open on Monday March 4, and close on Wednesday March 27.

For further information, contact Jo Hoyne 0418 488 582, or email thegalleryexhibition@gmail.com

SUBMITTED BY SUE ANSON

Scottish Country Dancing

The Macedon Ranges Scottish Country Dancing group meets every Thursday afternoon 1–3pm at Buffalo Stadium, Woodend.

Scottish Country Dancing involves social country dancing, not the highland dancing many people think of, dancing in sets, learning different steps and formations – no special clothes needed, just soft flat shoes.

We are a friendly group having fun and keeping fit at the same time. You don't need to bring a partner, just a smile and sense of fun.

Our new term starts 8 February.

Contact Meg 5427 1100 or Linda 0408 476 317

SUBMITTED BY MEG OSBORNE (SECRETARY)

St Ambrose Parish School Fete returns

Save the date! The St Ambrose Parish School Fete is set to take place on Saturday 16 March. The wider Woodend community is invited to attend the event, which promises to have something for all ages to enjoy.

Attendees can expect a day of good old-fashioned fun, with plenty of activities for the kids, from arts and crafts and face painting, to a ninja course and dunking machine. There will also be plenty of stalls to choose from, including fresh fruit and vegetables, books, clothing, plants, show bags and more.

Other highlights include a silent auction with plenty of amazing prizes up for grabs, along with live entertainment, including a talent show and DJ tunes.

Make a day of it and enjoy tasty treats all day long, with a BBQ, coffee van and delicious Devonshire tea all on offer.

If you or your business would like to contribute to the Fete's Silent Auction, please contact Sophie Lynch at sophielynch1981@gmail.com.

The St Ambrose Parish School Fete will take place from 9am until 1pm on Saturday 16 March, 2024. We look forward to seeing you there!

SUBMITTED BY MADELEINE BLAKE

Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival – Last chance to join!

The Macedon Ranges will burst into life from April 5–28 with the annual shire-wide autumn celebration. The festival invites visitors and locals alike to explore the region's premium food, drink, artistry, and breathtaking open spaces.

If you are a business or community group eager to host an event or feature on the renowned Pie and Tart, Edgy Veg or Tipple Trail during the festival, don't miss this final opportunity to be included in the program.

Submit your expression of interest by Monday 12 February via mrsc.vic.gov.au/Autumn-Festival

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Central Highlands Rural Health News

Central Highlands Rural Health were recognised at the Victorian Public Healthcare Awards in November, in a night that was a celebration of health services around the state and that highlighted the important role they play in their communities. It was great to have the team at Central Highlands Rural Health acknowledged for their commitment to high quality care.

Central Highlands Rural Health is grateful for all the support received in 2023, including generous gifts and donations received that have enabled them to complete facility upgrades and internal refurbishments, purchase much-needed equipment and resources, as well as organise experiences for patients, residents and clients. In 2024, donated funds have been allocated to landscape designs for the Clunes Health Wellness Garden and to refurbishments to the Kyneton Health Dialysis Unit, as well as upcoming campaigns to raise funds for a scalp-cooling machine for oncology patients and construction costs for the Wellness Garden.

Rural health services continue to need local support. Although they receive government funding, donations enable them to expand their programs and services, build new infrastructure and purchase the latest medical equipment that would otherwise not be possible. There are many different ways that you can assist your health service to deliver quality care to your community, such as donations of funds, vouchers and goods, or volunteering to assist with the delivery of meals on wheels and other projects. Community contributions have an enormous impact on the wellbeing of a town's people.

Each campus of Central Highlands Rural Health is currently raising funds to support their programs through their New Year Raffle. The prizes include a currently sold-out Limited Edition Sparkling Black Thermomix® TM6 and Cookidoo®, its exclusive recipe library; a \$500 fuel voucher or \$250 grocery voucher from a local business. Limited tickets will be sold! Tickets can be purchased via www.chrh.org.au/donate or Central Highlands Rural Health campus receptions. The raffle will be drawn on Monday 12 February at 12:30pm.

Central Highlands Rural Health provides acute, urgent care, residential aged care, social support, community nursing and community health services to the approximately 60,000 people living in the Hepburn Shire and Macedon Ranges areas with campuses located in the townships of Clunes, Creswick, Daylesford, Trentham and Kyneton. Each campus has a range of programs that care for the community that they serve.

To find out more about the services offered in your area, or how you could contribute to the wellbeing of your family, friends and neighbours you can visit www.chrh.org.au or call your nearest campus reception.

SUBMITTED BY KATHRYN KOSLOFF

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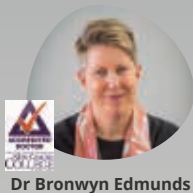
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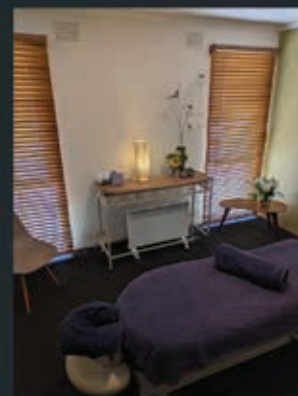
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Member for **Macedon**

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



Woodend school community benefits from upgrade

The Woodend Primary School Community Children's Garden will be a welcoming space for local families and kids to grow fresh produce, get active and learn, thanks to a new irrigation system.



Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas visited the garden to hear about the numerous benefits this innovative project has produced for the local school community.



In partnership with Woodend Landcare, Greater Western Water contributed \$3,780 towards the installation of a new irrigation system with timer – helping to keep the children's garden green and thriving while saving students and parents precious time.

The project has been delivered as part of Greater Western Water's Thriving Communities Grants and Sponsorship Program.

Before the irrigation system was installed, students and volunteers had a roster to hand water the plants – a task that often took over an hour to complete.

Woodend Primary's Community Children's Garden irrigation system is programmed to water the garden consistently and efficiently year-round, adjusted to meet the needs of healthy plants and produce. The garden offers a weekly outdoor learning experience for students to learn about plant sciences and gardening techniques, and to develop a greater appreciation of all aspects of our fragile ecosystem.

Woodend Primary's community garden will help foster a sense of community for parents and local volunteers as a place to collaborate in growing and maintaining this special space.

Food grown at the school is offered for sale for fundraising or taken home by students and volunteers, with excess produce donated to the Woodend Neighbourhood House food bank and community lunches.

Of the project, Mary-Anne Thomas, Member for Macedon said, "This new irrigation system will deliver so many benefits to local students and parents as they learn how to take care of plants and grow their own produce to eat at home or share with local charities."

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

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Grant program making kinders more inclusive

More than 330 kindergartens across Victoria are sharing in \$10 million to upgrade facilities and buy specialist equipment.

Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn announced the grant recipients of funding that will help make sure all early learning facilities give children the support they need to reach their full potential at kinder. Sixty-five kindergartens will upgrade buildings and playgrounds, while 268 will be able to purchase equipment to boost inclusive learning, such as mobility stools or sensory equipment, giving children of all abilities the chance to participate fully in kindergarten programs.

The Building Blocks Inclusion grants provide up to \$10,000 for inclusive equipment and \$200,000 for building and playground upgrades.

The Building Blocks program – which also includes grants for infrastructure planning – offers grants to contribute to kindergarten infrastructure and is critical to ensure the successful rollout of the Best Start, Best Life reforms across Victoria.

Since it was launched in 2020, Building Blocks has provided over \$190 million to plan, build, and improve early childhood services across the state.

The Best Start, Best Life reforms, help children thrive, save families money and support parents – especially women – to return to work or study if they choose. The Victorian Budget 23/24 invests an additional \$1.2 billion to build or expand around 145 kindergartens across the state, supporting the delivery of 15 hours of free Three-Year-Old Kindergarten each week by 2029 and 30 hours of free Pre-Prep each week by 2032.

Minister for Children, Lizzie Blandthorn said, “These grants ensure hundreds of kindergartens have the facilities and equipment they need to give Victorian children a great start in life – no matter their abilities.”



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SECURE SELF STORAGE UNITS

Saving families money and helping enrol kids in kinder

The State Government is making it easier to find a kindergarten place by boosting funding for local council central enrolment systems.

Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn announced a significant increase in funding to expand the Central Registration and Enrolment Schemes (CRES) Administrative Support Grants program.

The funding increase will support operating costs to enable councils to provide registration and enrolment services at no cost to families – helping up to 140,000 children benefitting from this once-in-a-generation reform, saving families up to \$2,500 per child every year.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council was successful in obtaining the funding.

This extra funding recognises the crucial role councils play in supporting the nation-leading Best Start, Best Life reforms that provide all Victorian children with access to two years of free, quality kindergarten.

A CRES is a single point for families to apply for multiple services within a local government area, helping them secure a kindergarten place that best meets their needs.

Mary-Anne Thomas, Member for Macedon said, “Councils play a critical role in the Best Start, Best Life reforms. This funding will ensure local families can access kinder easily to have the best start to life, no matter where they live.” As well as simplifying the registration and enrolment process, a CRES can work with other services such as Maternal and Child Health to engage vulnerable and disadvantaged families who need more support.

In 2023, more councils delivered a CRES than ever before, with approximately 69,000 children enrolled through a CRES up from 63,000 enrolments in 2022.

This new investment will see all CRES councils offered an increase in their annual base funding. This will include extra supports for those councils with high numbers of enrolments and rural councils.

The Best Start, Best Life reforms are deliver free kinder across Victoria, a year of universal pre-prep, and establishing 50 government-operated childcare centres.



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Join the Heart Songs Community Choir Project

If you are keen to be part of a creative community collaboration where you can sing your heart out and meet others in the community, the Heart Songs Community Choir Project is for you.



Lucy Wise and the Heart Songs Community Choir Project will see a brand-new choir comprised of community members from the Macedon Ranges learn and perform a number of Lucy's songs with her band over a 10-week period, under the direction of local choir leader Andrew Price.

Expect a warm, supportive and fun singing environment. A free singing workshop and sign-on day will be held at Kyneton Town Hall on Saturday 20 April from 10.30am-12.30pm.

To get involved, visit mrs.vic.gov.au/get-involved or call Andrea on 5422 0333.

Get ready for Live & Local!

As part of the 2024 Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival, a range of local bands and artists will perform on weekends throughout April at community halls across the shire.

Featuring You Am I's Tim Rogers, Juliarna Clark, The Whiskey Rogues, Valley Road and more, and complemented by local wines and food trucks featuring regional produce, this is a series of events not to be missed.

For information and tickets, visit mrs.vic.gov.au/live-local or call 1300 888 802 (10am-4pm, weekdays).

Staying Strong for over 50s

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

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

For further details or to discuss your suitability for the program, contact your local centre:

- Kyneton Toyota Sports & Aquatic Centre, 5421 1477, ksac@mrs.vic.gov.au or Facebook
- Gisborne Fitness Centre, 5428 3318, gfc@mrs.vic.gov.au or Facebook
- Romsey Recreation Centre, 5429 5637 or rrc@mrs.vic.gov.au
- Woodend Buffalo Sports Stadium, 5427 3411 or email buffalo@mrs.vic.gov.au
- or visit mrs.vic.gov.au/leisure

Village Connect for over-55s

Age-Friendly Community Directory

Village Connect has recently launched its Community Directory: an age-friendly resource, providing contact information for groups, clubs and organisations within the Macedon Ranges, and direction to a large number of local services and useful resources in the shire.

Featuring community connections galore, including local health and community services, clubs and groups, activities and lots of other useful resources.

Hard copies of the directory are also available on request, or to download a copy, visit mrs.vic.gov.au/community-directory



Monthly Coffee Gatherings

There's nothing quite like the warmth of a cup of coffee and the joy of meaningful conversation.

If you're eager to forge new connections, share stories, and build lasting friendships in your village, join us for our monthly coffee gatherings for those over 55 in Gisborne, Lancefield, Kyneton and Riddells Creek.

Call the Village Connect team on 5422 0333 or visit mrs.vic.gov.au/village-connect

Resource Recovery Secondary School Grant Program

Council is excited to announce the Resource Recovery Secondary School Grant Program, which will give successful applicants the resources to implement a waste-wise initiative at their school.

Secondary schools in the Macedon Ranges can apply for up to \$2,000 to tackle a waste problem at their school. The proposal must tackle a waste-specific problem and consider long-term solutions and sustainability.

Applications close 30 April. Successful applicants will be invited to an awards ceremony later in the year. More information is available at mrs.vic.gov.au/school-grants-program

Youth Summit

Council is hosting a Youth Summit from 9.30am-3pm on Thursday 21 March 2024 at the Woodend Community Centre.

If you are interested in representing young people in the Macedon Ranges on key issues that affect you, we invite you to attend our Summit.

The Summit aims to facilitate opportunities that empower young people of the Macedon Ranges, to provide consultation for Council and key stakeholders on key issues (as identified by young people) and to invite feedback on Council's progress with the deliverables outlined in Elevate: Council's ten-year Youth Strategy (2018-2028).

Elevate provides the overall direction for Council's Youth Services unit and guides the programs, initiatives, advocacy and support work we facilitate for young people and their families. For information and to register, call the Youth Team on 5422 0333.

Young People as Agents of Change

Young People as Agents of Change is a collaborative effort in the Macedon Ranges, working with young individuals and partners like Council and the Centre Against Sexual Assault Central Victoria (CASACV).

The goal is to organise inclusive workshops for 12-17 year olds young people on healthy relationships, boundaries, and consent laws to combat sexual violence. Surveys in 2021 indicated that about 70 per cent of young people in the Macedon Ranges wanted more information on these topics.

We're on the lookout for community groups to host these workshops from March to July 2024, to make our community safer.

Community groups can undergo a 90-minute training on supporting youth in healthy relationships, led by experts from CASACV. Simultaneously, young people aged 12-17 will have a 90-minute workshop on healthy relationships, new consent laws, and staying safe, guided by youth Peer Educators with support from CASACV staff.

These workshops were crafted by a team of 14 local young people, with assistance from various experts and organisations. Thanks to funding from the Victorian Government, the materials align with the government's consent curriculum and use proven strategies.

For more information or to request training, email ypac@casacv.org.au

Live4Life launch event

The Live4Life Program is launching again in 2024, with Year 8s from local high schools getting together to hear about the award-winning program, which aims to increase understanding, reduce stigma and improve mental health knowledge in our shire.

The launch event is organised by the Live4Life Crew and supported by the Partnership Group. Following the launch, Year 8s will participate in teen Mental Health First Aid at their school.

For more information on the Live4Life program and youth mental health initiatives visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/Live4Life contact the Youth Team on 5422 0333.

Live4Life Crew promotion

A vital part of the Live4Life program is the crew of young people who support it, and we want you to join the Crew!

The Crew is a group of young people making a change in the community by promoting positive mental health. If this sounds like you and you're in Year 9 or above and have participated in Live4Life at school, we'd love for you to join the Crew. Crew members will help plan Live4Life events and a mental health promotion activity.

For more information on the Live4Life Program, youth mental health initiatives, or to join the Crew, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/Live4Life or contact the Youth Team on 5422 0333.

Music in the Sticks - now recruiting for 2024

MITS is inviting young people aged 12-25 years interested in the music industry to join the crew for 2024.

The crew meet fortnightly to share pizza and learn about the industry, including sound mixing, event lighting, event management, photography, and more.

Several events are also held throughout the year to practice new skills in a fun environment.

To register visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/MITS

Green Means Go

Got a passion project you want to get started, or one you want to keep going? Green Means Go gives dollars and project support to young people looking to do just that.

Financial support of up to \$1,000 is available for selected projects. Participants can apply by pitching their projects through our Green Means Go 'Pitch' portal at mrsc.vic.gov.au/youth

2024 School Immunisation Program

If you have a child in Year 7 or Year 10 at secondary school in 2024, look out for immunisation information provided by their school. Some vaccines are routinely provided free of charge to all Victorian secondary school students.

Students in Year 7 (or aged 12-13 years) receive the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine (one dose) and the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough) combined vaccine (one dose).

Students in Year 10 (or aged 15-16 years) receive the Meningococcal ACWY vaccine (one dose).

Your child's school will support these important immunisations, together with Council, as part of the Secondary School Immunisations Program (SSIP). They will communicate with you about upcoming immunisation sessions at school, and you will receive information about providing consent for your child to be immunised.

Learn more at www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/immunisation-in-secondary-schools

Protect yourself from mosquito-borne disease

Mosquitoes can carry diseases that may be passed on to people through mosquito bites. In Australia, some of these include Murray Valley encephalitis virus, Ross River virus, Barmah Forest virus, Dengue virus, Japanese encephalitis and West Nile virus.

Periods of heavy rainfall or floods can lead to ideal breeding conditions for mosquitoes, even in non-tropical areas. Diseases that are spread by insects are known as 'vector-borne' diseases. Mosquito-borne diseases can make people ill and, in severe cases, can cause death.

How to avoid mosquito bites:

There are many simple things you can do to avoid getting bitten by mosquitoes, including:

- wearing long, loose-fitting clothes if mosquitoes are around
- covering up as much as possible
- using an effective mosquito repellent, containing either picaridin or diethyltoluamide (DEET) on all exposed skin
- using plug-in mosquito vaporisers or diffusers with repellent-treatment pads in enclosed external areas like verandahs and decks – these should be switched off as soon as the area is no longer in use
- preventing mosquito breeding around your own home
- maintaining fly screens on windows, doors, vents and chimneys (screens should be no coarser than 12 x 12 meshes per 25mm, or 1.2mm - use an even coarser mesh if you wish to keep out other smaller biting insects, like sandflies)
- using mosquito coils in outdoor areas – these should be supervised at all times.

Council has a dedicated Environmental Health unit which assists in monitoring and responding to any localised health-related matters. For more tips, visit: www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/protect-yourself-mosquito-borne-disease

Upgraded Buffalo Stadium changerooms

Upgraded changerooms at Woodend Buffalo Stadium will ensure one of the busiest stadiums in the Macedon Ranges has facilities that are accessible and inclusive.

The old change room facilities required renewal as they did not meet compliance standards for toilet and shower sizes and ambulant facilities, and signage was inadequate. The existing facilities have been demolished and refitted with new toilet and shower cubicles.

These upgrades will benefit the many netballers, basketballers, dancers, health and fitness class attendees and volleyballers – as well as those community groups who hire the multipurpose rooms – enjoy and utilise an accessible space.

For information, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/buffalo-sports-stadium

Kindergarten Vacancies 2024

Still thinking about kindergarten for 2024?

Council has the following places available at Woodend Kindergarten:

- 15 hours per week of three-year-old kindergarten in 2024 (8.30am–4pm, two days a week)

Register online at mrsc.vic.gov.au/kinder-rego or call our Enrolment Officer by calling 5422 0333.





A message from your West Ward Councillors

We hope everyone has had a chance to relax and recharge their batteries over January as we head into 2024. Thank you to everyone who invited us to share in their festive and end of year celebrations, which we always enjoy.

We know it's going to be busy, this being the final year of this term of Councillors. There are some large projects especially in the Strategic Planning area, and work continues on some important strategies such as the Open Space Strategy that we hope to finalise. We have workshops planned early to discuss the budget and Council Plan thoroughly, and Councillors have been provided with all the community submissions.

Council understands that it has again been a stressful time for some residents in our Shire with the weather and rainfall over the last few months. Our Officers continue to work with the Victoria State Emergency Service (SES), the various water and catchment authorities and other organisations preparing throughout the year and during these times of emergency. The reports and videos that you are able to provide to Council are valuable in providing us with information to assess and address issues, and we continue to look to find solutions as we expect these events will increase in frequency.

Local businesses are encouraged to enter the 2024 Josh's Rainbow Eggs Macedon Ranges Business Excellence awards. It's a chance for us to recognise outstanding service, innovation, products and professionalism, and acknowledge those that work so hard to provide service above and beyond ... and we know there are many local businesses and people out there that do this. Nominations close 15 March.

Council is currently running a pilot program at Woodend and Kyneton primary schools until October called "Branch Out", which is working to provide better mental health support for primary school-aged children and is being implemented through things such as music and theatre, training and seminars for teachers and parents, and referral pathways. Following the assessment and review, the aim is to then extend it to all primary schools in the Shire.

The Macedon Ranges Regional Sports precinct is also progressing at a great pace and is scheduled to open this year, which we are all very excited about. We know many sport and recreation clubs and other groups have been in discussions with Council preparing for this.

You may be aware that the Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre (MYJC) no longer houses any young people, and the decommissioning process continues. The facility and land are owned by the State Government, who have committed to provide an opportunity for the community and stakeholders to be involved in the consultation process for the future use of the site, which is positive news. Hopefully we will know more details about the timeline and process soon.

Many of Council's programs are back up and running, such as the healthy landscapes program, pathways for carers, youth events, environment events, etc. so please check out our website www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/Home – you'll be able to subscribe to a range of newsletters there.

We are looking forward to the year ahead, and are always happy to hear what you are doing if you would like to send an email or have a chat.

Best wishes
Janet, Mark and Jennifer.

Have your say through new online hub



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

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

Several draft policies and initiatives endorsed by Council for public consultation late last year are set to invite feedback throughout February 2024.

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

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

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Four years for Council's four-bin system

February marks a significant milestone for the Macedon Ranges community in celebrating the fourth anniversary of its highly successful four-bin system.

As one of the first councils in Victoria to introduce four bins, the shire has made great strides in waste management, with more than 54,000 tonnes of waste diverted from landfill since its implementation, thanks to the tireless efforts of residents in properly sorting their waste.

Fortunately, waste and recycling technologies are always expanding, which means that each year more things are accepted in your recycling bin. Brush up on your recycling skills by heading to mrsc.vic.gov/recycling



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Occasionally real estate transactions happen fast ... sometimes very fast!



21 McEachern Lane, Goldie

Contracts signed and settlement effected within 48 hours!

- Tuesday 19/12/23** Prospective purchasers inspected the property.
- Wednesday 20/12/23** Offer at asking price accepted, unconditional contracts signed, 10% deposit paid with 30 day settlement proposed.
- Thursday 21/12/23** Purchasers asked if they could settle "tomorrow"? Vendors, who had already substantially vacated, agreed and organised a team to remove remaining furniture, equipment and livestock. All done by 7.30pm.
- Friday 22/12/23** Settlement effected and keys collected by purchasers.

**Very happy vendors, very happy purchasers and happy agent.
A record?**

December 2023 Council Meeting wrap



Several guiding documents endorsed and more draft policies out for consultation in 2024

A number of important items were endorsed at the last Council Meeting for 2023, including four different plans, reports or strategies that were adopted following earlier community consultation:

- the Macedon Ranges Shire Thematic Environmental History Report, which will be used to guide heritage protection and to inform the draft Heritage Strategy 2024. The report identifies the unique history that has played a role in the development of the shire over the last two centuries, covering key themes including how the environment was shaped, people migration settlement, and the development of industry and farming.
- the Stanley Park Environmental Management Plan for Stanley Park in Mount Macedon, which provides an updated vision for the park and will guide future revegetation projects. The 2023 EMP was developed in collaboration with the Stanley Park Community Asset Committee and Melbourne Water, providing revised guidance for the management of the reserve over the next ten years and informing an Infrastructure Master Plan for the reserve.
- the Climate Emergency Plan 2023-30 (CEP), developed through the Cooler-ER Change initiative, which aims to accelerate action in the shire to address climate change. The Plan includes a total of 56 actions across six themes to mitigate and adapt to the current Climate Emergency, and was collaboratively developed alongside the community, relevant agencies and the Victorian Government.
- the Mobility and Road Safety Strategy 2023-32, which identifies key road safety issues in the shire and will assist in the implementation of proactive initiatives to enhance safety for all road users. The strategy supports Council's and the Victorian Government's vision of reducing road fatalities and crash injuries within the Macedon Ranges over the next ten years. It also includes non-vehicle road user considerations in road design and targets a reduction in wildlife road trauma.

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Council also endorsed a number of initiatives to go out for community consultation in early 2024, to account for the upcoming extended school holiday period and to support maximum engagement:

- Draft Complaint and Unreasonable Behaviour Policy: the draft policy outlines how Council will manage complaints and unreasonable behaviour and provides clear guidance for both the complainant and Council. The draft will be available for public consultation in February 2024.
- Draft Special Charge Scheme Policy: this policy applies to Special Charge Scheme (SCS) infrastructure projects such as resident-funded upgrading of roads and drainage. It outlines the decision-making process and criteria for SCS projects where providing these services or infrastructure items is deemed to provide a special benefit to property owners or certain community members.
- Draft Fair Access Policy: this policy supports Council in the identification and removal of systemic factors contributing to gender inequality relating to the availability of quality community sports infrastructure at times that are suitable.

In other matters, Council:

- renewed an agreement with the North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation (the Corporation) to continue services whilst longer-term arrangements are being finalised
- endorsed the allocation of \$12,150 to five applicants under the Small Project Grants program (funding for the 2023/24 program has now been expended, with the next round due to open on 1 July 2024).

Video recordings of past Council meetings are available at webcast.mrsc.vic.gov.au (generally available within two business days of a meeting).

SUBMITTED BY BODEY DITTOFF, MACEDON RANGES SHIRE COUNCIL

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

McLean Delmo Bentleys joins forces with Riverwood Group

McLean Delmo Bentleys, the Victorian member of Bentleys, a Top 12 Australian network, announced late last year that they were joining forces with Riverwood Group, to form a firm known as McLean Delmo Bentleys. The combination gives McLean Delmo Bentleys both a metropolitan and a regional presence in Victoria, with three offices in Hawthorn, Woodend and Kilmore.

Chairman of McLean Delmo Bentleys, John Delmo says the firm is joining forces with another firm with similar values.

To Caroline Johnston of Riverwood Group, allowed it to broaden the offering to clients. "The change brings an exciting new chapter to our firm's long history in the region. Our clients in regional Victoria will benefit from the expanded suite of services and industry expertise that we can now offer in-house."

The full suite of services in-house will now include:

- Business Advisory
- Accounting
- Taxation
- SMSF Compliance and Audit
- Finance and Lending
- Corporate Secretarial
- Financial Planning
- Risk Insurance
- Business Insurance
- Audit and Assurance

John Delmo added: "The coming together of two firms offers two-way benefits – both firms will benefit from joining forces and most importantly – so will our clients."

SUBMITTED BY LOUISE HUTCHINGS MARKETING MANAGER



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McLean Delmo Bentleys and Riverwood Group have joined forces.

Our existing and new clients will benefit from the expanded suite of services and industry expertise that we can now offer in-house.

We look forward to seeing you in our Woodend or Kilmore office soon!



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Kilmore Office:
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Woodend Junior Football and Netball

2024 Season is Kicking off

Save the date!

The Woodend Junior Football Netball Club has started 2024 at full speed and is off to a flying start! With a fabulous bunch of new and old committee members, 2024 is looking to be both a rewarding and an exceptional sporting season.

On 11 February, we will be hosting our 2024 Annual Woodend Junior Football Netball Club Registration Day from 11am to 1pm at Buffalo Stadium Woodend, and the BBQ will be fired up with a Sausage Sizzle. The WJFNC Registration Day is always a great opportunity to meet the coaches and committee members, and enjoy some of the wonderful Woodend community spirit. In addition, there are always opportunities to volunteer and get more involved, for those interested.

As well as selling playing merchandise and helping with new and existing registrations, the committee will be available to answer any questions on the day.

Teams for 2024 football, Auskick, U9, U11, U13, 15s, 17s, expressions of interest for AFL girls' teams.

Teams for 2024 netball, 11 and under, 13 and under, 15 and under and 17 and under teams, possibly more than one team in some age groups, depending on the number of registrations.

For the 15s and 17s netballers, we will be running a pre-season in February and March (more details to follow), but are asking those who are interested in pre-season training and events to get in touch to express their interest via netball@woodendhawks.com.au

We are looking for a 15 and under netball coach, and we'd love to talk to anyone who is interested. Support and mentoring are available.

Boys are encouraged to come along to our netball rego event. Boys' netball is really growing in popularity. Boys can play netball with the girls in the 11 and under and 13 and under age groups.

On behalf of the WJFNC, we look forward to seeing you all on 11 February!

Football registrations for the season 2024 are now open. The registration link is: <https://www.playhq.com/afl/register/136bd4>

Netball registrations for the 2024 season are now open. The registration link is: <https://registration.netballconnect.com/login>

SUBMITTED BY DANIELLE GALLE, PRESIDENT WOODEND JUNIOR FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

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New pennant season recommences

The Club has teams in both midweek (Tuesdays) and Saturday competitions. Following the Christmas break, the teams returned to competition mid-January.



At the time of writing, the team positions are listed below, but this may have changed by the time you are reading this.

Our Tuesday Division 2 team was on top of the ladder, following a very strong start to the season.

Our Tuesday Division 3 team is in fourth place and within striking distance of a higher position.

Our Saturday teams are further down the ladder and have been struggling with many players absent for a variety of reasons. They have also seen some very close games, losing by only a couple of shots. So, there is still a chance we can make the finals in both of these divisions.

We are close to having our new club champions

During December and January, we have been completing several of our Club Championship events, with the Men's and Ladies' Singles needing to be finished by the end of January to ascertain the Woodend players who will then progress to the Divisional Championship rounds.

There have been some very close matches and, at the time of writing, we are only a few rounds away from both Grand Finals. We will announce these winners in the next edition of *The New Woodend Star*.

Other events still to be completed include the Ladies' Pairs, Men's Pairs, Mixed Pairs, 21 Up and 100 Up.

Bowling could be part of your new year's resolution – the health benefits of bowling

If your New Year's resolution included getting healthier and fitter, then bowling could be good for you.

Bowls is a low-impact, therapeutic activity that can improve fitness, co-ordination and confidence.

Health professionals recommend playing bowls as it provides a number of health benefits, including:

- Improved fitness
- Improved co-ordination and skill development
- Increased confidence and self-esteem
- Enhanced mental well-being
- Community connectedness and support

Come on down for a free trial.

If you have wondered what lawn bowls is like, why not come down to the Club and have a go – on either our carpet or grass green.

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

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

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU,
PRESIDENT WOODEND BOWLING CLUB INC.

The Hawks Fly Into 2024!

New Life Member

Congratulations to Glenn Palmer on becoming the club's latest Life Member! Glenn has lent us his invaluable expertise over the past 15 years, currently as The Hawks head trainer for both football and netball leagues.



Glenn Palmer

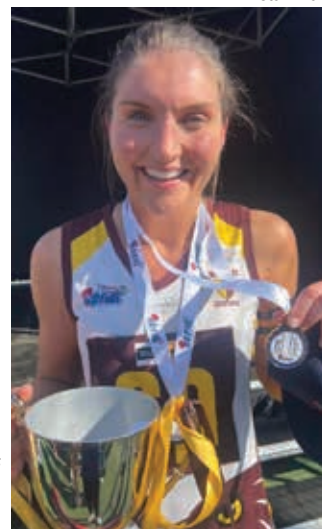
New Senior Coaches

Congratulations Alistair Rae as new seniors football coach for 2024! A valuable and consistent club contributor, Alistair has achieved five years as senior captain and two years as assistant senior coach.



Alistair Rae

Ty Coppinger, congratulations as new 2024 senior netball coach! Ty's netball accolades include winning the league "Best and Fairest" for 2022 and 2023 and bringing home the 2023 A Grade Premiership. We look forward to Ty taking the Hawks to the next level!



Ty Coppinger

New Committee Members

2024 sees the club generously supported by:

- President: Paul Podbury
- Vice President: Rupert Miranda
- Secretary: Andrew Makin
- Treasurer: vacant
- Football Manager: Andy Wilson
- Netball Coordinator: Kellie Duff
- General Committee members: Mel Rundle, Luke Bourke, Hannah Dwyer, Sue-Ellen Cook, Saxon Gardner, Lachlan Whitton.

Sub-Committee Opportunities

The Hawks are always on the lookout for local talent! Reach out if you have an interest in joining our volunteer team. Current opportunities:

- Football Operations Manager
- Game Day Coordinator
- Team Managers for Seniors, Reserves, Under 19's
- Bar Manager
- Canteen Manager
- Events Coordinator

Contact President Paul Podbury 0418 542 484.

GO HAWKS!!

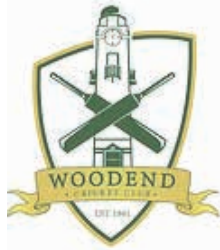


SUBMITTED BY ANJEE ANDERSON,
WOODEND HESKETT FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

Woodend Cricket Club

Girls Cricket

Our Girls Cricket 'Come and Try' Day is coming up soon on Sunday 18th February at Gilbert Gordon Oval at 10.00am. All girls of all ages and all abilities are welcome! Girls will be able to try out batting, bowling and fielding in the two-hour session, and the best bit is that it's a free event for everyone, thanks to the Bendigo Bank Trentham. All equipment will be provided, so just come down and join in the fun! We'll even be throwing on a BBQ lunch for everyone in attendance. If you're under 10 years old and can't wait until our Come and Try Day, we've also got Cricket Blast on Friday nights, where girls now play free! The Woodend Cricket Club is 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.



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Hall of Fame Celebration

Over a decade has passed since we honoured remarkable cricketing achievements at our 150th anniversary celebration. We now have the opportunity again to pay tribute to the exceptional individuals who have worn the green and gold colours of the Woodend Cricket Club. The selection criteria require the player to have either made 3,500 runs, taken 200 wickets or played 200 games. The following players (*denotes current players) will be inducted at our Hall of Fame Celebration Night on February 24.

- Timothy Bakker (Wickets)
- Stewart Black* (Games and Runs)
- Aaron Cavric* (Games and Runs)
- Warren Else* (Games, Runs and Wickets)
- Ian Fletcher (Runs)
- Scott Fuller (Wickets)
- Grayham Hannan (Games and Wickets)
- Daniel Heaney* (Runs)
- Adam Johnstone (Runs)
- Barry Mann* (Runs)
- Greg Matthews* (Games and Wickets)
- Jamie Walker* (Games)

These players add to the legends of our club - names like Algreen-Ussing, Barker, Bowen, Bower, Chew, Gardner, Godden, Higham, Jamieson, Loughnane, McDonald, Oates, Shaw, Sullivan, Warner, Wheeler and Williams are all players who have shaped the cricket club into the club it is today. We also take the opportunity to induct Jamie Walker as a Life Member of the Woodend Cricket Club. Tickets are available through Trybookings.

Junior Country Week

Congratulations to James Gray, who was part of the Under 15 GDCA Junior Country Week Premiership team! Gisborne 2/106 defeated Ballarat 10/102. James took the first wicket of the day to break the opposition's stronghold opening partnership, and also got a runout!



The Woodend Cricket Club would also like to congratulate Angus Black, Ryder Cairns, Odin Cumming, Luke Cameron, Finn Slechten and Fynn Raco for being selected for Representative Cricket.

Woodend Hanging Rock Petanque Club



Christmas has gone, and the New Year has begun, and now we move into a busy January.

Each month we are having a Picnic 'n' Petanque day, where we travel away from our normal petanque pistes. So, on December 27, we celebrated in the sunshine, after all that torrential rain, out at Newham at Louise and Clive's home, with members bringing their own picnic, and played three games on a very challenging piste!

Jenny Large, one of our long-standing members took out the winner's prize, only dropping one point over the day. Well done, Jenny!

The 4th of January brought us our first Hanging Rock Challenge team night, with nine teams competing. All the players got into the spirit of the night by forming and giving their own teams names only they could explain!

The 'Shambles' team of Jill and David Shaw and Rohan Dickson took out the winner's prize and congratulations to them.

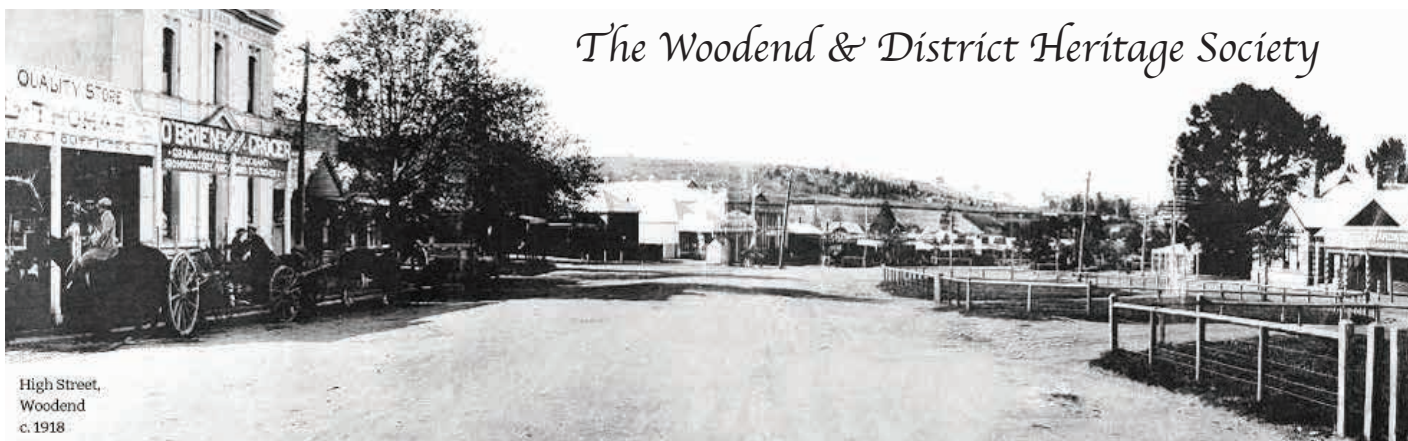
As we moved into January, we continued to play our beloved game of pétanque on Mondays at the Old Racecourse in Forest Street, Woodend, at 2pm and also at 4pm on Thursdays at our beautiful Hanging Rock, on South Rock Road, Woodend.

New members always welcome. Any enquiries ring Louise 0438 302 218.

SUBMITTED BY LOUISE POTTER



Photo: L-R Rohan Dickson, Jill and David Shaw



High Street,
Woodend
c. 1918

The Woodend Horse Trough

A love of animals inspired George Bills of Camberwell to leave £70,000 for the construction of ornamental concrete troughs for horses and cattle around Australia. In 1931, Mr Fleicher, Woodend's Shire Secretary, applied to the Bills Estate for funding, and the trough was installed at the intersection of Urquhart and High Streets the following year. On 3 December 1932, the *Woodend Star* announced that it was "to be regarded as an acquisition to the town. Connected with the horse trough is a smaller one for the benefit of thirsty dogs, surmounted by a drinking fountain that people may use under hygienic conditions."

A marble tablet states that the trough was donated by Annis and George Bills, Australia. George Bills was born in Brighton in Sussex, England, in 1859. Ten years later, he and his family migrated to New Zealand before he and some of his siblings moved to Victoria in 1873. He and his brother Harry moved to Sydney in 1880, where Harry established a successful wire-working business at the Quay. George chose Brisbane to set up a similar business two years later, with a partner William Brown. In 1883, brothers Richard and Walter Bills moved to Brisbane with a mattress machine coiler which Walter had invented. The mattress business boomed; George converted to mattress-making in Brisbane, and Walter established his mattress company in Melbourne known as BBB Mattresses.

George married Annis Elizabeth Swann in Brisbane in 1885. They then set sail for England, where George managed brother Harry's mattress business in Liverpool. Walter joined them and the company became known as Bills Brothers. When George retired, he moved back to Camberwell in Victoria, where he pursued his interest in animal welfare. In 1924, he became a Life Governor of the RSPCA. He died in 1927, and his Trust enabled the opening of the Tally Ho Home in Burwood for dogs, cats and other pets. In 2005, to mark the centenary of Rotary International, Woodend Rotary restored the trough.

SUBMITTED BY JANE HOLTH



Photo 837: The presentation of the restored trough to the community, on 10 July 2005, with the late Jean Gale and her horse Amy



Photo 2352: The Bills horse trough after restoration

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Sacred Heart College Kyneton – a commitment to excellence

Students at Sacred Heart College experience an education defined by three equally important principles – the school's Catholic identity informed by its rich Mercy heritage; a commitment to excellence in learning and teaching; and, finally, supporting the wellbeing and growth of each young person in our Sacred Heart community.

The relatedness of the three principles above was reflected in the success of the College's Year 12 class who achieved outstanding results in both the VCE and VCE-VM pathways. The College's mean VCE study score was 29, our College Dux, Cai Rowland received an ATAR of 95.8 and 44.2% of students achieved an ATAR of 70 or above. A study score of 50 was attained by Year 11 student Frida Foerster in Outdoor and Environmental Studies.

We congratulate all from the Class of 2023 on their achievements. These results reflect several years of hard work, their successes provide tremendous opportunities for pathways into tertiary education and the world of work.

The 2024 Sacred Heart College theme is "Called to Act for Justice".

The call to justice is foundational for Sacred Heart College, with the 2024 theme challenging all in our school community to seek out and highlight examples of inequity and explicitly act for justice. It reflects

the words of Hebrew prophet, Micah, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." (Mic 6:8)

As the shared focus for students and staff during 2024, this theme celebrates one of the six Mercy values that inform all aspects of College life. These six values – respect, compassion, courage, service, hospitality and justice – link the school directly to the Christian story that is our purpose of being.

All students will return to Sacred Heart College on Friday 2 February. Classes commence with a particular focus on wellbeing through homeroom and year-level based activities. The emphasis on wellbeing is especially important for the new Year 7 students as they continue the critical transition from primary to secondary school education.

The first of our regular College tours for 2024 will be held on Tuesday 20 February. We welcome all those looking at options for their children's secondary journey to learn more about the diverse educational offerings of Sacred Heart College Kyneton, by attending a tour – bookings and further information is available via the College website (www.shckyneton.catholic.edu.au).

SUBMITTED BY DR DARREN EGBERTS, PRINCIPAL

Congratulations, Class of 2023!



Learn. Care.

flourish



Choosing a school for your child?

Vacancies available for Years 7 - 12, 2024.

Don't miss our next College Tours on Tuesday 20 February and Wednesday 6 March, bookings essential. Visit the College website for tour bookings or contact the Registrar for enrolment information.



Scan for tour bookings

SACRED HEART COLLEGE KYNETON

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