

The New Woodend Star

Rotary  Club of Woodend

September 2024
Volume 28 | Issue 8



Five times it tried
to kill them, but
back they go!

THE GREAT WHITE WHALE

**The epic struggle to climb Big Ben
Australia's highest & loneliest mountain.**

Full Story page 5

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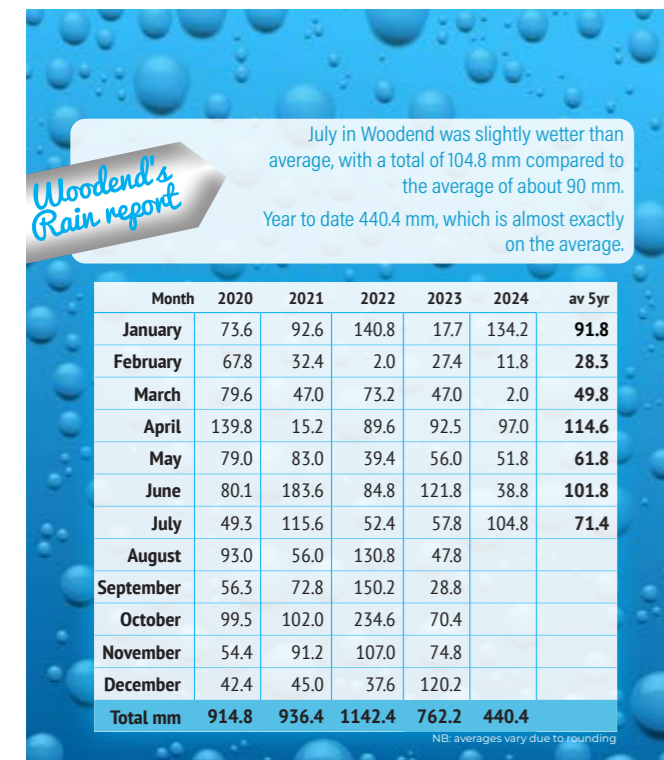
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MRSPAG Community Walk this month

The Macedon Ranges Suicide Prevention Action Group (MRSPAG) warmly invites all members of the community to join them at the annual Community Walk, to be held in Woodend on Sunday September 8 at 10am.

Every single suicide statistic speaks of immeasurable loss: somebody's life lost; hopes and dreams lost; love and connections lost. And those who are left to grieve live with a loss as personal as the story of the one whose life has ended. As our local community continues to be impacted by suicide, MRSPAG believes we can all play a role in supporting people experiencing a suicidal crisis, and those who are bereaved.

The annual Community Walk is being hosted in Woodend, with this year's World Suicide Prevention Day theme, "Changing the Narrative on Suicide." The aim of this year's theme is to raise awareness about the importance of changing the narrative surrounding suicide and transform how we see this complex issue. By changing the narrative, we can move away from a culture of silence and stigma to one of openness, understanding, and support.

As part of this year's campaign for World Suicide Prevention Day, we acknowledge that we are all called to action to "Start the Conversation." By engaging in open and honest conversations about mental health and suicide, we can raise awareness and reduce stigma. Every conversation, no matter how small, has the potential to make a difference. By starting conversations, we can help individuals who may be struggling to feel valued and understood. As members of the community, we can all contribute to a more supportive and understanding society, where mental health is brought into the light.

The event will be held at the Woodend Children's Park. Registrations open at 8:30 am with pre-entertainment and speeches; the walk will begin at 10 am and will end at the same place, followed by refreshments.

The annual walk is also a day to reflect on those we have lost to suicide. By listening to people's lived experiences, we become part of the commitment to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and promote action to reduce instances of suicide. Personal stories of suicidal thoughts or attempts, and experiences of recovery, can inspire hope in others that they too can move through the period of distress or crisis. By speaking openly and honestly about suicide, others can understand what it means to feel suicidal and how they can support their loved ones in a crisis.

To request the name of a loved one who died by suicide to be read out prior to the walk commencing, please email: suicidepreventionwalk@mrspag.com.au. For more information on resources and support services for those bereaved by suicide and keeping mentally well, visit the MRSPAG website www.mrspag.com.au/other-support.

If you need help now, call Lifeline on 13 11 14 or text 0477 13 11 14 (6pm-midnight). Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 658 467.

SUBMITTED BY DANIEL DARMANIN

Woodend Community Bags' big bag donation

Woodend Community Bags recently made a donation of 200 bags to the Macedon Ranges Rural Australians for Refugees (MRRAR). These will be delegate 'satchels' at the forthcoming National RAR Conference from 11-13 October. Our team members completed the project over a number of months and we were delighted to hand over the finished bags to Jean Ker Walsh, Chair of MRRAR and Kerry Bull, member of the Conference Planning Group.

"These beautiful, locally crafted fabric bags are assured of a life beyond the usual conference satchel," Jean said. "We are very grateful to the Woodend Community Bags Group for their practical support."

The RAR conference is sponsored by Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Community Bank Gisborne & District, Sacred Heart College Kyneton and Settlement Services International. Opening night on Friday 11 October at Kyneton Town Hall, featuring refugee author Behrouz Boochani and former Human Rights Commission President, Gillian Triggs, and compered by Derek Guille will be open to the public. Tickets are available at www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/rar

SUBMITTED BY SHEILA BRENNAN



Photo: Woodend Community Bag Team Members with Jean Ker Walsh and Kerry Bull (third and fourth from left)

Feedback sought from Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people living in the Macedon Ranges

The Macedon Ranges Truth & Reconciliation Group (MRT&RG) is seeking feedback from Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people on their draft Strategic Plan. MRT&RG was formed in 2023 following community roundtables hosted by Macedon Ranges Shire Council, who aim to promote deeper understanding, respect and justice for and with First Nations Peoples in the Macedon Ranges Shire. The group has developed a draft Strategic Plan, informed by the aspirations and priorities of Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wurundjeri Traditional Owner organisations, on whose lands we live.

If you are an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person living in the Macedon Ranges, we would love to hear from you and invite any involvement you'd like to have with the group. We will provide a gift card as a token of appreciation for your feedback. Please contact Aran Martin, President, and Mischa Herman, Secretary: reconciliation@mrtrg.com.au / ph: 0412 146 419.

SUBMITTED BY ERIN MCKINNON



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A rip-roaring Aussie adventure in the wild Southern Ocean

Macedon Ranges audiences will soon have an opportunity to see an award-winning film about one of our greatest – but least known – adventure.

The Great White Whale tells the story of an epic sea journey to Australia's most remote island – Heard Island near Antarctica – and the death-defying attempts to scale Big Ben, its massive, ice-covered volcano.

"500m higher than Mt Kosciuszko, Big Ben rises straight up out of the wild Southern Ocean like a huge white breaching whale," explains internationally acclaimed Woodend filmmaker, Michael Dillon.

Through stunning, previously unseen archival vision and interviews with the adventurers, this feature-length documentary recounts the tale of how a crazy idea turned into an extraordinary expedition, culminating in the first successful summiting of Australia's highest peak.

A Sydney teenager in the 1960s, Michael was one of many volunteers who helped prepare the expedition boat for its 4,000-kilometre voyage to Heard Island.

"I knew the expedition leader Warwick Deacock and then got to know the other nine remarkable individuals who took on this challenge. Among them was a mountain explorer and author, several doctors, a top scholar and an ingenious engineer who made critical mid-sea repairs to the boat using cornflakes! Most of them hadn't sailed before, and the bravest couldn't even swim!" says Michael. "They just went off in their little yellow boat and did it."

"It was an amazing feat, and it might have got a few little lines here and there in the paper at the time, but who remembers it now? These things shouldn't be forgotten."

The film also gives audiences a window onto one of the most spectacular parts of the world, bursting with marine life – penguins, seals, whales and albatrosses – that few people ever get to visit.

The Great White Whale won the Grand Prize at the International Mountain and Adventure Film Festival in Bilbao Spain last December and has since picked up another five international awards. "But nothing beats the excitement of bringing it to my local audience," says Michael.



Michael's 50 years of award-winning adventure filmmaking have included projects with Sir Edmund Hillary, Tim Macartney-Snape, Tim Cope and many others. In 2022 Michael was honoured with the Award for Lifetime Achievement by the International Federation of Mountain Film Festivals.

Special Q&A Event Screening at the Theatre Royal, Castlemaine 4.30 Sunday 15 September. View trailer and book seats at www.michaeldillonfilms.com.au

SUBMITTED BY ROBYN LEEDER

Cub Scouts' snow trip to Mt Stirling

It has been an exciting start to Term 3 for the 1st Woodend Cub Scouts with a much-anticipated weekend trip to the snow. Overnighting in Mansfield on the Friday and Saturday nights gave the Cub Scouts a full day at the snow on Mt Stirling.

The weather was perfect for the snow and 25 Cubs Scouts, four leaders and four parent helpers accompanied by two experienced guides, snowshoed three kilometres from Telephone Box Junction up to the Machinery Shed on Mt Stirling. Here, they enjoyed some free time in the snow for snowball fights and snowman building. There was time for a lunch break and getting warm by a toasty fire. In a memorable ceremony in these pristine surroundings, two Cub Scouts made their Scout Promise and became official members of 1st Woodend Cub Scouts.

After lunch, it was time to snowshoe three kilometres along a different trail back down to Telephone Box Junction to the Mt Stirling Toboggan Run for tobogganing, which the Cub Scouts thoroughly enjoyed. The Cub Scouts finished up their day on Mt Stirling with snacks and warm drinks in front of the fire at the Visitor Centre at Telephone Box Junction, achieved their Alpine 1 badge and can't wait to go to the snow again.



Photo: Scouts Red Patrol building a snowman

Cub Scouts is for youth aged 8–11 years, though 1st Woodend Scout Group offers Scouts for youth aged between 5–25 years. If you're interested in learning more about Scouts from 1st Woodend Scout Group, please contact our Group Leader at gl.1stwoodend@scoutsvictoria.com.au.

SUBMITTED BY CHRIS EAGLE

Making a positive impact on the lives of children with special needs

Recently at our weekly meeting, our member Peter Dell spoke about the Rotary program named DreamCricket.

DreamCricket is a Rotary-coordinated program helping children with special needs, aged from 8 to 12, to build their confidence and self-esteem through a program of specially adapted cricket-based activities, each adjusted to suit the child, and to ensure they have fun in a safe environment.

Commencing on the Bradman Oval in Bowral in 2010, the program was initiated by Dr Roly Bigg of the Movement Disorder Foundation, in conjunction with the Rotary Clubs of the Southern Highlands and the Bradman Foundation. The DreamCricket program has grown to encompass schools and children throughout Australia and internationally, with special focus on Schools for Specific Purposes, and specialist and/or disadvantaged schools.

Recognising the power of connection, DreamCricket Australia hopes to continue to facilitate high school mentorship on the day of activities (utilizing older students from the same school or supportive nearby high schools). From 2023, DreamCricket Australia offers some basic preparatory training for these mentees. Wonderful friendships between students and ongoing partnerships between schools have occurred as a result.

Working with local Rotarians, volunteers fresh from leaving school and who have had rich DreamCricket experiences in the past may also return to assist with the organisation of the activity. They often help to prepare, advise and enthuse all the participants and high school mentors in what is always an inclusive, inspirational and magical day of cricketing fun for all in attendance.

Annual Gala Days celebrating DreamCricket and involving a host of schools and volunteers is very popular. Peter as the Australian President of DreamCricket travelled to the WACA recently where many of the children had a wonderful day of cricket fun and receiving a medal was the highlight of the day.

DreamCricket has board members in each state and all belong to Rotary. They visit specialist schools to promote the program and then a local Rotary club is invited to purchase the cricket kits (approximate cost: \$800) and can also assist at the school during activities. Former Prime Minister John Howard is the patron, and he thoroughly enjoys the day with the children, parents and carers and always presents the medals.

Once the school has a DreamCricket kit it can be a regular part of the curriculum. The Rotary Club of Sunbury has supported the Sunbury and Macedon Ranges Specialist School with two kits and they have proven very successful.

One of the favourite games is "sticky wicket", where a child throws a ball and it "sticks" to the velcro wicket. It is all about "success" for these children.

Peter will be travelling to Nepal in November as part of a RAWCS DreamCricket team, and they will be continuing their work with the children of Nepal. RAWCS is a Rotary Australia World Community Service program. The team will comprise approximately 20 members who will be contributing their skills in Nepalese villages – in areas such as health, literacy, sport and agriculture.

For further information, please contact Peter Dell on petersally22@gmail.com.

SUBMITTED BY SALLY DELL



Rotary Club of Woodend

Grand Final Week PIE NIGHT

Thursday 26 September, 6.30pm

**Woodend Hesket Football Club Rooms
1 Davy Street Woodend**

**Lots of football fun, trivia quizzes, and more.
Dress code 'footy themed'
prize for 'best dressed'**

**Supporting
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TICKETS:
family \$45 (2 adults 2 kids)
adults - \$15, under 18 - \$10,
children under 6 - free
ticket includes pies and hot dogs.

Drinks @ bar prices.

**RSVP 20th September
Booking essential via
<https://www.trybooking.com/CULUW>**

The journey of Emily Blades, publican of The Victoria Hotel

In towns like Woodend, we should really value all our retailers and food and beverage venue owners. This resident and occasional contributor to The New Woodend Star would like to say thank you to all those who provide good service, make a great coffee and serve a nice meal, week in and week out.

Hospitality (or "hospo" as we know it) is work that nearly everyone has performed at some stage in their work life. And we are all consumers and self-appointed critics of food and service. Think how many Instagram pics of coffee/food we have posted. Fortunately, some people make a career in hospitality, and a few in that group have an amazing career.

Meet Emily Blades, resident of the Macedon Ranges, and the publican at The Victoria Hotel, Woodend.

Emily's career in hospitality started at the young age of 14 at the Roseville Golf Club, on Sydney's North Shore, where her father was a keen golfer. Young Emily had the responsibility to open up, set up, cash up and run events. A lot of responsibility at a young age, and it clearly gave her a great start; highlighted her talents and gave an insight to a future career.

While Emily also had an interest in theatre and costumes, hospitality was her career of choice, and she studied and landed her first job at the Renaissance hotel in Sydney CBD. Then she was off to the UK and Europe, following the trail of many young Aussies before her.

The first London pubs she worked in were eye-openers to this North Shore, girls-school educated Emily. The Stag Hotel pub was rough and run down, with questionable management, but the staff were fun and hardworking, and Emily learned every aspect of running a pub. She survived and thrived challenges like the boss going on a week's leave with no instructions. How do you cook scampi? "Just read the back of the packet" reveals Emily. It strikes me that Emily's experience resembled the young Sydney in the bingeable show currently streaming: "The Bear". Worth a watch!

After a few years away and couch-surfing in dingy accommodation, it was time to come home, and the Renaissance welcomed her back with a promotion. She must have felt she won the Opera House lottery with a nice office and stunning view of Sydney Harbour, as the guest relations officer. Emily quickly learned the foibles and particular demands of politicians, rock stars and VIPs and that she didn't have much time to savour the view!

Then it was back to London again; a bit more upmarket this time, on the Hilton Park Lane (yes, that's the expensive part of the Monopoly board). Daily interactions with royalty and celebrities and meeting her future business partner, Carl Middleton, set her up well for the future.

Sydney called again, and Emily won a plum job at the Bennelong restaurant at the Sydney Opera House with the famed chef, Guillaume Brahimi. Sydney proved to be a pivotal point in Emily's career and life. Not only was she running large-scale events at the Bennelong, working in a pressure-cooker environment, but she also met her future husband, Andrew. After four years at the Bennelong, Emily and Andrew were getting married and heading to Canberra. Guillaume couldn't understand Emily's choices and thought she would regret this decision for the rest of her life! She didn't.

Next stop: the beautiful Macedon Ranges.

One day, Andrew heard the Victoria Hotel was on the market. Emily and Carl purchased it in 2018, refurbished it, replaced ageing equipment (all of it), survived COVID with the purchase of a food truck and a lot of hard work, shaping The Victoria Hotel as it has become today.



Photo: Rosemary Guyatt and Emily Blades

Emily brings a wonderful philosophy on hospitality

"Hospitality, community and people is in my blood. My life's aim is to make people a little happier every day and to make them smile and feel good!"

"The pub's philosophy is to make all guests that walk through our doors feel like they have received a virtual hug and that everyone is welcome"

SUBMITTED BY ROSEMARY GUYATT

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Environmental health updates from Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Environment grants

This year, Council is again offering Environment Group Support Grants in addition to new Community Climate Action Grants, in recognition of the significant contributions our community environment and sustainability groups make.

The Environment Group Support Grant Program aims to empower these groups through capacity building, weed control and biolink enhancement, all of which benefit the community and natural environment of the Macedon Ranges.

There are three categories of funding that eligible groups can apply for under the program: Landcare, Friends Groups and Network Support Funding; Strategic Weed Partnership Program; and Biolink Boost Grants.

The Community Climate Action Grants are designed to support groups in developing, implementing and evaluating projects that reduce community greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change.

Council have collaborated with community partners Macedon Ranges Community Enterprises Limited and Bendigo Bank to match funding, providing an additional \$20,000. This boosts the funding available to \$40,000 each for both the Biolink Boost and Community Climate Action grants.

To find out more and apply, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/grants

National Threatened Species Day

1-3pm, 6 September, Macedon Cemetery

Join us for a guided walk through the grassland and woodland area of Macedon Cemetery to celebrate National Threatened Species Day. Learn about the vital role our threatened grasslands play in preserving biodiversity and protecting endangered species. We'll visit areas of grass that have previously been burnt as a weed control technique and to promote native grassland values.

Black Hill Reserve walk

10am-12pm, 7 September, Black Hill

As part of the Kyneton Daffodil and Arts Festival, Martin Roberts, Council's Bushland Reserves Officer, will lead a guided tour with a focus on native plant species. Black Hill is a granite outcrop surrounded by volcanic flow and unique woodlands with many species of flora and fauna calling it home. Black Hill supports threatened species, including Clover Glycine and Brushtail Phascogales.

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

Healthy Landscapes events

Farm walk and discussion

12.30-2.30pm, 11 October, Barfold

Visit a property that uses a rotational grazing system, trialled multispecies crops, has a dung beetle nursery and various other regeneration agriculture techniques. Find out how grazing strategies have been used to promote biodiversity, weed reduction, soil health and dam water health.

Planting and protecting seedlings

4.30-6.30pm, 18 October, Hanging Rock

Join us at Hanging Rock to discover how to prepare your site, order plants and then plant. We'll discuss how different guards have been successful (or not) in this environment with the high pressure of kangaroos, and visit riparian zone plantings and how this differs from other areas of the park.

For information and to register, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/healthy-landscapes

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN. MRSC COMMUNICATION UNIT



Electrify 3442 update

Electrify 3442 is about helping households install or upgrade six things: transport,

home heating and cooling, water heating, cooking, rooftop solar and home battery.

This month, we're looking at how our area's adoption compares with others.

Rooftop solar

3442 is one of the postcodes "leading the charge" on home solar.

- In 3442, 43.1% of homes have solar installed.
- In the Macedon Ranges, 37.9% of homes have solar installed.
- Victoria-wide, 28.3% of homes have solar installed.
- Electric vehicles
- At the end of January 2023:
- In 3442, 0.46% of vehicles registered were battery electric vehicles
- Victoria-wide, 0.39% of vehicles registered were battery electric vehicles.

3442 is ranked 157 out of 464 postcode areas in Victoria for EV registrations, placing 3442 in the top third of the state.

Home batteries

We hope to be able to share data on home battery installation in a future update.

It's more difficult to get information about household appliances. The Victorian Energy Upgrades program (where homeowners access rebates for upgrading to energy efficient equipment) records activities by postcode area, including the following:

Water heating

Between 1 January 2023 and 31 July 2024:

- 12 households in postcode 3442 were among
- 20759 across the state

who accessed rebates for upgrading from gas hot water to heat pump. The average benefit per claim in our area is currently approximately \$750.

Space heating

Since 1 January 2024:

- 18 households in 3442 were among
- 10,056 Victoria-wide

who accessed rebates for upgrading to high efficiency air conditioners for heating. The average benefit per claim in our area is slightly over \$4,000.

Information sessions coming up

Over the next few months Electrify 3442 - in conjunction with GREG - will be running information sessions on solar and batteries to assist households. The sessions are free but need to be booked.

Saturday 5 October 11am - Making the most of your solar

Helpful for households already with rooftop solar and wanting to find out how to optimise your system and prepare for the loss of the premium feed in tariff.

Saturday 2 November 11am - Solar 101: introduction to rooftop solar

For those who plan to install rooftop solar for energy independence and lower energy bills and want to find out how to get started.

Wednesday 4 December 7pm - Home Batteries 101: an introduction to home batteries

For those who want to explore their options with home batteries for energy independence and save even more on energy bills (whether you already have rooftop solar or not!).

For further information and bookings see our website: mrsg.org.au/events-calendar

Data sources:

Solar installations: <https://pv-map.apvi.org.au/historical> (updated 31 March 2024)

Electric vehicles: <https://data.aaa.asn.au/ev-index/> (updated to 31 January 2023)

Water heating: <https://www.veu-registry.vic.gov.au/Public/ActivitiesPostcodeSearch.aspx> (1 January 2023-31 July 2024)

Space heating: <https://www.veu-registry.vic.gov.au/Public/ActivitiesPostcodeSearch.aspx> (1 January 2024-31 July 2024)

SUBMITTED BY SUE BARKER

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mrsg.org.au

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

Annual tree planting and elm leaf beetle programs underway

Council has begun its annual street tree planting and elm leaf beetle treatment programs, to improve and protect the Macedon Ranges natural environment.

Under the street tree planting program, a different town in the shire is typically prioritised each year, depending on available budget. Carefully selected tree species are planted at strategically chosen locations along streets to enhance a town's landscapes.

Acting Director Assets and Operations Simon Finlay said Kyneton would be prioritised for street tree planting this year, with planting set to occur between August and September – the cooler months – giving the trees the best opportunity of establishing through the following summer.

"Tree species are carefully selected, based on a range of factors to suit the location and are purchased from local nurseries," he said. "An extensive maintenance program is also put in place for the first two years to ensure they mature into healthy and structurally sound trees."

The tree planting program draws from independent arboriculture inspections and ensures that the community continues to receive the benefits offered by trees such as shade for pedestrians, improved noise and pollution absorption, improved mental health and enhanced streetscape appeal.

From new trees to existing trees; the Macedon Ranges is home to a significant and healthy population of about 2,400 elm trees. This year, elm trees in Romsey and Lancefield will be the focus of Council's elm leaf beetle treatment program, which will commence in the coming weeks.

The treatment will ensure that the elm trees in these areas are protected from damage and defoliation caused by the elm leaf beetle and remain healthy and vibrant.

The elm leaf beetle feeds on the leaves of elm trees, leaving distinctive round holes which, if left untreated, can severely weaken the trees, leading to reduced visual appeal, safety concerns and a shortened lifespan.

"Eradicating the elm leaf beetle is extremely difficult. Instead, we aim to keep the number of elm leaf beetles as low as possible and reduce the damage they cause by having a preventative maintenance program in place," Mr Finlay said.

Treatment includes spraying and injecting the soil around the tree's root zone with low-toxicity insecticide. This safe and effective method protects the trees for up to three years.

Refer to Council's tree management policies for more information about these programs.



Soft plastic recycling pilot

If your general waste bin (red or dark green lid) looks like this, you may benefit from our exciting new soft plastic recycling service.



Residents and businesses who use Council's kerbside collection service can now recycle their soft plastic by collecting it in the Council-supplied orange collection bag and, when full like a basketball, place it in their recycling bin (yellow lid). Packs can be collected from customer service centres.

All soft plastic items that carry the Australasian Recycling Label (ARL) – Return to Store symbol or REDcycle logo are accepted in this trial, this includes silver and foil-lined wrappers.

In a recent audit, we discovered that soft plastic takes up approximately 45 per cent of the general waste bin by volume. By sorting your soft plastic separately, you'll be contributing to diversion of waste to landfill.

For information, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/soft-plastics-trial

Mixed media recycling

Council's resource recovery facilities (RRFs) now accept mixed media for recycling. You can bring in small amounts of the following:

- VHS tapes
- Cassettes
- DVDs/CDs
- Records
- Floppy discs

Council has partnered with Bendigo E-Waste to offer Macedon Ranges residents a recycling option for these tricky-to-recycle materials. This recycling initiative gives residents the opportunity to appropriately recycle these materials and keep them out of landfill, further increasing our landfill diversion rate.

Any items in good condition should be offered to your local op shop or the resale shops at Kyneton and Romsey RRFs.

Tonnes saved from landfill with new recycling initiatives

A huge thank you to the Macedon Ranges community who continue to support and use the recycling initiatives that we roll out across the shire.

Since last September, Council's textile recovery chutes at resource recovery facilities have recovered over 35 tonnes of textiles. This is incredibly impressive as these materials could have ended up in landfill, but instead are being recycled, upcycled, repaired and reused by Upcycle4Better.

Council also introduced a polystyrene collection in May 2023, and since then we've had approximately 700m³ dropped off for recycling. This means that over 700 cubic metres of polystyrene has been diverted from landfill, saving residents and Council landfill disposal costs.



Champions for Landcare

Did you know that Landcare was started right here in Victoria in 1986 by the late Joan Kirner AC and Heather

Mitchell?

Annually, there is a Victorian Landcare award in Joan Kirner's honour to recognise an individual who has been involved for at least ten years in championing Landcare and engaging the broader community to also get involved. This year Woodend Landcare's Nicole Middleton, out of twenty-seven applications, was one of five who received a commendation for her contributions. Penny Roberts, from Newham Landcare received a highly commended and John Walter from Malmsbury a commendation also.

Since moving to Woodend just over 10 years ago, Nicole has been a key member of Woodend Landcare; she is currently our Treasurer, and she has reinvigorated the Woodend Primary School Community Childrens Garden. As a botanist she has a love of plants and nature and enjoys teaching our younger generation about the environment around them, so they can become the Landcarers of the future. Nicole's passion and skills have meant the school garden project has grown each year. Her children have since moved on to high school, but she continues to

give up her Mondays, along with many other dedicated volunteering parents, to run Garden Club at the primary school. This group sees interested students use their lunchtime break to work in the garden and learn about nature.

At Woodend Landcare, Nicole can be relied upon to do any job that needs doing, recently stepping up to be our guest speaker at our AGM when the scheduled speaker was unable to attend. Woodend Landcare congratulates Nicole on her award, and we thank her for all that she does both on the ground and behind the scenes at Landcare, and for her ongoing dedication to the Woodend Primary School Community Childrens Garden. Come join one of our working bees some time to witness for yourself Nicole's knowledge and enthusiasm for the environment.


Next working bee:

9am-12pm, Sunday 15 September, Quarry Road Flora Reserve opposite Washington Lane.

Help us work to preserve the beautiful remnant flora along Quarry Road. Learn about this floristic gem and help remove two years of weed growth. BYO gardening gloves, secateurs and weather-appropriate protective clothing. Please wear an orange fluoro top, if you have one, otherwise we have some you can borrow. Morning tea provided.

SUBMITTED BY JENNIFER ANDERSON ON BEHALF OF WOODEND LANDCARE





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Honouring our Vietnam veterans

August 18 is Vietnam Veterans Day, the day that Vietnam veterans gather to commemorate all veterans who died in the war zone of Vietnam, those who have died since, those who suffer as a result of their service, and those who remain. The service also commemorates the support and understanding we receive from our families.

We honour all those who served in that chapter of Australian military history.

This year, as usual, members of the Central Highlands Branch of Vietnam (based at the Woodend RSL) held a service at our memorial in the grounds of the Mt. Macedon Memorial Cross Reserve. The weather can be miserable on the Mount. This year, we were joined by visitors from Melbourne who had travelled to visit the Cross; Sally, whose father is a Vietnam veteran who served with 8th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, and her family honoured us by joining our small service. Below is a photo of Sally, the daughter of the veteran, and her children, standing behind our memorial.

SUBMITTED BY KEN BRYCE, PRESIDENT, CENTRAL HIGHLANDS SUB-BRANCH, VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA



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Gisborne and Trentham Community Bank branches have operated since 2008 and 2011 respectively. As Community Banks, we share a founding purpose - feeding into the prosperity of our customers and communities, not off it. We love nothing more than to reinvest profits into community projects created by inspiring locals.

Shared Woodend project funding

Most recently Community Bank Gisborne & District together with Community Bank Trentham & Districts branches have collaborated with Woodend Neighborhood House to support the start-up of a community-focused bike shed. Woodend Community Bike Shed provides bike repairs, maintenance and education to local residents. Our funding supports the purchase of essential tools, equipment and supplies necessary for servicing bikes, including parts and accessories.

This volunteer-led initiative gives everyone access to safe and functional bicycles, an understanding of bike safety and improved maintenance skills. Not only does this empower cyclists to ride with confidence, it also creates a community of like-minded people of all ages and backgrounds.

For more information about this valuable new resource, contact the Woodend Neighbourhood House on reception@woodendnh.org.au

If you would like to know more about Bendigo Bank Community Bank products, or how to apply for community group funding, please get in touch with Edyta at our Trentham Branch on 0435 042 017 or Courtney at our Gisborne Branch on 0478 435 114.

SUBMITTED BY ANJEE ANDERSON



Edyta, Trentham Branch

Courtney, Gisborne Branch

L2P program keeps helping young drivers



The Macedon Ranges L2P Program continues to help young people gain mobility and independence by providing free supervised driving hours to young learner drivers without access to a supervising driver or vehicle.

The program matches eligible learner drivers with volunteer driver mentors who take them for drives in an L2P program vehicle.

Learner drivers can be eligible for the program for a variety of reasons, including having a single parent or carer with limited availability, or having disability or mental illness in the household.

In the past year, the Macedon Ranges L2P Program has supported 19 young learner drivers, provided 617 supervised driving hours and enabled seven local young people to achieve their probationary licence.

For more information or to register, contact the Salvation Army Bendigo, which runs the Macedon Ranges L2P program, on 5440 8410. The team welcomes enquiries from young learner drivers as well as from adults interested in supporting youth by becoming a volunteer mentor driver for the program.

For general information on the L2P program, which runs across the state, search 'TAC L2P'.

Photo above shows a recent 'graduate' from the Macedon Ranges L2P Program after achieving her probationary licence.

SUBMITTED BY CORINNE SHADDOCK

Grants to recognise and support Victoria's veterans

Victorian veterans will be supported with grants for projects that honour their legacy, service and sacrifice and activities that improve their welfare and wellbeing.

Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas announced last month that applications had opened for Anzac Day Proceeds Fund and Victoria Remembers grants.

Anzac Day Proceeds Fund grants support a range of welfare and wellbeing activities for veterans in Victoria.

Grants of up to \$150,000 are available for ex-service organisations and veterans' community groups that plan to provide activities for veterans state-wide. Regional

organisations or subbranches can apply for grants of up to \$50,000 for activities that will benefit veterans in a specific area or region.

The Victoria Remembers Grants provide up to \$30,000 for projects that recognise veterans' service or educate Victorians about the sacrifices and contributions veterans make.

"This funding will help ensure we continue to remember and honour the service and sacrifice of the veteran community in Macedon," said Ms Thomas.

Examples of projects that might be funded include new war memorials highlighting achievements of local veterans, events that commemorate significant anniversaries, and public education through digital storytelling methods – such as podcasts or websites.

A Victoria Remembers grant of more than \$28,000 last year funded a documentary that focused on veterans from the Williamstown Football Club, telling their personal stories and the story of their involvement in the club.

Applications for the grant programs are open until 9 September 2024.

For more information about the Anzac Day Proceeds Fund or to apply, visit vic.gov.au/anzac-day-proceeds-fund.

To learn more about the Victoria Remembers Grants program or apply, visit vic.gov.au/victoria-remembers-grant-program.

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

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janetpearce4westward
 JanetPearceforWestWard

Authorised: J. Pearce, 27 Bawden Rd, Woodend VIC 3442

What's been going on in Woodend from a policing perspective for the last month or so?

We've been busy as always, talking to people, processing offenders, attending family violence situations as well as several serious collisions and crimes within the area.

I think I mentioned recently that the Railway Station is relatively safe. And it is, but we have had a few things occur of late, like bicycles being stolen. All I can say is, please make sure you lock things well, use the cage if you can – and while this isn't a guarantee its far better than leaving your bike on the platform.

It was disappointing that someone decided to steal the copper in the Macedon area last week (at the time of writing this article), and this unfortunately isn't as rare as you would think and can be an issue with the heating systems on the freeways for ice. But more importantly, it greatly affected Woodend, as it took out some of our critical telecommunications infrastructure. If you see anything suspicious in or around the freeway or Black Forest Drive, then please call 000, or if you have information on these or other thefts of copper, then call Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000.

Like most people, we all have things which "float our boat", so we dedicate time to them. As a Police Officer, children's safety is one of my big things. You would see our big white, car with red/blue lights and an old bloke in a Fluro vest, spending noticeable time in the Woodend School Zones. I'm disheartened that we still see people not adhering to school zones and I hear the same reasons time and time again, "Oh I drive this way every day and I was distracted/not concentrating". Despite what people think, this isn't about revenue raising, it's about the protection of the young and vulnerable; but also, the protection of you, CFA volunteers, Ambulance Victoria crews, the school community and my team. It's not a good day for anyone if they have to attend to an injured/sick child.

As ever, stay safe and warm, we have had some lovely days of recent times, and we should be heading into a warmer part of the year soon. It might be time to think about summer and your fire safety plans.

SUBMITTED BY SERGEANT DAVID ARNOLD

Early childhood educators needed in Woodend

Early childhood educators in Woodend are being encouraged to consider family day care. Our Village Family Childcare, a service of Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health, is looking for educators in Woodend. As a family day care educator, you have the opportunity to care for children of 6 weeks to 12 years of age in your home; care for your own children and earn an income while caring for others; set your own schedule and hours plus you will receive support with things such as marketing and the collection of fees.

Our Village has over 40 years' experience in childcare and is proudly not-for-profit. Family day care offers care in a small group setting, allowing educators to combine their passion for children with the opportunity to create a financially rewarding, professional home-based career. Educators can offer all-day or part-day care, evening and overnight care, casual care, respite care, before and after school care and school holiday care.

If you are interested, call Amanda Urban on 9744 9252, email amanda.urban@scchc.org.au or go to www.sunburycobaw.org.au/job-opportunities.

SUBMITTED BY SARAH TURNER

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- Care for your own children and earn an income while caring for others
- Set your own schedule and hours

Phone
9744 9252

Email
amanda.urban@scchc.org.au



News from the Woodend Neighbourhood House.

Community Lunch

We love to welcome familiar faces and newcomers to our Community Lunch each month. If you have never attended a Community Lunch, make September the month you book in! Our next lunch is on Tuesday 10 September at the Woodend RSL. Bookings are essential to help with catering (a \$5 donation is appreciated to help cover costs, but is by no means necessary).

Woodend Community Bike Shed

The Woodend Community Bike Shed is a casual spot for basic bike maintenance and skill sharing. Bring along your bike and our volunteer bike-shedders will help you get your bike in tip-top condition. The service is free, though we do have a donations box for contributions. If specific parts are needed to repair your bike, we will recommend what to buy and help you fit it at your next visit.

The Woodend Community Bike Shed is open fortnightly on Thursday evenings between 4pm and 5.30pm in 'The Hub' (formally the Woodend Toy Library), on the corner of Forest Street and Margery Crescent (near the skate park). The next session is on Thursday 12 September.

We're also calling for volunteers. You don't need to have bike maintenance skills to get involved. Please contact the Woodend Neighbourhood House to find out more.

School Holiday Program

Can you believe the school holidays are almost upon us?! We will be kicking off our school holiday program with a terrarium workshop on Monday 23 September, courtesy of Creative Me. Check out the 'What's On' section of our website or our Facebook page for the latest updates.

Chatty Cafe

Pop in for a cuppa, sweet treat and good conversation on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Our next Chatty Café is on Tuesday 24 September at 10am. No bookings required – just turn up (donation welcome).

IT Help

Struggling with a password problem? Need help with a Working with Children's Check? Or after some guidance on how to best use a feature on your device? The Woodend Neighbourhood House is now offering IT Help on a Tuesday morning between 10am and 12 noon with our friendly IT volunteer. Make an appointment by getting in touch with the Woodend Neighbourhood House on 5427 1845 or email Reception (reception@woodendnh.org.au).

Food Bank at the Woodend Neighbourhood House

The Woodend Community Food Bank is open on Mondays and Thursdays between 12.30pm and 2.30pm in the Undercroft of the Woodend Neighbourhood House. Access to the Undercroft is via the gates by the skate park, off Margery Crescent. Everyone is welcome to stop by to access food and personal hygiene items.

For more information about any of our upcoming activities, workshops, courses, or events, drop by the House (47 Forest Street, Woodend), visit our website www.woodendnh.org.au or call 5427 1845.

SUBMITTED BY MELISSA BAKER



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Beat the chill and stay connected at your local library

Macedon Ranges residents are being encouraged to take advantage of the shire's four libraries as free 'warm spaces' and enjoy an abundance of literature and free activities during the colder months.

In partnership with Goldfields Libraries and Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health, Council is backing an initiative to utilise libraries at Gisborne, Kyneton, Woodend and Romsey during business hours, to help people reduce energy costs and stay connected throughout winter and beyond.

In addition to offering literature in different formats including books, eBooks and audiobooks, all four libraries also have free Wi-Fi, daily newspapers and free activities for all ages.

Goldfields Library Corporation's Manager Engagement and Operations, Jess Saunders, said in the current climate where many people are experiencing cost of living pressures, libraries were a great option for people to keep warm, participate in free activities and stay socially connected.

"Libraries are safe and inclusive spaces, and everyone is welcome to use them. You can stay all day in a comfortable warm environment, surrounded by friendly people, without needing to spend any money or worry about running up energy bills," she said.

This push also coincides with National Homelessness Week from 5-11 August with Council's Director Community, Maria Weiss, encouraging those experiencing homelessness to reach out for support and use libraries as a safe, warm space to help stay connected.

"We know providing public warm spaces doesn't solve the issue of homelessness, but it does go some way towards providing a safe space where people can feel connected to the community," Ms Weiss said. "That connection can also provide an opportunity to find out what other services may be available to them."

Support services are provided locally by Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health, with the organisation's Team Leader Housing Support and Financial Services, Kate Weston, saying they can assist anyone who is homeless or at risk of homelessness in the Macedon Ranges.

"We can also refer people to other services that the organisation offers such as counselling and family services," Ms Weston said. "The warm spaces initiative offers local community members a valuable source of support where they can access lots of useful information."

Exploring and facilitating warm, safe spaces for residents during times of extreme weather is a key action in Council's Climate Emergency Plan 2023-30, to assist with strengthening communities' collective resilience to climate change events.

Council has also committed to advocating for those experiencing or at risk of homelessness through its Affordable Housing Policy, which was adopted in June 2023, and its Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025.

"Through these commitments, we are working closely with key stakeholders to support more affordable housing options and help address the issue of homelessness in our community, and to raise awareness of support services available," said Ms Weiss.

If you or someone you know is experiencing homelessness, you can contact Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health (Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm) on 03 5421 1666 or the Launch Housing Emergency Accommodation Crisis Line (after hours) on 1800 825 955.

More information:
Library locations and opening hours <https://mrsc.vic.gov.au/libraries>.
Goldfields Libraries website <https://www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au/>

SUBMITTED BY BODEY DITTLUFF, MRSC COMMUNICATIONS UNIT



Woodend Library News



Annie Smithers – Monday 9 September, 5.30–6.30pm

In her new memoir, respected chef and paddock-to-plate pioneer Annie Smithers answers the question she is asked most often: "Why cook?" Meet Annie and follow her journey through significant kitchens in her life, both domestic and professional, and learn about their impact on her personal growth.

Book sales and signings. Bookings required.

Craft and Chat

First Wednesday of the month, 2pm onwards

Bring along your current craft project and share ideas and skills with fellow craft lovers or join Ros to stitch scent hearts for premature and very sick babies, assisting with mother and baby bonding. Beginners very welcome! Our next sessions are on Wednesday 4 September, 2 October, 6 November from 2pm. Bookings not required. Exact times may vary from month to month, so please call us on 5427 2074 to confirm.

Macedon Ranges Seed Library



Second Friday of the month, 10–11am.

Join the seed packaging team! Macedon Ranges Seed Savers meet every second Friday of the month. The group meet

to clean, package and label donated seeds. Much like a traditional library, the initiative works on the simple principles of borrowing, growing and returning. Instructions on how, when, and where to plant the seeds are provided; growers then nurture and eventually enjoy the produce. By allowing the plants to flower, the seeds can be collected and returned to the library for the next person or family to plant. Bookings not required.

Upcoming sessions are Friday 13 September, 11 October, 8 November.

Exact times may vary from month to month, so please call us on 5427 2074 to confirm.

Spring Program

Our spring program is out, and we have some wonderful sessions coming up in September. Look out for our spring school holiday program too. Don't forget to book! Either use the QR codes in the program or head to www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au

Closed for Grand Final Eve holiday Friday 27 September.

For all bookings, please head to our website or give us a call. See you in the Library!

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

SUBMITTED BY EMMA KEENAN

RT Edgar



Our RT Edgar Gisborne Team

Ray Cashmore and Josie Borg continue to offer their combined 27 years Gisborne real estate experience to the people of Gisborne and the Macedon Ranges. Renowned for their integrity, professionalism and premium service, you are in good hands with these real estate specialists.

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10 High Street Kyneton
 124 High Street Woodend

5422 3325
 5427 1222

K1272864



New equipment for Woodend CFA

The Woodend CFA was recently successful in gaining a Federal Government Volunteer Grant to purchase some important new equipment for the Brigade. Volunteer Grants support the work of local not-for-profit community organisations to support the efforts of their volunteers and promote awareness to increase participation in volunteering.

This funding will provide Woodend volunteers with equipment that will enhance current capabilities and reduce the risk of member injury on the fire ground, especially in forest and plantation fires and in urban and structure scenarios.

The new equipment, yet to be purchased, includes extra lengths of smaller diameter hose and also special adaptors to enable fast attachment to larger hoses, as well as new branches and other special pieces.



Photo: Former Woodend Captain Mike Dornau with Federal Member for McEwan, Rob Mitchell MP, inspecting equipment at the Woodend CFA.

Come and visit our FireWise Garden.

Now that spring is here, why not take some extra care in selecting any new plants you are thinking of adding to your garden? And what better place to get some ideas than by visiting the "firewise" garden in front of the Woodend CFA Fire Station. This garden was created several years ago to give residents and visitors an idea of plants that are ideal for our local conditions.

Landscaping for bushfire involves planning, designing, planting and managing the area around a house. This incorporates five key principles:

- Create defensible spaces
- Remove flammable objects from around the house
- Break up fuel continuity
- Carefully select and locate plants within the garden
- Maintain the garden and interface with the house
- Other key considerations in the design included:
 - No flammable objects close to the eaves or roofline
 - No overhanging or bark-shedding trees
 - Use of non-flammable hardscaping: steel edging, wide gravel paths and gravel mulch
 - Short, well-maintained areas of lawn.

Factoring in the various firewise principles, the plant list for our garden consists of:

- A single smooth-barked tree with an open canopy and no lower branches



- Well-spaced shrubs and ground covers
- Few fine-leaved or very dense plant species
- Few resinous or waxy plants
- Few plants which drop or retain dead material
- A mixture of native and exotic plants
- Plants to attract birds, butterflies and other pollinators

The Woodend CFA FireWise Garden is open to the public to come and visit.

For more information about creating your own firewise garden, the CFA's Landscaping for Bushfire is available by searching 'Landscaping' on the CFA website.

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, EX-CAPTAIN

Woodend Senior Citizens

Another enjoyable bus trip in August, this time to Overnewton Castle in Keilor. The tour guide told the history of the castle and pointed out the various features of the surrounds.

Our next bus trip is on Thursday 12 September to Buda Historic Home and Garden in Castlemaine. Buda is one of the few historic houses that truly bears the mark of its former owner, the Leviny family, who resided there for 118 years. Please book and pay for the Buda bus trip by Friday 6 September.

Our weekly meetings are in the Undercroft of the Woodend Neighbourhood House (access off Margery Crescent next to the skate park). Activities are button bingo and a cuppa on Tuesday between 1pm to 3pm, then Friday 1pm to 4pm for a game of cards.

New members are always welcome. Please call Irene 0417 676 843 or Alma 0400 134 478

Please note our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 1 October 2024.

SUBMITTED BY ALMA, PRESIDENT



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Photo: Jacqui and Lou in the new store.

New Store Opening

We, the team from Woodend General, are proud to open our newest store 'Little General Kids' right here in Woodend. After the success of our first stand-alone kids store in Castlemaine and the local demand for quality children's products, we decided the time was right to open a second Little General Kids in Woodend.

Located in the historic store on the corner of High and Anslow Streets, opposite Holgate, we are stocking an extended range to that previously available in Woodend General, including more toys, games and activities for newborns up to kids of 10-12 years of age. Our range is ever-evolving, and we are always looking to cater to customer demand, so please speak to one of our friendly team if you have suggestions of what you would like to see stocked in-store.

We are very excited to welcome Jacqui to the team who will manage the store, and you will also see familiar faces from the Woodend General team. Expect the same helpful and friendly service you know from Woodend General, complimentary gift wrapping and 7-day opening hours so you can shop when it suits you, as well as a dedicated website so you can shop online and pick up in-store if that is more your thing. We are here to help! So please pick up the phone, message us online or pop in, we can't wait to see you on the High Street.

81 High Street Woodend. Open Mon-Sat 9.30-5pm, Sun & Public Holidays 10-4pm

Phone: 03 5427 2609

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook @woodendgeneral
Visit us online littlegeneralkids.com.au

SUBMITTED BY LOUISE PANNELL



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Thousands more trees in the ground for local schools

More than 2500 trees have been delivered to 52 local primary and secondary schools across our service area to help boost the region's tree canopy cover and create more green spaces.

To coincide with this year's Schools Tree Day on Friday 26 July, Greater Western Water (GWW) has provided participating schools with up to 50 native trees each to plant on their premises through its Trees for School program.

With the western region currently experiencing the lowest tree canopy cover in Melbourne, at 5.5 per cent - compared to the eastern suburbs, whose canopy cover sits at 25.9 per cent - the program aims to increase the number of trees in the west.

GWW's General Manager of Strategy and Partnerships, Kessia Thomson said the initiative would help raise awareness of the benefits of green spaces.

"Trees provide more shade, canopy cover and animal habitats. They keep our region cool, improve air quality and enhance local liveability," she said.

"It's great to see our local schools, from Gisborne to Manor Lakes, getting involved and contributing to a greener, healthier western region."

"Initiatives such as these provides students with an opportunity to learn in an active environment while highlighting the important role they can play in creating a brighter, greener future."

The Trees for Schools program is a partnership between GWW, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, and 11 local councils through the More Trees for a Cooler Greener West program and Greening the West.

Visit the Trees for Schools webpage <https://www.gww.com.au/about/community/trees-schools> to learn more about the program and to see a full list of participating schools.

SUBMITTED BY STEFAN DELATOVIC

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1-31 October

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This annual festival kicks off again in October with a range of free activities and events for seniors:

Free "Come & Try" events

A range of free activities and workshops will be on offer locally throughout the Seniors Festival for you to explore new interests, meet other people and discover ways to improve your health and quality of life.

Recognising our senior volunteers

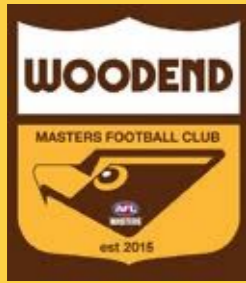
In recognition of the many seniors who volunteer in our community, Council will be interviewing five dedicated volunteers, sharing their inspiring stories with the community, and gifting them a special hamper as a token of our appreciation for their generosity, time and efforts.

Free music concert!

2pm, Thursday 10 October, Castlemaine Town Hall (Cnr Frederick and Lyttleton streets)
Council is providing seniors with free tickets and transport from Gisborne, Woodend and Kyneton to the Castlemaine Music Concert, featuring a tribute to the first queens of country music, 'The Honky Tonk Queens'! Bookings are essential. Call Council's Sharon Gill on 5422 0333.

To view the activity schedule, read the volunteer stories, or find out more about the free music concert, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/Seniors-Festival





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Hawks relish chance to square up with Bulldogs in local derby

The Woodend Masters season is drawing to close with our final game this Saturday, against Gisborne at Gardiner Reserve.

This is an exciting opportunity for the Hawks to even the score in the local derby, after the Bulldogs gave our undermanned side a touch-up when they ventured to Gilbert Gordon Oval last month.

To be fair, they did have an extra ten blokes on the bench, while we were lucky to have an extra 10kg holding down the pine, and some a few fellas with extra kilos on the ground.

The Bulldogs took a quick lead, which we were never able to rein in, despite gameday magnet mover and motivator Chewy delivering some passionate Yabby Jeans-style speeches. Our ever-reliable full-forward earned his beers that day, not that he has ever worried about earning them!

The last game will also see former Geelong and Adelaide AFL star Ronnie Burns line up for Gisborne as part of mental health awareness, which is at the heart of Masters footy.

It is why a line in our club song is *‘Our socks are at half mast and our best is in the past, but we still get a kick out of footy!’*.

Last month was boosted by some rare and very welcome warm August weather, which set up a great game against Wellington.

Our guys loved the trip down to Gippsland, where the Warriors were fantastic hosts and played a fun game in the true spirit of Masters footy.

Another fun game was had with the Hawks winning, with some scintillating middle-aged skills on display. However, Nurofen and Holgate beers were the real winners after the game!

There is still time to buy tickets for our major club raffle to win \$2,000 of product from our sponsor, Hunters Mowers & Motors in Kyneton.

The winner will be drawn at our AGM on Friday 13 September at Holgate Brewhouse, our amazing sponsor that has supported the Woodend Masters since our beginning in 2015.

The highlight of our AGM will ultimately be the unveiling of our annual Tool Of The Year award.

We may have one foot in the grave playing footy at our age, but we know who has our back... literally.

President Sam Gibbs and Treasurer Chris Reed were also excited to visit our sponsor Natural Grace recently to present a framed Woodend Masters jumper, which we proudly wear with their logo on our backs.

Our team joined the Natural Grace for its 12th birthday celebration on ‘Dying to Know Day’, an annual National Dy of Action acknowledging the final stage of life and encouraging Australians not to wait to talk about death.

Thank you to all our sponsors and supporters for helping make this season another great year for the club.



National day of action breaking taboos

In the words of Bob Dylan, “the times, they are a changin’”.

Dying to Know Day on 8 August is a national day of action acknowledging the final stage of life and encouraging Australians not to wait to talk about death. To mark this day, Natural Grace in Woodend held an open day, with the aims of demystifying how a funeral home works and providing visitors with the opportunity to ask lots of questions.

And people did just that. Over 50 people attended, and conversations were held on a wide variety of topics, with no question being off limits.

Sharon Tregoning, Practice Co-ordinator and Funeral Director said that many attendees commented on how beneficial it had been for them. “Fears were addressed and plans were made,” she said. “The enthusiasm and excitement from our community was heartwarming for us.”

She said that the open day was beneficial for Natural Grace themselves. “It also helps us understand what our community is looking for in after death care and see if there are any ways that we can improve how we care for our guests and their loved ones.”

To keep the momentum going, Natural Grace encourages the following actions:

- Ensure that the necessary paperwork is in place that conveys your wishes – advance care directive, power of attorney, will
- Have conversations with the important people in your world explaining your wishes
- If you are wanting to be buried, visit the cemeteries that you are considering, to ensure that it ‘feels’ like the right place
- Learn about what options are available to you
- Participate in a complimentary planning session with Natural Grace

“We are very thankful to our community and invite them to book a complimentary planning session to assist them in documenting their wishes.”

For any bookings, please contact Natural Grace on 5427 3112.

SUBMITTED BY SHARON TREGONING



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Your community diary

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

— SEPTEMBER —

- 1..... Father's Day
- 1..... Kyneton Antique Fair
- 2-8 Women's Health Week
- 8 MRSPAG Walk, Woodend Childrens Park
- 13..... MRFS: *The Duchess* - Norma Richardson Hall
- 14..... Hello Red Planet, KTH
- 7 Woodend Farmers' Market
- 9 Woodend Library, Annie Smithers - Author
- 13..... Medical transport information session, WNH
- 13..... Woodend Masters AGM
- 14..... St Marys Guild Street Stall
- 14..... Hello Red Planet, KTH
- 15..... Lions Community Market
- 15..... Film 'The Great White Whale, Castlemaine Royal Theatre
- 16..... Landcare Working Bee
- 18..... Knit, Chat and Cuppa, Norma Richardson Hall
- 22 Darryl Braithwaite with Taylor Sheridan, KTH
- 24-25 Creative Kids junk journals, KTH
- 26 Rotary Footy Pie Night, Football Club Rooms
- 27 Grand Final Holiday
- 28 WWAF, Joseph Tawadros, St Ambrose Church

— OCTOBER —

- 3 Australian Native Bees talk, Woodend Library
- 5 Woodend Farmers' Market
- 11-13 National RAR Conference
- 11 U3A Kyneton Tooth and Nail
- 14..... St Marys Guild Street Stall
- 15..... U3A Kyneton, tooth and Nail
- 16..... Carers Week afternoon Tea, WNH
- 16..... Knit, Chat and Cuppa, Norma Richardson Hall
- 18..... U3A Kyneton, The Ethics of Gene Editing
- 20 Lions Community Market
- 25 U3A Kyneton, The Impact of Memory Loss
- 31..... Rotary Community Halloween Party, Children's Park

— NOVEMBER —

- 2 Woodend Farmers' Market
- 16-17 Budburst Macedon Ranges
- 17..... Lions Community Market
- 20 Knit, Chat and Cuppa, Norma Richardson Hall
- 23 Karlsruhe Country Fair

Read us online: www.newwoodendstar.com/view



Kyneton Town Hall events

Hello Red Planet

Saturday 14 September, 7:30pm

Take a family trip with us to Mars! Join renowned storytellers Bunk Puppets for a satirical information session laying out their daring escape plan from Earth. Learn what's coming along, (and who's not). Great family fun for ages 7+.

Daryl Braithwaite with Taylor Sheridan

Saturday 22 September, 5pm

Don't miss this opportunity to witness two generations of Australian musical talent come together with all proceeds going to the Malmsbury Fire Brigade.

Daryl Braithwaite's illustrious career spans decades. From his iconic solo days to his early years with teen-heartbreakers, Sherbet, Daryl will take you on a journey through his greatest hits, including classics like "The Horses", "As the Days Go By", "One Summer", and many more.

Off the back of his tour with Jimmy Barnes, Taylor Sheridan, a local sensation whose soulful voice and captivating lyrics are making big waves in the music scene. Taylor's dynamic performance will set the stage perfectly for an unforgettable afternoon of music.

Creative kids junk journals

24-25 September, Kyneton Town Hall, various workshops

An immersive school holiday workshop for kids involving printmaking, personal image making and a discovery of the role of journals. Young artists will be guided through the art of Gelli Plate printmaking to build a collection of richly personal and vibrant papers, then transforming them into a personal journal for future use. Facilitated by artist and art educator Edwina Mintern, each workshop goes for 2.5 hours.

To purchase tickets to Kyneton Town Hall events, visit mrc.vic.gov.au/buytickets or call

1300 888 802 (10am - 4pm, weekdays).

BUDBURST 2024

Saturday 16 - Sunday 17 November 2024 Budburst - a celebration of Macedon Ranges wine and hospitality, various wineries, cellar doors and venues across the Macedon Ranges

TICKETS: Available from 1 September budburst.com

Australian Native Bees

Join us for an evening talk about Australian Native Bees

Join Miss Stephanie for an enlightening talk on Victoria's buzzing native bees!

Discover the diverse types of native bees, conservation initiatives, and practical tips for identifying and supporting these vital pollinators. Drawing on her expertise in realistic insect paintings and passion for environmental education, Miss Stephanie will share gardening tips to create bee-friendly habitats.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn how you can make a difference for Victoria's tiny bee-ings!

Where: Woodend Library | Main Hall (West Entry Door)
 When: Thursday, 3 October | 7:00pm - 8:00pm
 Tickets: \$5 via the MRSO website. (Link above)
 Questions? Email us at wbf@mrso.org.au



Woodend to host musical and artistic extravaganza

The countdown to the 20th Woodend Winter Arts Festival is officially on, with organisers hosting a fundraising event to ignite excitement for next year's festivities.

On Saturday, 28 September, 1pm, renowned oud virtuoso Joseph Tawadros will grace St Ambrose Church for a live performance. The eight-time ARIA Award winner will showcase his unique blend of Arabic, classical, jazz, and world music, promising an unforgettable experience for music lovers.

To complement the musical performance, a fundraising auction will be held for a stunning original artwork by Marlene Young Nungurrayi, generously donated by Woodend Country House. The piece, "Women's Dreaming," is a captivating depiction of Indigenous culture and history.

Proceeds from both the concert and auction will contribute to the creation

of an exceptional winter festival for the community.

"We're thrilled to be celebrating two decades of the Woodend Winter Arts Festival," said Jacqueline Ogeil, Artistic Director of the Woodend Winter Arts Festival. "This event is an opportunity for the community to come together, enjoy a fantastic performance, and support a beloved local event."

Tickets for the Joseph Tawadros concert are available at www.woodendwinterartsfestival.org.au.

The online auction for the artwork is now open and closes on 28 September at 12pm. See the festival website for more details.

The Woodend Winter Arts Festival is a much-loved community event, showcasing the best of local and regional talent.

SUBMITTED BY ALISON RIVERS



Photo: top - Joseph Tawadros, bottom - Marlene Young Nungurrayi



The Mount Players Happenings

Hard to believe we are now in full rehearsal for our final production for 2024!

The players have enjoyed a very successful year to date with the staging of *Wild, Looped* and *Family Values*. These productions, along with drop-in shows from outside theatre performers, musicians, community groups and our own members' social evenings has ensured the Mountview Theatre has been a real hub of activity all year.

Our fourth production has been cast and will be staged in November. *A Bunch of Amateurs* by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman is a lovely English comedy set in a sleepy country village in Suffolk. An amateur theatre group putting on King Lear find themselves in a desperate quest to save their beloved theatre. But desperate times call for desperate measures and so the story unfolds. Great characters, a witty script and basically a good laugh that's a lot of fun!

More details about this show next month. Or go to our website www.themountplayers.com for full details and ticket bookings.

If you haven't been to our theatre, then do yourself a favour and come along. With a fantastic show, complimentary sherry on arrival, an incredibly well priced bar and complimentary tea, coffee and treats at interval, it's great value ... you'll love it!

See you at the theatre.

SUBMITTED BY KAREN HUNT



Resonance String Orchestra new offerings in Term 3

Apprenti Strings: Resonance's Junior Ensemble

Resonance is excited to announce that we are reinvigorating our wonderful Apprenti Strings group. This group is suitable for string students from established beginner to Grade 2 AMEB and we have flexible rehearsal options for these students:

Apprenti Strings Woodend: Mondays fortnightly 4.45-5.25pm at Woodend Neighbourhood House, and

Apprenti Strings Saturday stream: Saturday 14 September, 10-12.15pm at Braemar College Middle School

Also in Term 3:

Open Rehearsal: 14 September, 12.30-1pm at Braemar College Middle School.

A chance for the Macedon Ranges Shire community to pop in and see Resonance in action. Please RSVP to heather.violin@gmail.com

To register your interest, please visit the resonance website <https://www.resonancestringorchestra.org.au/join-1>

About Resonance

Resonance String Orchestra, with branches in Woodend and Castlemaine, is a vibrant community arts institution that lives and breathes its motto "inspiring regional communities to make great music". Through access to our regular teaching team and through our Visiting Artists program and partnership with the acclaimed Flinders Quartet, our members are tutored and mentored by some of the finest musicians in the country. We give sell-out concerts in the region and love popping up on the streets to surprise and delight the public too!



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SUBMITTED BY HENRY VYHANAL



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Portraits, Pets and Pots

Macedon Ranges multi-disciplinary artist Jahne Hope-Williams is presenting Portraits, Pets and Pots, an adventure into direct photographic transfer and encaustic technique – miniatures and not-so-miniatures



Jahne loves taking photographs. She uses old fashioned, difficult artistic techniques which incorporate many processes. As a scientific illustrator, realism makes sense to her. To enhance her work, Jahne adds gilding and hand painting over the images. In case it wasn't time consuming enough – "I do complicate things," she says, – Jahne explores the world of beeswax and uses this instead of glass in front of the works in a very individual way.

The exhibition will have a large range of works mainly in the 8 x 8 inch format on canvas although she has just completed an A3 image and looks forward to larger works, especially portraits, in the future. There are images for everyone – religious icons, Buddhist Thangkas, portraits and angels, which are part of Jahne's signature work. This exhibition also includes portraits of pots as well as her cat as Queen Elizabeth I.

Portraits, Pets and Pots begins on 2 September at the Mt Macedon Gallery – just down the lane beside the Trading Post. Jahne's exhibition officially opens Saturday 7 September at 2pm and goes until the end of the month. The Gallery is open Friday to Tuesday, 10am to 4pm.

Jo Hoyne 0418 488 582 Sue Anson 0413 581 632

SUBMITTED BY SUE ANSON

U3A Kyneton seniors activities – October 2024

Come and try Friday@U3A

Friday@U3A takes place at the Red Brick Hall, 23 Yaldwyn Street West, Kyneton at 2pm on Fridays. It is free and open to both members and non-U3A members.

The program consists of topical presentations and activities and finishes at 3pm with a cup of tea. It is designed to wind up your busy week and set you up with something to talk about over the weekend.

Tooth and Nail: The Story of the Rabbit in Australia.

Friday@U3A – Friday 11 October

The speaker is retired research biologist Dr. Brian Coman. Brian was born in Kyneton and grew up on a farm in South Kyneton. He worked as a field biologist and then a Landcare coordinator, spending more than 25 years in the Coliban River catchment, mainly in rabbit control. His presentation will be drawn from his book Tooth and Nail - the story of the rabbit in Australia.

Come along and hear how Europeans, through the introduction of a single species,

changed Australia forever; transforming the environment and impacting social, political, and cultural life in our country until today.

Come and Walk the Labyrinth in Kyneton

Tuesday 15 October at 10.00am

Music and arts educator Stephen Holgate will explain the origins of labyrinths in the ancient world with the myth of Perseus and the Minotaur and how this was overlaid by the idea of pilgrimage, contemplative walking, and reflecting on life. This will be a gentle fifteen-minute walk around the stunning labyrinth in the gardens of Kyneton's Catholic Church.

The Ethics of Gene Editing

Friday@U3A – Friday 18 October

The speaker is Dr Christopher Gyngell, Research Fellow, Biomedical Ethics, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, and Co-Deputy Director of Health Law and Ethics Network, University of Melbourne.

Over the last decade, advancements in gene editing technologies have given scientists unprecedented power to alter DNA – the fundamental building blocks of life. These technologies have far-reaching applications across many fields, but most controversially – human reproduction. Chris will give us a

background to the science of gene editing, before exploring the ethical challenges – from the implications for human health to the broader societal and moral questions it raises.

The impact of memory loss in people living with dementia

Friday@U3A – Friday 25 October

Following her experience caring for a family member with Alzheimer's disease, Dr Kathryn Nicholson began her association with Dementia Australia, first as a volunteer and then full-time as a sessional dementia educator.

Her presentation will address:

- the meaning of memory
- the impacts of living with a "dementia" diagnosis
- impact of memory loss on everyday life
- practical ideas for carers

Join us for a unique insight into dementia and how to manage it.

Further information about U3A Kyneton can be found on their website: <https://u3akyneton.org.au/>

SUBMITTED BY RONI, SECRETARY

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July 2024 Council Meeting wrap

The following matters were considered and endorsed at the July 2024 Council Meeting:

Endorsed following community consultation:

Gisborne Futures Structure Plan

The plan will guide Gisborne's development until 2050 and will set a protected settlement boundary to protect the surrounding landscape from further outward growth. It was developed following extensive planning and consultation over six years. A total of 129 submissions were received and considered during the most recent consultation period for the revised Plan in late 2023.

Council will now write to the Minister for Planning to request an amendment be prepared for the protected settlement boundary as indicated in the Plan.

Upcoming community consultations endorsed:

Draft Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2024 Building on Council's first Innovate

Reconciliation Action Plan 2021-23, a new draft RAP has been developed in consultation with the three Traditional Owner Groups in the Macedon Ranges. It continues the positive work from the previous RAP and provides further actions to help build stronger community connections and a deeper understanding and respect of First Nations People and cultures.

Draft Lancefield Master Plan 2024

Lancefield Park Recreation Reserve is on Crown Land and managed by a volunteer Committee of Management. It is an important asset within the community and provides Council-supported activities. Council recently assisted the committee to review and update their previous 2012 Master Plan to reflect the current needs of the community and inform future development and upgrades of facilities.

Council is seeking feedback on the draft Master Plan, on behalf of the Committee.

Draft Macedon Ranges Community Equestrian Facilities Plan

The Macedon Ranges has one of the highest participation rates in recreational equestrian activities in Victorian LGAs. This Plan will provide clearer direction for the management and development of equestrian facilities across the shire.

Community feedback is invited from 25 July to 5 September 2024 to help inform the final plan.

Council grant programs:

2024-25 Community Funding Scheme (CFS) and the Neighbourhood House Funding Program (NHFP) 2024-26 allocations

A total of 29 applications were received for the 2024-25 CFS with officers recommending 20 applicants for funding totalling \$159,316. Seven applications were received through the 2024-26 NHFP with all of them recommended for funding and in-kind support totalling \$210,000 (\$35,000 cash contribution, \$178,367 in-kind). Both CFS and NHFP allocations for 2024-25 were within budget.

2024 Events and Festivals Grant Program allocations

Council received 15 applications requesting a total of \$94,064 plus in-kind support. With an annual allocation of \$75,000, and a portion already committed to multi-year agreements, \$50,000 of funding remained for distribution in this year's round of funding and officers recommended 12 applications to receive this. In-kind support including services and venue hire to the value of just under \$16,500 was also recommended.

In addition, a further \$14,500 was carried over from the 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 programs to support triennial events that had been postponed due to the COVID pandemic.

2024-25 Community Climate Action and Environment Group Support Grants Guidelines

Council will continue to provide support and resources to local Landcare groups, environment groups and community climate action groups in the Macedon Ranges following the endorsement of the Guidelines and Terms of Reference for both the Climate Action and Environment Support Group grant streams.

The new Community Climate Action grants will support community groups to develop, implement and evaluate projects that are aligned with the objectives in Council's Climate Emergency Plan 2023-30. This new grant stream, as well as the Biolink Boost, are co-funded in partnership with Macedon Ranges Community Enterprises and Bendigo Bank.

Other matters:

Draft Gambling Harm Prevention Policy Council deferred consideration of this Policy to the 28 August 2024 Council Meeting.

Council also noted the results of its annual Community Satisfaction Survey, which provides a snapshot of local perceptions on a range of key service areas from a diverse cross-section of 400 Macedon Ranges residents.

Council considered a report in response to a petition received from the community calling for the acquisition of land at 18 Kilmore Road in Gisborne and resolved not to acquire the land, as the purchase would not align with Council's existing strategies and plans regarding conservation, biodiversity, or public open space.

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 DITLOFF, MRSC COMMUNICATION UNIT



Hello everyone. As we move into spring, we hope that you are all able to enjoy some sunnier and warmer weather and take advantage of some of the outdoor activities and events our shire is renowned for. At a recent meeting, Council approved a range of Community Funding Scheme grants, along with the Events and Festivals Grants program for 2024-25. Grants to Woodend organisations include \$10,000 to Woodend Neighbourhood House for the WNH Community Creative Outdoor Space, along with another \$12,000 for the Woodend Community Garden Hub revamp; \$3,386 went to the Woodend Men's Shed to help with their Strengthening Member and Community Engagement program, and \$2,000 has been allocated to the Woodend Bowling Club for first aid equipment. Events and Festivals funding for 2025 included the third payment of the triennial grant to the Woodend Winter Arts Festival of \$10,000, and \$1,300 to the Rotary Club of Woodend to support the Free Community Halloween Party for 2024.

Council also recently adopted the Community Climate Action Grants Guidelines and Environment Group Support Grants Guidelines. These grants include funding support for our various Landcare and Friends Groups across the shire.

One activity to watch out for is the upcoming provision of free infant and child first aid and CPR training, which is being made available across the shire as a collaboration of the Council's Maternal and Child Health team and the Sisterhood Project. The Sisterhood Project is a not-for-profit charity that partners with external CPR/first aid small business owners to provide training and free first aid care to vulnerable parents and carers across Victoria. Keep an eye on the Council website for further details once these sessions become available.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to the recent request for feedback on the Issues and Opportunities paper for the Woodend Racecourse Reserve. Although the formal closing date for submissions is 5 September, officers will often take late submissions for a few weeks after the formal consultation period finishes. If you still have suggestions that you wish to contribute, then contact Council on 5422 0333 and let them know that you wish to email a late submission.

It is estimated that every year, more than ten million native animals are killed on Australian roads. Recently, Macedon Ranges Shire Council partnered with Wildlife Victoria, the City of Greater Bendigo and Bass Coast Shire Council to better understand the problem of high wildlife tolls on our roads and identify effective solutions. So far in the Macedon Ranges, a community forum was held earlier this year and consideration of wildlife was included in the recently endorsed Mobility and Road Safety Strategy. In addition, a Wildlife Toll Reduction Toolkit has been produced to assist local governments with strategies to mitigate wildlife accidents. This is now available through Wildlife Victoria and the MRSC website at: <https://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/Live-Work/Environment/Animals-of-the-Macedon-Ranges/Living-With-Wildlife#section-2>.

With the Council elections fast approaching, we hope that you have taken the opportunity to check your enrolment details and update if necessary. Any updates needed to be completed by August 7, but details can still be checked with the VEC (Victorian Electoral Commission) at <https://enrolment.vec.vic.gov.au/>. This year, Council caretaker period begins on 17 September, with the election period held through October, and close of voting at 6pm on Friday 25 October. Voting will be by mail, and only votes posted before

the close of voting will be accepted. Results of the election must be finalised by November 15.

Finally, as your "West Ward Councillor group" we would like to thank everyone for your support, encouragement and contributions through this term of council. As a group, we have been energised and inspired by your ideas and feedback. Councillors depend very heavily on the advice we receive from residents, whether it be informal "supermarket chats" or carefully-prepared submissions on particular projects or issues. A feature of our Shire is the very high level of informed and valuable feedback that we receive from individuals and community organisations – so we encourage you all to keep it coming!


Best wishes from your West Ward Councillors Mark, Janet, and Jennifer.




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Why regular dental check-ups for your pets is recommended

Did you know over 80% of adult dogs and cats have some form of dental disease? So, the next time you book your dentist appointment, make sure you book your pet in for theirs.

Dr Candice Priest (BVSc), Veterinary Director, Greencross Vets Macedon Ranges, explains why good dental health is important for the overall health of your pet.

“Your pet’s bad breath is not normal, it means they have an underlying dental issue such as a build of bacteria or plaque, a broken tooth or gum disease – all of which, if left untreated, can lead to pain and infection,” says Dr Candice.

“Many pet owners don’t realise that their pet’s teeth need brushing with something like Maxiguard which is an anti-bacterial pet toothpaste.

“Dental treats can help reduce plaque, as can bones, however bones can pose risks such as fracturing teeth and gastrointestinal upset, therefore, we generally do not recommend feeding bones.”

The best way for your pet’s teeth to be fully assessed is under general anaesthetic. Without anaesthesia, it is impossible to fully assess and clean your pet’s teeth. Anaesthesia allows us to safely and thoroughly check and clean all your pet’s teeth, especially below the gum line, without inflicting pain or stress.

If left untreated, dental disease and pets can lead to more serious health problems such as

heart and kidney disease.

Proper dental care for pets is critical to your pet’s overall health and wellbeing. There are things you can do at home to ensure your pet’s teeth are in top condition. However also ensuring you book your pet in for their yearly dental check-up will help give you and your pet a good overview of their dental health and awareness of any potential issues.

If you have any questions or concerns about your pet’s teeth, we are always here to help.


FUN FACT: zebras have black skin with white stripes

SUBMITTED BY TERESA LANE




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Works across the shire

Council is pleased to announce it has received grant funding – through both Australian and Victorian government opportunities – to provide a number of pedestrian safety improvements across the shire, including:

Woodend: High Street Service Lane

Upgrade the existing pram crossings to a raised wombat crossing and advisory speed limit signage; \$143,200 in funding allocated under the Safe System Pedestrian Infrastructure Program. To be delivered in the 2024/25 financial year.



Kindagym

Come down to Buffalo Sports Stadium on Friday mornings during the school term and play with us at Kindagym. Each session is different with a change of equipment set up and songs and music. Suitable for ages 1-5 years. Casual sessions and term passes available. First class is free!

For information visit mrc.vic.gov.au/kindagym or call 5427 3411.

Carers Week afternoon tea

1–3pm, Wednesday 16 October

Woodend Neighbourhood House, 47 Forest Street, Woodend

Council will host a free afternoon tea during Carers Week 2024 for local carers and families to find out about available supports and meet other carers in the shire. Guest speaker Niki Moko, Carer Support Services at Bendigo Health, will provide information about services available and give tips on how to look after your own health and wellbeing.

Registrations are essential. Call 5422 0333 or email hshort@mrc.vic.gov.au

This event is being delivered in partnership with Bendigo Health and Woodend Neighbourhood House.

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Medical transport information session

Macedon Ranges Shire Council – in partnership with local business Lily’s Travels – is facilitating information sessions to support older people in confidently navigating transport to medical appointments using public transport.

Each session will include a presentation, opportunities for questions and answers, and take-home information kits including timetables/itineraries. Details of each session can be found below.

Council’s Director Community, Maria Weiss, said the initiative supported key findings highlighted in Council’s PARTICIPATE Positive Ageing Plan 2020–2025, which identified that inadequate access to transport was the biggest challenge faced by older people. “Initiatives like this are important for Council to support and inform older people in our community on available options and empower them to maintain their independence through public transport,” she said. “I encourage anyone who might regularly need to travel to attend medical appointments, or need to regularly travel more broadly, to register and attend these valuable sessions.”

An information session will be held in Woodend on 13 September, at Woodend Neighbourhood House, 47 Forest Street, Woodend 3442.

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN, MRSC COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

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Backing more First Nations businesses

First Nations businesses will be supported to grow and upskill, with the announcement of the new Victorian Aboriginal Business Investment Program.

Minister for Employment Vicki Ward recently visited Djaara’s DUMAWUL Cultural Tourism and Creative Arts Hub in Bendigo to announce the new program as part of a \$10 million package to support First Nations businesses.

Aboriginal-owned and operated businesses in Macedon can apply for funding to support and expand their businesses, with grants of up to \$10,000 available to businesses for training and accreditation, mentorship, networking, marketing and access to expert advisory services.

Of the grant program, Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas said, “This is a major boost for First Nations businesses here in Macedon, providing much needed support for them to grow and expand their businesses in the local community.”

Businesses are also able to apply for grants of up to \$100,000 for purchasing new assets, planning and delivering business cases, conducting studies and specialist training.

The initiative is part of the Government’s commitment to making rural and regional Victoria an even better place to live, work, stay and play and boosting local jobs and businesses in every corner of the state.

The \$10 million package also includes support for seven

Traditional Owner Corporations in regional Victoria – this will help to establish economic hubs where Aboriginal businesses can connect, access support and showcase their work. The Taungurung Land & Water Council will be part of this statewide regional package.

These initiatives will support communities to focus on connection to culture and Country and build on the Labor Government’s commitment to self-determination and economic inclusion and prosperity.

Applications for the Victorian Aboriginal Business Investment Program close on Friday 6 September 2024.

To learn more and to apply visit business.vic.gov.au/aboriginal-business-grants.

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

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Live4Life Families swim for youth mental health

LAP it UP 1-28 October 2024

Local youth mental health charity Live4Life is once again inviting everyone to break out their bathers and dive in for their annual fundraising swim challenge, LAP it UP.

LAP it UP 2024 will run for 4 weeks from 1-28 October, coinciding with World Mental Health Month. It's a fabulous opportunity to get fit while you swim laps for youth mental health awareness and suicide prevention in rural and regional communities.

Woodend father and son Mike and Jasper Selby took part last year, when LAP it UP raised over \$38,000. Both swim about once a week but found it helpful to have a buddy for the challenge.

"When one of us was lacking in enthusiasm to go for a swim, the other would show some encouragement. We certainly spurred each other on," said Jasper.

Mike sees it as a great way to share a vital message. "Mental health awareness is so important – it fosters empathy and understanding among friends, family and colleagues. Live4Life is such a wonderful organisation and we both wanted to be part of LAP it UP to help bring mental health into the limelight."

LAP it UP has been a family affair from the beginning. In 2018, father and daughter Sean and Kirsten McKinney hosted an event at their local Gisborne pool to acknowledge the lives lost to suicide in the previous year. It was Sean's wish that the swim event would raise funds and help Live4Life grow to reach more communities. Today, LAP it UP continues the McKinneys' wonderful legacy.

Swimming or water play can help support mental health and wellbeing. Whether it's 10 laps or 100, freestyle, breaststroke, or even doggy paddle, LAP it UP is all about feeling good and doing something awesome for young people's mental health.

And how did Mike and Jasper feel when they reached their lap target?

"Absolutely incredible!"

Register now at www.lapitup.org.au

SUBMITTED BY STEPHEN MITCHELL, LIVE4LIFE



Photo: Woodend father and son team Jasper and Mike Selby at the 2023 LAP it UP finale at the Kyneton Toyota Sports & Aquatic Centre (Photo credit: Kim Selby Photography)

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Twelve thousand women and girls make their voices heard on pain

Thousands of women and girls across the state have shared their personal experiences of pain and its management to help shape the delivery of treatment, care and support for women in Victoria.

The response to the survey was overwhelmingly positive from women and girls across Victoria, including family members, carers and supporters as well as clinicians and healthcare workers.

At a local Women's Pain Forum in Gisborne, over 60 women shared their stories with local Member for Macedon and Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas about the daily impact pain conditions have on their lives.

Ms Thomas said of the program, "For too long women's pain has been overlooked, misdiagnosed and dismissed – we're taking action by listening to Victorian women and transforming how women's health is treated in Victoria."

Survey findings, along with written submissions and feedback from more than 20 community forum and focus groups, will inform recommendations to the Victorian Women's Health Advisory Council by the end of the year.

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



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What is Three-Phase Power and Why You Might Need It

The power capacity available to any home is not limitless. Every home has a maximum amount of power it can use at any one time, which is why it's important to understand the different types of power setups available. Among these, three-phase power is an increasingly popular upgrade for many homeowners looking to maximise their electrical capacity.

But what is Three-Phase Power?

Three-phase power is an electrical setup that significantly increases the capacity of your home, sometimes providing up to three times the amount of power normally available. It's related to the mains cables coming into your property from the grid to provide your power. Here are the common setups and what they mean:

- **Single-Phase Power:** This is the most common setup in homes, usually allowing for 63 amps, which can easily be exceeded in an all-electric home when using many appliances simultaneously.
- **Two-Phase Power:** This is less common but offers twice the capacity. For example, two phases of 63 amps each give you twice the amount of power. It's often used as a backup when three-phase power is not available. However, it does not allow you to run three-phase appliances and still requires a single-phase solar setup.
- **Three-Phase Power:** This setup provides the maximum amount of power for your home, up to three times that of single-phase power. It requires additional wiring and mains cables to be installed from the street to your meter box. Three-phase also allows for the installation of three-phase appliances, to spread the load across all three phases.

Benefits of Three-Phase Power

- **Meeting Increasing Electricity Needs:** Modern homes have an increasing number of electrical devices and appliances. Three-phase power ensures that your home can handle these demands without overloading the system.
- **Supporting Larger Solar Systems:** Three-phase power allows you to install larger solar systems, enabling you to generate and send more power back to the grid. This can significantly increase your energy efficiency and reduce your electricity bills.
- **Powering More Electric Appliances:** As homes move off gas, the demand for electric power increases. Three-phase power can support high-demand appliances such as ducted heating and cooling systems and induction cooktops.
- **Faster Electric Car Charging:** Three-phase power allows you to charge your electric car faster, which is a significant advantage for households with EVs. Charging your car can use up to 50% of a single-phase home's capacity.

How to Get Three-Phase Power

The availability of three-phase power depends on the Powercor infrastructure available in your street. Before you can switch to three phases, we need to confirm what's available for your property. Bluegum can help you submit an application with Powercor to find out your options.

For help upgrading your home's capacity, call the Bluegum team on 1300 306 342.

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Free degrees for our undergraduate nurses and midwives

Nursing and midwifery students may be eligible for free education under a new round of a State Government scholarship program.

Applications for the third round of the Undergraduate (entry to practice) scholarship program are now open, delivering free education for new domestic students enrolling in a professional-entry level nursing or midwifery course in 2023 and 2024.

The scholarship is part of the \$270 million Making It Free to Study Nursing and Midwifery initiative, which will provide scholarships worth up to \$16,500 to more than 10,000 nursing and midwifery students.

Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas said the program provided aspiring nurses and midwives with financial support that allowed them to go into their important work without having to worry about the cost of their education. "We're investing in our hardworking nurses and midwives, because we know how important they are in making sure every Victorian gets the best care."

The initiative also includes:

- Scholarships for postgraduate nurses to complete studies in specialty areas such as intensive care, emergency, paediatrics and cancer care – worth an average of \$10,000
- \$11,000 scholarships for enrolled nurses to become registered nurses, covering course costs and boosting the number of registered nurses
- \$12,000 scholarships to support training and employment of 100 new Nurse Practitioners in both acute and community settings
- More than \$20 million to provide more support to the growing numbers of graduates and postgraduates as they transition to working in our hospitals – ensuring they have access to the clinical educators, preceptors and study time they need.

A sign-on bonus of \$5,000 is also available to nursing and midwifery graduates who graduate in 2022, 2023 or 2024 and start their career in a Victorian public health service.

So far, more than 5600 graduate nurses and midwives have received the first half of their bonus, and more than 3600 new graduate nurses and midwives have chosen to start their careers this year in our public health system.

The program recognises that the cost of study is a financial burden for prospective and existing nurses and helps our health services maximise the recruitment of new nurses and midwives in key areas of need.

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

Giving young people the facts they need to stop vaping

A new initiative will see local councils, universities, sporting clubs and community organisations join forces to help stop young people vaping.

Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas has announced a \$2 million investment to deliver workshops, community events, and develop a peer-to-peer digital platform for young people aged 14 to 25 – to educate young people about the harms of vaping. The two-year project is being delivered by the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth) in partnership with UNCLOUD, a digital platform that provides peer-reviewed and scientifically backed information about vaping and allows young people to share their stories with each other.

More than 30 local councils, including Macedon Ranges, Hepburn, Moorabool and Mount Alexander Shires, five sporting teams, and five universities will join the project by sharing the UNCLOUD platform at community events and activations.

Sporting bodies and teams including Swimming Victoria, Athletics Victoria, Melbourne Vipers, Deakin Melbourne Boomers and Hockey Club Melbourne will share and promote the UNCLOUD platform at sporting carnivals, youth holiday programs, events, and across social media platforms.

As part of the project, the Alcohol and Drug Foundation will upskill coaches at sporting clubs across Victoria with anti-vaping education.

Tertiary institutions including the University of Melbourne, Federation University, Monash University, Deakin University and Swinburne University of Technology will use the funding to establish student advocates, while others will offer education and training on-site to health staff.

VicHealth, Quit Victoria and the Department of Health will provide guidance and support to these organisations.

The Victorian Government will continue to work with the Commonwealth and other states and territories on the implementation of the Therapeutic Goods and Other Legislation Amendment (Vaping Reforms) Bill 2024. Banning retail sales and making vapes available only through pharmacies will ultimately keep vapes out of children's hands.

"We know the impacts vaping has on our health and this initiative will allow young people to learn about the risks – empowering them to make health-led decisions," said Ms Thomas of the project. "We're working with sporting clubs, universities, and all of our local councils across Macedon to share anti-vaping messaging to the community."

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



Knit, Chat and Cuppa

Third Wednesday of the month from 11am, Norma Richardson Hall next to the Woodend Primary School.

Come along to knit your own garment or squares, which we make into knee blankets to be donated to various charities.

Yarn and needles provided if needed. See you there!

SUBMITTED BY SYLVIA MATHEWS

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

I'm keen to hear about the issues that matter to you.

Mary-Anne Thomas MP
Member for Macedon

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

Sun's shining thanks to solar home savings

Thousands of families have been able to slash an annual \$279 million off their energy bills – with more than five million individual solar panels installed on rooftops, through the Solar Homes program.

As of last month, Solar Homes has been responsible for the delivery of 2 gigawatts of power across Victoria.

The program represents 13 per cent of the total renewable capacity installed in the state, with its solar panels having cumulatively generated 6.5 gigawatt hours of power – enough cheap renewable energy to power every fridge in Victoria for almost two years.

The program has seen 350,000 solar panel, hot water, and solar battery systems installed through rebates and interest-free loans.

The Macedon electoral district represents over 4480 solar panel, hot water, and solar battery systems installed since the program began in 2018.

The last 12 months have been Solar Homes' biggest, with 7,873 approved applications last month – including 4,435 rooftop solar approvals and 3,125 solar hot water approvals.

Eligible households can access a \$1,400 rebate to install solar panels, a further \$1,400 interest free loan and a further rebate of up to \$1,000 to replace their hot water system – cutting \$3,800 from upfront installation costs.

Customers who maximise their solar can save around \$1,000 each year on their energy bill. Combined with hot water, heat pump savings can be up to \$1,400 a year or at least \$1,600 with a battery.

Victorians are taking control of their energy bills with solar now installed on 30 per cent of Victorian homes – a significant increase from 14 per cent when the Solar Homes program started six years ago. Since then, the program has also supported 5,500 jobs and delivered free training for plumbers and electricians to upskill.

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

Turn trash into treasure at Romsey's new resale shop

Locals and visitors to Romsey will soon have a new way to recycle unwanted items and an alternative to buying new, boosting Victoria's recycling capacity as part of the transition to a thriving circular economy.

Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas, representing Minister for Environment Steve

Dimopoulos, officially opened the Romsey ReSale Shop at the Romsey Resource Recovery Centre recently. Locals and visitors will have the opportunity to donate old or unwanted household items for resale at low cost—keeping more waste out of landfill.

Romsey's new centre is one of 67 projects supported by the \$5.9 million Circular Economy Councils Fund, helping to divert more waste from landfill while increasing the volume of material reused, repaired and recycled.

Donated goods will be resold at reasonable prices, with the centre accepting items such as furniture, camping gear, toys, and kitchenware. The shop also features a builders' yard for timber, pipes, posts, and



metal sheets to be repurposed in gardening and small projects.

The Macedon Ranges Shire Council also received funding to upgrade the Kyneton Resale Shop, adding new shelving and a sorting room for volunteers to test and repair items before resale. Since reopening just six months ago, the Kyneton shop has diverted an impressive 1.5 tonnes of goods from landfill.

Projects funded through the Circular Economy Councils Fund have diverted more

than 1,900 tonnes of waste from landfill, creating 73 jobs and supporting Victoria's transition to a sustainable and thriving circular economy.

This program is supported by the State Government's \$380 million circular economy plan, towards the target of diverting 80 per cent of all waste away from landfill by 2030.

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



Breath testing drivers all year round

Police are out there to keep our roads safe. If you've been drinking, don't drive. Getting caught with a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of 0.05 and over will result in loss of licence and significant fines. Chances are you will be caught.
Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone.



Woodend Hawks Basketball Club

There is plenty happening around the club at the moment as we head into finals for the current winter season. As the weather starts to warm up, we are also busy preparing for the upcoming summer season!

Winter 2024 Season The club has 187 players across 23 teams competing in the Sunbury Basketball Association junior domestic competition.

In a very competitive season, we have 12 teams battling for a spot in the finals, which will be played in September.

The Hawks community have also enjoyed the opportunity to play in the newly-opened Macedon Ranges Sports Precinct for the second half of this season, a fantastic addition to the SBA competition venues.

Summer 2024/25 Season

Planning is well underway for the Summer 2024/25 season, which commences on Saturday 12 October 2024.

The club enters teams in age groups from Under 10 years of age right up to U21 years of age. Our age groups for next season are:

- Under 10: Born 2016 and 2017 (boys and girls)
- Under 12: Born 2014 and 2015 (boys and girls)
- Under 14: Born 2012 and 2013 (boys and girls)
- Under 16: Born 2010 and 2011 (boys and girls)
- Under 18: Born 2008 and 2009 (boys)
- Under 19: Born 2007, 2008 and 2009 (girls)
- Under 21: Born 2005, 2006 and 2007 (boys)

The club offers dedicated team-based training with experienced coaches who support our players to develop their skills in a positive and fun environment.

Get involved

The club is always on the lookout for new players, coaches, team managers or anyone who has a passion for supporting a local club in any way.

Should this be you, or for any further queries, please contact our Coordinator, Matt Brouwer, via email at coordinator@woodendhawksbasketball.org.au or visit our website at www.woodendhawksbasketball.org.au

SUBMITTED BY JENNY BALDWIN



Hawks roll into finals

Woodend Hesket Football Netball club had a successful 2024 season. Netballers leading the way for the club, led by our A Grade premiership team from 2023 who finished on top of the ladder in 2024. They are hoping to go back-to-back. In a first in the club's history all netball grades made finals – a great accomplishment to our whole netball department – the club looks forward to supporting you throughout the finals in 2024.

In only their second season, our senior women's football team did a great job qualifying for the preliminary final. Coach Scott and our young team performed well against an older more experienced opposition. Congrats to the team and we look forward to seeing you grow and hopefully go a step or few further in 2025.

Our senior football program had a challenging 2024 season with a large turnover of players and we were not being able to field an under 19 team. The senior team played some great football throughout the season and played many local young footballers

setting the club up for success for the 2025 season and beyond. Our reserves were persistent throughout the season rolling Melton late in the year and just going down to Kyneton in the last game. Thanks to our life members, new players and old players who all ensured we got a team on the park this year.

Across the club senior coach Alistair Rae and reserves coach Grant Burns have signed on for next year. The club is actively looking for a 19's coach to help us build on the great momentum the Woodend Junior Football Netball club's under 17 and under 15 built towards the end of the year. Head netball coach Ty Coppinger has also re-committed as has Kellie Duff, Lia McQualter and Brenda McDonald. The future is bright at the Hawks.

Finally, the club would like to sincerely thank all of our volunteers and sponsors who have generously supported us this season.

Go Hawks!

SUBMITTED BY PAUL PODBURY, PRESIDENT



Getting ready for the new season

As we emerge from winter, we begin preparations for the coming Pennant and Summer seasons. Some members have continued to brave the weather and play social bowls through winter, while others head north and continue to bowl in warmer weather.

Now that all of our Pennant players are returning, we begin some practice sessions to prepare for the forthcoming season in the Highlands Region competition, which involves 12 clubs – Broadford, Diggers Rest, Gisborne, Kilmore, Kyneton, Kyneton Golf, Lancefield, Macedon, Mt Cottrell, Romsey, Trentham and Woodend.

Woodend has entered teams for both the Saturday and Midweek (Tuesday) competitions. On Saturdays we are playing Divisions 2 and 3 and on Tuesday Divisions 1 (having been promoted following victory at Division 2 Champions last season – see photo of the 2024 championship winning team) and Division 3.

Looking for new members for the coming season

It's not too late to register your interest if you would like to play this season. If you are a player with some experience, the Woodend Bowling Club is looking for new players. If you believe you have what it takes to be a competitive bowler or a keen social bowler, please give us a call.

If you are thinking of taking up bowls and may be interested in being part of one of our teams in the future, please get in touch and come on down for a free trial. We can provide everything to get you started ... the bowls and the coaching.

However, if you are not interested in the competitive side and just want to have a friendly social bowl – it's a great way to get out and about with a low impact activity.

Social bowls every Wednesday

We have a Social Bowls program every Wednesday from 12.30pm (weather permitting). As the weather starts to improve, this is likely to be every week.

The cost is just \$10 and includes several games of bowls and afternoon tea.

If you are an experienced bowler, it's a great way to enjoy a game with some friendly company, or if you are new to the game it's a great way to get started in a relaxed environment.

Bookings are essential so call the club prior to 11am to put your name down.

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



Boost for football and netball in the region

Local footy and netball clubs will receive support as they head towards the finals, with new government grants to ensure more Victorians can play the sport.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence announced last month that applications for the latest round of the *Country Football and Netball Program* are now open.

Grants of up to \$250,000 are available for regional and outer metropolitan councils to apply for grants for sports infrastructure developments, including court lighting upgrades, changeroom overhauls, new pavilions and more, to benefit their local clubs and communities.

Successful recipients in recent years include the Hepburn Football Netball Club and locally, since its inception, the program has supported the modernisation of facilities at Woodend, Riddells Creek and Kyneton through lighting upgrades, female friendly change rooms and upgrades to pavilions

“Our local country football and netball clubs are the at the heart of regional Victoria - and these grants will support our community to come together and continue kicking goals,” said Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas MP. Developed in partnership with the AFL, AFL Victoria and Netball Victoria, the program has invested more than \$40 million and delivered more than 575 projects since 2005.

The *Country Football and Netball Program* is part of more than \$23 million this year budget to deliver world class community sport infrastructure and programs that increase participation and improve accessibility for more Victorians.

Applications close on Monday, 30 September 2024. For more information on the program and to apply, visit sport.vic.gov.au/funding.

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

Registrations are now open for Juniors and Seniors cricket

Junior registrations are now open at Woodend Cricket Club! We offer a range of programs for all boys and girls, including Cricket Blast for ages 5–9, and teams for Under 11s, Under 13s, and Under 15s. Excitingly, this season we also have a dedicated Girls Only Under 13s team. Whether your child is new to cricket or looking to build on their skills, we welcome them to join our vibrant cricket community. For more information contact us at woodendcricketclub@gmail.com or call Ben Cumming on 0490 023 301.

Senior registrations are also now open at Woodend Cricket Club! Whether you're a seasoned cricketer or are simply looking for a fun and engaging activity, we have a place for you. With four senior teams offering everything from competitive matches to social and development cricket, there's an opportunity for players of all levels and interests to get involved. Join us for a season of great cricket, camaraderie, and community spirit.

For more information or to register, follow the QR code provided or contact us at woodendcricketclub@gmail.com.

Senior pre-season starts soon!

02/09 Monday	Melton Indoor Cricket Centre 6–8pm
04/09 Wednesday	Tony Clarke Basketball Stadium, Macedon 5.30–7pm
09/09 Monday	Melton Indoor Cricket Centre 6–8pm
11/09 Wednesday	Tony Clarke Basketball Stadium, Macedon 5.30–7pm
16/09 Monday	Melton Indoor Cricket Centre 6–8pm
19/09 Thursday	Gilbert Gordon Oval, Woodend 5–7pm
23/09 Monday	Melton Indoor Cricket Centre 6–8pm
26/09 Thursday	Gilbert Gordon Oval, Woodend 5–7pm
01/10 Tuesday	Gilbert Gordon Oval, Woodend 5–7pm
03/10 Thursday	Gilbert Gordon Oval, Woodend 5–7pm

Contact Head Coach Josh Eastley on 0419 720 195 if you require more information or want to take part.



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Woodend Cricket Club committee announcements

At the Woodend Cricket Club's Annual General Meeting held in mid-July, a new committee was elected to lead the club into the upcoming season. Daniel Heaney has been appointed President, with Grant McDonald to serve as Vice President. Erin Boyle will take on the role of Secretary, and Lachlan Whitton will be the new Treasurer. Joining them on the General Committee are Brett Gardner, Ben Cumming, Ronan Hume, Jess Horan, and Ben Thompson. The new committee is enthusiastic about building on the successes of last season and is committed to fostering a welcoming, family-oriented atmosphere within the Woodend Cricket Club.

SUBMITTED BY DANIEL HEANEY

First Family Dinner of the season

Join us for our first Family Dinner of the season on Saturday, 12 October, as we celebrate the return of cricket and welcome Joe and Ashlyn to the Woodend Cricket Club! The evening promises delicious food, lively music, and plenty of fun for the whole family. Dinner will be served from 6.30pm, so come along to enjoy a great night and get to know our new international guests as they settle into life in Woodend. Don't miss out on this exciting kickoff to the cricket season!

Petanque News



As the warmer weather approaches and we see fewer puffer jackets around, we are seeing more members partake in a few games of petanque at the Old Racecourse in Forest St, Woodend on a Monday and Thursday afternoons from 2pm 'til about 4pm; then as the cooler days set in, we head home to the fire and warmth! Knowing we had enjoyed the great outdoors!

We have had an eventful month with Bastille Day held in July, and, as per normal, it was a cold one out at Hanging Rock, but an enjoyable day had by all, who enjoyed the park, lunch and of course, the petanque!

The Golden Boule competition wound down on Saturday 3 August, with Smythesdale Petanque Club joining us at the Racecourse to battle out the last of this great event that had included six clubs from around the region.

It was a great way to showcase our game and for the members of all clubs to experience different pistes (the area on which we play our game), strategies, rules, tactics and the etiquette of the game.

As the summer season approaches, and all clubs prepare their calendar for their upcoming events, including tournaments throughout the state, we are looking forward to many more members enjoying the season.

We open on Monday 7 October at the Old Racecourse and on Thursday 10 October at Hanging Rock.

Any inquiries regarding joining us, please email Louise Potter at president@petanqueattherock.com.au

SUBMITTED BY LOUISE POTTER

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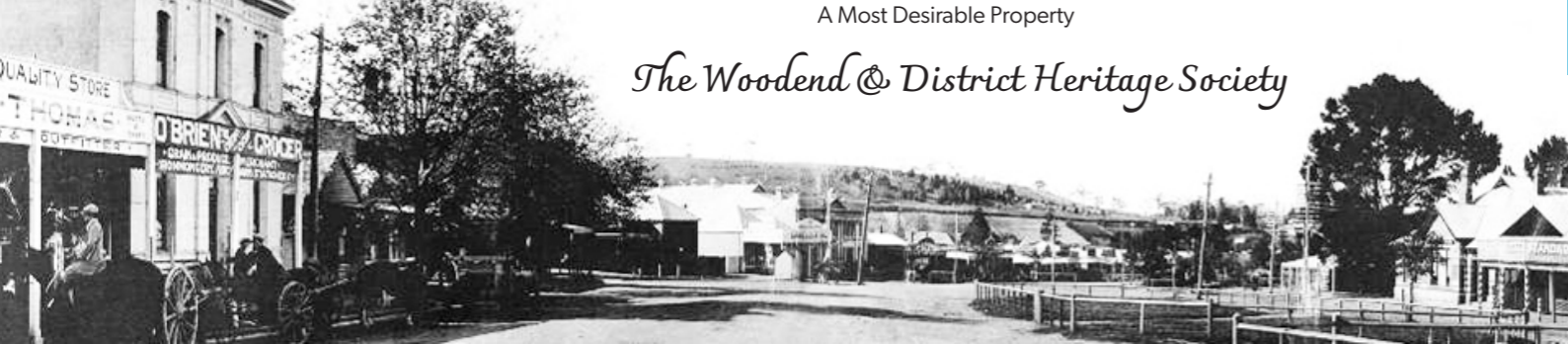


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A Most Desirable Property

'Wednesday morning's fire completely ruined everything and left nothing standing but the bare chimneys' wrote the Woodend Star on 11 November 1905. Mayfield, owned then by Benjamin Barnes, was a large timber Victorian house built in the 1880s, probably by William Godden. However, in 1888, a new owner, Mr J. J. Stammers, auctioned the property, as he was leaving the area. He had added to the house and started to run a summer holiday business. The auction included many household items, two 'useful harness horses, two well-bred cows', fowls, ducks and farm machinery.

The house comprised twelve rooms and, said the Star, 'was prettily situated in a lane connecting the main roads to Kyneton and Newham, and surrounded by a well-kept garden.' Its 'homelines' attracted attention.

A young man, W. Halliday, who was working at the railway yard, saw the huge blaze to the north of the town, and rang the firebell vigorously. The fire brigade members arrived quickly but were powerless to quench the flames, not even unrolling their reel and hose. Instead, they, and many townsfolk, tried to help the Barneses in whatever way they could. Only some clothing and blankets were saved.

In 1905, Edward Savage bought the property and had architect Mr W. T. Tonks of Kyneton and local builder Mr D. M. Simpson build a new residence. In August 1906, The Star announced that the Savage family had moved from town to their new house. The eight-roomed weatherboard construction in the Queen Anne design made Mayfield, according to the Star, 'one of the most desirable properties in the district'.

In 1941, Isabella Bain Smith, nee Brake, bought Mayfield. Isabella had studied osteopathy in Missouri, USA, graduated in 1904, and returned to work in Victoria as the first American-trained osteopath to do so. She married James Edward Smith in 1916, and upon her retirement, the family moved to Mayfield. Her daughter Margaret married Arthur Baker and they continued to live at Mayfield for many years.

SUBMITTED BY JANE HOLTH



Photo 472: Mayfield, built in 1906, had, said the Star, 'every convenience'. It was built on a brick foundation with a verandah in front and along both ends, turned jarrah posts and flooring and a hand-worked frieze.



Photo 1138: Barbara Smith, nee Brake, seated at left, with her children Aggie (standing at back), Martha in front, and Isabella at the right.

Correction: In the Woodend and District Heritage Society article in the August issue of The New Woodend Star, the third sentence of the third paragraph should read: "Elizabeth rented the house until 1913 when Robert Haslett and his wife Emma (nee Hunt) bought it and renamed it The Willows. Emma was a strong supporter of the local Presbyterian church and Robert was a councillor in the mid-1930s and delivered the mail for many years. Their daughter, Linda, also delivered the mail to Newham and Cobaw for several years. Later she trained as a nurse and became well known as Sister Linda Haslett."



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Welcoming our Japanese sister school

On 30 July, Sacred Heart College welcomed 19 students and two teachers from its Japanese sister school, Ibaraki Nishi High School; the first visit to Australia from the Sister School since 2018. The travellers left a balmy 35 degrees in Osaka to come to our chilly Kyneton winter, but there were warm smiles all round when host families met their exchange students for the first time.

Over the first week, the Japanese students joined various classes with their hosts, participated in an EAL (English as Additional Language) lesson and attended the Academic Awards Assembly. They also learned a lot about Australian school life by doing day to day things such as catching the bus and visiting the school canteen. The first week culminated with an excursion to the city with the Years 9–12 SHC Japanese classes, including visits to the Melbourne Museum and Queen Victoria Markets, with activities designed to get the students speaking to each other in both Japanese and English. It was wonderful to hear all the chatter and laughter.

The second week of the exchange began with a visit to Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School. The Japanese exchange students taught various Japanese crafts, games and

dances to the children in the Grade 1 and Grade 5/6 classes. Throughout the rest of the week, the Japanese students participated in a variety of classes at the College, including Animal Studies, Hospitality and Food Technology, where they were able to try their hand at Aussie culinary classics such as scones, Chiko Rolls and kangaroo wraps.



Later in the week, a farewell pizza lunch was held for goodbye speeches and to present the Japanese students with souvenirs. On the morning of departure, host families came to say their final goodbyes and tears were shed by the Japanese students, host students and their families. The connections between the exchange students and their hosts were evident, and we are sure these will be maintained over time. We are so grateful to

the generous SHC host families who opened their homes to the Japanese students, and to the broader SHC community who made them feel very welcome.

The signing of an official sister school agreement between Ibaraki Nishi High School and Sacred Heart College was an important part of this year's exchange. This document ensures a close and lasting relationship between the two schools, including ongoing reciprocal visits. We look forward to reuniting with our Japanese friends in Osaka in 2025.



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