

The New Woodend Star

Rotary  Club of Woodend

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**1st Woodend Scouts exploring some of Victoria's
most beautiful outdoor areas ... page 5**

Photo by Kate Killick.

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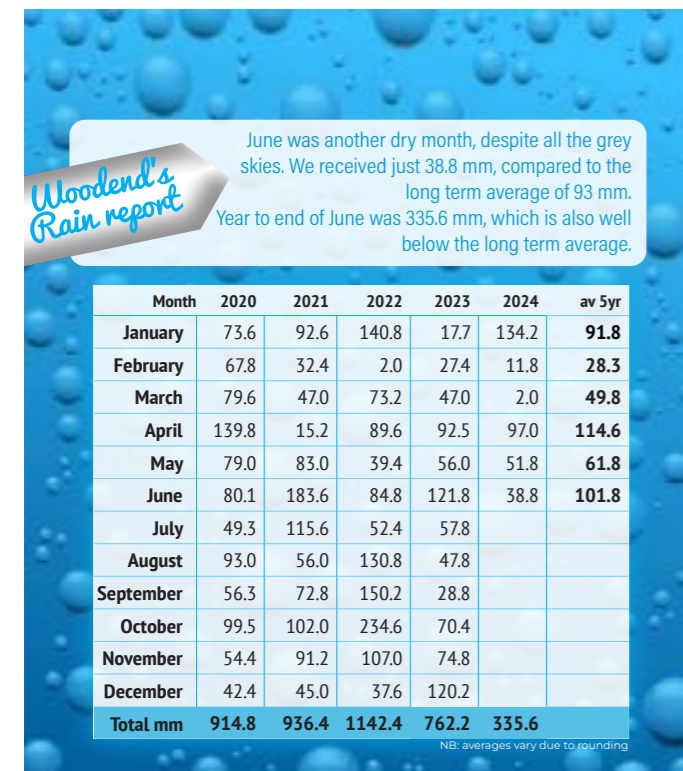
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Take the lead on the shire's dog off-leash and prohibited areas

Council is inviting feedback on its designated dog off-leash and prohibited areas across the shire, to help improve amenity for pet owners and non-pet owners alike.

In 2020, Council became a dog on-leash shire, introducing 52 designated dog off-leash areas. At the same time, Council introduced prohibited areas to protect the shire's sensitive native environment from the impact of dogs and cats.

This consultation – a key action in Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan (2021-2025) – seeks feedback on how these areas are working and welcomes suggestions for improvement of existing areas, as well as suggestions for new areas to be considered.

Director Planning and Environment Rebecca Stockfeld said the consultation provided the opportunity for feedback from all users of these areas, both pet owners and non-pet owners alike.

"Council strives to support a pet-friendly shire and we have a lot of passionate pet owners, with nearly 14,000 dogs and cats registered within our shire," she said.

"There are a number of important considerations when it comes to dog on and off-leash areas and prohibited areas: we need to balance the needs of dogs, dog owners and the wider community, we look at available space and we also consider the impact of pets on the natural environment.

"So with this review, we encourage people to tell us what they think of these areas, so that we can make informed decisions moving forward to best support our residents and our furry friends."

Under current rules, dogs in public places must be on a leash, unless in designated off-leash areas in accordance with any specified restrictions for that area. Even in off-leash areas, dogs must also be under effective control at all times and should not be left unattended.

Feedback gathered will assist Council in preparing potential activities for inclusion in the next Domestic Animal Management Plan (2025 – 2029), including any adjustments to the dog off-leash and prohibited areas (also known as Council's Dog and Cat Order 2019).

Find out more and share your thoughts until 11 August 2024 by visiting the dedicated consultation page <https://yoursay.mrsc.vic.gov.au/dog-areas> where tailored town-based pages and maps have been set up for residents particularly interested in off-leash and prohibited areas in their own backyard.

CATHERINE CHAPMAN, MRSC COMMUNICATION UNIT

Youthrive Victoria scholarships now open

Applications for Youthrive Victoria's current round of scholarships is now open to rural and regional Victorian students planning to undertake further study in 2025.

Each year, the local not-for-profit provides a number of scholarships to Year 12 students who plan to undertake university studies or further develop skills through vocational training.

In 2023, eleven Youthrive Victoria Rural University scholarships and twenty-one Rural Chances scholarships were awarded to young rural and regional Victorians looking to undertake further study in 2024.

Thanks to funding generously provided by philanthropic donors, ten university scholarships (\$10,000 per year for three years) and twenty vocational scholarships (up to \$5000) have been made available to young rural Victorians wanting to up-skill or pursue tertiary study in 2025.

Youthrive Victoria CEO Andrew McGuckian said, "We believe that our scholarships and programs are helping to create positive outcomes for students from rural and regional Victoria and hope to see a large number of applications for both our university and TAFE scholarships this year."

The scholarships provide financial support to assist with living expenses and travel costs, specifically addressing the needs of students from regional areas. Youthrive Victoria also offers 'Wrap

Around Care', which includes mentoring, capacity building and development opportunities.

The impact and importance of scholarships is widely acknowledged and can often lead to very different outcomes for students who may not be able to consider further studies due to costs and/or regional distances.


Molly, a 2024 Youthrive Victoria university scholar, touches on how the scholarship has impacted her. "The scholarship has empowered me to not only focus on my studies but also actively engage in initiatives aimed at improving rural areas.

"It relieved the financial stress of the many expenses associated with university, and the money has allowed me to focus on my studies and engage in community service activities, such as taking over the social media and coaching at the Newlyn FNC to enhance my own local community." University scholarship applications are now open, and close on 23 August 2024. Rural Chances vocational scholarships are now open, and close 14 November.

More information about Youthrive Victoria's scholarships and how to apply is available at: <https://www.youthrivevictoria.org.au/scholarships/>

Youthrive Victoria's scholarships are funded by private donors, philanthropic trusts, and sponsors. If you would like to learn more, please contact CEO Andrew McGuckian at the Old Post Office 85a Albert Street Creswick, or by calling 03 6281 8303.

You can also find information on www.youthrivevictoria.org.au/donate.

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A small act like recycling correctly makes a big impact.

Find out more: mrsc.vic.gov.au/recycling-bin



Woodend Scouts get out and about

1st Woodend Scouts have been out and about exploring some of Victoria's most beautiful outdoor areas, with trips to Tallarook State Forest and Baw Baw National Park in recent months.

In May, 1,200 scouts from all over Victoria came together for the annual 'Scout Hike' weekend in Tallarook. 1st Woodend had three patrols participating in this challenging, yet rewarding event, where scouts learnt about lightweight camping and hiking with full packs. Scouts also developed their knowledge of map and compass reading, estimation, first aid and cooking over an open fire. The scouts had an amazing weekend with great weather, plotting their own route and hiking over 25kms between activity and sleep points, meeting new friends along the way and improving their camping and teamwork skills.

During the July school holidays, eight scouts headed to Mount Baw Baw to join a contingent of 52 scouts from across the state for four days of snow fun. During 'Scout Ski', youth aged 11 – 14 enjoyed a wide range of alpine sports including a 5km hike in snowshoes to reach Mount Baw Baw's summit cairn, tobogganing, cross country skiing and quinzee building (the construction of a simple shelter made by hollowing out a big pile of snow). For many scouts, it was the first time they'd tried alpine sports and by far the most popular activity was downhill skiing. The scouts made countless trips up and down Tank Hill and Hut Run to learn how to balance, turn (using a basic snowplough) and get on and off a button lift. Such a brilliant experience for these young scouts!

If you're interested in learning more about Scouting with 1st Woodend Scout Group, contact our Group Leader on gl.1stwoodend@scoutsvictoria.com.au.

SUBMITTED BY HELEN EDWARDS




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The Board Supporting President Adriaan Adolph for the 2024-25 Rotary Year.

Photo: L-R Ed Brown - Environment committee, Mick Deviny - International, Terry Longton - Treasurer, Kathryn Footner - Youth, Anne Brown - Community, Tony Watters - Membership, Josephine Falzarano - Foundation, Brendan Watters - Secretary, Adriann Adolph - President, Rosemary Guyatt - Club Services and President Elect, Deidre Willmott, Vice President



Photo: L-R DGE Peter Shephard, Liz Pethica, Vicki Green and Samantha Dunne

New Members

Introducing three outstanding women to our Membership for the Rotary Club of Woodend. Sam Dunne, Liz Pethica and Vicki Green. They are all experienced Rotarians and will bring their knowledge and energy to our Club.



Photo: L-R Kath Ronan from operation Cleft with Rosemary Guyatt and Deidre Willmott presenting the cheque on behalf of the Club.



Photo: Immediate Past President Deidre Willmott accepting the award on behalf of the Club.

District recognition

Recognised for our solar panel and battery project in Vanuatu.

Woodend Rotary's project to install a solar system on the new school building at Mwast School in Vanuatu has received an environmental award from Rotary District 9800.

2023-24 President Deidre Willmott said it was a huge honour for the Club to be recognised in this way.

"This is an important project that not only promotes an environmentally positive solution but brings electricity to a school that previously had none. This is promoting education for children from across the region surrounding the remote village.

"Our work with the Mwast School and the Rotary Club of Santo demonstrates the ongoing power of Rotary to do good in the world," she said.



Photo: L-R Grant Hocking, Charles Bender

Goodbye to Ronja, our exchange Student left to go back home to Germany. We sent her off with a Akubra hat to remember her time in Australia.



Goodbye to Charles Bender, who is transferring to a Rotary Club closer to his home. Charles, Joined Rotary Club of Woodend in 2007.

Rotary Club of Woodend Presidential Changover.

On 7 July 2024, Woodend Rotarians came together with family, friends and community leaders for a very happy celebration to thank outgoing president Deidre Willmott and welcome new president Adriaan Adolph.

Special guests included Macedon Ranges Shire Council Deputy Mayor Cr Janet Pearce and Cr Mark Ridgeway, Peter Shephard District 9800 District Governor Elect, Braemar College Principal Russell Deer, Woodend 1st Scouts Group Leader Chris Eagle, Jacob Stewart, Rover and Macedon Ranges District Development Officer, Gary McSwain of the Woodend Lifestyle Carers Group and Matthew Quinn of the Macedon Ranges Basketball Association together with Rotarians and Rotary District 9800 leaders from around the state.

Deidre thanked Woodend Rotary members for their support throughout a busy year which included: the visit to Mwast School in Vanuatu for the formal opening of the new school building and associated projects, including solar panels and a battery; commencing a new international project "Plastic Free Bali"; establishing the Hearing Global Rotary Action Group in Woodend; hosting our inaugural Grand Final Pie Night and a successful Australia Day Celebration; sponsoring the Macedon Ranges Basketball Association; joining with Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group and Macedon Ranges Rotary Clubs to highlight homelessness in our community; and our 10th annual Blanket Drive, generously supported by the Woodend community to support The Living Room, providing homeless services in Melbourne.



Photo: L-R Anne Brown, recipient of the Darryl Crozier Award, Deidre Willmott



Photo: L-R Peter Shephard, Rotary District 9800 District Governor Elect. Pen Longton recipient of the Paul Harris Fellow recognition, Deidre Willmott



Photo: L-R Steve Simpson recipient of the Paul Harris Fellow recognition, Deidre Willmott



Photo: L-R Peter Shephard, Rotary District 9800 District Governor Elect., Elaine Saunders, recipient of the Paul Harris Fellow recognition, as a major Donor to the Rotary Foundation, Deidre Willmott

Rotary volunteers maintained the fence and gardens around the railway bridge and the Rotary Centenary Rocks on Five Mile Creek, and we sponsored young locals to Rotary leadership programs, as well as hosted an exchange student from Germany. We continued to support a wide range of community groups, including the Woodend 1st Scouts Group and the Woodend Lifestyle Carers, Macedon Ranges Rural Australians for Refugees, Polio Network Victoria and Landcare. We raised funds to support The Rotary Foundation and Rotary's campaign to End Polio and alleviate suffering.

Deidre presented the Darryl Crozier "Service Above Self" Award to Anne Brown for her work on Rotary's community projects and events. Paul Harris Fellows were awarded to Pen Longton and to Steve Simpson in recognition of their commitment to Rotary's ideals and mission, and to Elaine Saunders as a major Donor to Rotary Foundation.

Deidre thanked her Board and paid tribute to retiring members Charles Bender, Steve Simpson and Mike Hamer.

Incoming President Adriaan congratulated Deidre on a very successful year. He introduced his new board consisting of Rosemary Guyatt, Brendan Watters, Anne Brown Josephine Falzarano, Terry Longton, Kathryn Footner, Mick Deviny, Tony Waters and Deidre Willmott.

Highlights of the Changover were the presentation of a cheque for \$35,000 from The New Woodend Star and handing over of a cheque for \$5,300 to Rotary Club of Box Hill Central's Operation Cleft to provide life-changing operations in Bangladesh.



Photo: L-R David Fairhurst congratulation for 30 years of Service to Rotary by Past International President Gordon McNally and presented by Grant Hocking on his behalf.



Sustainable, Local, Zero-Waste



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

1st Saturday of every month



9am-1pm
mrsg.org.au

Soft plastic recycling pilot

Did you know you can now collect your soft plastic in a special orange collection bag and pop it in your recycling bin?

Recently, Council launched a shire-wide soft plastic recycling program, allowing residents to recycle their soft plastic conveniently in their kerbside recycling bin.

All soft plastic items that carry the Australasian Recycling Label (ARL) – Return to Store symbol or REDcycle logo are accepted in this trial.

If you'd like to participate, visit your nearest customer service centre to collect an information pack, which includes a letter and 20 orange collection bags.

If you don't want to use the special collection bags or aren't on Council's kerbside service, you can take your soft plastic to a Resource Recovery Facility for recycling.

The soft plastic collected in the pilot program will be sent to specialist processors in Victoria to make new plastic products locally, which supports our objectives to reduce waste to landfill, emissions and litter.

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

Spring mulch promotions

With Spring just around the corner, get started on your garden now with free self-loaded mulch available at Council's three Resource Recovery Facilities at Kyneton, Romsey and Woodend.

Or if you need a bit more, Council staff can load mulch for you at a reduced cost of \$15 per cubic metre (previously \$30).

Thinking about doing a backyard clean up? Keep an eye out for green waste trailer vouchers included in the next edition of ShireLife.



Environmental health updates from Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Large tree and hollow identification at Bushland Reserves

Do you want to explore the large habitat trees in our bushland reserves?

During winter we are running a series of large tree surveys where you can join us for a fun and educational walk that will help us gather information to create a database of large habitat trees throughout the shire.

Ashbourne on 8 August from 10am-12pm.

To register for events, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/environment-events. While you're there, sign up to Council's monthly environment eNews for regular environmental news across the shire.

Healthy Landscapes program

Commencing in August 2024, Council will again be running its successful Holistic Grazing Management short course, which is part of the Healthy Landscapes program.

The course is designed to assist land managers in improving their skills and knowledge about grazing livestock, with the aim of increasing soil carbon and perennial pasture species, including native species.

Landcare Week: 5-11 August

Happy Landcare Week! Council wishes to say thank you to our community for their support.

This annual celebration acknowledges Australians who are actively restoring, enhancing, and protecting the natural environment in their communities.

This year's campaign theme is Landcare Is For Everyone (L.I.F.E), encouraging people to get involved in their local Landcare or other community environmental groups.

Visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/environment-groups to find your local environment group.



Electrical power outages: What you need to know

Blackouts or interruptions to power supply can affect any home from time to time. Power outages can affect all homes connected to the grid. Your supply of gas or electricity may have occasional interruptions.

Blackouts interfere with the normal operation of household functions and conveniences including:

- Water pumps (drinking water, toilets)
- Electric cooking
- Ducted heating
- Communications (phone, modem)
- Food storage (fridge and freezer)
- Instantaneous hot water
- Electric vehicle charging
- Security alarms

What about gas appliances?

Some people are hesitant to upgrade to an all-electric home because of concerns about using a single energy source to power their home and not having access to gas for cooking and heating water should the electricity supply be interrupted.

Not all gas appliances work during electricity outages. For example, modern gas heating systems have electric fans, and most modern gas hot water systems require electricity for their ignition.

What are your backup power options?

Solar batteries. The best way to have access to backup power available in an emergency is through installing a solar battery with backup functionality along with solar panels (PV).

It's important to be aware that not all solar systems have backup functionality for outages. If your system (with or without a battery) is connected to the grid, it may be designed to switch off during a power outage. This is to protect homes from power surges and protect the people who may be working on nearby electricity lines.

However, some solar PV and battery systems are designed so that they can be isolated from the grid and continue to provide stored energy to your home. This is known as 'islanding'. Typically, these systems are set up to provide power for certain things such as lights and your fridge.

If you would like to be able to run essential appliances on solar power during outages, talk to your installer about the best system setup to meet your needs.

Other options

Fossil fuel-powered generators (petrol, gas, diesel or LPG) are available. These can vary in size and upfront cost.

Tips for power outages

Be prepared to deal with an outage:

A barbecue or camp stove can be used to cook or boil water if your gas or electricity supply is interrupted.

Have a fully charged power bank available to recharge your mobile phone.

Keep torches or candles and matches on hand for light.

Unplug appliances when the power goes out in case there's a power spike when supply is restored, and check that anything that heats up (like your oven) is turned off to avoid fire risks.

Make your home more resistant to power outage:

Draughtproofing and insulating your home can improve its resistance to heat gain or loss and reduce its dependence on heating and cooling.

"Keep the lights on" with solar and a battery:

Home solar and battery can – if set up correctly - provide continuity of supply and energy security to enable many "normal" functions to continue.

Electrify 3442 can help you get solar and a home battery, including access to installers and information on government discounts and rebates. Find out more from our website: mrsg.org.au/electrify3442, or talk to our volunteers at the Woodend Community Farmers Market (first Saturday of each month).

SUBMITTED BY SUE BARKER, ELECTRIFY 3442

Some text and information provided by Solar Victoria (solar.vic.gov.au/power-outages)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The Woodend Landcare Inc. Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2024 will be held at:

10:00am, Sunday 11 August 2024

Woodend Neighbourhood House

47 Forest St, Woodend VIC 3442

All welcome!

AGM 10AM to 10.45AM

- confirm the minutes of the previous AGM (10th September 2023)
- receive and consider the Annual Report of the Committee
- receive and consider the Financial Report for the financial year to 30 June 2024
- elect Office Bearers and General Committee members
- confirm or vary the membership fee

MORNING TEA BREAK 10.45AM to 11.15AM

11.15AM - GUEST SPEAKER Molly Fisher (Graduate Botanist, TSC)

"An Introduction to the Threatened Species Conservancy" – Saving Woodend's Black Gum, endangered butterflies and more.

"The Threatened Species Conservancy is an independent not-for-profit organisation with a mission to work with communities, scientists and government to save Australia's plants and animals from extinction."



LANDCARE WORKING BEE

After our usual break from the monthly Sunday working bees over Winter, we will be holding a working bee on Sunday 25th August on the north side of Five Mile Creek near the Thomas Court access path. Starting time is 9am. As usual, morning tea will be provided. Please come along and lend a hand.

SUBMITTED BY PETER YATES

Celebrating a Decade of Bluegum: Helping Families Power Their Future

Bluegum is thrilled to mark 10 incredible years of transforming homes in the Macedon Ranges. Locals Chantel and Josh Gilbert founded Bluegum with a vision to create an all-electric future for the community, and they've certainly made a mark.

Over the past decade, Bluegum has helped many local families to power their homes from the sun, producing over **8.3 MILLION kilowatt hours of Renewable Energy**.

Completing over 5,000 jobs, from Electrical Upgrades to Hot Water, EV chargers, and Solar and battery installations, Bluegum proudly employs 20 local families to work close to home and make a difference.

Their highly skilled team ensures that families receive quality solutions, regain control over their home energy, and enjoy increased comfort and convenience at home.

"The best thing we've ever done" says Lisa from Newham, talking about their solar and battery installation. Stories like these highlight the real impact of Bluegum's work.

To celebrate their 10th anniversary, Bluegum is offering exclusive deals throughout August. Don't miss out on these special promotions and discounts!

Join their **FREE Webinar, "The Real Secret to a \$0 Electricity Bill, Using Solar"**, and discover the 5 common solar mistakes and what it takes to get the elusive \$0 Electricity Bill. To register, head to www.realsecret.com.au

Bluegum is on a mission to help more families take control of how they use and produce energy for their homes with quality long-term solutions. Ultimately making it easier for families to transition to an all-electric future.

Looking forward to the next decade, Bluegum aims to continue innovating and expanding its sustainable home solutions while staying committed to its local roots.

Thank you to everyone for your support over the years! Bluegum has a 10-year special on for the month of August. So if you've been thinking about going all-electric, now is the time; simply scan the QR code below.

Here's to many more years of powering homes from the sun.

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Steve Petersen - Woodend

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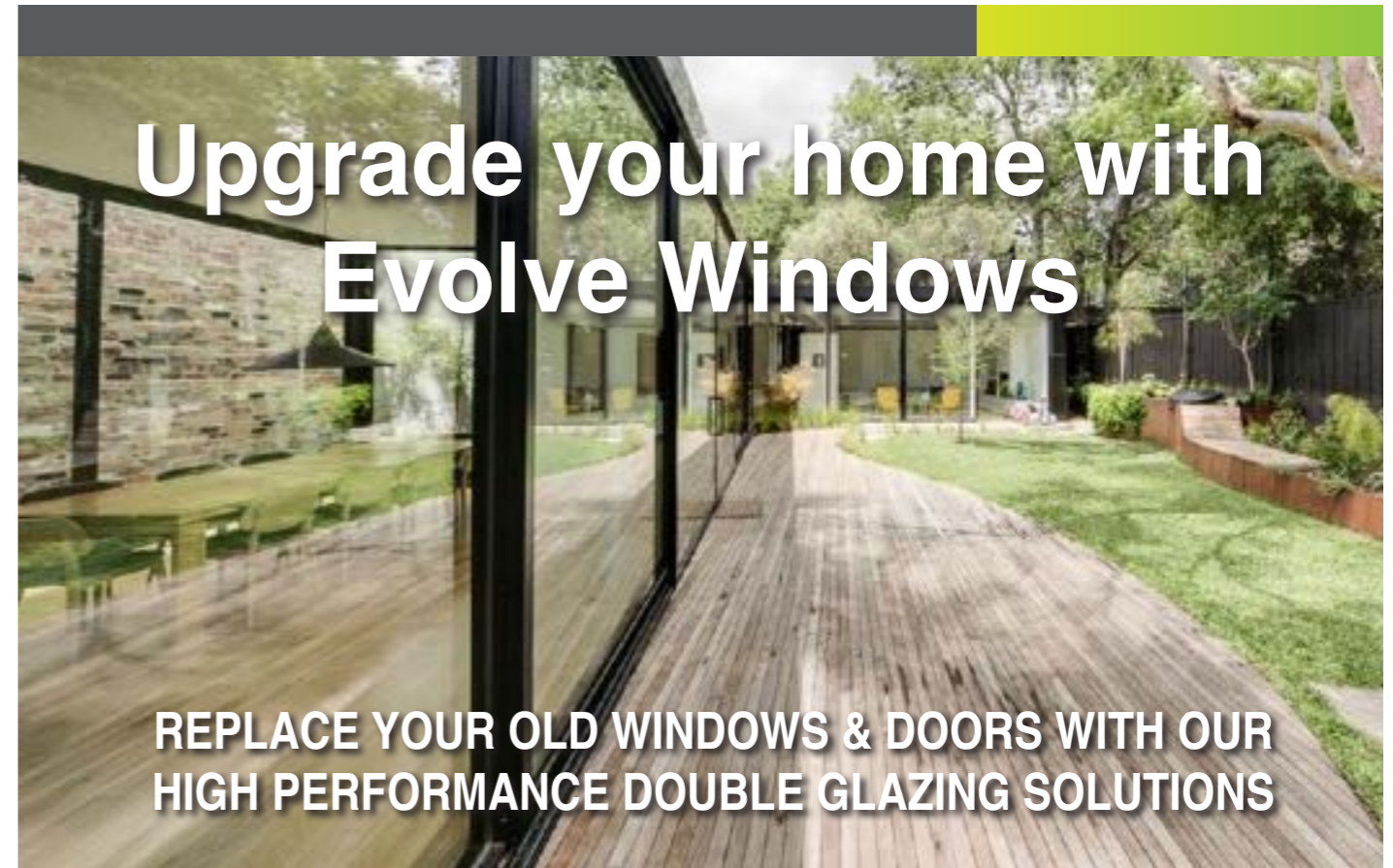


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News from the Woodend Neighbourhood House



Shed'. Stop by 'the Hub' (formally the Woodend Toy Library), on the corner of Forest Street and Margery Crescent (near the Skate Park) on Thursday 1, 15 or 29 August between 4pm and 5.30pm. Riders of all ages are invited to bring along their bike to chat with our volunteer bike-shedders who will share skills whilst getting bikes in tip-top condition (donation welcome).

Macrame Workshop

We're super excited to offer a 2-hour macrame workshop this August – the perfect winter activity! Join us as we learn how to make our own macrame wall hanging. This project is an ideal starting point for beginners or those looking to enhance their macrame skills alongside a supportive community.

All necessary materials, including biodegradable macrame string provided. This is a fun indoor activity, suitable for adults. Sunday 4 August between 10am and 12noon.

Community Lunch

Our monthly two-course community luncheon is back on Tuesday 13 August at the Woodend RSL. Bookings are essential to help with catering (donation welcome).

Woodend Community Bike Shed

Our dedicated band of volunteers will be back for the 'Woodend Community Bike

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 27 August at 10am. No bookings required – just turn up (donation welcome).

Rail Travel, Safety and Awareness Information Session

Metro Trains' Community Education team are hosting an information session on rail travel, safety and awareness for seniors. Topics will include myki card use, safety tips, concessions, timetabling and accessing travel information. The session is designed for those looking to increase their confidence around train usage. The session is free to attend, though registration is required. Thursday 29 August between 11am and 12noon (free).

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.

A Connected Woodend

The Woodend Neighbourhood House continues to support the work of 'A Connected Woodend'. This group's current focus is a 72-hour Working Group, which aims to improve how Woodend would respond in the first 72 hours after an emergency. Expect to see more information over the coming months. In the meantime, if you are keen to find out more or be part of 'A Connected Woodend', get in touch via reception@woodendnh.org.au.

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

Watch out Woodend, Sconezilla is coming!

The Country Women's Association (CWA) is synonymous with scones. They could be made from ingredients that regional women would have on hand in the kitchen and the fridge when unexpected guests popped by.

The CWA Woodend Eves' scones have become so well known that Sconezilla has caught wind of them and is planning to invade Woodend on Saturday 7 September to steal them away. The only way for us to stop this is for us to sell them all before that happens.

\$12 for a half dozen beautiful scones (gluten free also available) and why not add some homemade fruit jam or lemon butter for \$4 a jar?

Preorder on <https://www.trybooking.com/CKMKV> and then collect your scones on Saturday 7 September 2023 between 10am and 1pm outside Woodend Newsagency, 101 High Street, Woodend.

Help us defeat Sconezilla and raise money for our local community.



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| 12 | VOLUME 28 | ISSUE 7 | AUGUST 2024

THE NEW WOODEND STAR | 13 |

Skin Cancer Clinic opens in Woodend

A state-of-the-art skin cancer clinic has opened in Woodend, offering appointments to patients without the need for a referral from a GP.

Doctors, Ashvin Arul, Loshna Devamany and Bronwyn Edmunds live locally and recognised a critical need for a purpose-built skin cancer clinic in the Macedon Ranges.

"We frequently detect skin cancers," says Ashvin, stressing the prevalence with which Australians encounter such conditions. "Seventy per cent of Australians will face skin cancer at some point, making early detection crucial."

Equipped with state-of-the-art technology, including full body photo mapping and dermoscopy enhanced by AI-driven camera systems, the clinic aims to revolutionise early detection.

"Our goal is zero deaths from melanoma," Ashvin says.

Loshna advises regular annual skin checks, even for those unconcerned about specific spots. "It's prudent to be aware," she explains, "as early intervention can be lifesaving."

Bronwyn says that the duration something

has been present doesn't guarantee its safety. "I've diagnosed melanomas in cases where people have said, 'That's been there for ten years', which can be concerning."

She stresses the importance of early detection, adding, "Our aim is to identify these issues before they become apparent to the naked eye." Open Monday through Friday from 8.30am to 5pm, the clinic welcomes appointments.

For more information or to schedule a visit, contact SkinGP Woodend on 03 9969 5000.

This new facility promises to be a vital resource in the fight against skin cancer, combining expert medical knowledge with cutting-edge diagnostic tools for the benefit of the local community.



Photo: Doctors, Ashvin Arul, Bronwyn Edmunds and Loshna Devamany at Skin GP Woodend.

New skin cancer clinic in Woodend

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Music fun for Woodend's youngest musos!

Elly from Elly's Music Playtime has returned for a new term of weekly music-focused play sessions for toddlers and preschoolers. Originally launched in 2021 by musician and teacher Elly McKinnon, this popular program offers engaging, age-appropriate musical experiences designed to foster social interaction and connection among children and their caregivers.

Each term, Elly supports a vibrant community of mini-musicians aged twelve months to five years and their caregivers to learn, play and explore music at an age-appropriate level. Elly explains, "Creating these spaces where music is the theme but exploring is the focus allows young children of all abilities to experience different musical concepts, genres and ideas, all while doing what children do best - playing!"

Parent Lisa Phillips shares her excitement. "I take my two-year-old son to Elly's Music Playtime, and we both absolutely love it! Elly is so warm and welcoming, and the environment is super-friendly. It's been amazing for my son's confidence and a lot of fun for me too!"

Elly brings all the instruments, singing, dancing, and fun to Woodend every Tuesday at 9.45am at Norma Richardson Hall (Buckland Street, Woodend). Trial and term packages are available, however spaces are limited, so bookings are essential.

For more information, you can find Elly on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ellysmusicplaytime or via the web at www.ellysmusicplaytime.com

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Saturday Storytimes!

Goldfields Libraries now has four regular Saturday Storytimes each month across the Macedon Ranges:

- First Saturday of the Month: Woodend and Kyneton, 10.30am–11am
- Second Saturday of the Month: Kyneton, 10.30am–11am
- Third Saturday of the Month: Romsey, 10am–10.30am

These Saturday sessions are ideal for busy parents and grandparents who would otherwise miss out on joining in the Storytime fun on weekdays. Newcomers are always welcome at these free, inclusive sessions.

Curious Kids in the Library

Friday 16 August, 10am

Join Angela from the Discovery Centre for this special science-based storytime for ages 3–5 years. For bookings, head to our website!

Getting Started with Artificial Intelligence

Monday 26 August, 2pm

Curious about what AI (Artificial Intelligence) actually is? Then come along to this easy-going workshop for beginners. Enjoy our show-and-tell with some popular AI apps and learn about the capabilities and limitations of the underlying technology.

No special skills or equipment needed. Bookings required.

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

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SUBMITTED BY EMMA KEENAN

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We are pleased to announce two new successful grant applications, for Woodend Neighbourhood House Community Lunches and Woodend Neighbourhood House Community Bike Shed.

Community Lunches

Facilitating 40–60 people hosted by Woodend RSL, lunches are held on the second Tuesday of each month. Extra funding allows more substantial healthy lunches to be provided to those in need. Attend by donation and be sure to RSVP Woodend Neighbourhood House beforehand.

Woodend Community Bike Shed

The Community Bike Shed aims to not only perform bike repair but teach the skills involved in basic repairs and provide a valuable community resource for ongoing basic servicing and punctures. We have funded the purchase of new tools to do this! By donation, get along every second Thursday 4–5.30pm.

Trentham Words in Winter

Check out the Trentham Words in Winter program at www.wordsinwintertrentham.org for literary events and competitions running throughout August. Bush poetry, Clever Towns crossword competition, trivia night, writers' workshops, Open Mike, Scrabble and more.

Trentham's Biggest Morning Tea Result

We recently held Australia's Biggest Morning Tea at Trentham Neighbourhood Centre, attended by some wonderful Woodend residents, thank you! A massive variety of raffle prizes, time and space were very generously donated by over 20 local Trentham traders.

We managed to smash last year's fundraising total and almost double our 2024 target, raising \$1,775 for the Cancer Council. Massive thanks to our team for coordinating, all who donated and all who attended the event, whose entry fee and raffle tickets raised extra funds for this important cause.

Community Banking

By simply having an account with us, you are contributing to programs, projects and events like the above. If it's more than an account you need, we offer a full range of banking products. The Roy Morgan survey recently found that Bendigo Bank has Australia's most satisfied home loan customers.

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trenthammailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au

37B High St, Trentham

SUBMITTED BY ANJEE ANDERSON

Fundraising for Friendship

The annual Kyneton Antique Fair is the premier fundraising event for Macedon Ranges Friends of Turiscai. The funds raised will support various projects established through our partnership with the community of Turiscai, located in the remote mountains of Timor-Leste.

Join us to celebrate the first weekend of spring at the 26th Kyneton Antique Fair:

- Saturday, August 31, 9am–4pm
- Sunday, September 1, 10am–4pm

The Quambi Stadium at Sacred Heart College in Kyneton will be transformed into an Antiques & Collectables Emporium, featuring a diverse array of items including silver, fine china, jewellery, linen, glassware, lithographs, and furniture. Enjoy a selection of tasty refreshments, including options with a Timorese flavor.

Macedon Ranges Friends of East Timor celebrated its 15th anniversary in 2023. The group was launched on October 16, 2008, at St Ambrose Hall in Woodend, with John Connor serving as the first President for four years. In recognition of our special friendship with the Turiscai community, we adopted the new name, Macedon Ranges Friends of Turiscai (MRFoT), in 2023. The Macedon Ranges Shire Council partners with us to support our activities and raise awareness in the region.

Our focus on working with and supporting the youth in the community is crucial for the future of Timor-Leste. Since 2017, we have delivered Days for Girls menstrual health kits and education program to Year 10 girls, enabling them to attend school consistently during the critical final three years of high school. MRFoT also funds after school English classes with the SOLS team for a group of students at the recently established public senior secondary school. Additionally, Rotary Donations in Kind have provided and shipped essential items, including walking frames for young people with disabilities in Turiscai.

If you would like to learn more about supporting our friendship, assisting with our projects, or booking one of the few remaining sites at the Kyneton Antique Fair, please contact Fran Wigley, President of MRFoT on 0411 208 448.

SUBMITTED BY FRAN WIGLEY, PRESIDENT MRFoT





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Woodend welcomes five new firefighters

Woodend is very fortunate to have five new volunteer firefighters join the team at the CFA. Brett Gray, Phil Gidley, Ben Lawford, Lucy Levecke and Juliana Kumori have just completed their General Fire Fighter (GFF) training and are now able to turn out with the Brigade.

They continue the tradition of excellent training at the Woodend Fire Brigade, and passed their final assessments with flying colours. Woodend also has a number of other new recruits currently in training and it is planned that they will complete their GFF training to be ready for the next fire season.

Community helps fund new fire fighting tanker.

We have recently taken delivery of our new Tanker 2, a 4WD Medium Tanker that was partly funded through the Victorian Government VESEP (Volunteer Emergency Service Equipment Program).

"We applied for the grant in 2020, when I was Captain of the Brigade" said former Captain Mike Dornau. "The CFA provides the Woodend Fire Brigade with vehicles and equipment to suit its brigade risk profile, however they do not fund all of our vehicles. In fact, of the Brigade's five vehicles only two are fully-funded by the CFA. The rest are either fully-or partly-funded by the Brigade".

"The new Tanker is a state-of-the-art fire fighting vehicle that replaces our near 25 year old Tanker 2", added Captain Steve Ritchie. "This would not be possible without the grant from the Government, but it would certainly not be possible without the support of our community. In particular, I would like to highlight the generous support of local business Barker Trailers, which contributed a significant amount towards the funding of our new Tanker." "The new vehicle will provide the Woodend community with a more modern and capable vehicle. It is much better equipped for the special and

unique geographic make-up of the Woodend area, which includes mountains and forests, as well as high risk grass and bushfire areas".

First Lieutenant and Equipment Officer Malcolm Judd commented that "the new tanker is a 4WD vehicle while the old T2 was 2WD, which will make it better suited to handling the rough terrain and steep tracks in our area. It is also a Crew Cab design unlike the old tanker where crew were exposed on the back of the truck".

The Woodend CFA has taken delivery of the new Tanker and is currently undergoing final fit out and training with members before it goes into service. The old Tanker will be offered for sale by tender.

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

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, FORMER CAPTAIN WOODEND CFA

Photo: Woodend's five new firefighters (left to right) Brett Gray, Phil Gidley, Ben Lawford, Lucy Levecke and Juliana Kumori with Woodend 3rd Lieutenant Rob Marsh



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Woodend Senior Citizens

Woodend Seniors enjoyed a visit to the Cyril Callister Museum, which commemorates the man who invented Vegemite in 1923, at Beaufort for their June outing. The group found it to be a great exhibition that had everything with a Vegemite logo: hand knitted jumpers, cookbooks, gift cards, tea towels and much more.

On Thursday 11 July, the group travelled to Craigieburn to the Highland Hotel, which was very modern, for a buffet lunch. We were presented with "Food Glorious Food" all set out in a beautiful bain-marie, help yourself to as many serves that you wanted and then lovely sweets.

Back on the bus, the fundraiser raffle was drawn:

- 1st Prize – Visa Card, won by Virginia Molony
- 2nd Prize – Paysanne Cafe voucher, won by Neil Organ
- 3rd Prize – Woodend Pharmacy voucher, won by Philp Boldiston.

A big thank you to those who supported our raffle.

Our next outing is to Overnewton Castle. Busing Thursday 8 August 2024. Please book and pay by Friday 2 August 2024.

Woodend Seniors meet on Tuesdays between 1pm and 3pm for Button Bingo and a cuppa, then on Fridays 1pm to 4pm for a game of cards.

New members are welcome; if you are interested in joining, please call Margaret on 0458 272 767.

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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

— AUGUST —

- 3 Woodend Farmers' Market
- 3 Effortless Meditation, MRSPAG
- 3 Botanic Walk, Wombat Hill Botanic Garden
- 3 Saturday Story Time, Library
- 5 Inspired by Music exhibition, The Gallery Mt Macedon
- 5-11 Landcare Week
- 8 Large tree and hollow identification event, MRSC
- 10 St Marys Guild Street Stall
- 11 Landcare AGM, Woodend Neighbourhood House
- 13 Community Lunch, RSL
- 16 Opening night *Family Values*, The Mount Players
- 16 Curious Kids in the Library
- 21 Knit, Chat and Cuppa, Norma Richardson Hall
- 25 Landcare Working Bee
- 25 Woodend Hawks Junior Football and Netball AGM
- 26 Getting Started with Artificial Intelligence, Library
- 30 A Day in Time, KTH
- 31 Kyneton Antique Fair

— SEPTEMBER —

- 1 Father's Day
- 1 Kyneton Antique Fair
- 13 MRFS: *The Duchess* - Norma Richardson Hall
- 14 Hello Red Planet, KTH
- 7 Woodend Farmers' Market
- 13 Woodend Masters AGM
- 14 St Marys Guild Street Stall
- 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, Cricket Club
- 27 Grand Final Holiday

— OCTOBER —

- 5 Woodend Farmers' Market
- 14 St Marys Guild Street Stall
- 16 Knit, Chat and Cuppa, Norma Richardson Hall
- 31 Rotary Community Halloween Party, Children's Park

— NOVEMBER —

- 2 Woodend Farmers' Market
- 20 Knit, Chat and Cuppa, Norma Richardson Hall

Read us online: www.newwoodendstar.com/view



Kyneton Town Hall events

A Day at a Time in Rhyme

Friday 30 August, 7:30pm

An immersive new piece of hybrid theatre written and performed by industry veteran Jane Clifton, comprising spoken word, soundscape, image and music, with source material drawn from her 2019 published poetry diary of the same name.

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).

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

Inspired by Music

During August, The Gallery Mt Macedon will feature an exhibition titled "Inspired by Music". Jess Buzbee, a painter, and Colleen Weste, a textile artist, have combined to illustrate how music is central to each woman in defining their richly creative lives.

Jess' story:

My life as a visual artist began when I could no longer play my beloved instrument, turning my profound grief into a new form of expression. My art is deeply intuitive, shaped by the echoes of music that still resonate within me.



I incorporate my old sheet music into my art, remembering each piece, performance or practice session. I lose myself in the process listening to music and find solace in blending and colour. I share this emotional journey, inviting viewers to experience the interplay of music and nature that continues to inspire me.

Colleen's story:

Classical music is part of my whole life – both playing and listening. As I play music in my rural studio, painting or stitching, I'm inspired by the Australian bush and by nature's colours and its textures.



My passion is silk art quilts, where I paint on silk and combine shibori resist, ecodyeing and freehand machine embroidery. These convey memories and movement, where sounds of birds intrude as dye and stitch connect the layers of cloth. Like music, nature awakens our senses to the world around us. I am inspired to imagine the composer's story as my theme is interpreted.

You and your friends are invited to the opening on Sunday August 4 at 2pm

Exhibition August 5 – September 2

The Gallery Mt Macedon, 684 Mt Macedon Road

Contact Colleen Weste 0419 009 030 or Sue Anson 0143 581 632

SUBMITTED BY SUE ANSON



Photo: L to R Kate Mooney, Melissa Forge, Peter Bevin, Ingrid Gang and at the rear Elissa Stephens. Photo by Karlana Santamaria

The Mount Players presents

Family Values

by David Williamson

directed by David Runnalls

August 16th - September 1st

Mountview Theatre, 56 Smith St, Macedon
 TICKETS: www.themountplayers.com CR 5426 1892
 By arrangement with Cameron Management Pty Ltd

The Players' third production by award-winning Australian playwright, David Williamson

Family Values is written by David Williamson, a celebrated Australian playwright with a plethora of iconic plays to his name including *Don's Party*, *The Removalists*, *After The Ball*, *Money & Friends* to name a few. He also collaborated on the screenplays for the films *Gallipoli* and *The Year of Living Dangerously*.

This contemporary Australian play is filled with razor sharp humour that both entertains and challenges its audiences.

Directed by Woodend local David Runnalls, *Family Values* introduces us to the Collins family as they gather to celebrate their father Roger's 70th birthday.

The retired Supreme Court Justice and his wife Sue have their plans for a quiet family gathering blown apart after unwittingly bringing together a detention centre escapee, a border force commander and three siblings all on the verge of unleashing a lifetime of simmering resentments.

Humorous, thought provoking and at times deeply moving, *Family Values* will have audiences laughing while prompting them to consider their own beliefs and values.

The season runs from 16 August to 1 September. To book tickets go to www.themountplayers.com or call 5426 1892 for assistance.

See you at the theatre!

SUBMITTED BY KAREN HUNT



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

Upcoming community consultations endorsed:

Draft Kyneton Urban Design Framework – This high-level, strategic document aims to establish a future vision – including indicative streetscape and precinct plans, opportunities for tangible public realm improvements and built form guidelines for new development – in and around Kyneton’s main commercial areas of High Street, Mollison Street and Piper Street.

Community feedback on this draft is open until Sunday 4 August 2024.

Endorsed following community consultation:

Draft Stanley Park Infrastructure Master Plan – A total of 55 submissions were received and considered in relation to guiding the future infrastructure at Stanley Park in Mount Macedon. Council approved the Infrastructure Master Plan with changes including retaining the playground in its current location, retaining the barbecue and removing reference to future facilities to the north-east corner of the site.

Draft Lease and Licence Policy – A total of seven (six written, one verbal) submissions were received and considered in relation to arrangements on Council premises between Council and tenants, with changes including a category change for neighbourhood houses and wording clarifications to better reflect current practice.

Draft Fair Access Policy – One formal submission/survey response was received and considered in relation to tackling gender inequality when considering community sports infrastructure, with minor changes made to include more inclusive wording.

Draft Kyneton Movement Network Plan (2024-2033) – A total of 52 submissions were received and considered to improve travel around Kyneton, with all 129 potential projects – 13 added following feedback – reconsidered with updated priority rankings under a revised multi-criteria analysis. As a result, the plan now includes the final top 30 projects.

Draft Riddells Creek Movement Network Plan (2024-2033) – A total of 29 submissions were received and considered to improve travel around Riddells Creek, with all 112 projects reconsidered with updated priority rankings under a revised multi-criteria analysis. As a result, the plan now includes the final top 38 projects (11 projects tied at the same score).

Draft Romsey Skate Park Design – One written/email submission was received and

June 2024 Council Meeting wrap

considered in relation to proposed designs for a new Romsey Skate Park, with this feedback – requesting increased shade and a box jump – presented to the Lancefield Romsey Lions Club for consideration in finalising the design (noting that a box jump is already part of designs).

Other matters endorsed:

Goldfields Library transition – Local Government Act 2020 changes are resulting in the dissolution of Regional Library Corporations across the state by 2030, but instead allowing councils to consider delivering any service – including libraries – that might benefit from a collective approach with other councils.

To maintain library services for the Macedon Ranges and continue this shared service delivery with other councils, Council has committed to establishing a new collective Library Service Beneficial Enterprise and is instructing Goldfields Library Corporation to develop the documentation required for this transition.

First Right of Refusal – Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre – As part of standard Victorian Government processes for surplus land (First Right of Refusal process), Council was among those first offered to acquire the former Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre.

Council is formally refusing this offer, noting that future uses of the site are unlikely to align with services currently provided by Council. However, Council is committed to advocating on behalf of the community to consider the community’s preferences for this site.

Draft Financial Reserves Policy – This policy, which supports the sustainable and responsible management of Council’s cash balances and financial reserves, has been reviewed and revised to better reflect current practice.

Updates to the policy include more detail in relation to public open space reserves;

the closure of a reserve; consolidating four existing public open space reserves into three to reflect Council’s geographic Wards; and the creation of a Resource Recovery Reserve.

Smoke Free Outdoor Areas Policy – A review of Council’s Smoke-Free Outdoor Areas Policy 2017 acknowledged that state legislation has been updated to align with or exceed Council’s provisions. Council has therefore repealed its policy and will rely on state legislation to regulate smoking in outdoor areas.

Capital Works Monitoring – In the final monthly Capital Works Monitoring report of the 2023-24 financial year, Council noted a series of budget returns or additions to infrastructure projects, resulting in an additional 15 projects being carried forward to 2024-25 and an overall program surplus of \$467,918.69.

This surplus will be transferred in part to the 2024-25 Capital Works Program budget, and in part to the Plant Replacement Reserve to help support Council’s net-zero goal of including more hybrid and electric vehicles in its fleet.

Inquiry into Local Government funding and services – Council will make a submission to the Victorian Legislative Council in response to its inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services.

This submission notes ongoing challenges faced by Council including revenue structures, cost shifting and the maintenance of road assets, while also making proposals such as a review of inputs to rate capping and providing predictable, longer-term funding to councils.

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

SUBMITTED BY BODEY DITTOFF, COMMUNICATION UNIT, MRSC



Time to rug up and keep warm as we hit the month of August.

Firstly, congratulations to incoming Woodend Rotary President Adriaan Adolph and thank you to outgoing President, Deidre Willmott and the many members who contributed to another year full of fundraising that enabled many worthy projects and communities to be assisted financially. Volunteering is definitely alive at the Woodend branch.

The Macedon Ranges Sports Precinct Stage 1 is officially open. What a celebration it was. This was decades in the making and this intergenerational project will ensure that it will benefit the community for decades to come. If you haven’t visited the precinct, it is well worth a visit, catering for active and passive sport and recreation for all ages and plans for Stage 2 are progressing. The Woodend to Riddells Creek Shared Trails project is also well underway and it goes past the precinct so it will be very handy when opened in 2025.

The budget was endorsed earlier in May, which means we have been able to get some projects up and going as soon as we ticked over to this 2024/25 financial year. We know the Racecourse Reserve Masterplan (RRM) is of interest to many. Officers have been working hard on the draft Macedon Ranges Community Equestrian Plan and hope it will be completed shortly and come to a Council Meeting. We need to finalise this to be able to progress the RRM.

Council and Councillors have also received emails regarding the reintroduction of a charge for disposal of green waste at the Shire’s transfer stations. There was much discussion about this during budget deliberations. We understand the points that have also been raised by some residents. The cost of this service had been subsidised by money raised from other areas of waste disposal. One important consideration was that state requirements recently changed at short notice regarding what Council is able to charge in the waste levy and forbids these types of cross subsidies. The charge for green waste has been kept to a minimum and will be discussed again during the next budget deliberations, and residents will as always have the opportunity to submit your thoughts. Council has information about this on our website.

<https://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/About-Council/News/News/Recovering-costs-at-our-resource-recovery-facilities>

Many people also contacted Council and Councillors regarding the sale of the former Malmsbury Juvenile Justice Centre. In a report to the June Scheduled Council Meeting (SCM), the Officers explained why Council was not in a position to put in an expression of interest to purchase this large site and declined the First Right of Refusal (FROR) offered to us by the State. The report was clear that Council will continue to advocate to the State Government and other authorities

for ongoing engagement and collaboration with the community, Traditional Owners and Council as plans for the site progress. We also encourage community members to continue to share their ideas with the State Government.

The Coles/High Street intersection has also been raised. Regional Roads are continuing to work on the plans and they are aware that residents are keen to have an update. We will share information when it is made available to us.

The Business Award finalists have been announced and please remember to vote for the People’s Choice Awards. Information is updated on Council’s website with the awards presentations at a gala event on Friday 30 August.

<https://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/Live-Work/Business-Economy/Business-News-Events/Business-Excellence-Awards>

Thank you to all those who nominated people for the 2024 Macedon Ranges Youth Awards. What amazing, talented and caring young people we have in our Shire who greatly contribute to our society. It’s always a wonderful night (planned for Wednesday 4 September) when they are recognised. And there are also the Community Events and Festival grants and the Community Funding Scheme to look forward to in the next few months as well.

Our Shire is fortunate to have so many people actively involved in different groups and events and we appreciate all your efforts.

Best wishes, Janet, Mark and Jennifer.

A Response by Bernie O’Sullivan, CEO, Macedon Ranges Shire Council

In response to the VGCCC’s decision to refuse an application for 50 electronic gaming machines at 90 Main Street, Romsey, as published on its website: <https://www.vgccc.vic.gov.au/resources/hearings-and-decisions/decisions>.

Council is pleased that the application for electronic gaming machines at 90-94 Main Street in Romsey (Romsey Hotel) has been refused by the Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission (VGCCC), affirming Council’s opposition to the application in consideration of community sentiment and the negative wellbeing impacts.

However, Council remains supportive of business investment within our towns such as Romsey and would continue to encourage proposals that demonstrate positive benefits without the need for electronic gaming machines.

Council will hold off on its planned additional phone survey to Romsey residents for the time being, pending any further action by the applicant related to the VGCCC’s decision.



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The benefits of desexing your pet

Desexing, also known as sterilisation, spaying, castrating, or neutering, is a crucial step in responsible pet ownership. Dr. Candice Priest (BVSc), Veterinary Director at Greencross Vets Macedon Ranges, explains the benefits and timing of desexing your pet.

Our team at Greencross Vets Macedon Ranges strongly recommends desexing for your four-legged friends. Beyond the immediate health benefits, desexing helps control the pet population, reducing the number of unplanned puppies and kittens that end up in animal shelters. For pets that tend to roam, such as outdoor cats, desexing is especially vital to ensure their well-being and prevent unwanted litters.

Surgical desexing is performed under general anaesthesia and involves removing part of a pet's reproductive system. For females, this process, known as spaying, typically involves removing the ovaries and uterus. For males, desexing, also called castration, involves the removal of both testicles.

The ideal age for desexing varies by breed. Generally, cats and smaller dog breeds are desexed around six months of age, while larger dog breeds are typically desexed once they reach full bone growth. Our veterinary team will consider all the unique aspects of your pet before making any recommendations.

There are several myths surrounding desexing. One common myth is that females should have a litter before being desexed. In reality, spaying a dog before her first heat greatly reduces the risk of mammary cancer. Another myth is that desexing will make your pet overweight. However, desexing usually coincides with the period when diet control becomes necessary. It's important to reduce calorie intake and increase exercise after desexing.

Some believe pets become lazy after desexing, but there are generally minimal to no changes in their character. Young male dogs, however, will be less inclined to mount objects and jump fences in search of a mate.

Should you have any questions or concerns in relation to desexing your pet, we are always here to help.



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Village Connect coffee catch-ups

Are you 55 years or older, residing in the Macedon Ranges and looking to connect with others in the shire? Council's one-hour Village Connect coffee gatherings welcome new residents, individuals living alone, or those navigating life changes who are looking to strengthen connections with other like-minded individuals in our community.

The next round of coffee catch-ups are from 10.30-11.30am as follows:

- 6 August – Riddells Creek
- 8 August – Lancefield
- 20 August – Kyneton
- 15 August – Gisborne

Bookings are essential. Visit: mrsc.vic.gov.au/village-connect or call 5422 0333.

Immunisations on again

Council is offering FREE childhood immunisations under the National Immunisation Program.

Mark your calendars for our bi-monthly sessions: catch us in Gisborne, Kyneton and Woodend on the first Thursday, and in Riddells Creek and Romsey on the third Tuesday.

Plus, don't forget – we're also providing FREE flu vaccines to children under five.

To view our timetable and make a booking go to mrsc.vic.gov.au/immunisations.

Let's keep our kids healthy and thriving together!



Budget 2024-25 road works

In the 2024-25 financial year, Council is again strategically prioritising a number of local road and infrastructure upgrades across the shire as part of the Budget 2024-25.

In the Woodend area, these projects include:

- Old Lancefield Road, Woodend – road reconstruction between Savages Lane and Manifold Road, including a footpath connection to Romsey Road
- Glens Court, Woodend – drainage works

Also being carried forward from the 2023-24 financial year to progress in 2024-25 are road reconstruction works at Chanters Lane in Trentham East, which is awaiting final signoff on planning approvals including from external authorities.

These upgrades will be progressed alongside other locations prioritised through recurring annual maintenance programs such as bitumen resurfacing, gravel road renewal, road stabilisation and guardrail upgrades.

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My council, my vote: Macedon Ranges Shire Council 2024 election

Content and dates provided by the Victorian Electoral Commission

The Macedon Ranges Shire Council election will be held this October.

The election will be conducted entirely by post – a safe and completely secret method of voting.

We strongly encourage all eligible voters to enrol and vote. Voting is compulsory for all enrolled voters, and you may be fined if you don't vote.

Make sure you've enrolled or checked your enrolment details are correct by the close of roll, which is 4pm on Wednesday 7 August.

If you are an Australian citizen you can enrol, or update your enrolment, online at vec.vic.gov.au/enrolment. You can register for VoterAlert at the same time, a free SMS and email reminder service.

If you're not an Australian citizen but pay rates to council, you own or occupy rateable property in Macedon Ranges Shire but do not live in the area, or you are a director or company secretary of a corporation that pays rates to council and have no other voting entitlements for this council, you can apply to become a council-enrolled voter. To find out more and to apply, contact Council on 5422 0333 and apply by 4pm on Wednesday 7 August.

The VEC conducts elections on behalf of all Victorian councils. For more information, visit vec.vic.gov.au.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council election timeline:

- Wednesday 7 August: Roll closes at 4pm
- Monday 9 September: Candidate nominations open
- Tuesday 17 September: Candidate nominations close at 12 noon
- Monday 7 to Thursday 10 October: Mail-out of ballot packs
- Friday 25 October: Voting closes at 6pm
- Friday 1 November: Postal vote receipt period closes at 12 noon
- Friday 15 November: Latest date all results will be declared.

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN, MRSC COMMUNICATION UNIT

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National day of action challenges the taboo of death

We have no shortage of names for it, but when faced with death, we are often lost for words. Our superstitions and fears about dying, and the discomfort we feel affect our approach and experiences at the end of life.

Dying to Know Day on August 8 is a national day of action acknowledging the final stage of life and encouraging Australians not to wait to talk about death.

“Seventy-five per cent of the community have not had end-of-life discussions with their loved ones and less than ten per cent die with an advance care plan,” said Kerrie Noonan, the co-founder of the day.

“Opening up conversations and sharing information demystifies death and the dying process,” Ms Noonan said. To do just that, here in Woodend, an open day is being held by Natural Grace, who offer holistic funeral care.

Natural Grace will open their Sanctuary for everyone to come and visit, and will have a variety of coffins, caskets, shrouds and urns on display; attendees will be able to look behind the scenes at the operations of a funeral home.

Attendees will also be encouraged to ask questions that they might not otherwise feel they could ask.

Sharon Tregoning, Practice Coordinator and Funeral Director at Natural Grace said, “No question is off limits”.

“Our aim is to provide a warm, welcoming and safe space for people to come and have their questions about end of life and funeral care addressed. August 8 is also our twelfth birthday, so join us for a cuppa and a chat,” she said.

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Natural Grace is located at 65 Urquhart St, Woodend and the Open Day runs from 10.30am to 4.30pm on Thursday 8 August, 2024.

For any queries, please contact Natural Grace on 5427 3112. There's no need to register your attendance.

SUBMITTED BY SHARON TREGONING



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Maintain your independence and stay connected

A Home Care Package provides eligible people over the age of 65 years (or over 50 if you are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander) with tailored support to enable you to stay safe and supported in the comfort of your own home and enhance your quality of life as you age.

The Australian Government scheme provides a wide range of services to support people to live independently, including personal care, gardening, meal preparation, escorted transport services, respite and allied health services such as physiotherapy, osteopathy, occupational therapy, podiatry and nursing. There are also options to access social and exercise activities in the local community.

Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health has been a Home Care Package provider for the Macedon Ranges for over three years and with nearly 40 years' experience delivering health, wellbeing and support services locally, they have a strong connection to the local community as well as an understanding of the importance of consumer-directed care.

“With a Home Care Package people have the choice about how their services are delivered,” says Sylvia, one of Sunbury and Cobaw’s care advisors. “Every decision is done in consultation with the Home Care Package recipient. They direct us as to who they would like the support services from, and we help them to find services that meet their individual goals and needs, allowing them to maintain their independence, enjoy familiar surroundings, and stay connected to their local community.”

Eligibility for a Home Care Package is established by an assessment carried out by My Aged Care – visit www.myagedcare.gov.au.

If you would like Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health to be your Home Care Package provider and manage your Home Care Package, call 5421 6061 or email hcp@scchc.org.au.

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Light on a path of darkness

Macedon Ranges Suicide Prevention Action Group are currently seeking expressions of interest for Volunteer Peer Supporters for our new Community-Led Safe Space. MRSPAG's mission is to implement strategies and initiatives within the local community to address the mental health challenges faced. The organisation combines lived experience and professional expertise to achieve their goals of advocacy, education and the implementation of evidence-based strategies to promote mental well-being in the Macedon Ranges. MRSPAG is made up of community volunteers, many of whom have lived experience of suicide, such as of suicidal ideation, of caring for someone close to them in suicidal crisis or have been bereaved by suicide.

The Community-Led Safe Space has been a goal of MRSPAG for many years, and it has finally come to fruition. The Safe Space will have Peer Support Volunteers to welcome and support individuals in emotional or suicidal distress, offering a compassionate, understanding and non-judgmental environment. No referrals or appointments are necessary.

The role of the Peer Support Volunteer is to provide an individual experiencing emotional distress or suicidal crisis with emotional support and connection based on their own lived experience. If you have a personal lived experience of suicide, this volunteer opportunity may be a chance to make a difference.

Volunteers will be provided with training and support by participating in self-paced online training funded through Roses in the Ocean. They will also receive ongoing training, support and debriefing opportunities.

The Safe Space will operate out of the Riddells Creek Neighbourhood House, with the days/times of operation still to be determined. We understand volunteers have busy lives and are managing their own lived experience of suicide, as such we ask if volunteers are available for a 2-4 hour shift once per month, however there is the option for more.

Please consider joining MRSPAG in our mission to uplift and empower individuals in the Macedon Ranges community. Your lived experience and willingness to support others can make a significant difference in preventing suicide and promoting mental well-being within our local community. If you are interested in volunteering to be a Peer Support Worker within this new Community-Led Safe Space, please visit www.mrspag.com.au or to apply visit <https://www.volunteer.com.au/volunteering/212694/Volunteer-Opportunity-Peer-Supporter-at-Macedon-Ranges-Community-Led-Safe-Space>

The Macedon Ranges Suicide Prevention Action Group (MRSPAG) is thrilled to announce they have recently launched a new integrative fitness, wellbeing, and community connection initiative called "Mindful Moves". This FREE program is designed to enhance the physical and mental well-being of the community. The next session "Effortless Meditation" will feature meditation and mindfulness techniques which you can easily apply in your home.

Upcoming Session: Effortless Meditation

Date: Saturday, 3 August

Time: 10am-12pm

Location: Kyneton Toyota Sports and Aquatic Centre

Mindful Moves is a 12-month campaign with events held on the first Saturday of each month. The locations will rotate throughout the Macedon Ranges shire to ensure accessibility for all community

members. The session is open to all and aims to promote the benefits of physical fitness for mental health and wellbeing. The program will feature low-impact circuit training led by volunteer fitness instructors from the Macedon Ranges who are passionate about improving mental health through physical fitness.

Key Features:

- Inclusive: Designed to suit people of all fitness levels and abilities.
- Social connection: Provides a fun, inclusive, and supportive environment for social interaction.
- Mental health discussions: MRSPAG will kick off each event with discussions about mental health and suicide prevention efforts in the local community.
- Healthy food and resources: Healthy food options and information about local support services will be available at the conclusion of each session.

Fitness instructors and personal trainers who are involved in this campaign will complete Mental Health First Aid training offered through MRSPAG. This training will equip them with valuable knowledge and skills to better support their clients' mental health needs.

We invite everyone in the community to join us for the next event "Effortless Meditation" on 3 August and take part in this exciting journey towards better physical and mental health. To book your FREE ticket, please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/mindful-moves-august>

We are also continuing to seek expressions of interest from qualified personal trainers to help facilitate the "Mindful Moves" campaign over the next 12 months. If you are a local business and are interested in donating some healthy food options, your generosity and community spirit will be greatly appreciated.

For more information or to be involved, please email: info@mrspag.com.au

SUBMITTED BY BIANCA DANIEL DARMANIN



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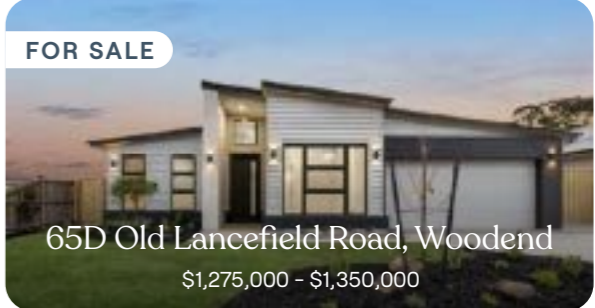
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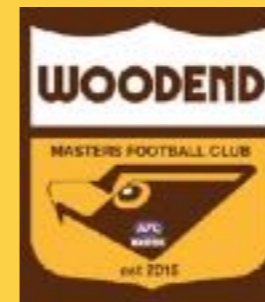
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Players reunion preps Hawks for battle of Bendigo

Football may well be a winter sport, but it's also when half of Woodend packs their beach towels and heads to warmer climates.

With the wintry blasts coming through the Ranges, many of the Masters took their families away for some Vitamin D after our game against Wellington in June.

However, to keep warm and fit, many Hawks players entered the Push-Up Challenge, with our team completing a total of 30,818 push-ups over 25 days and raising \$655 to support mental health organisations Lifeline and Headspace.

The Vic Country Masters AFL League resumed on July 21, when we ventured up the Calder to take on the Bendigo Bombers.

Both clubs have played some great games, with the Hawks dominating the Bombers in our first few years in the league, but Bendigo has had the wood on us over the past few years.

A Past and Present Players Luncheon was celebrated (rather well) at Gilbert Gordon Oval the day before, while we cheered on the Woodend-Hesket Seniors against Melton Centrals.

It was great to see old teammates who had hung up the boots sharing a few war stories with those still playing, as well as many supporters who have helped our club along its journey.

Next year's 10th anniversary of the Woodend Masters is sure to be a fantastic celebration of our club's success.

The celebration of footy in Woodend may or may not have affected the outcome of the game against Bendigo. We may never know, but thanks to the lunch put on by the Seniors, there was much carb-loading that afternoon.

Our upcoming home games are against Gisborne, in our local derby, on August 3, followed by a post-game function at our major sponsor, Holgate Brewhouse.

Wellington leaves the chilly conditions of Gippsland to play us on August 17. We promise to have the hot water working for them, unlike our game in 2017, when the Seniors forgot to swap over a new gas bottle in the old clubrooms. Made worse by the fact it snowed during that game!

We still have tickets available for our major raffle to win \$2,000 of product from our sponsor Hunters Mowers & Motors in Kyneton. Head to our home games or visit our Facebook page to get a ticket.

Save the date for our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Friday September 13 at the Holgate Brewhouse Taproom.

All members – players and supporters – are encouraged to attend and nominate for a role on the committee to help guide the Masters in our tenth year.

Anyone keen to join us for a kick, whether it's a game or just to train, is always welcome. Check our Facebook page for opportunities to relive your past glories.



Photo by Swagger Photography

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

5428 2138
mary-annethomas.com.au




Delivering better mental health for young Victorians

The State Government is supporting youth mental health organisations, helping them to identify mental health concerns early on, to ensure no young Victorian slips through the cracks.

Beneficiaries include Youth Live4Life, which brings together rural and regional communities to improve youth mental health and wellbeing. Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas said of the funding boost, "This is an important investment for young people across the Macedon Ranges to help them develop the skills and confidence they need to support their own mental health and that of their peers."

Minister for Mental Health Ingrid Stitt recently visited Youth Live4Life in Woodend to hear about their support programs for young Victorians.

Youth Live4Life's program aims to improve youth mental health and reduce youth suicide in rural and regional communities, where the suicide rate is 40 per cent higher, and in remote areas almost twice the rate, of metropolitan areas.

A key element of the organisation's success is its whole-of-community approach, powered by young people who become Mental Health Ambassadors and lead the implementation of the Live4Life model in their communities – creating local partnerships to lead conversations about mental health and suicide prevention.

Work is also underway on more than 90 per cent of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health Services' recommendations, with an investment of more than \$6 billion since the report was handed down.

This funding supports the Royal Commission's vision for a system that distinguishes between infant, child and family mental health services, and youth mental health services supporting young people to seamlessly transition through the various stages of their care.

MAX RESIC, OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

New state-of-the-art sports precinct open for use

The long-awaited Macedon Ranges Sports Precinct (MRSP) in New Gisborne is now open, unlocking significant recreational and social benefits for the entire shire.

A culmination of decades of advocacy and planning by Council and the community, the MRSP's over-\$29 million first stage has delivered a three-court indoor sports hub, a natural turf oval with an adjoining sports pavilion and other facilities such as a playground, BBQ facilities and a fitness loop.

It will play host to a range of local user groups and sports including AFL, basketball, netball, badminton, volleyball and futsal, with facilities also available for hire for corporate or social functions to make the MRSP a true community space.

Victorian Government Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence and Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas were among those present to help open the new facilities. They then toured the facilities alongside Councillors and Council staff, contractors, funding partners, primary user reference group members, other user groups and more.

Council's Mayor, Annette Death, said the MRSP was the largest capital works project ever undertaken by Council, with the first stage made possible with generous funding support from the Victorian Government (\$14.8 million), Melbourne Water (\$377,590) and AFL Victoria (\$100,000).

"The need for more indoor and outdoor recreational facilities in the region has long been identified in our strategies, so we're absolutely delighted to finally have a new state-of-the-art facility that will benefit our community for generations to come," she said.

"On behalf of Council, I'd like to thank everyone who has played a part to this point – from our funding partners and contractors, through to Council staff and community members who have advocated and shared this dream for such a long time."

Along with the practical elements required

of a modern sporting facility, the complex also features innovative design and environmental elements such as solar panels, water-saving irrigation systems and double-glazed floor-to-ceiling windows making the most of natural light and surrounding views.

"Care has been taken in the design to make sure the facility not only fits with the natural surroundings, but also makes the most of it," Mayor Death said.

"Where else could you be watching your kids play sports, or be participating yourself, and be captivated by the stunning backdrop of Mount Macedon?"

With the MRSP's first stage now complete, detailed design and documentation for the ~\$17 million second stage is continuing and includes \$15 million from the Australian Government. Council is also continuing to advocate for a final ~\$8 million required for a third stage to include other upgrades within the precinct's master plan.

The second stage, which is targeted to commence construction by early 2025, will essentially double the current sports hub capacity with an additional three courts, additional amenities, an additional AFL/cricket oval, two outdoor sports courts and additional car parking and landscaping. Visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/MRSP for ongoing project updates, or mrsc.vic.gov.au/leisure for information on the current MRSP facilities on offer.

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

Photo: The new stadium on the western side of the sports precinct.



Photo: L - R

Federal Member for McEwan, Rob Mitchell, Deputy Mayor Janet Pearce, Minister for Community Sport, Ros Spence, Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas, Legend Community Funding Advocates: Megan Condron, Allan Spencer-Stewart and Tamara Collins



Artworks to celebrate significant Victorian women

A new round of the Women's Public Art Program will see six new public artworks in-stalled to honour remarkable women.

Minister for Women Natalie Hutchins opened applications for the next round of the program.

Of the almost 600 statues across Melbourne's public spaces, only around two per cent represent women, with most statues representing men or animals.

Aboriginal women are often invisible in public artworks, and this NAIDOC Week Aunty Pam Pedersen is highlighting the opportunity to recognise Aboriginal women through public art such as the sculpture of her mother, Lady Gladys Nicholls, at Parliament Gardens.

The statue of the prominent Aboriginal rights activist with her husband Pastor Doug Nicholls was the first in Victoria to acknowledge Aboriginal leaders.

Aunty Pam Pedersen said she is excited about the program's potential to give organisations to celebrate women from different walks of life. "There are so many women we don't even hear about, grassroots women from all backgrounds, that need to be re-warded and recognised for the way they are helping others."

Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas said, "I encourage all

local artists to apply to this fantastic program to ensure women are celebrated and represented in our public artworks."

In partnership with McClelland Sculpture Park and Gallery, this program will support the creation of another six new artworks including sculptures, murals or installations. The first round unveiled artworks that celebrate women such as journalist, comedian and disability rights advocate Stella Young, and equal pay campaigner Zeldia D'Aprano.

To apply, visit www.vic.gov.au/victorian-womens-public-art-program.

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

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A celebration of Daylesford's Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens

Friends of Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens have joined with the Daylesford and District Horticultural Society, Historical Society, Agricultural Society and U3A, to put together a unique program of events over the first weekend of August to celebrate the wintry pleasures of this cold climate township, to chat about what is currently exciting for local gardeners and, specifically, to highlight the extraordinary world of Wombat Hill and Victoria's historic Botanic Gardens. The Friends and Horticultural Society are hosting talks on Saturday and Sunday in the Senior Citizens' Room at the rear of the Town Hall in Vincent Street.

On Saturday night the Friends are hosting a Celebration Dinner at the Town Hall.

Also on Saturday, the Horticultural Society is organising a walking tour of the Botanic Gardens by tree expert John Beetham.

Over the whole weekend, the Agricultural Society, with assistance from U3A, will hold their inaugural Winter Flower Show.

An exhibition focusing on the Botanic Gardens will be held on Saturday and Sunday at the Historical Society's Museum.

Gardens walk.

Saturday 3 August 1.30pm Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens

Led by John Beetham, whose particular interest has been the heritage tree collection. Followed by afternoon tea at the Town Hall. (Entry by donation)

Standalone Talks.

Saturday 3 August 3.30pm Senior Citizens' Room Daylesford Town Hall.

Janet O'Hehir – "Victoria's Botanic Garden Legacy." Honorary Curator, Camper-down Botanic Gardens.

Sunday 4 August 10.00am Senior Citizens' Room Daylesford Town Hall.

Helen Botham OAM – "La Trobe the Plantsman". Garden Historian and National Trust researcher, followed by morning tea (Entry by donation)

Sunday 4 August 11.30am Senior Citizens' Room Daylesford Town Hall.

Helen Page OAM – "Unearthing our public garden history - The Ken Duxbury postcard collection." Horticulturalist, foundation

member of the Garden History Society.

Celebration Dinner

Saturday 4 August 6.30 Daylesford Town Hall. Bookings required – <https://www.trybooking.com/CRHOL>

Fine food, fine music and presentation by Peter Leigh, Hellebore breeder of considerable reputation. Truly, the magical event of the weekend.

Flower Show

Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 August. Alf Headland Conservatory, Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens. Inaugural "Winter Flower Show". Beautiful specimens and floral art. 10.00–4.00. Entries from all gardens and gardeners are welcome! Free entry – see daylesfordshow.com for schedule etc.

Historical Exhibition

Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 August. Daylesford Historical Museum. 11.00–3.00 Wombat Hill Exhibition (Purchase of Museum entry required).

For further information: Patrice O'Shea, Secretary 0408 852 595 or Frank Page, President 0417 010 817

SUBMITTED BY FRANK PAGE

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New tourism campaign from Daylesford Macedon Tourism

The Daylesford Macedon Tourism team are in the planning stages of an exciting new tourism campaign for the Daylesford and Macedon Ranges region.

This tactical 'Spontaneous Breaks' campaign is designed to drive immediate visitation to the region, driving home the message that there is no better time to plan a visit than now.

The campaign will be delivered to potential visitors via major digital and social media channels. A significant media buy has been negotiated, designed to create impact and conversion with the region's key target markets – specifically last-minute millennials and discerning over 55's. The campaign will go live at the start of September.

According to Steve Wroe, CEO of Daylesford Macedon Tourism, the campaign will hero the strong regional brand of Daylesford and the Macedon Ranges, while capitalising on the spontaneous nature of bookings that the tourism industry is now seeing.

"We are 100 percent focused on converting visitors to plan a trip now, delivering visitors to the doors of our many tourism and hospitality businesses. This campaign aims to give Daylesford and the Macedon Ranges a greater share of urban Victorian visitation."

"Don't miss out on your chance to be included in the campaign. It's our key focus for the current financial year, as we adapt to a more challenging environment and decreased overnight visitation, driven by the cost of living crisis," he said.

Tourism operators who are interested in being featured in the campaign are encouraged to get in touch with the Daylesford Macedon Ranges team, with various buy-in levels available, starting as low as \$250 for a season. Expressions of interest can be sent to Anissa White at annissa@dmrtourism.com.au.

SUBMITTED BY MADELEINE BLAKE



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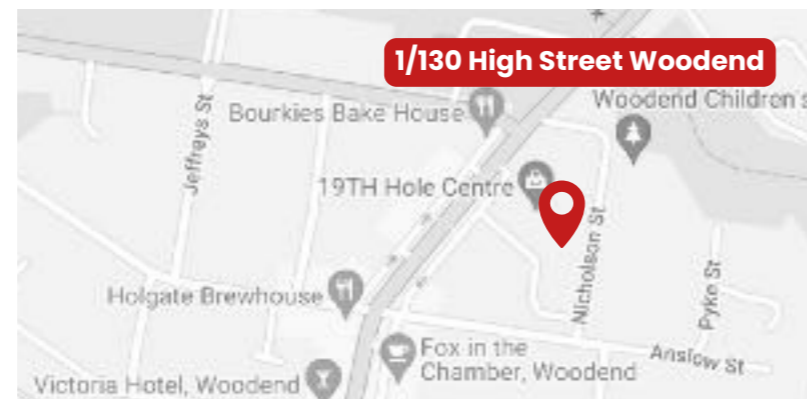
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Woodend Hawks Junior Football and Netball Club News



Woodend Sundays have been kind this winter; down at the Nest is where the Junior Hawks shine. It's hard to believe the season is on its tail end; with two rounds to go and finals upon us this month, the Junior season is nearly at a wrap.

A quick Football and Netball team update for August.

Football

Final dates begin on 4 August and the Grand Final on Sunday 18 August. Venues for these finals are still being released.

Our Under-17s are prime contenders for the Grand Final, with a fabulous season under their belt; they are currently sitting on top of the ladder.

U11A and our U15s are both as I write this article sitting fourth on the ladder, needing to win their next two games to be contestants for the finals. So the teams are training hard even in these wintery conditions to try and bring home the flag.

U13A are placed nicely on the ladder: third. So with a bye and one round left, they should make it into the finals this month.

Netball

Netball teams across all four age groups (11s, 13s, 15s and 17s) are in the running for finals this month.

A big shout out to the club officials, parents and volunteers who helped us move our entire netball set up from Gilbert Gordon to Buffalo in Round 10 as our court was covered in ice and would not melt in time to play!

Lastly, a few of our Hawks junior footballers took part in a school holiday netball clinic for boys run by Macedon Ranges Netball Association supported by Netball Victoria. The boys had fun learning some new skills in a sport that is growing in popularity with boys.

Boys are welcome to play netball at the Hawks in the 11s and 13s age groups.

For any information about playing, coaching or umpiring for the Hawks please contact netball@woodendhawks.com.au

Auskick

Auskick is all wrapped up!

Our little Auskickers have had a fabulous season, always shorter than the junior league. Nonetheless, they all received an attendance medal for their efforts. A big shout out to all the families who created and supported another successful Woodend Auskick season. Also, a massive thank you to Chelsey Jones for coordinating the season; we are lucky enough to have Chelsey back again in 2025.

Save the Date – AGM and Presentation dates

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on 25 August at Buffalo stadium.

This will kick off at 10am, followed by Netball and Football season awards. A morning not to be missed and a great chance to meet or even join the committee and see our Woodend Hawk stars be recognised for all their efforts for the 2024 season.

Our superstar volunteer

Riddell District Football Netball League recognised Sally Watt for her contribution of service as Community Builder winner for May. The Club would like to congratulate Sally and is so grateful to have her expertise, calm guidance and commitment at the club.

Scoreboard grant update

Unfortunately, our application for the Telstra Footy Country Grants program, together with the Senior Club, Masters and Cricket Club, for a new and well-deserved scoreboard was not successful. We had a very good application so watch this space as there are numerous grants throughout the season we can keep applying for.

Next Season!

Yep, I'm going to talk 2025, hard to believe. The club will be recruiting new coaches for next season and expressions of interest are now open. We welcome young and old, new and current coaches to apply. In June the RDFNL hosted a Junior Coaches Charter Workshop that took place down at the club rooms with all our Coaches and Assistant Coaches attending. The program was aimed at finding the club's purpose through our goals, traits and behaviours. With such a positive result, we look forward to running more Coach programs and training in 2025 to bring to the Nest the best in the business.

Finally, it goes without saying, again a massive thank you to all our volunteers week in and week out. Without volunteers there simply isn't a club; no games can be played, and no kids can play. So thank you to all for raising your hands when needed and asked and committing to our wintery Woodend weather every Sunday for the last four months.

SUBMITTED BY DANIELLE GALLE

Hook, line and sinker: supersized fish stocking this winter

Little anglers in the district can get hooked on a new hobby with more than 35,000 catchable-size rainbow trout being stocked into 80 lakes across the state.

Mary-Anne Thomas MP announced the stocking of rainbow trout locally, including 200 in the Glenlyon Dam and 350 in Hanging Rock Lake

More fish are stocked in Victoria than in every other state and territory combined – with Murray cod, golden perch, brown and rainbow trout, threatened Macquarie perch, dusky flathead, Australian bass and more, bolstering easy, accessible world-class fishing experiences.

The Little Angler Kits program, in which every grade 5 student in Victorian schools has received a fishing kit, including a kids' guide to fishing, with safety messages and educational videos that teach budding fishers tips for catching fish, as well as responsible fishing practices. To view the full list of Family Fishing Lakes and see what's been stocked, head to www.vfa.vic.gov.au/holidaytrout.

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



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More good reasons to try or play bowls

Bowls attracts people of all ages and all abilities. It's an inclusive sport and a great way to meet new people, to engage with your local community or to enjoy time with your loved ones and friends. It's also a great way for people of all ages to develop their skills, coordination and fitness.

Easy to learn

One of the best things about bowls is the fact you can learn how to play at your first attempt. While it's undoubtedly a game of great skill and tactics, bowls is also refreshingly simple. Once you've picked up the main rules and have been taught how to avoid bowling a 'wrong bias' (when the bowl curves in the opposite direction to your intended target), you'll be on your way to becoming a local club legend!

Welcome to our new members

In the last 12 months we have been fortunate to have welcomed a number of new members to the club, many of whom are now also playing pennant, either midweek, Saturday or both.

Looking for new members for the coming season

The new Pennant Seasons (Midweek and Saturday) will start in early October. If you are a player with some experience, the Woodend Bowling Club is looking for some new players.

If you have no experience, but want to give bowls a try, new members are always welcome – and age is no barrier. In fact, many of the leading lawn bowlers in Australia are now in their twenties and thirties, with the average age of our Australian team actually younger than that of the Australian cricket team.

Please give us a call. We have everything needed to get you started.

Come on down for a free trial.

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

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

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, PRESIDENT WOODEND BOWLING CLUB INC.



Woodend Hanging Rock Petanque Club



What a month we have had! Winter is meant to be our season of rest. But not this month! From the very first Saturday, we had the first round of the Golden Boule tournament, playing the Maldon Petanque Club at the Old Racecourse here in Woodend. It was a bright sunny day and all members played well, with Woodend winning 9 out of the 12 games.

Other clubs in the pool are the Ballarat Petanque Club, Smythesdale Petanque Club, Pyrenees Petanque Club from Avoca, Maldon Petanque Club and Mount Macedon Petanque Club, with every club playing each other over the course of five odd weeks. This relaxed format encourages our newer players to think about the rules and tactics and the etiquette of the game.

Our next tournament was against Maldon Club again on a bright sunny and chilly day! This was our annual inter-club challenge called The Rock and Goldfields Dig Challenge. We managed to win the trophy this year, so congratulations to Woodend were well-earned.

Our four three-game winners were Chris Turner, Rod Gell, Graham Cole and Maria Liew, who won the top award for our club, with the highest delta. Well done, Maria!

Last Saturday, July 6, a group of hardy players ventured to Ballarat through fog and ice-strewn roads to arrive in bright sunshine and play in the third round of the Golden Boule Tournament. Unfortunately Ballarat were too strong for us, and won 16 games to 14.

And July 14, Bastille Day, took us to Hanging Rock to play our annual tournament.

We all rugged up, put the heaters on and snuggled up in the shelter with a friendly cup of wassail, made by Gary Richardson, because of course it's winter and a chilly day at the Rock. Thirty members gathered to play one game, followed by a warming cup of soup made by Rod Gell and Anne Browne, followed by another game, after which we enjoyed a delicious lunch, catered by our members. A French casserole by Carole Mee, Chris Turner and Louise Potter, and of course a delicious sweet of chocolate mousse by Cassie Simmons.

The joint winners of the day were Lola Sandy and Clive Potter, who took home the winner's prize of chocolates and wine. A trivia game with a French theme followed, accompanied by much laughter, at our limited knowledge of anything French! Winners Nina, Ruth, Dávid, Marni, Krista and Gary took home a prize!

So, if any of this sounds like you would like to join in, please don't hesitate to email the President Louise Potter at president@tpetanqueattherock.com.au

Next month, on the third weekend of August, we will be travelling to Echuca for the weekend. If you would like to join in the fun of the weekend please email the president.

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Woodend Cricket Club coaching announcements!

As part of a new Coaching and Development Strategy, the Woodend Cricket Club is excited to announce that Josh Eastley will be the Head Coach for the upcoming season.

Josh is no stranger to our club, having scored over 2,500 runs and taken more than 120 wickets during his time with us! Josh has had a lot of experience as an assistant coach with a number of clubs. Here's a brief look at Josh's cricket journey since his time with us.

Josh played in the Emu Valley Cricket Association A Grade at West Bendigo, where he assisted with training and player development, game-day strategies and also achieving personal accolades with the Bowling Award and Club Champion! He then joined Buckley Park in the North West Metropolitan and continued his role in training and development and also securing an A-grade premiership. He then played at Guildford in the Castlemaine District Cricket Association as an assistant coach to Elliot Massina, making it to the one-day and two-day grand finals.

We are working with external coaches Brett Cavigan and Gavin Mackay to support/mentor Josh throughout the season. This will include developing a coaching plan, working on standards and behaviours, training session guidance and mentoring, and also providing technical coaching to our players throughout the season.

Josh will also have support from a number of experienced players/coaches from within the Woodend Cricket Club. He will be attending the Level 1.5 Coaching Course in November (along with some of our other junior coaches), and he will also be assisting with our remaining Winter Junior Coaching Sessions with Mitch Johnstone, where he will gain some valuable insight from the experienced Head Coach of Yarraville Club CC.

We have also secured the services of an international player! Joe Monk is from Shropshire, England and is coming over for the summer with his girlfriend Ashlyn. Joe is a Medium Fast Seam Bowler and will be an Assistant Coach to Josh Eastley. He is currently playing for Oswestry Cricket Club in the Shropshire County Cricket League (Premier Division). The seamer previously has played for Newtown Cricket Club, where he impressed with 107 wickets at 12, and before that played for Welshpool Cricket Club, taking 109 wickets at 17. Joe is also a keen and qualified coach who is keen to be part of a club's senior and junior coaching structure.

For our Juniors, the Coaching and Development Strategy will also include 'Coach the Coach' sessions and Technical Coaching sessions with Brett and Gavin throughout the season. I am really excited to have Brett and Gavin working with our Junior Players and Coaches to develop the next generation of Woodend cricketers. I see this being an absolute game-changer for our junior development program.

SUBMITTED BY DANIEL HEANEY

Read us online: www.newwoodendstar.com/view



Photo Josh Eastley



Photo: Joe Monk

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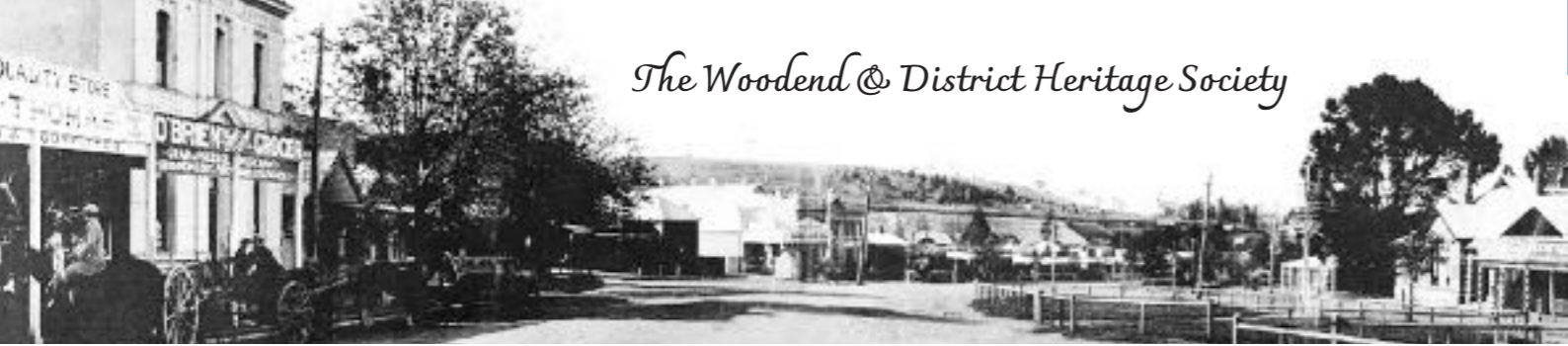
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Early Sturdy Structures

In 1862 William Peters, a pioneer of Newham, bought 458 acres bounded by Bryces Lane, Rochford Road and Millers Road to run cattle, sheep and horses. That year he built his first building as a storeroom in stone from Brydons quarry and named the property Swamp Farm. He then built a house where he and his wife Anne lived until her death in 1874.

In 1877 William married Elizabeth Steinmeyer, who took the enterprising step of opening the house as a 'boarding and day school for young ladies'. Elizabeth also enjoyed bringing the Newham school children to the farm for a picnic in a

wagonette pulled by two horses. Later she gave the property the more enticing name of Sunnyside.

William died in 1894, leaving the house with 50 acres to his wife, with the rest to go to the children when the youngest, then seven, had come of age. However, by 1901 Elizabeth Peters had decided to leave Newham, possibly to remove one daughter from an undesirable husband and a son from an undesirable girlfriend. Elizabeth rented out the house until 1913, when Robert Haslett and Linda, delivered the mail to Newham and Cobaw for a number of years. Linda later trained as a nurse and became well-known throughout the district as Sister Linda Hassett.

The stone house comprised seven rooms with a passage leading to a wooden section

which contained a dining room, kitchen and walk-in pantry. A rumpus room at the back allowed indoor play for the five children – Allen, Wallace, Arthur, Vivienne and Linda. Wallace won a scholarship to Kyneton High School and became a teacher. Allen loved the rural life and left school at fourteen to work on the farm and for some neighbours, later operating a chaff-cutter around the district and then, with a group, contracting with a thrasher. When father Robert retired to Newham, Arthur and his wife and two daughters stayed on the farm for a few years until Arthur, after several bouts of influenza one cold winter, was advised to move to warmer climes. They chose Shepparton and sold The Willows to Mr Beckingsale.

SUBMITTED BY JANE HOLTH



Photo 718: The first stone building erected at Swamp Farm, in 1862



Photo 726: The main house at Swamp Farm, built in 1862

Photo 1770: The William Peters Family:

Back: 1. Otto Steinmeyer 2. Mena Boxshall Law (nee Peters, married 1. Charles Boxshall) 3. Robert (Bob) Peters 4. Lil Peters 5. John (Jack) Peters.

Seated: 1. Marie Steinmeyer 2. Grandfather Steinmeyer (father of Mrs William Peters) 3. Lizzie Peters (nee Boxshall), Jack's wife, nursing Ivan Peters 4. Grandma Elizabeth Peters (Mrs William Peters nee Steinmeyer) 5. Mary (May) Peters standing

Front: 1. Ivy Peters with Will and Christina Peters 2. Daisy Peters with Andy Law and Violet Euancondit Boxshall (known as Euan Law)



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Offering Diverse Sporting Opportunities

Sacred Heart College is a member of the Northern Metropolitan Region of School Sports Victoria (SSV) offering students the ability to represent the College in competitive sports – team and individual. All students can participate in trials for possible selection in the team sports offered: basketball, cricket, football, netball, soccer, and tennis. Students selected represent the College in this competition which operates at Year 7, Year 8, Intermediate (Year 9/10) and Senior (Year 11/12) levels, across the four terms of the school year.

This competition seeks to promote the virtues of participation in healthy, enjoyable physical activity, while entering the spirit of competitiveness, fair play, friendship and sporting excellence. These also add a further opportunity for skill development, as they allow senior students studying Cert IV in Sport and Recreation to experience the role of coach to our junior (Years 7 & 8) team sports. Students assist in selections, training and coaching at the events, developing bonds and allowing the sharing of skills across age groups.

In addition to team sports, students can participate in individual competitions hosted by SSV. Individuals are selected through their involvement in the College Swimming, Athletics and Cross-Country events or through their results in local sports clubs.

In 2024 we have had a number of students qualify from regional competitions to represent the College at State Championships. In April this year, a number of students attended the State Swimming Championships with some great results.

In December 2023 we were proud to have two students represent the College, as well as the State, at the Australian Nationals in Perth, competing in Hammer Throwing and 800m Running – having successfully competed in the Victorian All Schools Championships.

Most recently we had two students competing at the Victorian All Schools Cross Country Championship in Bundoora on 20 July.

All students involved in this level of sporting competition are usually heavily involved in their chosen sports outside of school. Their participation in SSV competitions adds to their experience, while also providing our broader college community with a greater understanding of the range of sporting experiences on offer, along with an insight into the dedication and commitment needed to reach these levels of sporting achievement.

For those who aren't selected to represent the College in this way, there are still opportunities for participation in sports at a House level, as well as other year level lunchtime competitions such as the current Year 7 netball round robin event.



Mickleham Division Year 8 Boys Soccer



Mickleham Division AFL Girls Day



2023 Australian All Schools Athletics Championships



Mickleham Division Swimming



2024 State Swimming Championships

SUBMITTED BY JENNY BALDWIN



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