

# The New Woodend Star

Rotary  Club of Woodend

March 2025  
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## Kyneton Aero Club 2025 flying scholarship - applications invited

Photo: First scholarship recipient, local resident Maddie Machell, on the successful completion of her Recreational Pilot Certificate (RPC), mid-December. Article P.3

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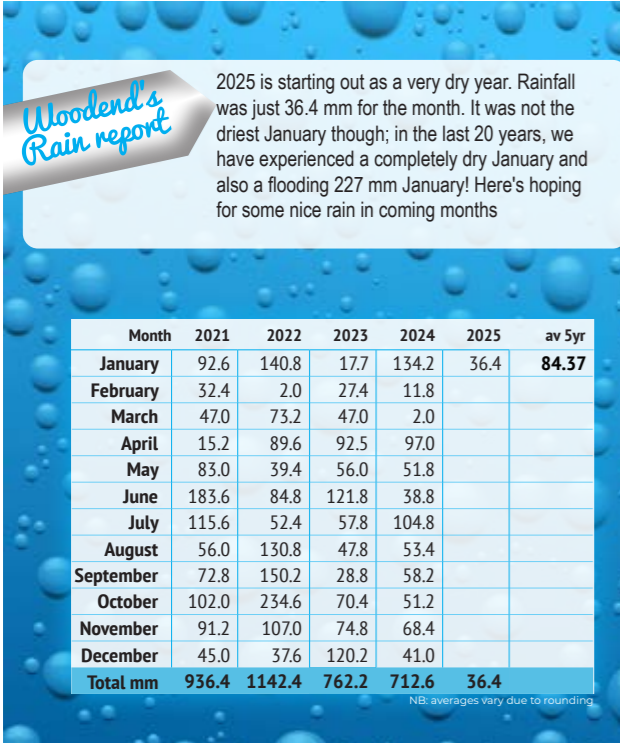
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**Woodend's Rain report**

2025 is starting out as a very dry year. Rainfall was just 36.4 mm for the month. It was not the driest January though; in the last 20 years, we have experienced a completely dry January and also a flooding 227 mm January! Here's hoping for some nice rain in coming months

Month	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	av 5yr
January	92.6	140.8	17.7	134.2	36.4	84.37
February	32.4	2.0	27.4	11.8		
March	47.0	73.2	47.0	2.0		
April	15.2	89.6	92.5	97.0		
May	83.0	39.4	56.0	51.8		
June	183.6	84.8	121.8	38.8		
July	115.6	52.4	57.8	104.8		
August	56.0	130.8	47.8	53.4		
September	72.8	150.2	28.8	58.2		
October	102.0	234.6	70.4	51.2		
November	91.2	107.0	74.8	68.4		
December	45.0	37.6	120.2	41.0		
<b>Total mm</b>	<b>936.4</b>	<b>1142.4</b>	<b>762.2</b>	<b>712.6</b>	<b>36.4</b>	

NB: averages vary due to rounding

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



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**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

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

## 2025 Flying Scholarship now open

The Kyneton Aero Club (KAC) flying scholarship will continue this year, 2025. This follows on from the very successful progress of the previous two recipients in 2023 and 2024.

Applications are open immediately to persons aged between 16 and 22 years of age on 1 March 2025, and will close at 5pm on Sunday 23 March 2025.

The scholarship is a support program for young people with a demonstrated interest in aviation. It is open to new students and to people who may have already commenced flight training.

The scholarship will pay 50% of the cost of each instructional or flying hour, to a maximum total value of \$5,000. This value will be provided progressively as the training is undertaken.

Former Scholarship applicants are encouraged to re-apply.

**How to apply:**

Please refer to <http://www.kynetonaeroclub.org> for full scholarship and application details.

A massive congratulations to Maddie who achieved her first solo flight at the beginning of December. Maddie is the KAC 2023 scholarship winner and has been working hard at her RAAus training.

Battling Kyneton weather and her work schedule, Maddie has still managed to achieve this incredible achievement so quickly! We look forward to many more milestone celebrations with you Maddie, well done!

SUBMITTED BY KIM YOANNIDIS



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## Community feedback to help 'Shape the Ranges'

Macedon Ranges residents and ratepayers are being invited to share views on rates, roads, rubbish and more, to help review and refresh a series of key Council documents.

'Shaping the Ranges' will put a spotlight back on multi-year documents adopted in 2021 – including the Community Vision, Council Plan, Financial Plan, Asset Plan, and Revenue and Rating Plan – which act as the driving pillars for what Council delivers.

This multi-staged consultation will see revised documents developed and informed by external feedback from the community and key organisations, internal feedback from Councillors and Council staff, and a focused engagement with a demographically representative community assembly.

Mayor Dom Bonanno encouraged anyone with an opinion on what Council should prioritise over the next four years, or anyone who holds a vision more broadly for the shire's future, to take the time to review the existing documents and provide feedback.

"These key documents outline what we commit to doing on behalf of our community," Mayor Bonanno said. "In this initial phase of consultation, you do not have to have any prior knowledge of these documents – just a willingness to contribute and a vision for our shared future."

"Importantly, this will not be the only opportunity for the community to provide feedback – the release of the revised draft documents later in the year will offer another chance to respond to how we have interpreted initial feedback, and where we've identified changes to improve the documents."

Macedon Ranges Shire Council, like all councils across Victoria, is legislatively required to complete deliberative engagement – a collaborative, in-depth form of engagement – to review or renew key documents by 31 October in the year following a general election (in this case, 31 October 2025).

Like the process of finalising the original documents in 2021, Council is complementing broader community consultation with a community assembly, comprising approximately 30 members independently selected to represent the broad demographics of the community.

This assembly will be asked to participate across four independently facilitated in-person sessions across March and April 2025, to deliberate on the key documents and provide feedback. Visit <https://yoursay.mrsc.vic.gov.au/shaping-ranges> and follow the survey link to have your say, with submissions in this first phase invited until 18 March 2025.\*

\* Due to the required earlier delivery and adoption of the Rating and Revenue Plan, Council may seek to incorporate feedback informing this plan a week or so earlier than the closing date of Tuesday 18 March 2025.

SUBMITTED BY ELON MCCORMICK

## Local veteran's story to be shared at Mount Macedon Anzac Day Dawn Service

Dr Francis Donovan OAM from Woodend will be one of the ex-servicepeople featured at this year's Mount Macedon Anzac Day Dawn Service, an event he has been involved in for over 20 years. The theme for this year's service at the Mount Macedon Memorial Cross is "The Unseen Wounds of Conflict", exploring the many impacts war has on those who serve, from the physical injuries to the mental effects and the wider repercussions for families.

As part of the service, the stories of local veterans will be shared, including that of 78-year-old Francis.

Francis served as a Medic in an infantry unit in the Vietnam War.

"I was only 19, just like the song by Red Gum," said Francis. "I enlisted on the second of March, 1964."

Francis has vivid memories that still stay with him to this day.

"The 'Battle of Long Tan' was fought by about 100 members of D Company, 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (6RAR) against an overwhelming Viet Cong enemy force of 2,500 on 18 August 1966. My unit was not involved in the battle itself, but at first light on 19 August, we accompanied the remnant D Company 6RAR back to the battlefield so they could recover their wounded and count enemy dead. My job was to confirm their dead – 245 of them in attack formation. In some cases, that meant recovering and re-assembling separated body parts.

"Decades later, I continued counting enemy dead at Long Tan in my sleep and even in waking hours. Some nights still, I awake 'nursing' Les Farren through his death; the first Victorian National Serviceman ever killed in action. I suffered a major mental breakdown in 2000 and was declared Totally and Permanently Incapacitated in 2002. Thankfully, I have come a long way since then and now only go there in my mind occasionally – usually on or around Vietnam Veterans Day and ANZAC Day each year."

Francis' experiences during his time of service shaped his choice of career later in life; he gained a social work degree with distinction at age 33, and since has specialised in psychotherapy, counselling and political and social change with individuals, families, groups, organisations and communities around Australia.

"My decision to go into this field was heavily influenced by my role in and survival of the Vietnam War and its impact on and implications for veterans, their partners and children – including myself and my family."



Photo: Francis Donovan at the 2022 MMADDS

Francis is one of the founders of the national Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service, now known as 'Open Arms', and the WA branch of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia. His 2017 Order of Australia was awarded for service to Australian veterans.

"As the creative force behind the Mount Macedon ANZAC Day Dawn Service in its contemporary, thematic form, content and style, it feels like one of my children, so I am honoured that my story will be part of the service this year."

The service commences at 6am at the Mount Macedon Memorial Cross and runs for approximately an hour. Access to the Dawn Service is via bus only. Cameron Drive, Mount Macedon will be closed to all private vehicles including bicycles.

People wishing to attend the Dawn Service are encouraged to book a seat on one of the free bus services that will operate from towns across the Macedon Ranges and Sunbury – booking details will be shared closer to the event. For more information visit: [www.mtmacedondawnservice.org](http://www.mtmacedondawnservice.org) and follow updates at [www.facebook.com/MountMacedonAnzacDayDawnService](http://www.facebook.com/MountMacedonAnzacDayDawnService).

MMADDS thanks its sponsors including the Victorian Government through Victorian Veterans Council, Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Bendigo Community Bank Gisborne and Region, Public Transport Victoria, Gisborne Region Events Activities & Tourism and KGMG Creative. Thanks also goes to the organisations that help the service come together and run smoothly on the day including CFA, SES, Victoria Police, Parks Victoria, Woodend Scouts, the Victorian Emergency Management Institute and the Mount Macedon Memorial Cross Reserve Committee of Management.

SUBMITTED BY MOUNT MACEDON ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE COMMITTEE MEMBER, SARAH KATSAVOS

## Could Woodend win the Edgy Veg Awards this year?

The Edgy Veg Awards are back this April for the fourth year in the Macedon Ranges, and now expanded to Mount Alexander Shire. Given only 3% of the local population eats enough veg, the event couldn't have come at a better time.

With 47 venues on board, we have more vegelicious choice, more opportunities to support local business and growers, and new cafes, restaurants and pubs to discover. The event is a competition for the Most Vegelicious Dish – celebrating the amazing skills of our local chefs!

Start planning your delicious Edgy Veg Trail now – visit our website.

Starting locally in Woodend, you have nine options this year: Bourkies Bakehouse, Paysanne, Holgate Brewhouse, Woodend Cellar & Bar, Hanging Rock Café, The Victoria Hotel Woodend, 600 Above and Sizzler Restobar.

Show your support for your favourite local (and not-so-local) venues by tasting and scoring dishes. Each score puts you in the draw to win fabulous prizes plus your score helps determine which dish wins the title of Most Vegelicious Dish.

Event sponsors are backing these outcomes. Justin O'Donohue from Snap Fitness Woodend said "The Edgy Veg Awards is a great way to encourage people to get more vegetables into their diet, which fits with Snap Fitness' goal of promoting overall health and wellness." We've loved having Bendigo Bank in Gisborne's support for three years as they are there for our local community events.

Mt Macedon Realtor is also backing the event because, "As a vegetarian of 42 years, loving eating healthy food and still fit and strong, I wanted to support the EdgyVeg Awards to encourage more people to eat more veg!"

The event is hosted by Veg Action of the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group and generously supported by Healthy Loddon Campaspe and Mount Alexander Shire.



Photos: Sam from Sizzler Restobar holding their Aloo Gobi (Cauliflower and Potato)

SUBMITTED BY NINA, VE ACTION GROUP



Photo: Bourkies team of Alandra, Lily and Maia with their delicious Bakehouse, Spiced Harvest Veggie Pastie











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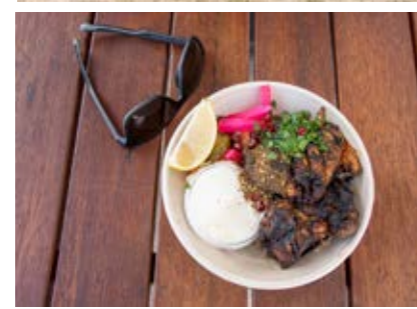
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## Manufactured in the Macedon Ranges






A successful and enjoyable community day out, with good food, good music and good company. The event was made possible with funding from The National Australia Day Council and The Rotary Club of Woodend.



## Rotary Peace Fellowships applications now open

The Rotary Foundation will award up to 50 fellowships for master's degrees and up to 80 fellowships for professional development certificates at premier universities — including at our newest Rotary Peace Centre in Istanbul.

Applications will be accepted from 1 February to 15 May, and the selected peace fellows will begin their studies in 2026.

Find out who is eligible and how they can apply. <https://my.rotary.org/en/peace-fellowship-application>

If you're interested, please contact the Rotary Club of Woodend <https://www.woodendrotary.org.au/contact>.

Since the Rotary Peace Centres program began in 2002, over 1,800 fellows have graduated, including more than 40 from our District 9800. They now work on peace and development initiatives in over 140 countries. Many serve as leaders in government, non-governmental organisations, educational and research institutions, peacekeeping and law enforcement



## Live and study abroad

The opportunity of a lifetime awaits Australian high school students.

Consider applying for the Rotary Youth Exchange program for 2026. If you are currently in Years 9, 10, or 11, this opportunity is for you.

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For more information and to apply, visit: [www.ryea.org.au](http://www.ryea.org.au)

We are always looking for families for the incoming international students to Australia. If you want more information or log a expression of Interest please contact The Rotary club of Woodend <https://www.woodendrotary.org.au/contact>.

Photo: The 2025 Exchange Students returning after their year of study in Germany, Italy, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Spain, France and Iceland. The afternoon tea prepared by the student represented the food of their host country.



agencies, media and the arts, and international organisations like UNICEF, the United Nations, the World Bank, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Our Peace Centre program is one of Rotary's finest achievements.



Photo: Past Peace Fellows



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## Message from your councillors

We hope you've had a great start to 2025. We are well and truly into the year at Council and have some important items coming up that we'd love to share with you.

The first is that one of the most critical community consultations you can take part in is now open for your feedback. Reshaping the Ranges (<https://yoursay.mrsc.vic.gov.au/shaping-ranges>) is a survey that's part of the council's deliberative engagement process, informing the development of key documents and council priorities over the next four years. Council is seeking the views of all Macedon Ranges residents and businesses on what we should focus on over the next four years. Your views will help us shape the Community Vision, Council Plan, Financial Plan, Asset Plan, and Revenue and Rating Plan. We know it takes valuable time to look at each of these documents and share feedback, however, gathering input from everyone ensures all voices across the Ranges can be heard. Submissions close on Tuesday 18 March.

We have also launched a series of community catch-ups across West Ward. The first one was held in Kyneton and the second will be in Malmsbury at Malmsbury Bakery on Friday 28 March from 10.30am until 11.30am. We will also be in Woodend on Friday 30 May from 11am until 12pm; the venue is to be confirmed. These are a great opportunity to connect with your West Ward Councillors, share your feedback and any concerns for our region – and support our local businesses. We understand that not everyone can make it on these days or times, that's why we are looking at hosting a town hall evening event mid-year. Additionally, we are also available via email and phone call. For ease, our contact details are [janderson@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:janderson@mrsc.vic.gov.au), [jpearce@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:jpearce@mrsc.vic.gov.au), and [kkendall@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:kkendall@mrsc.vic.gov.au).

We have also been working on the upcoming council budget. Thank you to everyone who sent in a submission and to those who did a verbal presentation. Our next council meeting is on Wednesday 26 March at 7pm. These are held in the Gisborne Council Chamber and are, of course, open to the community to attend. The agendas are published at least five days before a meeting and minutes are generally available within five working days of each meeting. You can also watch livestreams or recordings of Council Meetings via the MRSC website.

CONTRIBUTED BY CR KENDALL ON BEHALF OF WEST WARD COUNCILLORS



L-R: Cr Pearce, Cr Kendall and Cr Anderson. Photo credit: Kate Kendall

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Vaccines help build strong immunity before kids are exposed to harmful infections, preventing illnesses like measles, whooping cough, and polio. Plus, staying up to date with immunisations ensures your child can attend childcare, kindergarten, and school without worry.

Is your child due for a vaccination? Check their immunisation history through MyGov or the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).

Need to book? Macedon Ranges Shire Council provides free childhood vaccinations for eligible children under the NIP. Visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/immunisation](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/immunisation) for more details.

If you have a child in Year 7 or Year 10 at secondary school in 2025, look out for the immunisation information provided by their school. Students in Year 7 receive the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine (1 dose) and the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough) combined vaccine (1 dose). Students in Year 10 receive the Meningococcal ACWY vaccine (1 dose).

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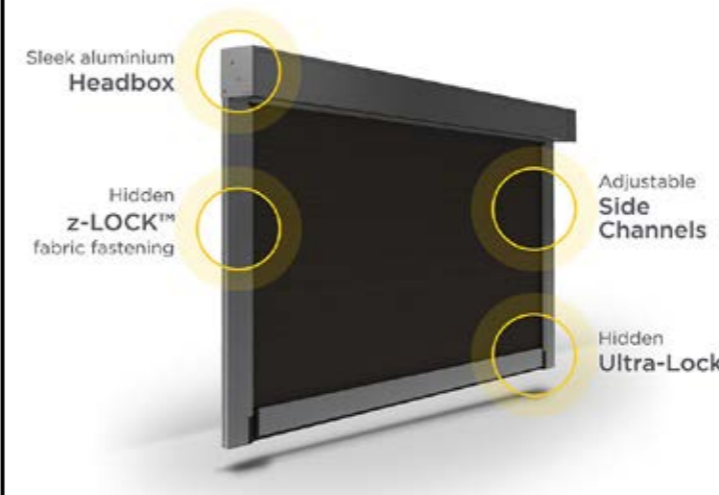
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Would you like to discover how to use AI in your business, set your website up for Google success, or learn how search engine optimisation can help grow your customer base?

Macedon Ranges Shire Council is running 3 x two-hour face-to-face workshops in April designed for beginners to gain an introduction and learn more about these topics to help your business grow.

Register for just one or come to all of them, it's up to you.

These two-hour workshops can benefit new or established business and will be run face-to-face in Kyneton by Karlie Plowman from Techno Bird. Cost is \$35 per workshop.

#### An Introduction to Search Engine Optimisation (SEO)

Understand how Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) works and how it can help you get found on Google.

Thursday 3 April 2025 | 10am-12 noon

#### How To Use AI In Your Business

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Thursday 10 April 2025 | 10am-12 noon

#### How to set your website up for Google success

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Thursday 24 April 2025 | 10am-12 noon

Location: Kyneton Community House, 34 Mollison Street, Kyneton. Bookings Essential.

To register visit [mrcs.vic.gov.au/business-events](https://mrcs.vic.gov.au/business-events)



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### Victorian Goldfields given green light to seek World Heritage listing

The Australian Government has officially given the green light for the Victorian Goldfields to seek World Heritage listing, marking a historic milestone after 35 years of advocacy, with its successful inclusion on Australia's Tentative World Heritage List.

The journey to World Heritage listing for the Victorian Goldfields is a collaborative effort. Fifteen councils across Victoria, Traditional Owners, the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments, and local and international experts are working together on the bid.

Tentative listing recognises the Victorian Goldfields' potential outstanding global heritage significance and seeks to celebrate and protect the region's multi-layered history – from the First Peoples living on Country to the goldrush and subsequent waves of immigration.

"Victorian Goldfields represents the most extensive, coherent, and best-surviving nineteenth century global gold rush landscape anywhere in the world," said Barry Gamble, Chief Advisor to the Victorian Goldfields World Heritage bid.

Cr Dom Bonanno, Mayor, Macedon Ranges Shire Council said Council said he was excited by what achieving World Heritage status would mean for the area, and that the role Macedon Ranges towns played in this phase of Australia's history.

"The goldrush was important in the story of the Macedon Ranges, with local areas effectively becoming the gateway for travellers enroute to the goldfields to the north in Bendigo and Castlemaine promoting both economic activity and population growth," Cr Bonanno said.

A Tentative listing is one step on the journey to being considered for World Heritage listing. It acts as a placeholder for World Heritage listing and has no other consequences.

Further research and consultation will be undertaken to determine sites for a World Heritage bid, which may include additional sites not part of the current Tentative List submission.

Achieving UNESCO World Heritage status will bring extensive benefits to the region's local communities including economic and social revitalisation, strengthening regional identity, building community pride and providing educational opportunities. A 2024 economic assessment found that the listing could see 2.5 million new visitors to the Victorian Goldfields region over 10 years, with an estimated visitor spending increase into local economies of over \$500 million.

As we continue on the journey towards a World Heritage bid, we will keep working with councils, property owners, and communities in the Victorian Goldfields and across the state.

Now is the time to rally together and get behind this important moment, ensuring the rich heritage of the Victorian Goldfields is recognised on a global stage, conserving it for future generations to appreciate and enjoy.

SUBMITTED BY BODEY DITTLUFF, MRSC



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## Telstra Macedon Ranges Community Choice Awards 2025



Macedon Ranges has many outstanding businesses committed to delivering excellent customer experiences. In recognition of this, the Council is re-inviting residents and visitors to nominate their favourite business/businesses for the 2025 Telstra Macedon Ranges Community Choice Awards.

An extension of Council's Business Excellence Awards program, these awards seek to recognise and celebrate those who go above and beyond in their day-to-day delivery of goods and services. Businesses can be nominated in the following five categories:

- Excellence in Customer Service – Agribusiness and Primary Production
- Excellence in Customer Service – Health and Wellbeing
- Excellence in Customer Service – Hospitality and Accommodation
- Excellence in Customer Service – Professional, Retail and Service
- Excellence in Customer Service – Trades and Manufacturing

You can nominate your favourite business until 24 March 2025. Voting will be open from 1 April 2025.

For more information on how to nominate a business and to vote, visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/community-choice](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/community-choice)

# BOUND Macedon Ranges

The news is positive, buyer interest is increasing.



### Register your child for 3 or 4 year old kindergarten 2025

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

Find out more  
Visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/kindergarten](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/kindergarten) or call our Enrolment Officers on (03) 5422 0239 to:

- Register online by 31 May 2025
- Find out information regarding eligibility
- Receive guidance on making a decision about when to send your child to kindergarten.

### Expert family law advice and support in the Macedon ranges.

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( ALEX WHITE )  
0488 990 212  
[alex@boundrealestate.com.au](mailto:alex@boundrealestate.com.au)

## Greater Western Water's annual Thriving Communities grants and sponsorship applications are open from 5 March to 9 April 2025.

Held at the iconic Hanging Rock, The Macedon Ranges Music Festival (MRMF) is a volunteer-run event that brings together local artists and the community. For the last 3 years, Greater Western Water (GWW) has sponsored the festival as part of their Thriving Communities grants and sponsorship program, supporting activities that contribute to community connection and environmental stewardship.

In addition to MRMF, GWW has supported events, projects and sustainability initiatives that help make our region a great place to live.

If you are part of a community group or local organisation and have a project, event or activity coming up that positively impacts the environment or supports community development, GWW encourages you to apply.

Community grants provide up to \$20,000 for projects that help local communities, the environment, individuals and industry thrive.

Local community sponsorships provide up to \$5,000 for community activities that promote equity, inclusivity and the health of our environment, or help diverse groups to thrive.

Apply online for funds to support your community project, activity or event.

Find out more at [gww.com.au/grants-sponsorships](http://gww.com.au/grants-sponsorships)

SUBMITTED BY GEORGIA MILL



## Introducing Change Makers.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council is excited to be partnering with the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group to launch a shire-wide, week-long festival of fun, practical, and interactive workshops designed to help you try a new change.

Maybe you've been thinking about how to start a veggie patch? Or are keen to learn a few ways to make your grocery shopping go further with zero waste cooking classes? Perhaps you'd like to deep dive into how the neighbours planned for a new energy efficient home? Or maybe you'd like to discover how you can get that old bike running smoothly again? This week-long celebration of solutions can help you get started.

Changemakers Macedon Ranges will kick off with the Riddells Creek Enviro-Energy Expo hosting interactive stalls, expert keynote speakers, and panel discussions on Saturday 15 March and will run through to Sunday 23 March. All events are free and family friendly!

Council's Director Planning and Environment, Rebecca Stockfeld, commended the Changemakers program, saying: "Changemakers provides a wonderful opportunity for people from all walks of life to come together and learn a new life skill, and work towards making a real change."

"Collaboration in our community is what we love to see, and the changes that we make today, can have a profound impact on the generations to follow."

Workshops hosted throughout the week will include zero-waste cooking classes (on induction cooktops), edible garden tours, sustainable house tours, bike maintenance for beginners, the launch of both a youth climate group and a backyard biodiversity program, mending and sewing workshops, produce swaps and much more.

Join us for one workshop, or all of them! More information on the full program will be coming soon and available on the How you can take climate action page <https://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/Live-Work/Environment/Climate-Change/How-you-can-take-climate-action>

Check out the exciting speakers and stallholders of the Riddells Creek Enviro-Energy Expo at the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group website. <https://mrsg.org.au/riddells>

SUBMITTED BY BRAD MATHIESON MRSC



PHOTO: keynote speakers Riddells Creek Enviro-Energy Expo  
Left: Rhydian Cowley, Olympian and Environmental Activist  
Right: Emeritus Prof and Climate Council Councillor David Karoly, Keynote Speaker



## English Ivy in Woodend

Thirteen adults and three children gathered on 9 February to attack the noxious English Ivy invading the native vegetation along Five Mile Creek, adjacent to the Rotary Exercise Track. Woodend Landcare has been focusing on removing ivy from this site with annual working bees each February for four years. "Four years ago, when we started working here, English Ivy covered the entire ground, smothering any native seedlings that tried to grow." As Woodend Landcare President Peter Yates explained, "It was also climbing up nearly every tree trunk throughout the area, and in some cases smothering the trees."

English Ivy (*Hedera helix*) loves the cool, wet, English-like conditions of the Macedon Ranges. It survives by creeping along the ground until it finds something to grow up, such as a tree. It then climbs up the tree, completely covering it. Only once off the ground will the ivy flower and seed. At height, this is the perfect location for birds to feed on the seed. The birds then spread the seed in their droppings, as they fly around the environment. Bird poop provides the ideal start to life for the new ivy seedlings – nutrients, moisture and a free flight to new locations.

By knowing the life cycle of ivy, we can target our eradication efforts to be most effective. By stopping it from climbing trees, we stop it from flowering and producing seeds. For trees that are heavily infested with ivy, we simply cut the ivy from the bottom 30 cm of the trunk and scrape the ivy from a 30cm ring on the ground around trunk. Eventually the ivy will creep back towards the trunk and start to climb up again, but this gives us a year to two to spray or hand weed the ground layer of ivy.

You can easily replicate this method at home. Simply prevent the ivy from climbing up any vertical structures such as trees and fences, and you will stop it from flowering and setting seed. You don't have to remove ivy from the whole trunk of heavily invaded trees. Simply cut the ivy at the base of the tree and every shoot and leaf above that will die. Over time to dead ivy leaves will simply fall from the trees.

This method does not kill the ivy on the ground, but stops it from being spread by birds into other gardens and the native environment.

### Next working bees:

Sunday 2 March 9am-12pm

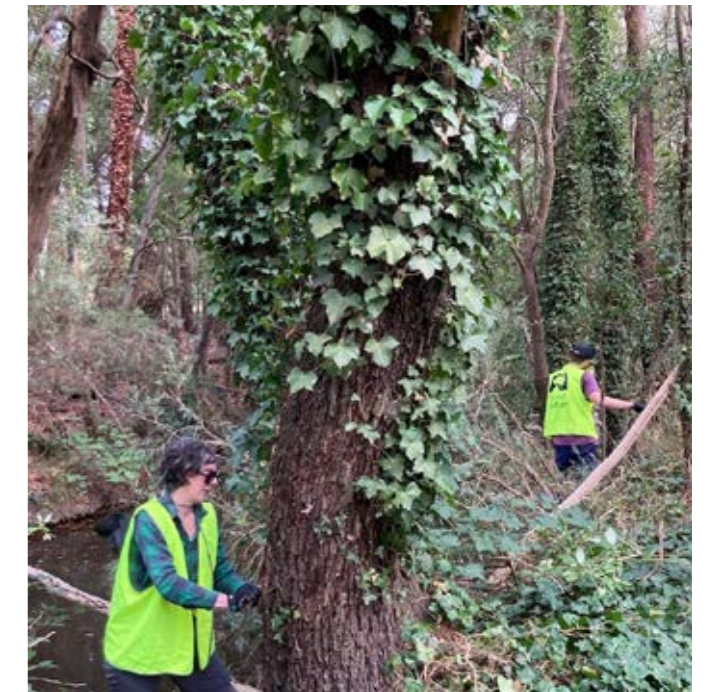
Clean Up Australia Day and Working Bee: Meet at Five Mile Creek near Jeffreys St. Tasks: Weeding Biolink revegetation sites and rubbish removal along Five Mile Creek between Jeffreys and High Streets.

Sunday 23 March 9am-12pm

Working Bee: Five Mile Creek, Thomas to Samuel Court. Parking: Thomas Court. Meeting place: Five Mile Creek near Thomas Court.

For more information, please check [woodendlandcare.org](http://woodendlandcare.org)

SUBMITTED BY NICOLE MIDDLETON



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## Sustainable, Local, Zero-Waste



1st Saturday of every month



9am-1pm

[mrsg.org.au](http://mrsg.org.au)

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



## The Reusable Nappy, Sanitary and Incontinence Product Rebate Program is back in 2025!

For the third consecutive year, Council is pleased to be running the Reusable Nappy, Sanitary and Incontinence Product Rebate Program. The program will run from February to May 2025 and is available to all residents within the shire, providing access to affordable reusable items.

Approximately 660 million disposable nappies, sanitary and incontinence products end up in Australian landfill each year. These products are made up of many single-use plastic components and can take up to 150 years to break down. Reusable products reduce the long-term environmental and financial costs of waste disposal.

As an example, using one set of cloth or reusable nappies with machine washing and line-drying will cost about half as much as disposable nappies. This saving increases with every child because the cloth nappies can be used again and again (Source: Sustainability Victoria). This rebate helps reduce the associated start-up costs of switching to reusable products.

Reusable cloth nappies and associated products, sanitary and incontinence products are eligible for the rebate (rebate covers up to 50% of the purchase, capped up to \$100\*). To learn more, visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/reusables](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/reusables)

Three educational reusable nappy workshops will be held to promote the rebate program and to further educate the community on the environmental and health benefits of these products. To book, visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/nappies](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/nappies)

\*Terms and conditions apply.

### MODERN CLOTH NAPPY WORKSHOPS

Everything you need to know about reusable modern cloth nappies!

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GISBORNE 1PM, WEDNESDAY 19 MARCH  
ONLINE 7PM WEDNESDAY 30 APRIL

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### REUSABLE NAPPY, SANITARY and INCONTINENCE PRODUCT REBATE PROGRAM

[mrsc.vic.gov.au/reusables](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/reusables)

Receive UP TO 50% off\* your purchase of reusable products. \*Terms and conditions apply.

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### Keep rubbish and recycling out of your green bin.

Only food scraps, garden clippings and compostable materials belong in your food organics garden organics bin. By using your green bin correctly, you help make high-quality mulch and compost for use on parks, gardens and farms.

If you don't have enough room in your rubbish or recycling bin, contact council to discuss your options.

Small acts make a big impact. Find out more: [mrsc.vic.gov.au](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au)

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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](mailto:content@newwoodendstar.org.au)

—FEBRUARY—

- 1.....Woodend Farmers' Market
- 1.....Lions Community Market
- 4..... Exhibition 'Summer' opens at The Gallery, Mt Macedon
- 9..... Woodend Landcare working bee
- 14..... Probus Meeting, Norma Richardson Hall
- 14..... Soweto Gospel Choir, KTH
- 14..... Valentine's Day
- 14..... Mt Players AGM
- 21..... Opening of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Mt Players
- 22..... Artists' & Makers' Market

—MARCH—

- 1..... Macedon Ranges Relay for Life
- 1..... Woodend Farmers' Market
- 1..... Lions Community Market
- 1, 2..... Charlotte's Web, Lancefield
- 8-10..... Lions Woodend Art Show at St Ambrose Hall
- 10..... Labour Day Holiday
- 15-23..... Changemakers Macedon Range week of workshops
- 21..... AGM Woodend Probus Club
- 22..... Artists' & Makers' Market
- 29..... WWAF Launch Concert, St Ambrose Church

—APRIL—

- 1-30..... Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival
- 5..... Woodend Farmers' Market
- 5..... Lions Community Market
- 6..... End of Daylight Saving Time
- 18..... Good Friday
- 20..... Easter Sunday
- 21..... Easter Monday
- 25..... ANZAC Day
- 26..... Artists' & Makers' Market

—MAY—

- 3..... Woodend Farmers' Market
- 3..... Lions Community Market
- 11..... Mother's Day
- 24..... Artists' & Makers' Market

—JUNE—

- 6-9..... Woodend Winter Arts Festival
- 7..... Woodend Farmers' Market
- 7..... Lions Community Market
- 9..... King's Birthday holiday
- 28..... Artists' & Makers' Market

—JULY—

- 26..... Artists' & Makers' Market

Read us online: [www.newwoodendstar.com/view](http://www.newwoodendstar.com/view)

## Macedon Ranges Music Festival 2025 returns to Hanging Rock

The highly anticipated Macedon Ranges Music Festival (MRMF) 2025 is returning on Saturday, March 29, with an incredible line up of live music at the iconic Hanging Rock. As one of Victoria's premier community-driven events, MRMF promises an unforgettable day of outstanding performances, delicious food, and a vibrant atmosphere – all while raising funds for the Cambodian Kids Foundation.

This year's festival will be headlined by Emma Donovan, one of Australia's most powerful and soulful voices, known for her deep connection to Indigenous culture and storytelling through music. Steph Strings, the dynamic fingerstyle guitarist and singer-songwriter, will captivate audiences with her internationally acclaimed show that has sold out venues around the world. The ever-energetic Hot Potato Band will transform Hanging Rock into a New Orleans-style street party with their infectious, brass-driven grooves.

Joining them will be the soulful, blues-infused 9-piece band Fools, troubadour singer-songwriter Joshua Batten, and Son Quba, bringing the irresistible rhythms of traditional Cuban dance music to the festival's dance floor. And don't forget your cowboy hat – prepare for an interactive line dancing session with Country Struts Boot Scooting.

In addition to the incredible music lineup, festival-goers can enjoy a diverse range of delicious food stalls, local craft beverages, and family-friendly activities. MRMF continues its mission of doing it all for a great cause, with 100% of festival profits supporting the Cambodian Kids Foundation.

Festival Director Jimmy O'Hare expressed his excitement for the upcoming event: "The Macedon Ranges Music Festival is all about incredible music, a strong community spirit, and making a real difference. We're thrilled to bring such a diverse and talented lineup to the stage, and we can't wait to welcome everyone back to Hanging Rock for MRMF 2025."

MRMF2025 is supported by the Victorian Government through the Community Support Fund and Creative Victoria, delivered by Music Victoria.

**Event Details:**

**Date:** Saturday, March 29, 2025. **Location:** Hanging Rock, Macedon Ranges, VIC

**Tickets:** Available from February 13, 2025, via [www.macedonrangesmusicfestival.org](http://www.macedonrangesmusicfestival.org)

With limited capacity and a history of selling out, festival goers are encouraged to grab their tickets early to avoid missing out on this unforgettable day of music and community spirit.

About Macedon Ranges Music Festival:

The Macedon Ranges Music Festival is a 100% volunteer-run, not-for-profit event that donates all proceeds to the Cambodian Kids Foundation. Since its inception, MRMF has become a beloved annual celebration of live music, bringing together top-tier artists and a passionate audience in support of a great cause.

SUBMITTED BY JIMMY O'HARE

## Bendigo Pride Festival returns from 27–30 March 2025.

With an impressive lineup of 37 unique events, this year's festival promises to be a vibrant celebration of LGBTQIA+ pride, creativity and community.

2025 Headliners include The Leatherlungs (NZ), Bec Sandridge (Sydney), Greg Gould, Adam Noviello, Sophie Delightful (Brisbane), Aurora Kurth, Pollyfilla and Kate DeAraugo

Now in its sixth year, the Bendigo Pride Festival has become a hallmark event for the region, attracting thousands of attendees from across Australia. It provides a safe, welcoming space to celebrate the rich diversity of intergenerational identities, voices, and stories that make up the LGBTQIA+ community, with loads of free events and a spectacular lineup of artists. For further information: <https://bendigopridefestival.com.au/events/>

## Flower and produce show returns to Mount Macedon

More than a century of horticultural history returns to Mount Macedon on Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 March 2025, with the annual Autumn Flower and Produce Show.

The show is open to all residents in the Macedon Ranges, with no charge to submit exhibits. Entries from children are especially welcome, with separate categories available for different age groups.

This year the Autumn Flower and Produce Show will be held in the Society's Hall at 583 Mt Macedon Road, Mt Macedon, where it co-locates with the Mt Macedon Golf Club. Visitors will be welcome on Saturday afternoon from 3pm, and on Sunday from 10am, when Devonshire teas will be available.

The Mt Macedon & District Horticultural Society was formed in 1922 and has held Autumn shows almost every year since. However, the spirit of the show dates back even earlier, with a competitive show held to show off flowers and produce from many grand gardens in the area, several of which had teams of gardeners employed on a full-time basis.

While those times have gone, there are many large and small gardens in Mt Macedon and surrounding towns, where the owners continue the tradition of growing a wide range of flowers, plants and produce.

The full list of categories, together with details for entering, can be found at [mountmacedonhorticulture.org.au](http://mountmacedonhorticulture.org.au) or on the Society's Facebook page.

SUBMITTED BY LISA LAIRD



## Visions Unveiled

Amaya De Silva is thirteen years old and resides in Hume. This is her first solo exhibition. When Amaya was a little girl, she developed a love of art - in particular, the drawing of animals. To foster her passion for creativity, her mother Anu sought the assistance of an old friend and art teacher, Jennifer.

Over the past four years, Jennifer has tutored Amaya in a range of art mediums such as oil painting, drawing, mosaics and resin and has introduced her to Modern Art movements such as Surrealism, Abstraction and Pop Art. Amaya is continuing to develop and refine her artistic skills with Jennifer, in preparation for her artistic journey through secondary school.

Amaya's exhibition contains a collection of artworks that she has produced over the years, revealing a perceptive understanding of art well beyond her years. Her preparation processes uses small, fast sketches. Composition layout, conceptual meanings and, most importantly, appropriate art mediums are explored. Once the artwork has been thoroughly planned, Amaya brings it to life through her mature creative skills.

"Visions Unveiled" is on display at The Gallery, 684 Mt. Macedon Road, Mt. Macedon, from Monday 3 March to Sunday 6 April. The exhibition opening is on Saturday 8 March 2pm to 4pm.

The Gallery is open Friday to Tuesday, 10am to 4pm and is situated next to the Trading Post in Mt. Macedon.

SUBMITTED BY SUE ANSON



## Stitched in the 'Maine

Fabulous embroidery, textiles and unique handmade items will be on display when the Castlemaine branch of The Embroiderers Guild, Victoria holds its biennial exhibition over the Labor Day long weekend at the Mount Alexander Golf Club in Wimble Street, Castlemaine.

The Castlemaine embroiderers are a dedicated and skilled group, drawing members from Central Victoria through to Gisborne and Melbourne. As well as traditional embroidery such as hardanger, crewel work and cross stitch, the exhibition will include items using more experimental techniques of eco-dyeing, felting, machine embroidery and other creative examples of texture and stitch. The Guild usually features the work of one of its members at each exhibition. This year, the fine work of long-time member Jan Harris will be on display.

Marjorie Theobald, well known historian and author of 'The Accidental Town', a history of the early days of Castlemaine, will open the exhibition *Stitched in the 'Maine* at 11am on Saturday 8 March. The exhibition will be open daily from 10am to 3pm. There will also be quality handmade goods for sale and refreshments available.

SUBMITTED BY CASTLEMAINE BRANCH OF THE EMBROIDERERS GUILD, VICTORIA



## The Woodend Winter Arts Festival will celebrate its 20th Festival this year.

The finishing touches are being added to the 2025 program, which will return to featuring international artists, classical music performances, Words and Ideas talks and thought-provoking discussions with leading authors and scholars.

To celebrate the launch of the 2025 program, festival favourites, Ensemble Gombert will perform in Woodend on Sunday 29 March at 3pm in the glorious acoustics of St Ambrose Church. You are invited to join them, as they perform Choral Delights of Seven Centuries, featuring choral music from the 15th to the 21st century. This incredible concert showcases everything from Renaissance polyphony to modern Australian compositions. Don't miss your chance to experience one of Australia's finest chamber choirs live, right here in Woodend.

According to Festival Founder and Artistic Director, Jacqueline Ogeil, WWAF is proud and excited to launch the 2025 program and to have achieved this milestone, rebuilding post pandemic.

The festival proper takes place over the King's Birthday long weekend, from 6-9 June with additional concerts later in the year.

The Ensemble Gombert concert will take place at St Ambrose Church at 3pm on Sunday 29 March.

Tickets are on sale now at [woodendwinterartsfestival.org.au](http://woodendwinterartsfestival.org.au).

SUBMITTED BY THE WWAF COMMITTEE

## Resonance String Orchestra's Big String Day

Resonance String Orchestra is hosting a Big String Day in Castlemaine on Saturday 29 March 9am-1pm at Castlemaine Secondary College.

The morning of music and team-building games, whole orchestra sessions and instrument-based tutorials will be led by Resonance Co-Artistic Director Emma Wade, and Maryborough Education Performing Arts Coordinator Sarina Walter, while Co-Artistic Director Heather Cummins, tutors Lizzy Welsh, Charlotte Ryssenbeek and Sam Goble will on hand to take tutorials, mentor and ensure everyone has a great time!

Big String Day is open to students with established beginner skills to Grade 2 AMEB standard from Macedon Ranges, Mount Alexander, and neighbouring shires and is made possible by financial support from the Ulumbarra Foundation's 'Performing Arts Power Up' Grants.

Resonance has been running a high quality, super-supportive all-ages string orchestra program for beginners to advanced players in Central Victoria (Castlemaine and Woodend), for over 15 years and is renowned for the quality of its work and the fulfilling experience players have.

Big String Day will finish with a short performance for families and a Q&A. Students can attend Big String Day as a one-off experience or join up for our year-long Apprenti Strings program after the event.

For further information and to register for Big String Day and get the sheet music, go to [www.resonancestringorchestra.org.au](http://www.resonancestringorchestra.org.au). There is a cost for the music sheet, which is payable on the day.

Further info: Heather Cummins [heather.violin@gmail.com](mailto:heather.violin@gmail.com) and Emma Wade [musicislife@gmail.com](mailto:musicislife@gmail.com)

SUBMITTED BY ELIZABETH WILSON



## Celebrating 50 Years of Artistic Excellence at the Woodend Lions Club Annual Art Show

This year, the much-loved Gala Friday Evening Opening Event returns, offering an exclusive chance to get a first look at the incredible artworks while enjoying a night of celebration. Be part of the excitement as all the winners of the show are announced, and join us in commemorating 50 years of Lions Art Shows.

### A special thank you to our sponsors

The 50th Art Show would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors and supporters. This year, we are proud to announce that the Major Sponsor for the event is The Old Auction House in Kyneton, with additional support from JT Edgar, Jellis Craig, Little General Kids, SlowStudios, Kuzu, Rock and Ranges Brewing Cooperative, and Woodend Cellar and Bar. Their commitment to the arts and the community makes this event possible, and we are grateful for their continued partnership.

### An Event for art lovers and the community

Whether you're an art enthusiast, a first-time visitor, or a long-time supporter of the Woodend Lions Club, this year's show promises something for everyone. From stunning paintings to captivating photography, there will be a diverse range of works on display, all created by talented local artists. This is your chance to discover something truly unique and bring a piece of art home, while supporting a good cause. We'll also have our raffle, this year with some extra special prizes!

### A Special Opening Gala to Celebrate 50 Years

Mark your calendars for a spectacular celebration of art, community, and creativity at the 50th Annual Woodend Lions Club Art Show! This year's milestone event promises to be bigger and better than ever, honoring half a century of showcasing some of the finest talent from across the region.

### Event Details

Where: St Ambrose Hall, 42 Templeton St, Woodend, VIC 3442

When: 8-10 March, 10am-5pm

Entry by gold coin donation.

So, join us this March as we celebrate 50 years of artistic achievement, community spirit, and creativity. Your presence at the 50th Annual Woodend Lions Club Art Show will make this historic event even more special.

For further information, ticket bookings, and event details, visit <https://woodendlions.org.au/artshow2025/> or follow us on Facebook. See you at the show!

SUBMITTED BY GAIL JONES, WOODEND LIONS CLUB



Raffle prize is this painting by Helen Cottle



## The 5th Annual TUBEROUS BEGONIA, FUCHSIA & PLANT SHOW

691 Ashbourne Rd, Ashbourne via Woodend VIC 3442  
(Car and Bus parking at rear of property)

**THIS IS A FREE EVENT**  
**Open EVERY WEEKEND**  
**March 2025**  
**10 am till 4pm**

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

We have hundreds of Tuberous Begonias, Fuchsias, Cusonia, Amorphophallis and climbers such as Gloriosa Rothchildiana, Snail Vines, and more.

For more information please phone:

**Jesse on 0419 002 651 or Peter on 0400 313 703**

There are no public toilets at the nursery available due to increase of Covid cases in Victoria. There are some clean public toilets in Anslow St near the corner High St, Woodend.

## News from Trentham Branch



### Woodend Mini Roos

When Woodend Eagles Soccer club approached us to provide funds for the 4–11 year old Mini Roos teams for their own professional match day kit, we were only too happy to assist!

With over 110 enrolled boys and girls supported by a strong volunteer committee, experienced coaches and parents, this club are committed to providing a space for sport, community inclusion and shared vision to grow and compete in the local regional soccer league.

"We have so many soccer obsessed boys and girls training. We develop everyone's skills to suit their ability, ensuring no one is out of their depth. Support from Bendigo Bank and other sponsors is vital to ensure we can offer a safe, supportive and fun environment." Alistair Fletcher, Woodend Eagles President.

Building a strong, professional and permanent club is top objective for the Eagles with hopes of improving local sporting infrastructure, with council support, in the near future. If you are in a position to contribute donations/sponsorships to help the club achieve their vision please contact the club: [admin@woodendsoccer.com.au](mailto:admin@woodendsoccer.com.au).

Giving back financially to local community is foundational to the Community Bank model. Sponsorships and grants are sourced from customer banking returns. You can contribute simply by becoming a customer.

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## News from Gisborne Branch

### Farewell Corinne!

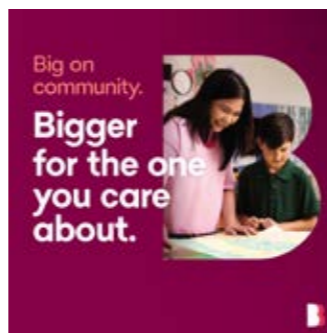
For the past decade, Corinne has been the heart of community engagement at Community Bank Gisborne & District and Macedon Ranges Community Enterprises, starting her journey with us back in July 2014.

Corinne recently made the exciting move to Glenelg, South Australia, and her absence will be deeply felt. As our Community Engagement Officer, Corinne worked tirelessly to inspire and support the people, groups, and events that make Gisborne and the Macedon Ranges such a vibrant place to live.

Her role has been all about connection, bringing people together, celebrating volunteers, and helping local groups access grants, sponsorships, scholarships, and donations. From championing initiatives like the L2P drivers education program to supporting youth through scholarships, Corinne's passion for empowering the community has been truly inspiring. Hosting our Community Investment Evenings has been another highlight of Corinne's contributions, bringing together community-minded people to celebrate and share stories.

Reflecting on her time, Corinne shared, "It has been a pleasure and a privilege to get to know my community better through my work at MRCE and I thank everyone who collaborated with me along the way."

While we know these are big shoes to fill, we are excited to start our search for a new Community Engagement superstar. If you're passionate about community engagement, marketing, and making a real impact, we'd love to hear from you! For more information, visit our job ad at [www.ethicaljobs.com.au](http://www.ethicaljobs.com.au)



**Contact:**

Courtney Alexander— Mobile Lender

11 Nexus Way  
Gisborne VIC 3437

**Ph: (03) 5420 7210**

Email: [gisbornemailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au](mailto:gisbornemailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au)

## Woodend Community Bags launches into the New Year with a flourish

Woodend Community Bags are committed to continuing to make cloth bags from donated fabrics to support a plastic-free Woodend but have now added cloth aprons to our product range.

We launched our first prototype apron at the February 2025 Farmers' Market. As they are quite labour intensive to make, we decided to just have one available (sewn by team member Barb) to see how quickly it sold. One delighted customer from Melbourne snapped it up saying she'd been looking for a denim apron for ages.

She later wrote to us saying "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Love your work Barb. Hope the aprons continue. I agree it's a great fit for a Farmers Market."

Going forward, we are hoping to continue to make a limited number of aprons so they become a sought-after feature at future markets.

Woodend Community Bags is always looking forward, constantly finding creative ways to transform donated fabric into appealing items for our market goers. With Easter looming, Barb has been busy making these delightful little Easter bags. We are confident they will bounce out of the market.

The Bags team were approached by Woodend's Rotary Club with a request to make laundry bags for their End Trachoma program. Trachoma is the leading infectious cause of blindness worldwide. It is a bacterial eye infection and, if not treated, can lead to blindness.

Environmental factors such as inadequate hygiene are associated with transmission of the disease.

Rotary is working to eliminate trachoma in Indigenous communities around Ampilatwatja in the Northern Territory by improving access to

laundry facilities, which has involved the installation of three washing machines and a clothes dryer.

To aid households to transport bedding and general laundry to the facility, Woodend Community Bags team member Deann has made 20 purpose designed laundry bags over the summer break.

Rotary feedback has been positive; they were impressed with the design, quality and fabric selection, advising families will be very appreciative.

Woodend Community Bags is pleased to have been able to assist the Rotary Club and we look forward to hearing positive news as they and the community tackle this public health problem.



SUBMITTED BY SHEILA BRENNAN  
Photo: Sally Jones and Deann Collier



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## Community-led Safe Space marks three months of operation with call for more volunteers

Opening in November 2024, Woodend's new Community-led Safe Space is set to mark three months of supporting the community.

An initiative created and managed by the Macedon Ranges Suicide Prevention Action Group, the Safe Space has acted as a welcoming, non-clinical drop-in centre for individuals experiencing emotional distress or a suicidal crisis, since opening in November.

A 10-minute walk from Woodend Station, the space offers a compassionate and understanding environment, where people can feel heard, supported and understood over a cup of tea. The welcoming, cosy space has soft furnishings, bean bags,

weighted blankets and heat packs to stay warm on cooler days. There are also sensory activities like drawing, books and games available, as well as access to an outdoors area. The calm, safe space for reflection is also supported by peer workers who are available to offer support through shared experiences and empathy.

The inclusive and accessible space is open to everyone, regardless of background, gender, age or belief. No referrals or appointments are required.

Currently open every Wednesday evening and every second Saturday afternoon, the Macedon Ranges Suicide Prevention Action Group is calling for more community members with lived experience to volunteer so the Safe Space can extend its operating hours and support more locals experiencing mental distress.

Locals are encouraged to contact the registered charity (via details below) to learn more.

### Safe Space location:

Woodend Neighbourhood House  
47 Forest Street, Woodend

Current opening hours:

Every Wednesday 5.30pm – 8.30pm

Every second Saturday 1pm – 4pm

Enquiries: safespace@mrspag.com.au

Website: <https://www.mrspag.com.au/safe-space>

If you or someone you know needs support please phone:

Lifeline - 24/7 Crisis Support service – 13 11 14 or text 0477 131 114

Suicide Call Back Service – 24/7 free professional phone or online counselling – 1300 659 467

MensLine Australia – 24/7 family and relationship concerns – 1300 789 978

SUBMITTED BY FIONA LAWFORD, MRSPA



## Smells like Teen Spirit – entrepreneurial spirit, that is.

Not many 19-year-olds can boast about running their own business, but beauty entrepreneur Charlie Tucker is definitely one to watch.

With two years of industry expertise behind her, Charlie recently opened her own salon in Anslow Street, Woodend.

The Aura Beauty salon is a small haven of calm. It's freshly painted and beautifully furnished, and it's also a haven of friendliness.

"I think if I had to be quiet and not talk all day," laughed Charlie, "I would go crazy." So far, her favourite thing about having the salon is meeting new clients and creating meaningful relationships.

"I had a new client come into the salon to make a booking, and straight away she booked her next three appointments with me. I'd only known her about two minutes!" Charlie remembers this client telling her that she ran her own business too, so she was doubly keen to support other locals.

Charlie's modesty belies her strong work ethic and high standards. Many of her clients are, in fact, regulars, returning again and again.

"Of course, people come in wanting to look pretty," said Charlie, "but I like making my clients feel pretty too."

Currently specialising in lashes, brows, and spray tans, Charlie plans to offer waxing soon. Having previously worked in and managed a busy salon in Melbourne, she has a good sense of what's likely to be in demand.

Charlie also has plenty of good business sense – with an online booking system, a substantial social media presence and a five-year strategic plan for professional growth.

It's obvious to Charlie that it is her clients who keep her motivated and her business moving and growing. And as a Woodend local herself, there's always plenty to talk about. "I live here, I went to school here," said Charlie. "It was logical that I should start my business here too."

Tell your friends, spread the word. Aura Beauty might be the newest business on the block, but with such an impressive founder, it seems likely to become a Woodend fixture. And that's good business for all of us.

SUBMITTED BY MICHELL TUCKER-SCOTT

# AURA BEAUTY

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AURABEAUTY222@OUTLOOK.COM

@AURABEAUTY222



## Is your house or property clearly numbered?

It is amazing the number of houses or properties in our area that are not clearly numbered or identified. If you ever have to call 000, please make sure that you give the operator as much information as possible – especially your location, the address with the property number and even closest cross roads or nearby landmark.

All too often we lose valuable time looking for the actual property number. Sometimes the numbers are very small, dark in colour, difficult to read or have been overgrown ... or don't exist at all.

Please check the numbers outside your property, and do so from a few metres away to make sure they are very clear and easy to read – especially at night!

### Giving us good directions can make a real difference!

This time last year in The New Woodend Star, we wrote about the importance of meeting CFA trucks where possible to give directions to speed up arrival on scene.

There were several occasions in recent years where this proved the point. The home owners or neighbours were out on the road when the trucks arrived and pointed out the quickest way to get into the properties. This meant that we were directed straight to the incident without any delays. So, we thought it was worth repeating:

a few minutes, or even seconds, can make an amazing difference when we are called to an incident. The quicker that we can accurately arrive on scene, the faster we can take action.

There are some simple things that you can do, as members of our community, to help us achieve that goal.

### Meet the truck to give directions

Incidents can often be several hundred metres from the main road, and therefore difficult to spot. Once you have made a call for an emergency service to respond, if possible, send someone to the roadside to meet the vehicle. If at night, make sure you take a torch.

### Stay at the scene if you made the call

Sometimes you might make a call away from home or in a remote location, such as at the scene of a motor vehicle accident. If possible, please remain at the scene until emergency services arrive. This will not only help us arrive at the precise location more quickly, the information you give us at the scene will also be invaluable.



## Thanks Woodend Farmers Market

The Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group has allowed the Woodend CFA to have community safety information available at their summer Woodend Farmer's Markets. It gives us the chance to speak to hundreds of community members about their Fire Safety Plans. If you still have any questions, you can visit the fire station on a Sunday morning, when someone will definitely be there.

Follow us on Facebook, or you can visit our website: [www.woodendcfa.org](http://www.woodendcfa.org)

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, FORMER CAPTAIN WOODEND CFA

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## Marist Brothers – first class

The seventy-eighth annual reunion of the Kyneton Marist Brothers Old Boys Association held on Australia Day (26 January 2025) was first class in many ways. At the event, held at the Shamrock Hotel, we recalled that Bill Hardman, son of the owner in the 1950s, was a student taught by the Marist Brothers.

A number of boys who would have been Bill's classmates were joined by alumni that were students before or after him. The reunions have become family affairs, as the passing of time has reduced the membership. In the past twelve months, we have added thirteen boys to our Deceased remembrance roll.

The records of the school have been lost, so the actual number of boys who passed through the gates at the corner of Powlett and Hutton streets is not known, but nearly 400 deaths have been identified.

So the congregation at the reunion consisted of members and their families some into the third generation. This, according to the President Roly Sandilands is "first class", as was the fare and the service by the attentive staff. Registrants were able to select from six sumptuous and generous meals.

As stated above, the records of the school have been lost, but a collection of members' memorabilia was on display. Amongst the many paper cuttings and photographs was one that the late Vin Reardon ("Brother Sunshine"), who died many years ago, had provided.

The record made in 1927 was of the First Class that assembled on 26 July 1926. There were 58 boys and 5 religious, joining the inaugural principal Brother Louis. Interestingly, Brother Kevin Hoare, who was the last Brother to teach at Kyneton before the Marists withdrew in 1967, was our guest at the luncheon.

Two of the boys, Edward David Harris and John Denis Driscoll, both then aged 12 were granted a vocation and later became Marist Brothers. Edward Harris took the name Kenneth and John Driscoll

## Woodend Senior Citizens

Thursday 13 February was our bus trip to Docklands, where we met the ferry to Portarlinton. We were anticipating an extremely hot day, however luckily it was a very pleasant temperature.

Our next bus trip is on Thursday 13 March to Cricket Willow at Shepherd's Flat. During this visit, we will see a demonstration of making cricket bats from start to finish and hear about the history of cricket. There is a cost for this trip.

Please support the bus trips as well as our other activities. At the March meeting on Tuesday 4 March, we will celebrate the club's 58th birthday!

New members are always welcome so please come and join us in playing:

Button Bingo on Tuesdays 1pm – 3pm

Playing cards on Fridays 1pm – 4pm

We meet in the Undercroft of the Woodend Neighbourhood House on Tuesdays and Fridays or call Margaret 0458 272 767

became Brother Abel. Brother Abel had a stint teaching at Kyneton in 1946. Both used to attend the annual reunions in the 1950's, when St Mary's hall was filled to overflowing for the Communion Breakfast.

So a first class reunion came to an end, and folks headed home. Kelvin Boyer returned to Bendigo by train and would have travelled on a V/Line service that no longer discriminates and provides all clients a first class service.

Planning next year's reunion will be the responsibility of the new committee, to be determined at the upcoming Annual General Meeting. We seek first class candidates.

WRITTEN BY MICHAEL HALLEY



Photo: Left to right: Michael Halley (Secretary), Brother Kevin Hoare, Roly Sandilands (President), Len Young (Treasurer), Pat Clohesy (Ex officio)  
Submitted by Michael Halley

## Jahne Hope-Williams

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[www.jhwilliams.online](http://www.jhwilliams.online)



The Mount Players

## A sellout show and Life Memberships awarded in February.

What a fantastic start to the 2025 season. Our production of The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde was a sellout a week before it's opening night on 21 February, ensuring a wonderful atmosphere for every performance! Our next production, The Girl on The Train opens on 9 May so, lots about that next month or go to [www.themountplayers.com](http://www.themountplayers.com) for full details on this and everything happening at The Mount Players.

On 14 February we had a huge turnout for our AGM, which is never boring, as it's a perfect excuse for members to gather for a social evening.

Four members received their Life Memberships on the evening. Two of these became the first canines to be honoured with this award. Reg and Millie Taranto, who never missed a set build, working bee or social occasion stepped onto the stage to receive their trophies for "their pawfect input over many years".

On a more standard note, David Runnalls and Karen Hunt were humbled at receiving their honours after many years of dedicated service to the theatre. They are both very proud to share the honour board with fellow Life Members.

Thanks to an abundance of nominees, all roles on the 2025 committee were filled, ensuring the ongoing success for the Mountview Theatre.

See you at the theatre!

SUBMITTED BY MT PLAYERS COMMITTEE

Photo: Life Members gathered at The Mount Players AGM with Karen Hunt and David Runnalls holding their plaques.



Photo: Reg and Millie Taranto receiving their Life Memberships for "pawfect dedication"  
Both photos are by Karlana Santamaria




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**SECURE SELF STORAGE UNITS**

**The Whole Town Garage Sale is Back!**



Hunting for a bargain or a hidden gem? Woodend's Whole Town Garage Sale is back on Saturday 1 March.

Maps are available from Woodend Neighbourhood House (from 8am - 1pm on the day) and start exploring. We're expecting dozens of local sellers all offering a huge range of treasures - there's going to be something for everyone!

One person's trash is another's treasure - so sharpen your bargain-hunting skills and don't miss out!

**The Bike Shed - Open Fortnightly!**

Drop by the Woodend Community Bike Shed every second Thursday from 3.30pm - 5.30pm on Forest Street, Woodend (near the Library/Skate Park) for a quick ABC check (Air, Brakes, Chain) to keep your bike in top shape!

Need help with repairs? We've got the tools - and the know-how - to assist!

Free on Thursdays? We're always looking for volunteers - no mechanical skills needed!

Got a bike to donate? Bring it in or show us photos first to check if we have space.

Looking for a new bike? We will start seeing more bikes that are ready for new owners.

**March Community Lunch - Join Us!**

Come to the Woodend RSL on Tuesday, 18 March at 12 noon for the warm and welcoming Community Lunch! Enjoy a delicious two-course meal, great conversation, and plenty of laughter with friends old and new.

Bookings are essential as our last two lunches booked out. A \$5 donation per person is appreciated but not required. We'd love to see you there!

**Bendy Buddies - Fun and Movement for Little Ones!**

Looking for a playful way to keep your little one active? Bendy Buddies is a fun, movement-based session where young children can stretch, balance, and build confidence through gentle exercises and games.

Join us on Tuesday mornings for some flexible fun!

9.30-10am (2 and 3-year-olds)

10.30-11am (4 and 5-year-olds)

Bookings are essential via our website (\$10 per session - payment is for remaining sessions in the term).

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

SUBMITTED BY MELISSA BAKER



**Autumn Program**

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



**Crafting Connections: March 5 and May 7, 2pm**

Bring along your current craft project for idea sharing and skills in a friendly gathering. Premie Hearts materials will also be available. No bookings necessary.

**Zoe Cottew: Pip and Zoe's Amazing Adventures.**



**Saturday 15 March, 10.30-11.30am**

Join author Zoe Cottew as she shares heartfelt stories of her childhood in Indonesia and the fabulous menagerie of animals she

grew up with. Zoe's idyllic adventures are brought to life by the stunningly evocative illustrations of Cassia Whitton. A family event especially suited to primary school-aged children. Book sales and signings. Bookings required.

Would you like the chance to win a copy of Zoe's book? Come into the library and grab an entry into our colouring-in competition for kids aged 6-12 years!

**Get Ready, Get Techy! VicEmergency App: Thursday 13 March, 10-11.30am**

Are you prepared for emergencies? Digital devices are a fantastic way to help you stay alert, informed and connected if disaster strikes. Get assistance to download and set up apps on your smartphone or tablet that allow you to be notified in case of a bushfire or flood, call for help, report hazards and plan for emergencies, as well as connect with family, friends and your community. Facilitated by Macedon Ranges Shire Council.

Please bring your personal smartphone or tablet. Bookings through council - call 5422 0333 or email kmoore@mrsc.vic.gov.au.

**Bonjour Storytime: Saturday 22 March, 10.30am No bookings required!**

Come along and enjoy singing songs and listening to stories with Emeline, all in French!

**Pop Up Book Club Meeting 27 March, 5.30pm.**

Sign up for our mini Book Group to discuss how to transform your home - old, new or rented - for a cleaner, safer, more comfortable, cheaper electrical future. Discussions will be based around tips and strategies from Tim Forcey's My Efficient Electric Home Handbook, with topics including heating and cooling, hot water heat pumps, induction cooktops, insulation, solar energy and more. Participants will be provided with a copy of the book to read beforehand. Ten places are available. Facilitated by Macedon Ranges Sustainable Homes Action Group. Bookings are required.

Closures: The library will be closed for the Labour Day holiday on Monday, 10 March and for an all-staff training day on Wednesday, 2 April. Don't forget our eLibrary is always open!

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

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

SUBMITTED BY EMMA KEENAN

**Jubilee Year at St Ambrose Catholic Church in Woodend**

Along with all other Catholic Churches throughout the world, St Ambrose Parish in Woodend is celebrating the Jubilee Year of Hope, as invited by Pope Francis.

"Pilgrims of Hope"

This theme connects to the Jubilee Year, a significant time in the Church that occurs every 25 years, calling us to renewal, forgiveness, and justice. Historically, the Jubilee was a time of great transformation—debts were forgiven, land was returned to its rightful owners, and those who were struggling were given a fresh start.

A pilgrimage is a personal journey, undertaken not just to reach a destination, but to experience personal growth along the way. Like those who embark on physical pilgrimages to any holy places, we are called to journey through our lives, embracing all the joys and challenges along the way. At the heart of this journey is a hope of more than just wishing for a better future, even in difficult times. Hope anchors us when life is uncertain and reminds us that no challenge is too great.

May our diverse and broad community here in Woodend always offer hope to our families, our friends, and to the stranger.

FR JOHN HEALY, PARISH PRIEST



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## Women's Health Clinic in Kyneton seeking new patients

Central Highlands Rural Health is now taking new patients for its free women's health clinic located at Kyneton Health.

Women in rural and regional areas often face significant barriers to accessing the healthcare they need such as long travel distances, limited specialists, and delayed diagnoses. This clinic was created to address these barriers ensuring timely access to specialised care - close to home.

The clinic is for all women, and people assigned female at birth, going through puberty to those navigating menopause and beyond.

Our Women's Health Clinic provides expert services in:

- Endometriosis: Diagnosis, treatment, and management to improve quality of life.
- Pelvic Pain: Comprehensive care for persistent pelvic discomfort.
- Menopause and Perimenopause: Support for navigating hormonal changes.
- Menstrual issues: Diagnosis and treatment of menstrual pain and heavy bleeding.
- Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS): Tailored treatment and management plans.
- Continence: Solutions to improve pelvic floor health and daily comfort.

Our caring team understands the personal nature of these issues and provides a confidential, compassionate environment. Whether you're seeking a diagnosis, treatment, or advice, we're here to help.

Conveniently located at Kyneton Health, we welcome women across the Macedon Ranges and Hepburn Shires to get in touch. To learn more, call (03) 5422 9946 or email [whc@chrh.org.au](mailto:whc@chrh.org.au).

### Hours of operation

Monday	8am-4.30pm
Tuesday	7am-3.30pm
Wednesday	8am-4.30pm
Thursday	11am-7.30pm
Friday	8am-4.30pm

Our Women's Health Clinic has been made possible through recent government funding. In September 2024, the Minister for Health and Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas, announced Central Highlands Rural Health in Kyneton as one of the 20 locations to open specialised women's health clinics in Victoria.

\*Some eligibility criteria for services may apply.

\*While all services at CHRH are free, some out-of-pocket fees may apply for referred services.

SUBMITTED BY BEN STEEL, COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER



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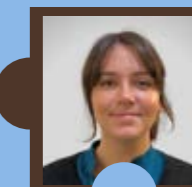
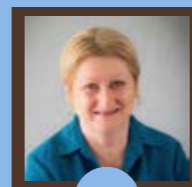
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### AM I ELIGIBLE FOR A CARE PLAN?

To be eligible you must have a chronic medical condition that has been present for three months or more

## MEDICARE ALLIED HEALTH CARE PLANS

### WHAT CAN THEY BE USED FOR?



Care plans can be used for a variety of Allied Health professionals and can be specifically requested for **Osteopathy** for subsidised treatment



### HOW DO I GET A CARE PLAN?

If you think you may be eligible for a care plan, book in with your GP and they'll be able to advise if a CDM Plan is right for you



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## Celebrating 10 years of footy for fun!

### Marching into our 10th season

The weather has been perfect over the past couple of months and the Masters have taken advantage on and off the training track.

Our training nights at Racecourse Oval at Buffalo Stadium have seen a solid turnout of old and new players coming down for a kick, and when our BBQ guru 'Chilts' is available, a few snags and cold beers after training.

February saw a few players head up to Yarrawonga for our annual pre-season camp. No footy was sighted, but some big fish were hooked and we thoroughly enjoyed the therapeutic warm waters of the Murray River.

Our camp chefs once again created some delicious meals, however no fish hit a plate because our avid anglers are purists and let their catches go to fight for another day.

Special mention to 'Billy Joel' who made sure everyone on the camp knew the game plan for Round 1 at home against Gisborne. Be sure to come down for the local derby!

A few of our golfers also took part in the Senior club's annual competition at Royal Woodend. Some make better footballers and vice versa, but by all accounts it was a great day on our local course.

March is when we really step up a gear with a couple of friendly games, starting with our annual practice match against Ballarat.

It also marks our first bus trip for the season as we head over to Ballarat on March 15 to take on the Diggers, followed by a post-match function. Both clubs have a great respect for each other and our games are always in the true spirit of Masters footy – slow, questionable skills and plenty of laughs!

We back up on March 28 with our annual community game – a friendly low contact intraclub game where anyone can join us for a kick. This is a great opportunity for anyone wanting to get a feel for Masters footy to come down to Buffalo Stadium and play.

This game coincides with the Senior and Junior club season launch, so any parents keen to show the kids how good you were, now's your chance!

This season marks our 10th birthday and there's plenty of celebrations lined up. On June 14 we are holding a party at the Vic Hotel with some solid entertainment lined up – save the date and watch this space for more details.

Anyone and everyone who has been involved at the club is invited to join in the celebration. We want a reunion of former players and partners to enjoy a night of catching up with old mates and kick up their heels on the dance floor.

For the ladies, we promise Drewy will take his shirt off! Just ask him.

We are always welcoming of new players, or anyone just keen to come down to training (Friday nights) and have a kick of the footy and not play. Check out our Facebook page for more details about training and games.

Our 2025 membership is now available. Go to [playhq.com.au](http://playhq.com.au) and search for 'Woodend Heskett Masters' to sign up.

Anyone wanting to join in is encouraged to monitor the Woodend Masters Facebook page for updates or just join us for training on Friday nights from 6.30pm.

**For more information, email us at** [woodendmasters@gmail.com](mailto:woodendmasters@gmail.com)



## Nominations open for Women's Honour Roll

The outstanding contributions to Victoria of women is being recognised through the Victorian Honour Roll of Women.

Minister for Women Natalie Hutchins opened nominations last month for the 2025 Victorian Honour Roll of Women, calling on Victorians to nominate someone inspirational to join the Roll.

Victorians are encouraged to nominate women from all walks of life, cultural backgrounds and age groups to be recognised across four categories – Local Champion, Change Agent, Emerging Leader and Trailblazer.

The Honour Roll celebrates women's achievements across fields such as social justice, health science, research, arts, environment, law, media and education.

"By nominating an outstanding woman you know, we can acknowledge the many ways in which they make lasting contributions to our community," said Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas.

Last year's 21 Honour Roll inductees included folk musician turned Federal-Court judge Judy Small AM, renowned endocrinologist Associate Professor Ada Cheung and Yorta Yorta artist and cultural practitioner, Aunty Rochelle Patten.

More than 750 women have been inducted since the Honour Roll of Women began in 2001, including renewable energy trailblazer Taryn Lane from Hepburn Wind, disability advocate and Gisborne SES volunteer Shanleigh Meldrum, and leading businesswoman Diana R Abruzzi, from the Macedon Ranges.

Minister for Women Natalie Hutchins said, "The Honour Roll recognises outstanding and determined women who lead in their fields, are strengthening their communities or have bright futures ahead of them."

Nominations are now open and will close on Sunday 16 March. To find out more and nominate yourself or someone you know, visit [vic.gov.au/honour-roll-women](http://vic.gov.au/honour-roll-women).

### ARTISTS' AND MAKERS' MARKET

**Call for expression of interest from the local art community to show and sell your work**

The market will be held on the 4th Saturday of each month at the Norma Richardson Hall and surrounding lawns, 15 Buckland Street, Woodend.

The visiting public will enjoy food, coffee, live music, and your delightful wares in our beautiful hall.

Hall space: \$45 per space per market day  
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**Discount available for multiple month bookings**

Trading 10:00 am until 3:00 pm

#### 2025 Dates:

February 22; March 22, April 26, May 24, June 28, July 26, August 23, September 27, October 25, November 22.

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## Latest initiatives to power the region's music industry

The State Government is backing Victoria's music industry with more gigs and more support for artists to build their music careers in the region.

Macedon MP Mary-Anne Thomas said of the program, "Iconic venues in Macedon are at the centre of our creative communities. The 10,000 Gigs initiative showcases Victoria's vibrant music scene, supporting local artists and venues – bringing more jobs, more gigs, and more fun to communities across the state.

The 10,000 Gigs: Victorian Gig Fund provides grants to venues to stage paid gigs by Victorian artists. Applications are open to licensed live music venues or venues that can host live performances in regional Victoria. Venues can apply for up to \$11,000 to stage up to 20 gigs. Alost 1,000 gigs by local artists were staged as part of the first round of 10,000 Gigs: The Victorian Gig Fund with more to come.

The State Government has also appointed a 14-member Victorian Music Industry Advisory Council, who will provide expert advice on the challenges and opportunities facing the industry, and to future proof Victoria's globally recognised music industry. Chaired by managing director of independent music publisher Concord Australia and APRA AMCOS board member Jaime Gough, the group is made up of artists, venue operators, promoters, publishers, managers and other industry leaders. To find out more about the latest initiatives for Victoria's music industry, including the full list of Victorian Music Industry Advisory Council members, visit [creative.vic.gov.au/news](http://creative.vic.gov.au/news).

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

## Making sure all women in Macedon have the care they need

A free virtual women's health clinic will make it easier for women across Macedon to access services like endometriosis and pelvic pain care, menstrual health, cervical screening, menopause care, breast health care and abortion.

The new clinic will launch before the middle of year – in partnership with community health organisation EACH – and it will offer free, expert medical advice, treatment and care for a range of women's health needs.

Led by specialist nurses, the clinic will reduce barriers to care, including for women in regional and remote Victoria, where access to services like contraception and abortion is hard, due to distance from major towns. Barriers to and delays in accessing care can have detrimental impacts on a woman's health, their quality of life and their ability to participate in school and employment.

Available via telehealth or online, the clinic will deliver an initial health assessment and some treatment, while patients can also be connected with a GP or get referred to a relevant health practitioner as close to home as possible. In addition to treating immediate health needs, referrals can also be made to various community support services for mental health and wellbeing, alcohol and other drugs, and family violence.

The Mobile Women's Health Clinic van also officially hit the road last month, operating in Edenhope in Victoria's west and Daylesford.

Operated by BreastScreen Victoria, the van is making free healthcare more accessible for all women and girls in rural and regional parts of Victoria, including a focus on improved access to care for First Nations women. The van will deliver a variety of women's health services, including sexual and reproductive health advice, clinical services and referrals for medical abortion (MTO), contraception, and referrals to other necessary specialists. All services will be delivered by an experienced nurse or nurse practitioner who will work to build connections with women, their community and local health services. Both the mobile and virtual clinics are part of a \$153 million women's health package transforming the way women's healthcare is delivered in Victoria.

SUBMITTED BY KATE LEE

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## Are you looking for a Home Care Package provider?



### Home Care Packages

The government's Home Care Package scheme provides money to eligible individuals to access services to enable them to live safely and independently at home. Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health is a Home Care Package provider for the Macedon Ranges. The not-for-profit organisation has a strong connection to the local

community having delivered health, wellbeing and support services locally for nearly 40 years. They can help you to manage your Home Care Package funds and organise the services you need to keep living at home.

The types of services that can be purchased include help with personal care, housework, light gardening and minor maintenance, assistance with shopping or transport along with healthcare supports such as podiatry and physiotherapy. They can also find suitable social, activity and exercise groups locally.

To chat to someone from the team, call 5421 6061 or email [hcp@scchc.org.au](mailto:hcp@scchc.org.au).

SUBMITTED BY SARAH TURNE

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## Plenty of fish thanks to record stocking

Victorian fishers are in for a bumper season, with more chances to hook line and sinker a Murray cod, thanks to 10 years of record fish stocking by the State Government. Minister for Outdoor Recreation Steve Dimopoulos visited Karkarook Lake recently to release 6,000 Murray cod fingerlings for fishers. Since 2014, more than 66 million fish have been released across Victoria including golden perch, Australian bass, estuary perch, trout, salmon and dusky flathead – more stocking than in all other Australian states and territories combined, with another 10 million fish to be stocked by mid-2025, including 340,102 fish in Hepburn Shire and 1,880,002 fish in Macedon Ranges Shire.

The fingerlings released recently were produced at the Arcadia Native Fish hatchery, near Shepparton, which is being upgraded to triple its size and will see it produce up to six million native fish each year, part of a \$15 million investment.

Since 2014, more than 22 million Murray cod have been stocked into Victorian waters at more than 60 locations across the state.

Several Victorian lakes are open year-round so fishers can wet a line and reel in a Murray cod including Lake Eppalock, Rocklands Reservoir and Lake Eildon. Since 2014, Lake Eppalock alone has scored 2.3 million cod, with locals and visitors now catching increasing numbers of fish – which are likely upward of 3-4 years old.

Near the Grampians, Rocklands Reservoir has been stocked with millions of Murray cod since 2017, some of which are now being caught by freshwater anglers.

Several other waterways are flourishing thanks to record stocking and delivering benefits for nearby communities like Melton Reservoir, Cairn Curran, Taylors Lake near Horsham, Eildon and Lake Nillahcootie. To find out more about some of the state's top fishing locations, head to [vfa.vic.gov.au/fishingdestinations](http://vfa.vic.gov.au/fishingdestinations)

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



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# The Simple Energy Hacks That Slashed My Power Bill

**Solar power is a great way to lower energy bills, but with changing feed-in tariffs, getting close to a zero bill now requires smarter energy use.**

The good news is that a few simple tweaks can help you boost savings without leaving you in the dark.

## Store Power for When You Need It

Adding a battery to your solar system lets you store excess power generated during the day for use at night or during peak times when electricity is most expensive. This means less reliance on the grid and lower energy costs.

## Pick the Right Energy Plan

Not all electricity plans are solar-friendly. Some providers, like OVO Energy, offer free power hours during the day, making it easier to run appliances without extra cost. Checking your plan and making a switch could lead to more savings.

## Run Appliances at the Right Time

Timing is everything when it comes to using solar efficiently. Running your dishwasher, washing machine, and heat pump hot water system during the day helps make the most of your free solar power. Many modern appliances have delay-start functions to help with this.

## Ditch Gas for All-Electric Living

Switching from gas to all-electric can save you money and increase your energy independence. With solar and a battery, you'll have backup power when needed, while gas appliances won't work in a blackout anyway.



## Ready to Cut Your Power Bill?

Making small changes can add up to big savings. For personalised advice on how to make the most of your solar, scan the QR code below or call us at 1300 306 342.

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## Pink Stumps Day

The Woodend Cricket Club has supported the McGrath Foundation since 2011. Last month, over 70 guests enjoyed a high tea at the Club to raise money for Breast Cancer support.

There were a lot of fun and games, live music, raffles, giveaways, and auctions – and early reports show the club has raised over \$5,000 for the McGrath Foundation.

Guest speakers included Nicole Martin (Australian Indoor Cricket Captain), Lyn and Annette from the Zonta Club of Melton, plus Moira Quinn (GP and Womens Health Expert).

Organiser Tegan Eastley said she was overwhelmed by the support from local businesses, who generously donated prizes for the day. She also said that she can't wait for Pink Stumps Day next season!

Celebrations included a First XI win for Woodend against the Sunbury Kangaroos, including a century (116) to Woodend Senior Coach Josh Eastley.

Local musician Nathan Dixon saved the day when he stepped in at short notice with some amazing live music – and continued late into the night.

### Under-13 girls team

The Woodend Cricket Club have entered their first Under-13 girls team this season – and some of the girls came along to enjoy the day. From just two girls in 2022/23, the Woodend Cricket Club now has 30 girls participating in Junior Cricket and Cricket Blast this season! We hope to add an Under-15 team next season.



### Senior cricket

Our McIntyre First XI won the inaugural GDCA One-Day Final against Romsey. Woodend batted first and posted a competitive 9/200 from their 45 overs, including 59 from Warren Else. Josh Eastley, Marcus Stewart, Hayden Ingleton and Xavier Tadd all chipped in with some runs. Romsey lost 3 critical wickets early, thanks to Joe Monk, and were on the back foot all day, bowled out for 143. Warren Else received the Sean Huddle Medal for the best player on the ground for his 59 runs and 3 wickets.

Woodend Cricket Club players played for the GDCA Representative side in the Melbourne Country Week competition – including Xavier Tadd, Harrison Sheahan and Marcus Stewart as the team's vice captain. The standout performance was Marcus Stewart scoring 152 against Wangaratta.

We're coming up to the pointy end of the season, and the Woodend Cricket Club have the top 4x grades playing in the finals. This is an exciting time for the Woodend Cricket Club. Finals start in the first week of March for the dedicated One-Day competitions.



## Woodend Hawks Basketball Club News: Celebrating Our Players

The Woodend Hawks Basketball Club is thrilled to share that Alex Gray, who has played over 200 games for Hawks over the past ten years, has been selected for the 2025 U18 Vic Country Team and will play in the National Championships in Brisbane in April. This fantastic achievement highlights Alex's dedication, skill and effort over the course of his junior basketball career. His selection is a source of inspiration for all our players. We couldn't be prouder of his accomplishment, and we wish him all the very best.

The Club recently celebrated another great year of basketball at our End of Year Celebration in December. The event was a wonderful opportunity for players, coaches and families to come together and reflect on a successful year. Buffalo Stadium was bursting at the seams with so many of our enthusiastic young players getting involved in the fun and games! We recognised 46 of our players who reached their 50 and 100 game milestones with the Hawks during the year. Special congratulations go to the following players for their achievements:

150 games: Jordan Baldwin, Finn Collins, Bridie Conway, Patrick Cooper, Ben Rankin, Matt Rollinson, Matthew Waters.

200 games: Alex Gray, Ruben Hewitt, Lachlan Witkowski.

250 games: Rhys Garrahan.

This is an outstanding effort for these players, and we thank them for their commitment to Hawks basketball. Congratulations also to those who won prizes on the night, including Atticus Spooner, whose name will be engraved on the Riley Unwin Memorial Free Throw Competition trophy.

Thanks to all our sponsors and supporters for making this such a memorable event for the Hawks community.

There are currently 270 players representing Woodend Hawks in the Sunbury Basketball Association (SBA) 2024/25 Summer Season, across 35 teams. Good luck to all our Hawks teams that are playing finals over the coming weeks!

As we wrap up the current season, we're already looking ahead to the next. Registrations for the Winter Season are now open. We encourage existing players to register as soon as possible to secure your place for the upcoming season. New players are also very welcome. Please note we will be unable to accept late registrations for the Winter season. Registrations close Sunday 9 March.

The Woodend Hawks Basketball Club is a thriving, inclusive, and supportive community for basketball players providing development opportunities at all levels. To find out more and to register for Winter Season, please visit: [woodendhawksbasketball.org.au](http://woodendhawksbasketball.org.au)

SUBMITTED BY SECRETARY, WOODEND HAWKS BASKETBALL CLUB



Photo: Alex Gray has been selected for the U18 Vic Country Team

Photo: WHBC End of Year Celebration





## Stephen is Woodend Men's Club Champion

The Grand Final of the Woodend Men's Singles Championship featured an excellent exhibition of draw bowls in front of a very appreciative group of supporters.

Gary shot out of the blocks and led 8-2 by the sixth end, with Stephen fighting back to level 10-all on eleven. Stephen then scored 2-4-2 in three ends to lead 12-18 after fifteen and then 17-23 after 22 ends. Gary then had a hot streak with 2-1-3 in three ends to level the scores at 23-all after 25 ends. Stephen then scored two on the last (26th) end to win 23-25.

It was a closely-fought match worthy of a Grand Final, with both players demonstrating great skills and determination. President Mike Dornau was the umpire/marker for the match, whose only criticism was that he would need to buy some new spray chalk due to all of the touchers during the match.

Stephen joined Ladies' Champ Judy Jewell to represent Woodend at the regional Champ of Champs to be held in Ballarat at the time of writing. We will give you the results of their matches in next month's The New Woodend Star.

Congratulations to all players who contested the competition, those who reached the finals and our eventual winners!

### The New Pennant Season Rolls On.

The Club has teams in both Midweek (Tuesdays) and Saturday Competitions. Following the Christmas break, most teams are in contention for the Final Four in their divisions, with Division 2

Saturday on top of the ladder at the time of writing, and the finals starting on March 1. Woodend Tuesday Division 3 was also in the Top Four, with finals starting on February 25. Details of progress and results in next month's article.

### Come On Down For A Free Trial.

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

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

Lawn bowls is now played by people of all ages. In fact, most of the players in the Australian Team are in their twenties and thirties, and some are still in their teens.

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SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, PRESIDENT WOODEND BOWLING CLUB



Photo: Gary Dryden (left) reached the Final by defeating Mike Dornau in one semi and Stephen Pickles (right) defeated Norm Bickerdyke in the other semi. It was Gary's first major final at Woodend while Stephen won the Singles in 2023.

## Woodend Hanging Rock Petanque Club celebrates 25 years

### This year we are celebrating our 25th Anniversary!

What a great journey it has been!

Since Chinka Steel founded the club with a group of like-minded friends in 2000, it has grown to about 70 members, and is one of the biggest petanque clubs in Australia. We have many stories to tell of members travelling around Australia to play in various tournaments, from Perth to Noosa Heads to Newcastle to Victor Harbour to Coonawarra, to Apollo Bay and more!

During the course of this year, we are planning to celebrate our longevity, starting with a Long Lunch for members in Hanging Rock, with more celebrations to follow.

Many of our members continue to travel many miles around the state and interstate, to Ballarat, Camberwell, Avoca, Bendigo, Maldon and Smythsdale, Mount Martha and St Andrews Beach and Adelaide.

Nearly every weekend there is a game of petanque happening somewhere in Victoria!

Some members choose not to travel to these tournaments and are happy to play at home here in Woodend, as we have play every Monday at the Racecourse Reserve and Thursday at Hanging Rock.

In February at Coonawarra in South Australia, we had our team of Rod, Maria and Ruth take home the first prize in the Social. Congratulations!

At this time we would like to acknowledge the appointment of our Vice President Shirley Marshall to the position of Victorian State Coach, which is a great coup from a country town like Woodend.

SUBMITTED BY LOUISE POTTER



## Hawks Building for 2025

The Woodend Heskett Football Netball Club is building to another big year in 2025. Our netballers have had another great off-season, led by netball manager Kellie Duff and our returning senior coach Tye Coppinger. Once again, the club will field five teams and are looking to build off our successful 2024 campaign, where we went back to back in the A-Grade and all other teams made finals. Pre-season has kicked off new players and returning players have started training, and with the addition of new courts at the GGO it promises to be the best season yet for our netballers. Football has kicked off as well for the 2025 season. Alistair Rae returns as senior coach, along with Grant Burns, who is coaching the reserves again in 2025. The club has also appointed club legends Dennis Barker and Rob Ferguson to steer our returning under-19s. The club has recruited well in the seniors and after a very competitive 2025 the club is confident our seniors will jump back into the finals in 2025. Grant is doing a great job rustling up the troops for our reserves – after a challenging 2025 the club is looking forward to fielding a competitive team.

The club is also working really hard to get an under-19's team in 2025; with an abundance of junior numbers coming through our junior club, getting the 19s up and running is key to ensuring the club's strength for years to come. Any new players are welcome. Come down and have a kick at the nest in 2025.

The club has kicked off its sponsorship campaign – if any local businesses would like to get involved with the WHFNC for 2025, please reach out through our Facebook page and we will get in touch with you.

### Upcoming events

Season Launch Friday 28 March GGO Oval 6pm onwards – a fun night of music – food and community events; look out on our socials for more details.

Round 1 Night Game v Melton Centrals 5 April

Round 2 v Kyneton Good Friday game

SUBMITTED BY PAUL PODBURY



## Woodend Hawks Junior Football Netball flying into season 2025

The WHJFNC have had a busy pre-season culminating in our launch day on Sunday February 9. We were treated to guest appearances from El Cardwell and Sarah Glasgow from the Melbourne Mavericks Netball Team. The Maverick stars took the reins of coaching the players during a game and then happily chatted during a Q&A session and posed for photos with our junior players.

On the football oval we had St Kilda's new recruit and former Calder Cannons player Patrick Said, and Woodend's own current Under 18s Calder Cannons players Cooper Duff-Tytler and Oliver Watt. The kids revelled in having a kick and tackling the bigger boys, they signed footies for the juniors and held a kicking competition. There were jumping pillows and a free sausage sizzle for all those who came down. Thank you to all of the families that made the day so special.

The U15 and U17s football teams started their pre-season training before Christmas and our younger age groups will start training from the end of February. Keep an eye on our socials for information about this. Registration remains open for football via Team App <https://www.playhq.com/afl/register/659596>

We're thrilled to have seven netball teams for the upcoming season, with grading and training to start soon. There are limited species left on the U11, U13 and U17 divisions, so if you have a child in one of those age groups, please contact [netball@woodendhawks.com.au](mailto:netball@woodendhawks.com.au). We are also looking for coaches across all age groups, so if you have a passion for junior netball and want to be involved, we would love to hear from you!

The season starts on 6 April with some practice matches planned prior to then so if your child is looking to get involved this year, please reach out. For the latest information, please check out our social media pages.

SUBMITTED BY VICE PRESIDENT WOODEND HAWKS



Explore the past with us  
The Woodend & District Heritage Society



High Street Woodend c. 1918

## Woodend and District Heritage Society

Don't be shy ... come visit us!

We are at the Old Woodend Courthouse in Forest St.

Open every Wednesday, 10-12:30 and 1.30-4pm

We have photos, books, huge database, Births, Deaths and Marriages, local newspapers from 1850s to the present day, inquests, Newspaper reports et cetera. Accidents, baptisms, weddings, burials, clubs, sports, racing, hotels, businesses and much more.

Family research, property history, or general queries, come to see what we do and how we do it!

Special note:

Free Demo Day for Family Tree Maker Monday 3 March 2025

At 10am-12 noon

Lunchtime will be 1.30 to 3.30pm. Bring your own lunch - tea and coffee are supplied)

## Milestone for Macedon Primary School

Macedon Primary School is approaching a significant milestone—its 150th anniversary. To commemorate this event, the school is organizing a 150th Anniversary Fete on Saturday, 15th November 2025. The school is seeking assistance from the community in various forms, including history of the school.

Established in 1875, Macedon Primary School has a rich history of providing quality education.

The school community is eager to gather stories, photographs, and memorabilia from past principals, teachers, students, and their families to showcase during the anniversary celebrations. Contributions can be shared by reaching out to the school directly via email at [Macedon.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Macedon.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

SUBMITTED BY KATE MEDHURST, VICE PRESIDENT SCHOOL COUNCIL



### Kyneton Community Refugee Sponsorship Info Session

Over the last three years four families were welcomed to Kyneton surroundings by local volunteers who generously donated a few hours of their week helping a refugee family with a soft landing. This assistance was crucial to these newly arrived refugees in their integration and resettlement in Australia.

Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia in partnership with Cassinia Community and Social Foundry would like to invite you to an information session where you can hear more about Community Refugee Integration and Settlement Pilot "CRISP" and offer you an opportunity to ask any questions.

Finger food and drinks provided

When: Tuesday 4th March @ 6:30pm

Where: Social Foundry Cafe, 86 Mollison St, Kyneton

Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/CYWDM>

Free Entry. Register attendance via above link or QR Code



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### ARBORIST

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# Discover, Create *Learn*

## Open Evening

Thursday 27 March, 4:00pm – 8:00pm

Book Online: [shckyneton.catholic.edu.au](http://shckyneton.catholic.edu.au)

Hands on activities, information sessions  
and displays – lots to see and do.

