

The New Woodend Star

Rotary  Club of Woodend

JUNE 2024
Volume 28 | Issue 5



Honouring Every Role, Every Sacrifice
2024 Mount Macedon Anzac Day Dawn Service

Article page 3

Photo: KGMG creative

First published 1997 – by the community, for the community

PUBLISHER

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

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 date for copy is the 15th of each month,
 preceding publication.

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@ content@newwoodendstar.org.au
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Printed by Mulqueens Printers
 147-151 Allingham St,
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Woodend's Rain report

After March produced just 2 mm, April made up for it with 97 mm. Year-to-date stands at 245 mm, which is about 15% higher than average.
Peter Yates

Month	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	av 5yr
January	73.6	92.6	140.8	17.7	134.2	91.8
February	67.8	32.4	2.0	27.4	11.8	28.3
March	79.6	47.0	73.2	47.0	2.0	49.8
April	139.8	15.2	89.6	92.5	97.0	114.6
May	79.0	83.0	39.4	56.0		
June	80.1	183.6	84.8	121.8		
July	49.3	115.6	52.4	57.8		
August	93.0	56.0	130.8	47.8		
September	56.3	72.8	150.2	28.8		
October	99.5	102.0	234.6	70.4		
November	54.4	91.2	107.0	74.8		
December	42.4	45.0	37.6	120.2		
Total mm	914.8	936.4	1142.4	762.2	245.0	

NB: averages vary due to rounding



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Main Hall www.spacetoco.com/space/woodend-scout-hall
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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.

Honouring Every Role, Every Sacrifice

2024 Mount Macedon Anzac Day Dawn Service

The Mount Macedon Anzac Day Dawn Service attracted a significant crowd for the 2024 service, with more than 1,000 attendees. The local community and visitors from across Melbourne and interstate gathered at the Mount Macedon Memorial Cross at 6am to acknowledge this year's theme, 'Honouring Every Role, Every Sacrifice'.

As part of the service, school captains from Braemar College shared the story of 99-year-old Joy Daymon from Woodend North, who served as a flight mechanic in the Women's Auxiliary Australian Airforce (WAAAF) from 1943–1946. Joy was also in attendance at the service and delivered Binyon's Ode from For the Fallen, along with Flight Lieutenant Paul Liistro.

School captains from Gisborne Secondary College told the story of Joyce Strawhorn from Kyneton, who served in the Women's Air Training Corps (WATC), the WAAAF and the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) in WWII.

School captains from Sacred Heart College presented a special tribute to the late Robin Funston from Gisborne, who had been a long-serving member of the veteran community and ex-president of the Gisborne-Macedon Ranges RSL Sub-Branch, with members of his family in attendance.



Wreaths were officially laid on behalf of ADF School of Languages, Braemar College Army Cadets, the Federal Member for McEwan, the state minister for Veterans, Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Macedon Ranges Legacy Group, Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia, Gisborne-Macedon Ranges RSL, Woodend RSL, Kyneton RSL, Romsey-Lancefield RSL, Mt Macedon Memorial Cross Reserve Committee of Management and the Mt Macedon Anzac Day Dawn Service Committee. Other local community groups, local school representatives and members of the general public then came forward to lay theirs.

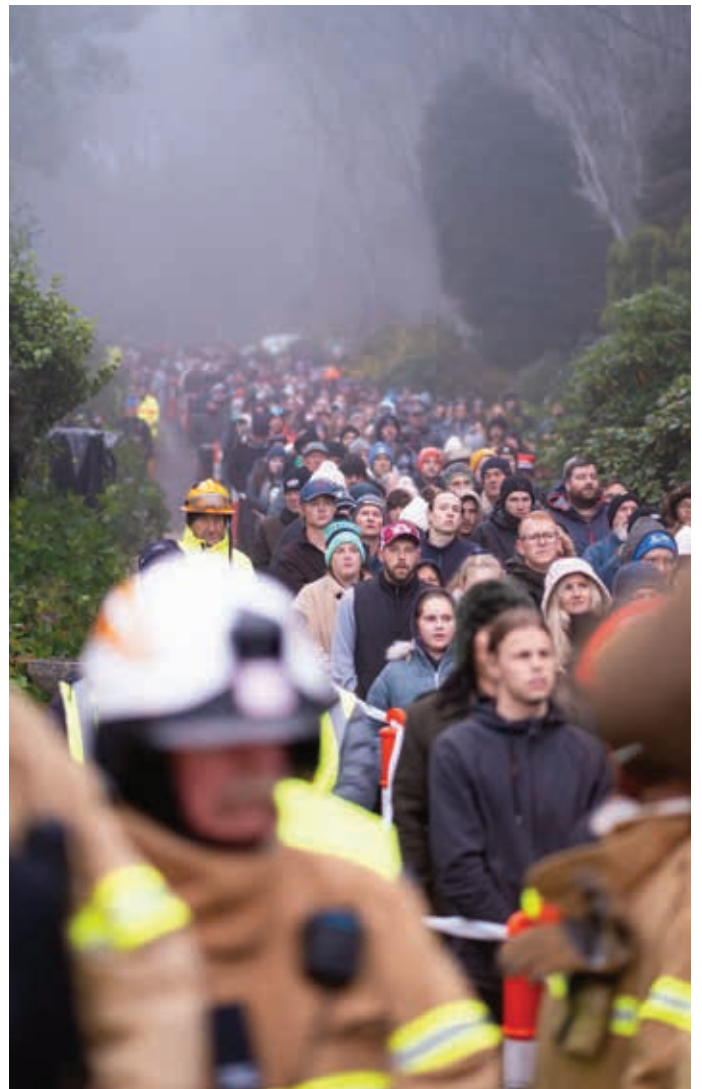
Thanks go to piper Chris Bouwmeester, bugler Gary Andison and The Fellowship Band for their moving contributions to the service and to the captains of Kyneton Secondary College for their poem reading.

Reverend Neil Fitzgerald from the Parish of Woodend and Trentham gave his final blessing to close the service.

The President of the Mount Macedon Anzac Day Dawn Service Committee, Leona Latcham, said:

"I know everyone in attendance would agree that it was a very special service this year. As we gathered today, we paid homage to the diverse roles and sacrifices of the many Australians who have served and continue to serve our country. Their stories inspire us to uphold the values of service and solidarity, ensuring that the legacy of Anzac Day lives on in our hearts and minds."

The Mount Macedon Anzac Day Dawn Service committee is donating a proportion of its MyCause and cash donations from the day to the Gisborne RSL sub-branch to help them re-establish following their losses in the recent fire at the Gisborne Golf Club. 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



Photos: KGMG creative

come together and run smoothly on the day including CFA, SES, Victoria Police, Parks Victoria, Woodend Scouts, generous support from local businesses and the Mount Macedon Memorial Cross Reserve Committee of Management.

For more information about the 2025 event visit: www.mtmacedondawnservice.org and follow updates at www.facebook.com/MountMacedonAnzacDayDawnService.

SUBMITTED BY SARAH O'BRIEN





The Gallery at the Woodend Winter Arts Festival

The Gallery is once again joining with the Woodend Winter Arts Festival from June 8 to 10 to exhibit some amazing works, including paintings, jewellery, textiles, cards and lots more.

We are providing some fun children's activities, and demonstrations by some of our talented artists. If you can knit, add a few rows to our community scarf. We aim to complete a whole scarf in one weekend! We're at the Woodend Neighbourhood House, 47 Forest St, Woodend, just down from the Scouts' wonderful pop-up café.

Simultaneously, Jo Hoyne's exhibition Back Story, will open in the Focus Room at The Gallery, just 10 minutes away. Jo is a portrait artist who works in pencil and in this new exhibition, she is exploring the question: "What can we know or assume from a portrait if the face is obscured?"

Jo completed twelve portraits of the backs of people seen in the city or on her travels. Each is titled with the place and date of her photographs. Perhaps you might see yourself or someone you know? Or perhaps the people remind you of someone you know. Back Story opens on Saturday June 8 at The Gallery Mount Macedon, 684 Mt. Macedon Road, at 2pm.



So have a break from the fantastic music and other delights of the Woodend Winter Arts Festival and join Jo at The Gallery. Back Story runs from June 4 to June 30, and The Gallery is open Friday to Tuesday, 10am – 4pm.

Information: Jo Hoyne 0418 488 582 or Sue Anson 0413 581 632

SUBMITTED BY SUE ANSON



1st Woodend Scout Group invites you to

Woodend
Winter Arts
Festival

Pop-Up Café at the Log Cabin

10am - 3pm
8th -10th June

41 Forest Street
Woodend

On the King's Birthday Long Weekend, the 1st Woodend Scout Group will be hosting our annual Pop-up Log Cabin Café.

Join us to grab something to eat and warm up from the chilly Woodend winter. We'll be serving a variety of soups, toasted sandwiches, homemade cakes, muffins, scones* and of course, mugs of piping hot tea and coffee. There'll also be a secondhand book sale on site, where you can pick-up a pre-loved bargain for just \$2.

* gluten free (GF) and child friendly options available



An extraordinary lineup for this long weekend



We're just a few days away from the Woodend Winter Arts Festival. Will we be lucky enough to have beautiful sunny weather this weekend? Let's hope so! In any case, here's your quick guide to what's on when over the four-day festival.

Friday

- 5.00pm **Free Community Fireworks**, with entertainments, food vans and synchronised music. Fireworks will start at 6.30pm. Rug up, walk down rather than drive (if you can) and make a night of it.
- 7.30pm **Spanish Flamenco with Paco Lara and Deya Miranda Giner**, at St Ambrose Hall.

Saturday

- 10.00am Get down to the Neighbourhood House to see the **Mt Macedon Gallery artists** who have been part of the festival for many years. Open each day until Monday.
- 10.30am Words & Ideas: **Testing theories of consciousness** at Woodend Community Centre.
- 12.00pm **Fiore Vocal Ensemble** presents **Across the Channel**, highlighting renowned composers from the UK and France. St Ambrose Church.
- 1.00pm Words & Ideas: **Proof** with Elizabeth Finkel at Woodend Community Centre.
- 2.30pm John O'Donnell conducts Ensemble Gombert & Accademia Arcadia in **Bach's St John's Passion**, at St Ambrose Church.
- 5.00pm Words & Ideas: **The Shortest History of Music** with Andrew Ford and Jacky Ogeil at the Woodend Community Centre.
- 6.00pm Paul Grabowsky presents a piano recital of his album **'Solo'**, at St Ambrose Hall.

Sunday

- 10.30am Word & Ideas: **Tennis, Termites and Turmoil** with Nobel Laureate Peter Doherty at Woodend Community Centre.
- 12.00pm Kyneton's own Daniel Thomson and Woodend's John O'Donnell present **Schubert and the Viennese Masters** at St Ambrose Hall.
- 1.15pm Don't miss Gideon Haigh presenting **Talking My Own Book** on embracing self-publishing. One for aspiring authors and memoirists.
- 2.30pm Baroque ensemble **Accademia Arcadia** presents **Early Solo Concertos** in St Ambrose Church, with Jacqueline Ogeil giving the first Australian performance of Arne's piano concert.
- 4.00pm English-Australian pianist Piers Lane presents **Fantaisie** from Chopin, along with other composers, at St Ambrose Hall.
- 7.00pm John O'Donnell conducts Ensemble Gombert & Accademia Arcadia in **Bach's St John's Passion**, at St Ambrose Church.

Monday

- 10.00am In memory of Sheila Drummond, a panel will discuss how we can build a bridge between **City and the Bush** in modern-day Australia. George Megalogenis, Don Watson & Sally Warhaft at Woodend Community Centre.
- 11.30am In what's expected to be a sold-out event, the **Melbourne Cello Octet** will dazzle the audience at St Ambrose Church.
- 1.00pm Robyn Williams (ABC Science Show) and Jenny Graves will be chatting about **Sex, Science and Singing** at the Woodend Community Centre.
- 2.00pm The **Nat Bartsch Quartet** presents a special concert based on their ARIA-nominated classical album Hope, reflecting on the Black Summer fires of 2020 and the ensuing pandemic.

Looking for tickets? Purchase online via the link below, or over the weekend drop into the Box Office, situated between the Hall and Church. The Box Office opens at 6.30 pm Friday, and 9.30 am Saturday-Monday.

SUBMITTED BY THE WWAFF COMMITTEE



7-10 JUNE KING'S BIRTHDAY LONG WEEKEND



WORDS & IDEAS



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Community banking supporting the Woodend Community

The community banking model believes in providing meaningful benefits and returning funds to the local community in the form of sponsorships and grants.

We proudly support many Woodend Community Groups including the Woodend Winter Arts Festival, Lions Club, Woodend Heskett Football Netball Club and both Woodend Golf & Cricket Clubs.

Woodend events

Woodend Winter Arts Festival Fireworks opening

Come along to the opening of the 2024 Woodend Winter Arts Festival on Friday 7 June for 6.30pm fireworks at Buffalo Stadium. This opening event is free, running from 5-8pm with food trucks and music! For festival events visit Woodend Winter Arts Festival website.

Banking Safely Online

We would love to see you at our Banking Safely Online session to be held at Woodend Neighbourhood House on 4th June between 5.30-6pm. With scams and fraud becoming more prominent & sophisticated, now is the time to be updated on current information. Join us for a quick information session and stay for a cuppa and chat afterwards. Bookings are through Woodend Neighbourhood House ph: 5427 1845.

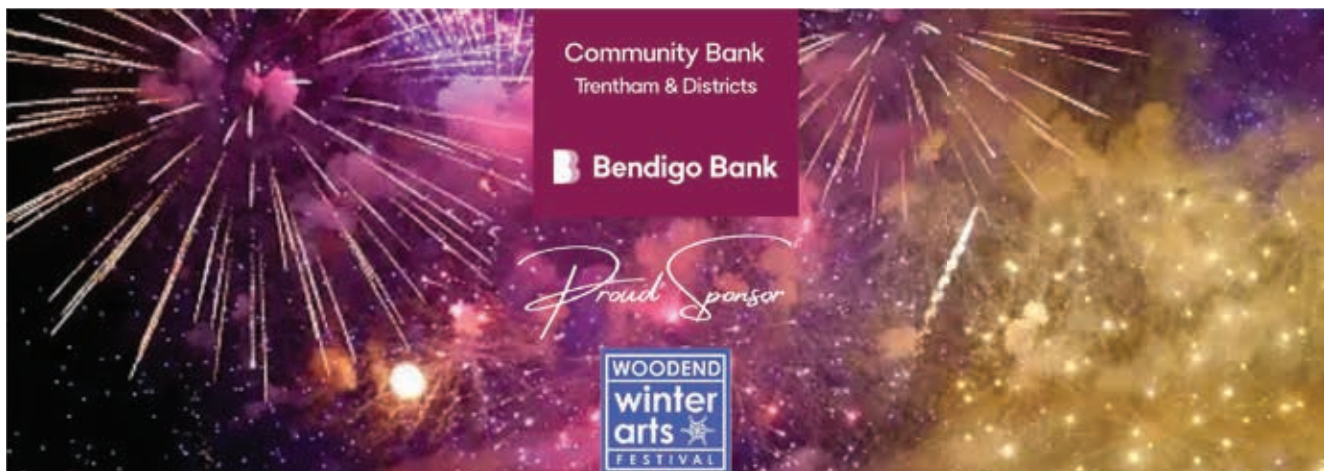
Bank news

Board Director required

Do you have some time to invest into our board? We are seeking a community minded professional who can lend their business strengths to the team. Expressions of interest please forward to Board Support Anjee Anderson at aanderson@tcce.com.au or phone Brian Hood Director & Chair on 0411 139 004.

Mobile Lending

Did you know you can book an appointment in Woodend? Our Branch Manager Edyta Wyatt can come to you, your time, your place, your convenience, we bring the expertise to you. Edyta is an experienced Mobile Lender and Banking Specialist who can assist you with home loans, term deposits, insurance and other banking products.



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In honour and appreciation of Joan Gladman

For many in the Woodend community, whether they be old or new to the town, the chances of knowing or being touched by Joan Gladman's life were high. Although many are saddened to hear of Joan's passing on Thursday April 25th, 2024, many have been celebrating the joy of having her in their life, sharing the many stories of a life well spent.



Joan has been a dedicated member of the Woodend community her entire life, from her early years selling crafts and children's clothing at markets in the region and a local Woodend store to arranging flowers for the church to quite literally hand-digging the grounds for the netball court alongside her teammates and friends so that the Woodend Netball Club had a court to play on. Joan was never one to turn away from doing something that would benefit the largest number of people, a sentiment that continued all throughout her life.

Joan founded and became the lead agent of the award-winning Joan Gladman Real Estate, where she worked for 15 years, having previously worked closely with her brother, John Keating, for 35 years at Keatings Real Estate. With 50 years in real estate, Joan was known and loved by many as she sold their houses, helped them buy their homes, connected them to the Woodend community and more. Many tell stories of dinners Joan organised for newcomers to the town who might not be locally connected, creating space for them to make friends or become familiar with local faces so they did not feel alone in the region. This is but one act of service that Joan embraced that went above and beyond.

Joan served on the board of Braemar College and as chairperson of the Building and Maintenance Subcommittee. There, she advocated strongly for student safety, leading the way for significant developments at the College that benefited many students and staff, and she played a pivotal role in the construction of the Dame Elizabeth Murdoch Centre and sourcing of land for the College's second campus. In her later life, she was actively involved with the local pétanque clubs, where she played by the side of her husband, Noel Gladman, making close friends and connections.

Joan's funeral was held in the Valley Room at the Macedon Ranges Hotel and Spa on Tuesday 7th May 2024, where her generosity, integrity and work ethic, and her love of people, fashion and gardens were honoured in full. In planning what was described as an upbeat and vibrant service, Joan assured people were laughing till the end; her farewell was attended by almost 300 friends, colleagues, clients, and family members in person, with a few hundred more watching online. Heartfelt eulogies were delivered by her two children, Irene and Martin Gladman, her friend and fellow Braemar board member Maureen Wiltshire, her former employee, mentee and close friend Sarah Clarke,

and her brother, John Keating. John, citing the tagline from her business, confirmed that she certainly was a tradition in real estate, becoming a legend in the industry. Joan was an icon in the Woodend community and in life more broadly, one who lives on in many hearts and homes across the region.

Joan's service can be viewed on the Natural Grace Funerals website. The recording can be accessed using the password 'Gladman'.

SUBMITTED BY MARTIN GLADMAN

Volunteer
and make a difference
in someone's life!

Council is looking for volunteers to join its new Aged Care Volunteer Visitor Scheme (ACVVS).

- Flexibility
- Training and Support

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Anyone with a desire to make a positive impact on the life of an older resident. With aged care participants living in the Macedon Ranges and across the community, there are opportunities wherever you might live within the shire.

Why Volunteer?

- Meaningful Impact
- Personal Growth

How to Get Involved?
To register your interest, visit:
mrsc.vic.gov.au/ACVVS
or call 5422 0333.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council | Aged Care Volunteer Visitor Scheme

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Out now!

A directory to connect you with local resources, groups and services

Free copies available at libraries, neighborhood houses and Macedon Ranges Shire Council customer service centres. Alternatively call (03) 5422 0333 or visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/VC-community-directory

Macedon Ranges Shire Council | Australian Government Department of Social Services | iLA

ANZAC Day in Woodend



Around 900 people gathered at the Woodend RSL on 25 April to commemorate Anzac Day. After the traditional march by veterans and community groups through the town, the service was conducted at the Anslow St RSL. All local schools and Woodend Scout Group participated in the service. Braemar College cadets provided the traditional catafalque guard.

SUBMITTED BY JOHN MCCAUSLAND, PRESIDENT RSL WOODEND BRANCH



Three Generations of an original Anzac
The granddaughter, Ruth De Jong, the great granddaughter, Megan den Elzen, great great grandson, Leo den Elzen, of RQMS A.S. Chidlow, lay a wreath on behalf of the descendants of Gallipoli veterans.

Aubrey Septimus Chidlow 28/8/1891– 2/2/1969

The following is an excerpt of the address given by Ruth de Jong at the Woodend RSL Sub-Branch Anzac Day service.

My paternal grandfather, Aubrey Septimus Chidlow, known as "Sept", only had one leg. He went away to war in 1914 at the age of 24, returned five years later and was on crutches for the rest of his life. He was an original ANZAC at Gallipoli and later served in France on the Western Front. This is his story.

Sept was one of ten children, being the seventh son of eight boys with two girls. His middle name was Septimus, which is Latin for 'seven'. Folklore has it that the seventh son is very special, with supernatural or healing abilities.

The Chidlows were very well known, as his grandfather was a pioneer of Northam and the Avon Valley district in Western Australia, having arrived from the UK in 1831. There are a town, a well and streets named after him.

Sept enlisted on 18 August 1914 as a very early recruit, his regimental number being 760, and he was appointed to the 11th battalion, along with 31 of his mates. Sadly, nearly all were subsequently killed or wounded on 25 April at Gallipoli, and only fourteen were to survive the war and return home.

In our district here in the Macedon Ranges, about 350 men went away; more than 70 were killed and there were over 200 casualties. Because of the small populations in the rural areas throughout Australia, the loss of these fine young men had an immense impact on their communities.

The 11th Battalion embarked on 31 October 1914 on the SS *Ascanius* and joined the main transport convoy of 48 ships, which had sailed up from Albany with the rest of troops from the eastern states and New Zealand.

However, instead of going to India, the ships headed to England to the training grounds of the Salisbury plains. But because of a problem with overcrowding and shortage of equipment there, it was decided that the ANZAC troops would winter and train in Egypt, which was under

British occupation. The fleet which had been approaching the Suez Canal was diverted.

Plans had to rapidly change, and on 7 December they arrived at Mena Training Camp, near the Pyramids, 20 kilometres from Cairo. The 8,500 men had no tents, which had to be brought out from England two weeks later. Training was begun in earnest for eight hours a day, six days a week, wearing full kit with heavy packs to harden the troops.

On 1 March, the 11th embarked on the HMT 'Suffolk' for an unknown destination. Sealed orders directed them to the Greek island of Lemnos, which became a major staging area for the Allied troops involved in the invasion of Gallipoli, 100 kilometres away in Turkey. There they received the orders to proceed to the Gallipoli peninsula on 24 April, with the objective of securing it, in order to capture Constantinople, capital of the Ottoman Empire, which was an ally of Germany.

Extract from the war diaries 11th Battalion:

At 4.30am the men landed on the beach, (now known as Anzac Cove), under heavy musketry and machine gun fire, and stormed the cliffs about 300 feet (91 metres) high. Owing to disorganisation consequent on landing on different parts of the beach and being mixed up with other units, it was impossible to get the battalion together.

In a letter from the Front to his brother, Barry, Sept described what happened:

"We landed just at daybreak and had a pretty hot time. Our brigade was picked out to effect the landing, so we caught it hotter than the others. We had to land in lifeboats from the destroyer, and the Turks were waiting for us. They were entrenched all along the top of the hill. They had a good old time with us while they had us in the boats. We were in rifle range all the while, and we made a bonzer target, I can assure you. We got ashore without much loss, although the two boats next to us got smashed up, and only three chaps got out. Smythe and I were in charge of a box of ammunition for our own platoon and I got a bullet as we were humping it up from the beach. When we advanced, I found I couldn't put my foot to the ground. We had to crawl along, pulling the ammunition behind us. We lost our chaps, so we attached ourselves to some of the 12th battalion.

"There was a machine gun in a block house on our left. We got a few rounds into it when they turned the blessed thing onto us. We were in nice range and had no cover to speak of. The chap on my right got one in the arm and Smythe who was on the other side of me got one in the leg. When our chaps advanced again, Smythe and I handed the ammunition to some other fellows and crawled back to get our wounds dressed at a kind of dressing station. We stayed there until we were put on the hospital ship in the afternoon."

Sept was taken back to Egypt to the 1st General Hospital in Heliopolis, on the outskirts of Cairo. He had been shot in the left foot, which had penetrated all the small bones. The doctors wanted to amputate it, but he refused and said he would take his chances. He was warned that the foot would become gangrenous – there were no antibiotics in those days. His recovery was slow as he did get gangrene, but he was strong and fit and at the end of May, he was transferred to an Australian convalescence depot in Helouan, about 32 kilometres from Cairo.

On 15 July, he was returned to duty to an Australian training base in Zeitoun near Cairo where he was put to work as Quartermaster in the AIF Canteens until he recovered enough to be sent to England.

Finally, nearly a year after being shot, he returned to England in 1916 and he continued to work in the Canteens in the AIF Depots as he still wasn't strong enough to go back into battle. He was promoted to RQMS at Hurdcott Camp Depot and remained there until he rejoined the 11th Battalion, and he was sent to the Western Front in France on 19 Dec 1917.

In a battle against the Germans in Meteren near the France-Belgium border on 23 April 1918, he was again wounded in action. Unbelievably, it was almost three years to the day since he had been wounded at Gallipoli. He was hit by shrapnel in the right thigh and incurred a compound fractured femur. This was regarded as one of the most serious skeletal injuries a soldier could face.

He was taken to the Field Medical Unit and a month later to the 8th Stationary Hospital on the French coast ... Unable to stop the bleeding, [they performed] an emergency amputation.

On 21 June, his family were notified that he was dangerously ill.

At last he was able to get back to England on 13 July, where he was admitted to Endell St Military Hospital in London. A further drastic amputation was necessary. Back in Northam, his sweetheart Vera Daily, whom he had been courting before he left for the war, received the news. Feeling hopeless and alone, he had sent her a letter to release her from any obligation to wait for him – as "he was no longer a catch for a young lady". She replied with a treasured telegram on his birthday, which said: "Hard Luck No difference me Fondest Love Happy Returns Vera Daily".

He was taught to walk on an artificial leg made of wood. In those days they were cumbersome, heavy, ungainly and very uncomfortable, being attached with a big leather strap and buckles around his waist.

Most of the time he just put up with it and used crutches and he only wore his leg on Sundays, formal occasions or the Anzac Day march, which he attended without fail for the rest of his life.

It was many painful months before he was able to return to Australia on hospital ships, arriving in Fremantle on 6 May 1919. He had been away for five years. His large family & Vera were waiting for him. He walked off the ship with his new leg and a walking stick.

A week later, he proposed, and Vera accepted. They were finally married on 5 October 1921 and subsequently had three children: Audrey, my father John, and Noreen. He commenced a fine furniture business, also selling pianos and musical instruments. Vera, who was a brilliant pianist, would play for prospective buyers.

He bore his disability with dignity and no complaint, despite being in constant pain from the old wound in his foot and severe pain in the leg stump. He suffered what were called nerve storms, which were agonising, for the rest of his life. He often quoted that had he had the left foot amputated in Egypt, he would have been sent home and he never would have lost his right leg. The remarkable thing was that he was never bitter and just accepted everything that had happened to him.

In 1969, he died at the age of 77. Aubrey Septimus, an original ANZAC, the seventh son, with a lifetime of service and suffering, was able to heal his mind and broken body and live a long and productive life. He was a pillar of the community and respected and admired by all who knew him, especially by my family.

Lest we forget.

Ruth Chidlow DeJong



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Five questions we get asked about the Country Women's Association (CWA)



Where does the money we raise go?

The money goes back into the community; Recently, with money we have raised, we funded a fully stocked Escabags collection point at the Woodend Neighbourhood House and purchased an additional \$300 worth of products to stock further bags.

The Escabags Mission is to alleviate the immediate trauma of domestic abuse by providing free and effective access to 'Escape Bags', providing the person or persons with necessities when initially escaping a dangerous or abusive situation, as well as connecting victims with resources and information about agencies to help them continue their journey towards survivorship. For more information, please visit escabags.org

What does the CWA do? Does everyone have to make or bake?

The CWA is an organisation of women supporting women, children and family rights. We care, empower and contribute. Some of our members are very crafty, some like to bake, but really there is no requirement to do either. What is fabulous is that if you are willing to learn: there is a breadth of knowledge in each branch. With cost-of-living pressures, it is nice to learn the art of thrifty cooking or how to knit and scarf from op-shop wool bargains!

We have a monthly meeting. This month's meeting is purely a social games night, aimed at fun for most of us, other than our highly competitive members who play a mean game of uno! There are walking groups, member evenings, exhibitions, events and even trips to the Melbourne Show!



Photo: Melissa Baker from Woodend Neighbourhood House and Lucy Olson President of CWA Woodend Eves

How do we raise funds for our community?

Our branch has organised market stalls, bbq's scone-a-thons, provided food to other community organisations and sometimes we even do a good old fashioned raffle. At our recent market stall for Mother's Day we raised over \$600. Our raffle had a lovely array of home/handmade goodies made by members, as well as a lovely donated hamper, which I'm sure a mum enjoyed on Mother's Day. There is no pressure to participate in any of the activities of the Branch.

Do you have to enter competitions?

No! There are several group and state competitions that the branches participate in. In fact, our branch won the best branch in the recent Central Highlands Group Creative Arts exhibition. Even if competitions are not your jam, competitions are a wonderful event to go to have a cup of tea and a scone, buy some jam and observe some remarkable women's work.

Is the CWA a bunch of old ladies with perms?

We are a bunch of women, some of us very young at heart! Our members range from 8-80. Many of our members are professional, some are retired and some have young families. We come from all walks of life and celebrate each of our individuals' spirit. One fun fact is that the CWA came about from young women before maternal health nurses existed, almost like a modern-day mothers' group. For more information visit our Facebook page: CWA Woodend Eves. The CWA Woodend Eves meet on the third Thursday of the month at the Woodend Golf Course club rooms. Every woman is welcome. Message us via Facebook or email cwawoodendeves@gmail.com and say hi.

SUBMITTED BY OFFICE BEARERS, CWA WOODEND EVES

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Woodend CFA celebrates 128 years



The Woodend CFA recently celebrated its annual dinner and award presentations.

Captain Steve Ritchie welcomed special guests, including Group Officer Greg Snart, Group Comms Officer Ian Large and BASO Lauren Bentley. During the evening, a range of awards were presented.

Service medals

These recognise how long a member has been a volunteer with the CFA. 5 years Howard Bradfield, Patrick Bradfield-Smith, Tim Duff and Tom Lowe; 10 years Nat Briggs and Ben Richardson; 15 years Mike Selby; 20 years Martin Beaumont; 25 years Bradley Dean and Michael Clarke; and 30 years Malcolm Judd and Steve Ritchie.

Members of the Year

The Member of the Year award is voted by members of the Brigade Management Team for members who gave above-and-beyond during the year. This year's Award went to Geoff Wells for another year of commendable service. The other Top 5 finalists were Alex Rogers, Gary Hobbs, Aaron Dodd, Troy Bowen and Paddy Callaghan.



The Captain's Award

This year the Award was presented to a member who had done an outstanding job throughout the year. 4th Lieutenant Ben Richardson was commended on his commitment to the Brigade and his excellent work as Training Officer.

Special thanks to the Woodend RSL for hosting the event, Siggy and his team for preparing a restaurant-quality meal, and the organising team headed by Rob Marsh and Annette van Huffel.

New Woodend CFA Management team

We recently held our biennial elections for the various management positions in the Brigade for the next two years.

Steve Ritchie was again elected Captain, 1st Lieutenant Malcolm Judd, 2nd Lieutenant Sue Hobbs, 3rd Lieutenant Rob Marsh and 4th Lieutenant Ben Richardson. Treasurer Rob Marsh was returned along with long-time Secretary Annette van Huffel. The other member of the BMT (Brigade Management Team) will be new Communications Officer Geoff Wells.

Other key positions were Community Safety Officer Sue Hobbs, Training Officer Ben Richardson, Equipment Officer Malcolm Judd, FEM (Fire Equipment Maintenance) Manager Kate Daniel, OH&S Manager Gary Hobbs, Member Support Cara Nolan, Juniors Leader Paddy Callaghan and Media Mike Dornau.

Other key Assistant positions included Training Aaron Dodd, Equipment Jemima Bradfield-Smith, Communications Keith Mason, Community Safety Laura Schmid, FEM Alex Rogers, OH&S and Member Support Laura Schmid. Steve Ritchie and Malcolm Judd were elected as Group delegates with VFBV delegates being Brad Dean and Laura Schmid.

"It is great to see so many members nominating for key positions and such a diversity of members taking up key roles in the brigade, especially some of our younger members," said Captain Steve Ritchie.

"I think it is important that we spread the load as much as possible and give younger members the opportunity to broaden their experience to help the transition into senior roles in the future."

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

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, FORMER CAPTAIN WOODEND CFA



Message from your local sergeant

From a crime point of view, what's been happening in Woodend for the last month or so? As a rule, Woodend remains relatively stable in our crime rate, while it's far from non-existent with thefts from shops; thefts from cars, predominantly in the streets or from car parks; we certainly get our fair share of family violence and the associated crimes that occur in that field. Overall, it's certainly a relatively nice place to live or work.

SUBMITTED BY SERGEANT DAVID ARNOLD, WOODEND POLICE STATION

Woodend Senior Citizens

What an eye opener our May bus trip was, to the Western Treatment Plant and Wetlands. We stayed on our bus and were driven for about two hours, viewing the lakes at different stages of treatment (no smells!) and the bush life. Some areas are cropped, and others are for cattle grazing. Thank you to our bus driver Michael. It was a great day.

The June bus trip will be to the Cyril Callister Museum in Beaufort – the man who invented Vegemite! The date is Thursday 13 June 2024. Booking is to be made and deposit paid to Margaret by Friday 7 June.

Come join us on Tuesdays between 1pm and 3pm for Button Bingo and finish with a chat and a cuppa. Fridays 1pm and 4pm for cards.

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

SUBMITTED BY HELEN EDWARDS



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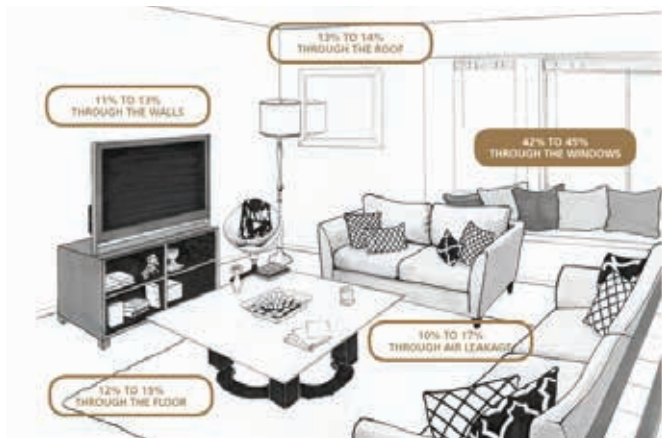
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Winterproof Your Electricity Bill: Smart Energy Solutions for Colder Months

As winter's chill approaches Woodend, we often notice not just a drop in temperature but also a rise in electricity bills. Here are effective ways to keep your home cozy without your energy costs skyrocketing.

Stay Powered During Outages: Winter storms can be unpredictable, and power outages are more than just a nuisance. Integrating a battery backup with your solar system ensures that you keep the lights on and your home warm, even in severe weather—plus, it helps reduce your bill.

Staying Warm Efficiently: Old heaters, including panel and gas heaters, can be significant energy guzzlers. Upgrading to a modern split system not only provides more effective heating but also uses less electricity. This smart change keeps you warm in winter and cool in summer, and it pays off by reducing your energy costs.

Seeing at Night: With the days getting shorter, good outdoor lighting is essential. Sensor lights are a smart choice—they light up only when needed, enhancing safety while saving energy.

Upgrade to a Heat Pump: Traditional electric hot water systems can consume a significant portion of your electricity bill, especially in winter. A heat pump hot water system uses about 75% less energy, making it a cost-effective solution that can pay for itself in as little as three years.

Consider Solar: Although winter might seem an unlikely time to think about installing solar panels, it's actually crucial for sizing your system appropriately. Since solar energy is produced through light—not heat—a well-sized system will meet your needs even on overcast or rainy days, ensuring continuous renewable energy for your home.

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1st Woodend Scouts

On a beautiful sunny weekend in April, six of the Woodend Joeys joined other Joeys from the Macedon Ranges district for a camp at the Treetops Scout Camp in Riddells Creek. There were 22 Joeys in total representing Gisborne, New Gisborne and Melton. The Joeys arrived on Friday evening and after organising their sleeping areas went on a night walk around the campsite to see if they could spot any nocturnal animals.

After breakfast on Saturday, they were divided up into three patrols and set out on the activities for the morning, including a Confidence course which helped develop teamwork and trust. Another activity was a campfire and safety session, cooking and learning how to put up tents. The final activity for the morning was archery.

In the afternoon, the Joeys got to test their mental and physical agility on the Commando course, the low ropes course and bush golf. After a busy day of activities and a hearty dinner, the Joeys congregated around a roaring campfire to sing songs, hear stories and reflect on the meaning of Anzac Day, which had been commemorated only a few days before.

All the Joeys had an awesome time, learned new skills and made new friends from the other Joey groups in the district.

SUBMITTED BY CHRIS EAGLE

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Meet your Councillors 2024 – West Ward

Tuesday, 4 June 2024 4.30 to 6.30pm

To support ongoing community consultation and progressing priorities in the final year of this current Council term, Councillors are again hosting local pop-up information sessions in 2024, inviting residents to come and discuss matters that are important to them.

Stop by at the front of Collins Newsagency on Mollison Street in Kyneton to chat to your West Ward Councillors: Cr Janet Pearce (Deputy Mayor), Cr Jennifer Anderson and Cr Mark Ridgeway.

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Local autistic artist finalist in Young Achiever Awards

Local artist, 17-year-old Charlie Jackman, has been named as a finalist in the 7NEWS Young Achiever Awards (Victoria) in the Josh's Rainbow Eggs Ethical Business category. The Awards recognise, encourage, and reward the positive achievements of young Australians.



Proudly autistic, Charlie communicates a powerful message of inclusion and inspiring others with disabilities. Charlie is a talented artist who runs Charlie by Art, an art micro-enterprise he co-founded with his mum.

Charlie's vibrant art works have earned commissions from prominent figures like former Victorian Premier Dan Andrews and Federal NDIS Minister, Bill Shorten. Charlie uses his platform to raise awareness and



promote acceptance for the autistic and neurodivergent community. He sells thousands of his greeting cards and framed prints online, at markets and through a growing list of stockists. Local stockists include the Corner Café and the HMS Community Clinic, both in Gisborne. A 2023 recipient of a Macedon Ranges Youth Award, Charlie is a full-time VCE Vocational Major student and works locally as a kitchenhand.

Charlie and his family will attend a presentation dinner at the Sofitel Melbourne on June 14 for the announcement of the winners in each category. A People's Choice award is an additional way that the Young Achiever Awards acknowledge young people, and Charlie would love your vote.

Link to voting: bit.ly/4d8tOnW

SUBMITTED BY SUSANNE WEST (CHARLIE'S PROUD MUM)

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Australia leads in melanoma cases: Lions Clubs take action

Australia unfortunately holds a grim title: the country with the highest melanoma rate globally. Every 30 minutes, a person in Australia receives a melanoma diagnosis, with someone succumbing to the disease every six hours. (Source: Melanoma Institute Australia). Screening stands as a crucial tool in combating these alarming statistics.

In line with Lions Australia’s commitment to enhancing health and well-being, the Lions Clubs of the Macedon Ranges took decisive action. After more than a year of meticulous planning, they united over two weekends in April–13/14 and 20/21–to inaugurate the Lion’s Skin Checking and Awareness Unit in Woodend.

This state-of-the-art facility, costing \$500,000 to procure and \$110,000 annually to operate, boasts amenities such as its own generator, water supply, heated consulting rooms, and office space. Volunteer dermatologists, trained by the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, along with a driver coordinator, manage the unit. Strategically situated just outside the Woodend Visitor Center, the unit aimed to increase accessibility to skin checks.

Volunteers from various Macedon Lions clubs – Woodend, Riddells Creek, Kyneton, Trentham, Gisborne, Lancefield, and Romsey – staffed the centre over the two weekends. The clubs also provided financial support for the accommodation and hospitality of the volunteers who ran the van.

Of the 229 individuals screened, 45% had never undergone a skin check, and 34% hadn’t been screened in over a year. One third required specialist referral due to detected lesions.

Since its inception, the Lions Skin Checking and Awareness Unit has screened 10,000 individuals across Victoria and Southern NSW. The community impact, coupled with potential lives saved, amounts to approximately \$28,000 per community – what it would have cost individuals for such services.

The Lions Club continually seeks new volunteers to support initiatives like these. If you’re passionate about health, community welfare, and making a difference, consider joining your local Lions club. Visit lionsclubs.org.au/find-a-lions-club to locate your nearest club, and most have active Facebook pages. Join today and be welcomed warmly into the fold by any of the Macedon Ranges clubs.

SUBMITTED BY GAIL JONES, WOODEND LIONS



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Supporting our carers

Federal Member for McEwen, Rob Mitchell was impressed by the show of community support at a recent Carer's Morning Tea at Woodend Neighbourhood House.

Hosted in conjunction with P.S. My Family Matters, the morning tea brought together unpaid carers that provide an invaluable contribution to their community, caring for their partners, elderly parents and children with disabilities.

P.S. My Family Matters is a registered health promotion charity which began in 2014, when two Macedon Ranges mums decided to set up a support system for themselves and others who face the unrelenting pressures of caring for a loved one.

Hearing the unique stories and experiences and the wide-ranging responsibilities shouldered by these amazing individuals, Mr Mitchell was inspired by the vital role these support networks play in maintaining mental health and wellbeing.

"It's moments like these that remind us of the incredible resilience and compassion within our communities," said Mr. Mitchell.

"Carers play a pivotal role in our society, and yet their contributions are not always recognized as they should be. Events like this morning tea are crucial in bringing attention to their efforts and offering them the support and recognition they deserve," he said.

"It was great to be able to engage with these carers on a personal level, hear about their challenges, what they are proud of and the aspirations they have for their loved ones. What struck me was the dedication and selflessness shown by them, which often goes unnoticed. Carers play a pivotal role in our community and events like these are crucial in bringing attention to their efforts and offering them the support and recognition they deserve."

Mr Mitchell congratulated P.S. My Family Matters and Woodend Neighbourhood House for the collaboration, which has a profound

impact on the mental health and wellbeing of carers, giving them the opportunity to connect with peers, share experiences and feel validated in their roles.

"Many in attendance described the get-togethers as a lifeline for them, reminding them they are not alone and that they are valued," Mr Mitchell said.

"The work of groups like P.S. My Family Matters and Woodend Neighbourhood House highlight the importance of community support networks. By creating a space where these carers can come together for support, they contribute to the welfare of carers and their loved ones. "I will continue to advocate for policies and initiatives that recognise and support carers across our community."

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE MOGRIDGE, OFFICE OF ROB MITCHELL, FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MCEWEN



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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

— JUNE —

- 3 Reconciliation Week ends
- 3 MRSC Business Webinar – Reassess to Progress
- 4 Bank Safely Online WNH
- 4 Meet your Councillors in Mollison St, Kyneton 4.30pm
- 5 Biggest Morning Tea, Trentham Community Bank
- 5 Craft & Chat, Woodend Library
- 7-10 Woodend Winter Arts Festival
- 10 King’s Birthday holiday
- 12 Health, Wellbeing, Technology, Woodend Library
- 14 MRFS: Queen of the North, Norma Richardson Hall
- 15 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD)
- 16 Woodend Landcare working bee
- 18 MRSC Business Webinar – Intro to Emotional Intelligence
- 18 Community Lunch, Woodend RSL
- 19 Knit, Chat, Cuppa, Norma Richardson Hall
- 20 Paint & Sip for Carers, Neighbourhood House
- 22 Lucy Wise & Heart Songs Choir, KTH
- 22 Bonjour Storytime, Woodend Library
- 25 Chatty Cafe at Woodend Neighbourhood House
- 27 Laura Waters, Woodend Library

— JULY —

- 2-9 NAIDOC week
- 6 Woodend Farmers’ Market
- 10 MRSC Business Webinar – Workplace Communication
- 10 Shadowland, KTH
- 12 MRFS: The Secret Lives of Bees, Norma Richardson Hall
- 13-14 Mount Players One-Act Play Festival
- 17 Knit, Chat and Cuppa, Norma Richardson Hall
- 26 Garage Girls, KTH

— AUGUST —

- 3 Woodend Farmers’ Market

— SEPTEMBER —

- 1 Father’s Day
- 7 Woodend Farmers’ Market
- 27 Grand Final Holiday

Read us online: www.newwoodendstar.com/view

News from the Woodend Neighbourhood House



A Connected Woodend

On 8 May, a group of volunteer leaders in our community gathered to continue the conversation of local resilience and connection after a natural disaster, such as bushfire, storm or flood – all experienced in or around Woodend in the past decade. Discussion was centered on the strength of our community’s networks, and examples of community-led activities fostering disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

Representatives from local community groups and emergency services were present, however if you would like to be part of this ongoing conversation, your input is welcome. Please email reception@woodendnh.org.au.

Upcoming Events

Banking safely online

With scams rating so high, join Community Bank Trentham & Districts for this quick information session on how to mitigate your online risk. Tuesday 4 June between 5.30pm–6pm. Registration is preferred. FREE.

West African Drum Group

Join Ness for this beginners West African Drum Group and experience the joy that comes from putting together simple rhythms. This four-week short course will fill you with amazement and joy as you hear the beautiful sounds emerging out of West African Drumming. The four-week short course starts on Thursday 6 June.

Community Lunch

Our monthly two-course community luncheon is back on Tuesday 18th June at the Woodend RSL. Bookings are essential to help with catering.

Paint and Sip for Carers

Carers are invited to take time out at this FREE ‘Paint and Sip’ event. At the end of the two-hour workshop, take home your very own king protea painting. Morning tea and art supplies provided. Thursday 20 June between 10am and 12 noon. Bookings are essential via our website.

Chatty Cafe

Another event for your diary is our regular chatty café. Pop in for a cuppa, sweet treat and good conversation on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Our next Chatty Café is on Tuesday 25 June at 10am. No bookings needed – just turn up!

Food Bank at the Woodend Neighbourhood House

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

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

SUBMITTED BY HELEN EDWARDS

St Mary’s Guild Street Stall

Second Saturday of the month, at 101 High Street, Woodend. Cakes, jams and knitted items.

The Mount Players happenings

Our theatre year is racing along, with two productions already under our belt and the third being prepared for opening in mid-August.

The comedy, *Looped*, enjoyed a successful season in May, and the cast, crew and director Peter Newling are to be congratulated on bringing this play so wonderfully to life on our stage. *Looped* is our 2024 entry for the annual Victorian Drama League Awards, which are announced in December. TMP has received many VDL nominations and major awards over the years, and we have our fingers crossed for this one!

In late April, we held a members-only movie night at the theatre, with a viewing of *The Bird Cage* (with Nathan Lane and Robin Williams). It was a lovely, relaxed evening, topped off with popcorn, candy and ice creams! We plan to hold more members-only events during the year, so now is the time to renew your annual membership if it has lapsed.

Our 18th Annual One-Act Play Festival is planned for Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 July. This is a great chance to see short plays performed by other theatre companies from around Victoria so mark the date in your calendar now (more details next month).

Our next show, opening August 16, will be *Family Values*, written by David Williamson, to be directed by David Runnalls. But before then, we still have a lot going on at the Mountview Theatre throughout June, with something for everyone. These include a burlesque night, a book launch, a big-band night, and a play reading, all by other people who are bringing their work to the theatre for your enjoyment. Visit our website www.themountplayers.com and look under the "What's On" tab for further details, and to book your seats.

See you at the theatre!

SUBMITTED BY KARLANA SANTAMARIA



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Not active - I prefer lazing around
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Piper the dog
- Pet peeve**
Being woken up at 2am by roaming neighbourhood cats harassing me through the window.

Piper
4 years

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Kelpie
- Occupation**
Retired sheep herder
- Fitness**
Inexhaustible!
- Siblings**
Goldie the cat
- Pet peeve**
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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

Woodend Library – what’s on

Laura Waters: Favourite Hikes – Thursday June 27, 6pm

Walking in nature doesn’t just feel good, it’s actually good for your health. Author, travel writer and adventurer Laura Waters shares some insights on the benefits, as well as outlining some of her favourite hikes around Australia, as discovered during the writing of her book, *Ultimate Walks & Hikes: Australia*. Bookings are required.

Health, Wellbeing, Technology and You – Wednesday June 12, 11am

Interested to know how apps, devices and technology can help you improve your health and wellbeing? We’ll answer your questions and demonstrate a range of resources to help you achieve your health goals. Bookings are required.



Craft and Chat – Wednesday June 5 and August 7 from 2pm

Bring along your current craft project and share ideas and skills with fellow craft lovers. Beginners welcome!

Bonjour Storytime – Saturday June 22, 10.30am. No bookings required!

Come along and enjoy learning some French with Emline.

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

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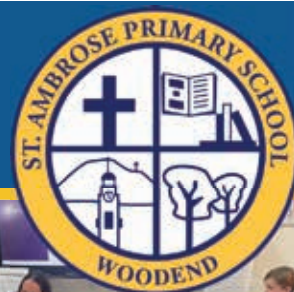
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Woodend Rotarians working on new international project, Plastic Free Bali

Woodend Rotary is celebrating a partnership with the Rotary Clubs of Bali Seminyak and Perth to work on a bold new project to reduce plastic waste in the West Bali National Park and surrounding villages.

“Plastic Free Bali” has recently qualified for a Global Grant from The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. This grant will provide funding for waste management education and training delivered to households, businesses and waste facilities staff, along with visitors to the popular diving destination of Menjangan Island in West Bali.

Rotary is working with Yayasan Biosfir Indonesia, the local partner of international non-profit organisation Biosphere Foundation. YBI founder and program coordinator, Rósa Björk Halldórsdóttir and head of education, Kadek Dwi Arsani, ran a successful pilot program from 2019 to 2022 and, in 2021–22, they partnered with Rotary Club of Bali Seminyak and local authorities to introduce the first sustainable waste management system in Labuan Lalang, where most people cross over to Menjangan Island. This was a great success, reducing plastic pollution enormously.

Plastic Free Bali will see YBI hire and train local trainers to train and educate:

- 2,000 households, giving each two bins and showing them how to sort recyclables and residual waste,
- local businesses, especially diving and other tourism operators, training them to practise responsible waste management and reduce single-use plastics like plastic bags, plastic straws and styrofoam food packaging,
- staff at trash-sorting facilities to collect and sort waste, as well as to make compost, and
- tourists crossing by boat to Menjangan Island, encouraging them not to take single-use plastics.



The Plastic Free Bali project will run for the next two years.

If you would like to find out more about Rotary and our projects, please feel free to contact us via: www.woodendrotary.org.au or www.facebook.com/rotarywoodend.

SUBMITTED BY DEIDRE WILLMOTT



Photo: Rotarians from Bali Seminyak, Perth and Woodend meet with YBI leaders in Bali in March 2024



Photo: Rósa Björk Halldórsdóttir with the new waste management system at Labuan Lalang, March 2024

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

Woodend Community Bags

A welcoming group from all walks of life, the Woodend Community Bags team meets weekly to make reusable bags that are sold at the Woodend Farmers' Market and at outlets around Woodend.

Our colourful, individually sewn bags display the Woodend Community Bag label. Made from donated fabrics, they assist our Farmers' Market to be plastic bag free.

Proceeds from bag sales are funnelled back into the community through donations to sustainable projects undertaken by a variety of charitable organisations. For example, recent donations have gone toward purchase of a water tank for Path of the Horse, a solar powered bird fountain for Glen Osmond Farm, and a trailer upgrade for Woodend Landcare.

Our roots stem from the global Boomerang Bags movement, which connects and empowers local communities to tackle plastic pollution at its source.

We have joined the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group, a not-for-profit, member-based organisation focusing on projects, events and practical activities that promote sustainable living in our local communities.

Bagmaking meetings are a free activity, and everyone is welcome.

There are many ways to be involved, and sewing skills aren't necessary. Over a cuppa and a chat you can learn how to sew, cut, pin, bundle and iron and make some lovely friends, while "Helping the environment and others one bag at a time".

Woodend Community Bags meets on Thursday mornings from 9-12 in the Undercroft below the Woodend Neighbourhood House.

Enquiries to Woodend Neighbourhood House, on 5427 1845.

SUBMITTED BY SHEILA BRENNAN



Some of our team members at a Thursday morning session



Team member volunteers at our monthly Community Farmers' Market stall



Some of our colourful bags



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Winners of the Edgy Veg Awards announced

Congratulations to Kyneton’s Social Foundry, who have won the café category of the 2024 Edgy Veg Awards, and The Flying Pigeon in Gisborne, who have won the restaurant category!

It was a tight competition, with The Corner Boutique café in Gisborne and 600 Above wine bar in Woodend hot on the heels of the winner for best plant-based dish in a café. Fook Shing and Sizzler Restobar came in second and third place respectively for the restaurant category.

This was the second year in a row that The Flying Pigeon have won for ‘best plant-based dish’ in a restaurant. Their winning dish this year, XO Beans, was a symphony of flavours, described as crunchy and crispy green beans wok-tossed with sweet, smoky savoury vegan XO paste. Chef and co-owner Stephanie Rocard said, “we want to encourage people who aren’t vegan or vegetarian to have more veggies,” and said that a lot of people had had a bad experience in their youth with vegetables not being cooked properly. She encourages her customers to always have a vegetable dish alongside their meat dishes.

Social Foundry took mushrooms to a new level with the addition of truffle oil and porcini dust in their Wild Mushrooms meal. “We sold a lot of the mushroom dish over the awards”, said café manager Jess. When asked what makes a good plant-based dish, chef Mel said, “Flavour. As much flavour as possible,” and went on to say a lot of places simply remove the meat to make a meal vegetarian, but their Wild Mushrooms dish was created from scratch to be a standalone plant-based meal, holding its own on the flavour and nutrition front.

The Edgy Veg Awards aim to promote more people eating more veggies by getting local eateries to put a plant-based meal front and centre of the menu. This year there were over 650 votes for the 21 dishes on offer. Both Social Foundry and The Flying Pigeon will keep their winning dishes on the menu for a while longer, so get down and try these if you haven’t already.

The Edgy Veg Awards ran during the Autumn Festival and were supported by MRSC and MRSG.



Photo: Veg Action coordinators celebrating with the Edgy Veg Awards winners



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Woodend Landcare

Woodend Landcare is a not-for-profit, environmental community group run by a team of dedicated volunteers. We aim to enhance the natural environment within and around Woodend through improving biodiversity corridors, restoring waterways, and protecting endangered species, all-the-while increasing the liveability of our town.


We are always happy to accept inexperienced newcomers at our working bees, new members into our group and financial donations from individuals, businesses or groups who are unable to donate their time to help our cause.

Woodend Landcare wishes to sincerely thank everyone who has donated their time and/or funds to us over the last couple of years. It’s through the generosity of individuals and groups such as Woodend Rotary, Naturform and MRSG Woodend Community Bags that we have been able to procure items such as the memorial plaque and rock next to the new Jo Clancy pedestrian bridge, replace the 20-year-old tyres on our blue tool trailer and subsidise our Box of Habitat initiative.

While grants generally cover large revegetation or weeding projects, our group could not undertake this work without funding for sundries, behind-the-scenes running costs and unplanned events.

Thank you for your support, Woodend!

Next working bee: 9.00–12.00 Sunday 16 June – meeting along Five Mile Creek near the north end of Wood St. We’ve added this special working bee to our schedule to finish off planting seedlings for the Pollinator Corridors Project.



SUBMITTED BY NICOLE MIDDLETON



Environmental health updates from Macedon Ranges Shire Council



Wood Smoke and Air Quality

As the weather becomes cooler and the leaves begin to fall, Council sees an increase in wood smoke complaints across the Macedon Ranges. Many residents rely on wood heaters and internal fireplaces for warmth during autumn and winter.

The smoke generated from wood heaters and fireplaces can pollute the air we breathe in and consequently be harmful to our health.

It is important that consumers purchase the right wood heater and then use and maintain it correctly to ensure that the wood smoke pollution is reduced.

The Environment Protection Agency (EPA) also recommends that you:

- always use dry, seasoned, untreated hardwood in your wood heater
- leave about two centimetres of ash at the base of your wood heater
- make sure your flue is clean.

If you are concerned about smoke from a neighbour's wood heater, it is recommended you try talking to them first. If this doesn't help, you can report the wood smoke pollution to Council by calling 5422 0333.

For information, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/smoke

Septic Tanks or Onsite Wastewater Management Systems (OWMS)

Council is responsible for the assessment and approval of permits for septic tank systems within the shire.

Septic tank systems or onsite wastewater management systems (OWMS) are used on residential, community and business premises in unsewered areas. They treat, recycle or dispose of raw sewage, which contains harmful bacteria and is commonly a combination of wastewater from toilets, bathrooms and kitchens.

There are laws that apply to the owner or occupier (i.e. a renter) of land with an OWMS. The system must be properly installed, operated and maintained, to ensure there are no public health risks arising from raw sewage.

Permits are issued by Council where someone wishes to construct, install, or alter an existing OWMS. Council is responsible for issuing permits for smaller-scale systems with a design or actual flow rate of sewage not more than 5000L on any day. A system that is larger than 5000L is approved by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

Our permit system includes desktop assessments, Land Capability Assessments (LCAs), multiple site visits and liaison with the plumber and/or owner of the land. Council's planning team is also consulted to ensure they are also satisfied with the proposal prior to permits being issued.

For information, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/septic-tanks

Join our large tree and hollow survey

Are you interested in exploring the large habitat trees in Council's bushland reserves?

Throughout winter, Council is running a series of large tree surveys where you can join us for a fun and educational walk and help gather information to create a database of large habitat trees.

Learn how to document large tree locations, look for hollows, and learn their critical role for fauna such as possums, gliders and birds.

To register, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/environment-events. While you're there, sign up to Council's monthly environment eNews and you will be the first to hear about environmental news across the shire.

Don't put textiles in your recycling bin

Did you know textiles don't belong in your yellow-lidded recycling bin?

Drop off unwanted clothes that are still in excellent condition to your nearest op shop. It's always good to call ahead first and check they're happy to accept what you have.

Any items that are damaged and can't be donated can be dropped off at your local resource recovery facility. Ask a staff member to point you in the direction of the textile recovery chutes.

For locations and opening hours, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/RRF

Hiking, fishing, camping and dumping stuff in the bush

EPA Victoria says some people are just using it as a dumping spot for their rubbish: plastic bags, car boot loads and even industrial skip bins full of it.

EPA is asking every Victorian who loves the bush to store the EPA hotline number 1300 EPA VIC (1300 372 842) in their mobile phone and report any dumped rubbish they find.

EPA's Northwest Regional Manager Paul Ratajczyk says anyone camping, mountain biking, hiking or just having a barbecue in the bush can do their bit for the environment.

"Give us a prompt report and an accurate location of the dump site, and you are giving EPA a better chance of tracking down the culprit and making them pay the price," Mr Ratajczyk said.

"Taking a photo can help, too. With these simple measures, you can make sure your favourite spot in the bush doesn't turn into a stinking, illegal tip," he said.

Loads of waste dumped in the bush often include construction and demolition waste, hazardous materials like asbestos and rotting household rubbish.

Cleaning up abandoned waste costs the State Government and local Councils millions of dollars every year, and many of EPA's prosecutions in court are for illegal waste dumping.

EPA can issue regulatory notices and fines that start at more than \$9,000 and can go well into the hundreds of thousands if the case goes to court. The court can also order the culprit to pay for the clean-up, which can cost even more than the fines. And cases involving small items of litter can be reported to your local council.

"Illegal dumping creates an eyesore and can contaminate the soil and nearby waterways, and if the culprits get away with it, the cost of the clean-up is too often left to the community or landholders," Mr Ratajczyk said.

Members of the public can report pollution by calling EPA's 24-hour hotline on 1300 372 842 or providing details online at epa.vic.gov.au/report-pollution/reporting-pollution.

You can also report small amounts or scattered litter to your local council.

SUBMITTED BY PETER BEATON

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Sunbury & Cobaw Community Health news

Free podiatry service

If you need to see a podiatrist and you have diabetes, heart problems or a chronic lung condition, Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health's podiatry service is free.



The service is also open to NDIS recipients aged 7 years and over who have podiatry in their plan.

The podiatrist is available every Tuesday at Sunbury and Cobaw's Kyneton site and you can usually be seen within three weeks.

Podiatrists look after the health of your feet and can assess, diagnose and treat conditions affecting the feet. They can check the blood flow to your toes, manage bunions and wounds, help reduce ulcers and sores, check how you walk and help with shoe choices. Good foot health can help with balance and prevent falls and tripping.

If you would like to make an appointment, call 5421 1666 or email admin@scchc.org.au.

Availability for children's allied health services

Appointments are available for families whose children need speech therapy, physiotherapy or occupational therapy. Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health has re-opened its books with some services being available immediately. The organisation is NDIS-registered and has sites in Kyneton, Romsey and Sunbury.

Sunbury and Cobaw's allied health clinicians see children aged up to 10 years old for their physiotherapy service, and up to eight years old for speech and occupational therapy. Families do not require a referral; you can call them on 5421 1666 and a staff member will run through the referral process with you.

For families who have concerns about the development of their baby or pre-school child, Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health also runs free drop-in sessions where parents and carers can come along with their child and have a chat to one of the child and youth health team. The sessions are held in venues across the Macedon Ranges and Sunbury.

SUBMITTED BY SARAH TURNER

- Dr. Jacques de Groot
- Dr. Anne Peterson
- Dr. Bronwyn Edmunds
- Dr. Ashvin Arul
- Dr. Pritinsh Singh
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Join Mindful Moves



Personal trainers wanted for groundbreaking fitness and mental health program

The Macedon Ranges Suicide Prevention Action Group (MRSPAG) is excited to announce a new initiative called Mindful Moves, designed to improve the physical and mental well-being of the Macedon Ranges community. As part of this initiative, we're putting out a call for personal trainers and fitness instructors to join our team and contribute to this groundbreaking program.

Mindful Moves is a monthly fitness and mental health program that aims to create a positive impact in the Macedon Ranges community. Each session will feature circuit training led by local personal trainers, along with discussions on mental health and well-being facilitated by MRSPAG members and local professionals. The program will also offer Mental Health First Aid training for trainers, helping them become better equipped to support their clients' mental health needs.

By joining Mindful Moves, personal trainers will benefit from:

- Paid sessions and free Mental Health First Aid training
- An opportunity to engage with the local community
- A chance to be part of a pioneering program that integrates fitness and mental health support.

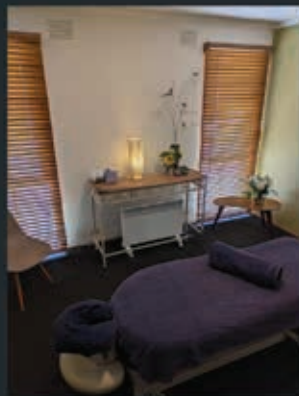
The first session is scheduled for July 2024, with events planned across the Macedon Ranges throughout the year. If you're a qualified personal trainer or fitness instructor with a passion for community well-being, we'd love to hear from you!

For more information, or to express your interest in participating, please contact MRSPAG at info@mrspag.com.au.

SUBMITTED BY FIONA LAWFORD

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Macedon Ranges Shire Council has an eye on the future

Macedon Ranges Shire Council (MRSC) recently held a Youth Summit at the Woodend Library to give the younger generations an avenue for feedback.

The initiative forms part of MRSC's Youth Strategy, ELEVATE. On the day, attendees were asked for their opinions on the most important issues affecting the area's younger people.

"Youth is the future," Mayor Annette Death said in her opening speech.

The MRSC website indicates that nearly a quarter of the Macedon Ranges population (24.5%) are below the age of twenty-five.

One student cited issues of disconnection and isolation from a lack of public transport, saying "their district has a lack of buses, and a lack of connection."

More bike lanes were needed, another suggested, citing concern for the safety of those without a car.

As of April 24, according to the MRSC website, the council is "analysing the summit findings, to ensure that ideas, opinions, concerns and aspirations are included in relevant future plans and actions."

WRITTEN BY TOBY NITSCHKE, STUDENT JOURNALIST AT RMIT



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A message from your West Ward Councillors

Hello everyone. At the time of writing this article Councillors are on the final leg of preparing the annual budget for the upcoming financial year. The new budget is going to be tight, with rapidly increasing costs over and above our income, and we have had to make some tough decisions to keep everything balanced. However, we are generally satisfied with how the budget is coming together and we have managed to keep the focus on key priorities as communicated by community feedback and submitters to the budget process. Many thanks to all those involved and to those who have contributed to the budget development. Once again, the outcomes of this budget reflect the importance of residents and community groups taking an active interest and making submissions into the process. We are also happy to receive feedback once the budget is finalised and released – which should be the case now as you are reading this article.

As we write, the Woodend Winter Arts Festival is still a few weeks away and we wish to thank all those involved for what we know will be another fabulously successful event. From the opening with the much-loved fireworks through a long weekend of wonderful musicians, artists, authors, and presenters, we encourage everyone to attend and wish you all a fantastic time.

The Tourism Macedon Ranges (TMR), Thriving Villages Project is a great community-based program that has now seen three successful workshops delivered. Following the Regional Visioning session at Mt Monument Winery on 20 March, which attracted over 70 people from across the shire, two town workshops (in Romsey and Lancefield) were undertaken later in April. The Romsey workshop attracted 45 attendees, and approximately 40 participated in Lancefield. These sessions include a small group 'town walk-shop', followed by a larger group workshop. The objective of these was the creation and ownership of Township Activation Plans. In addition, a 'call to action' was made at each that involved the creation of town teams who will begin the task of getting moving on quick win projects. All workshops have seen solid attendance and support from Councillors and Council Officers.

The Economic Development team has provided letters of support to the Woodend Traders Association, Macedon-Mt Macedon Business and Tourism Association, and Gisborne Rotary for funding applications associated with the Thriving Villages Project. Other town-based workshops and Township Activation Plans are likely to follow as these funding applications to a range of funding agencies are assessed and hopefully approved.

Finalists in this year's Josh's Rainbow Eggs 2024 Macedon Ranges Business Excellence Awards are due to be announced on 23 July. There was a lot of interest in the awards this year, with many nominations across the categories. This is particularly pleasing as the nomination process is designed to be a business development process and requires some effort. People's Choice voting starts on 23 July and concludes on 26 August with the gala awards presentation event on the 30 August.

You may be aware that Parks Victoria have opened an Expressions of Interest (EOI) process for an operator for the Mount Macedon Tearooms. Parks Victoria are offering a lease of between 10 and 21 years and applications close at 4pm on 20 June 2024. They are looking for a high-quality operator with the capacity to deliver year-round food and beverage experience for locals and visitors to Mt Macedon. Interested parties can register on the Buying Victoria portal to download the full details of the EOI process.

Once again, we encourage everyone to keep an eye on the 'Have Your Say' portal on the Council website for upcoming and active projects and consultation that we are seeking feedback from residents about: yoursay.mrsc.vic.gov.au

Best wishes, Mark, Janet, and Jennifer.

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Stay Well This Winter

This winter, keep your kids well with a flu shot. Getting their flu shot every year is just as important as other routine childhood vaccines. The flu shot protects children from serious illness caused by the flu and can be given at the same time as other routine childhood vaccines.

If your child is aged between six months and five years, you can book them in to receive the flu vaccine for free via Council's monthly immunisation program.

In addition, Council will be holding some evening sessions for free vaccines under the National Immunisation Program (NIP). During these sessions, Council will offer infant vaccines for children aged between six weeks to five years, high school vaccines, and flu vaccines for individuals aged between six weeks to five years.

The next evening session is Thursday 27 June in Gisborne.

To book into one of Council's immunisation sessions at mrsc.vic.gov.au/immunisations

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Council News & Events

Webinars for small business owners

Local business, Sage HR Consulting, will provide a series of one-hour interactive webinars on current topics around issues that employers face. Receive valuable information, plans and tips for you to utilise in the day-to-day running of your business.

Reassess to Progress: Monday 3 June, 2pm

This will give you an understanding of the current position for business owners in relation to your needs and goals, what is currently effective and which areas require improvement.

Introduction to Emotional Intelligence: Tuesday 18 June, 10.30am

Learn about emotional intelligence and how emotions can influence thoughts, behaviours and interactions.

Cultivating clear workplace communication: Wednesday 10 July, 2pm

Gain an understanding of your current communication styles and channels and help create a positive communication culture.

To register visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/business-events

Kids dance classes in Gisborne

Join Gisborne Tiny Tackers dance classes with Miss Anita! Tiny Tackers is a preschool dance program for children aged 2–5 years. Children learn tap, ballet and jazz in a fun, relaxed and imaginative environment.

Classes are held Tuesday mornings at Gisborne Community Centre, 8 Hamilton Street. The first trial class is free! Tap shoe hire is also available. To book email studio2tinytackers@mrsc.vic.gov.au

New women's netball season

The new season of women's netball starts on Tuesday evenings from July at Buffalo Sports Stadium, Woodend.

For information about registration, including fees and how to register as a team or an individual player, email buffalo@mrsc.vic.gov.au.



JUNE PROMOTION

Book any 60-minute massage with Taki and receive a candle or diffuser valued at \$40 as a gift.

*valid for the month of June, Wednesdays and Fridays.



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Giving a say to Macedon Ranges youth

Council's future plans and actions for young people in the Macedon Ranges will be better informed, following a Youth Summit held last month.

On 21 March, around 90 young people from local secondary schools convened at Woodend Community Centre alongside Council's Youth Services team, Councillors, Sunbury Cobaw Community Health, Woodend Rotary, headspace, and Djaara Balaki Wuku, marking the first summit of its kind in several years.

The day-long summit provided an opportunity for young people in the shire to come together to have their voices heard and give valuable feedback on key issues outlined in the ELEVATE – Macedon Ranges Shire Council Youth Strategy 2018-2028, including:

- Public transport and isolation
- Environment and global warming
- Physical activity, art and leisure
- Mental health and wellbeing, Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) matters and body image
- Career and education
- School holiday program, tech space and coding

Council's Director Community, Maria Weiss, said the ELEVATE Youth Strategy provides a comprehensive roadmap guiding Council on how to effectively support and engage with the shire's young population now and into the future.

"It's essential that we actively listen to, learn from, and collaborate with our young people to ensure any initiatives we implement under the ELEVATE strategy are relevant to their needs," she said.

"The summit has provided an excellent opportunity to do this, and it was fantastic to see so many young people engage in it in such a positive way and contribute their ideas."

Council is now analysing the summit findings to ensure the ideas, opinions, concerns, and aspirations raised are included in relevant future plans and actions, with Council committed to supporting ongoing engagement with children and young people.

Quotes from participants:

"It was the first time I had been invited to an event like this and I have enjoyed being asked about my ideas and suggestions and I feel heard." – Gisborne Secondary College Student

"I've had so much fun. My favourite key issues were mental health and also physical activity. I enjoyed sharing ideas around these topics." – Salesian College Student

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CHAPMAN

LumberZach's – Landscape and Garden

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- Small-medium paving jobs
- Gravel paths, rock edging, retaining walls, etc



Phone: 0457 959 843 Email: lumberzachs@proton.me

Kyneton Town Hall events

Lucy Wise and the Heart Songs Community Choir

Saturday 22 June, 7.30pm

Join us for a special performance by Lucy Wise, accompanied by our very own Heart Songs Community Choir!

The Heart Songs choir was formed specifically for this project and consists of members from all over the Macedon Ranges. This performance is a culmination of 10 weeks of choir rehearsals under the guidance of choral leader Andrew Price.

Lucy Wise draws on acoustic, traditional folk, roots and pop musical influences. She sings about growing up, love of all kinds, city life, country towns, beaches and bushlands. Her fourth album, Into The Blue, won Best Folk Work in the 2023 Music Victoria Awards.

This special performance is not to be missed!

Shadowland – Creative kids school holiday program

Wednesday 10 July, 10am and 2pm

Thursday 11 July, 10am and 2pm

July school holidays will be here before we know it! To help keep kids busy, we are bringing another interactive workshop for children to design, create and play with their own shadow creatures inside the different shadow worlds of 10 domed tents set up inside Kyneton Town Hall.

The workshops are facilitated by artist and designer Lynne Kent, who has been involved with various companies, including the Victorian Opera, Terrapin Puppet Theatre, Erth Physical Theatre, The Melbourne Women's Circus, The Australian Centre for the Moving Image and the Queensland Theatre Company.

Garage Girls

Friday 26 July, 7pm

A quality Australian drama which is part history, part farce, part who-done-it, Garage Girls shines a light on one remarkable young woman's short but eventful life. Inspired by actual events, welcome to Miss Anderson's All Girl Garage!

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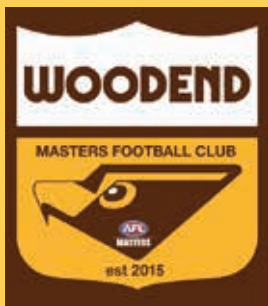
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Showboating Showbags hands Crays narrow win

The Vic Country Masters AFL season is well and truly underway, and the Woodend Masters have been enjoying the autumn weather with some fun games at home against the Murray Crays and Maryborough.

The game against the Crays was on May 4, which is now synonymous with Star Wars (May the fourth be with you... get it?), so thanks to game day sponsor Rhys Nuttall and Bound Real Estate, we held a halftime longest-kicking competition for the kids with Star Wars LEGO prizes.

With the Crays short on players, a few of our fellas swapped jumpers to even the numbers and a chance to take on mates.

Gavin 'Mr Fisty' Green starred for the Crays in the first half before playing the second half for the Hawks and again starring.

In fairness to Gav, he only agreed to play in defence for the Crays and not score against us, unlike Rod 'Showbags' McDaniel, who couldn't resist a goal, so his sausage in the last quarter for the Crays handed them the win in a thrilling 3-point finish.

Nathan 'Wookiee' Kelly was awarded the Tool of the Week, despite having a great game, but Masters footy is about fun, and Nath's hero-to-zero moment was a weekday lapse involving a teammate's new car.

Players wore black armbands on this game in honour of our player and patient bus driver Tobin Connell, whose father had passed away that week.

We also played another cracking home game against the most laid-back team in Masters footy, Maryborough, followed by a great post-match function at our sponsor, the Pig and Whistle Hotel in East Trentham.

It's great to see more new faces pulling on our jumper and having a kick, and a sign of a healthy club. We are always welcoming new members, whether you want to play or just train.

Over the next month, we head down the highway to take on Sunbury and then take a bus trip to Gippsland (June 1) to take on Wellington (June 15). Bus trips are the most anticipated away games for all Masters teams as a chance for teammates to spend some time together and enjoy a few stops at country pubs along the way.

The club was saddened to learn of the passing of Iolanda Mirabelli, wife of our valued sponsor Tony Mirabelli (MDM Lawyers). Our thoughts remain with the family and friends of Iolanda and Tony.

Tickets are still available for our major raffle, with the main prize including \$2,000 worth of equipment from our sponsor Hunters Motors & Mowers.

Tickets are \$10, with only 500 up for grabs, and they can be purchased at the club or check out our Facebook page for more details.

Go Hawks!

For more information email woodendmasters@gmail.com

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But the experience doesn't end with our spirits; we also offer a delectable selection of snacks, including local cheeses and terrines to tantalize your taste buds.

The distillery is open every weekend from 11am to 5pm and on Mondays 10am to 3pm, and we welcome you to join us for a journey of flavour and discovery. Whether you're a gin aficionado or simply curious to explore something new, Big Tree Distillery promises an experience like no other.

As a proud member of the local community, we take great pride in employing locals and supporting the vibrant tapestry of our region. When you support us, you're not just enjoying a drink; you're contributing to the livelihoods of those around us.

So why not plan a weekend escape and immerse yourself in the world of handcrafted gin? We extend a warm invitation to all to come and share in our passion for good gin and great company. Your glass awaits at Big Tree Distillery – where every sip tells a story.

Cheers to unforgettable moments and the simple joys of life. We can't wait to raise a glass with you.

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE CROTHERS

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Some of the students who received scholarship funds for their tertiary studies.

Woodend recipients of the 2024 Community Bank Gisborne & District Early Tertiary Scholarship are Renee Birkett, Sakura Butler, Yuki Butler, Ryan Haque, Jessica Matheson and Hannah Raynor. The students attended Gisborne Secondary College, Braemar College, and Sacred Heart College Kyneton.

For more information on the banking and community support offered by Community Bank Gisborne & District, call 5420 7210 or visit the branch at 11 Nexus Way, Gisborne or online.

SUBMITTED BY CORINNE SHADDOCK



Community Bank Gisborne helps eighteen local students start tertiary study

Sakura Butler will be buying new batteries for all of her devices to help her law studies at RMIT, thanks to receiving a Community Bank Gisborne & District Early Tertiary Scholarship. Sakura is one of eighteen local young people, including five others from Woodend, whose first year of tertiary study is being made simpler and less stressful by a Community Bank Gisborne scholarship this year.

Many other scholarship recipients also plan to buy new technology with their bursaries. Some plan to put the funds towards their commuting costs or course fees, and others towards accommodation costs.

The eighteen scholarship students are studying a wide range of courses – from Arts, Communication, Science, Engineering, Dentistry and Pharmacy to Pathology, Nursing, Animal Behaviour and Creative Direction and Styling – but share a desire to make the world a better and just place.

Branch manager Sarah Barton said the staff and board of Community Bank Gisborne & District, a locally owned branch of Bendigo Bank based in Gisborne, are thrilled to be supporting so many young people and thanked the branch customers whose banking made the \$60,000 scholarship program possible.

“It was fantastic to meet our scholarship recipients recently and see their passion for their diverse courses. I hope our support helps set them up for successful tertiary study and rewarding work opportunities in the future,” she added.

Community Bank Gisborne & District runs a profit-for-purpose banking model and has now provided 49 tertiary scholarships to youth from Gisborne and surrounds, including Woodend.



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Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants for 2024 now open

The Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants are now open, with \$450,000 available for projects that involve young people actively caring for Victoria’s biodiversity and natural environment.

Schools, kindergartens, childcare centres and youth groups can all apply for grants of up to \$5,000 for projects that encourage young Victorians to learn more about the state’s plants, wildlife and nature through hands-on activities or classroom learning.

Of the program, Ms Thomas said, “These grants benefit our beautiful landscapes across the state and help young Victorians get involved in nature-based programs at a young age can instil a passion for the environment that can last a lifetime.”

More than 47,000 young people have been a part of the program involved in 1100 nature-based excursions and conducting 270 biological surveys through biodiversity-focused learning activities.

Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grant recipients have also planted an incredible 99,000 indigenous plants across numerous landscapes to help maintain ecosystem health.

All initiatives funded as part of the grants program support the State Government’s Biodiversity 2037 plan. Applications for the Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants will close at 3pm on Friday 14 June 2024. For more information and to apply, visit: <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/grants/victorian-junior-landcare-and-biodiversity-grants>


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



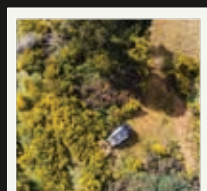
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New grants for small business trader groups

Multicultural businesses and traders in the area are receiving support with a targeted grant program backing the positive impact multicultural enterprises have on local economies.

Minister for Small Business Natalie Suleyman announced that applications are open for the Multicultural Business Chambers and Trader Groups program, providing grants of up to \$20,000.

Business groups can use the funds to support the local multicultural businesses and projects that drive collaboration, skill building, and celebrate diversity.

Minister Suleyman said, "Small businesses are at the heart of our economy and we're backing the traders groups that support them. This grant program will deliver multicultural events that drive local economic activity and celebrate Victoria's diversity."

The grant program will support locally led projects that aim to support upskilling business owners in digital and in-language marketing, local business expo events and providing opportunities for meaningful networking.

Victoria is proudly home to more than 701,000 small businesses and 34 per cent of Australian small business owners are migrants – with even more small business owners having one or more parents born overseas.

Applications for the program are now open and will close on 17 July. For more information about the program and how to apply, visit business.vic.gov.au.

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



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Protecting the legacy of Victorian Veterans

The State Government is keeping the legacy of Victoria's veterans alive for future generations, by maintaining memorials and upgrading community buildings.

Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas today announced that the Woodend RSL Sub-Branch is the recipient of \$49,000 under the Veterans Capital Works Program.

"Congratulations to the Woodend RSL," said Ms Thomas. "This grant will be used to build a community shed for storage and workshop activities for their members and volunteer groups in the Woodend community. I thank them for the commitment they show to our local community every day. "Some \$890,000 worth of grants are being awarded to 34 community groups to support them to conserve and maintain war memorials and honour rolls and update sites to reflect veteran service and improve facilities and buildings.

In this round of funding, the Veterans Capital Works Program supports building and facility improvements for 20 not-for-profit organisations across the state.


The Restoring War Memorials and Avenues of Honour Program is available to community groups to conserve and maintain war memorials, honour rolls and avenues of honour.

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

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Helping more tourism infrastructure projects take off

Victorian tourism operators will be supported to build and upgrade infrastructure projects.

Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas recently announced the opening of applications for the new round of the Regional Tourism Investment Fund.

The Fund provides grants of up to \$5 million for small and large-scale projects and accommodation improvement projects – creating more jobs and a strong pipeline of demand-driven tourism infrastructure projects across the state.

Grants between \$100,000 and \$5 million are open to tourism businesses and not-for-profit and Traditional Owner organisations.

The grants will be delivered in three streams – between \$100,000 and \$1 million for small-scale projects; grants between \$1 million and \$5 million for large scale projects; and grants between \$500,000 and \$2 million for accommodation improvement projects.

The Fund is guided by the five priorities identified in the Experience Victoria 2033 strategic plan – First Peoples-led experiences, wellness, arts and culture, food and drink, and nature.

Applications for the Regional Tourism Investment Fund are open from Thursday, 16 May 2024 until Friday, 19 July 2024. To learn more about the Fund visit tourism.vic.gov.au.

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

Portrait commissions available

You may know me as a yoga teacher, however, I have always been an artist too. From time to time I have been commissioned to paint special occasion portraits, however, I have decided to invite you to purchase such a work. You can go to the web site for details www.jhwilliams.online, or make an appointment to come to my studio gallery and see the work in person. Email me at yogafirst2@bigpond.com

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The recent Aurora Australis lit up the night skies.
Photo by Kathy Mexted.

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Thank you to the local community who brought Good Friday raffle tickets. We sold 256 tickets and raised over \$5,000!

Thank you to the local business below who donated their services or products to the Raffle:

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Snap Fitness Gym opening in Woodend on 3 June

Three local couples have joined forces to bring a high-class training facility to the Macedon Ranges. Ben Gunning and Caitlin Newitt have experience with owning Snap Fitness Gym franchises, Shey Newitt and Ted Tolfree bring years of business experience in owning Crisp Salad bars in Melbourne, and Audrey and Justin O'Donohue have been business owners in Woodend for six years with Adjust Pilates. Kiera Bulluss rounds off the team as Gym Manager, bringing her years of experience in the fitness industry on board.

A gym membership at Snap Fitness gives you 24-hour access and includes both high and low impact classes, along with access to any other Snap Fitness gym. There are several highly qualified personal trainers also available. The high-end gym equipment includes TechnoGym cardio machines such as treadmills, bikes, erg rowers, stair climbers and elliptical machines. Justin O'Donohue, who has a Masters in Strength and Conditioning, thinks cardio training is often excluded as people think it is too hard. "Since the increase in knowledge around high-intensity training, we know that doing 4-6 bouts of 30 seconds all out on a bike, rower etc. punctuated by much lower intensity rest periods, elicits the same aerobic physiological changes in the body as a 30-40-minute run", Justin says. These changes include improved cholesterol, blood pressure, brain function and emotional wellbeing.

TechnoGym also supply the pin and plate-loaded strength machines, and Alphafit supply the dumbbells, kettlebells, barbells and weight plates. Justin has been a strength coach for many years and has seen the benefits of strength training in individuals of all ages. "Strength training can have a huge impact across the lifespan. Individuals in their 70s and 80s can still grow muscle tissue and improve bone density and strength. For younger athletes, increased strength reduces the risk of injury and improves performance."

To find out more, call us on 0461 413 976, email woodend@snapfitness.com.au, visit us at 1/130 High St Woodend or scan the QR code.



SUBMITTED BY JUSTIN O'DONOHUE



Photo: The Snap Fitness team, L to R: Shey Newitt, Ted Tolfree, Audrey O'Donohue, Justin O'Donohue, Caitlin Newitt, Ben Gunning

Woodend Hanging Rock Petanque Club



We have come to the end of our season, which goes from the first Monday in October to the end of daylight saving. But that doesn't mean it's the end of our playing the game!

On the official last night, April 11, we held the finals of the Hanging Rock Challenge Teams Night. The committee catered with a delicious BBQ and dessert dinner enjoyed by 35 or more members. The prize-winning ceremony followed, with Louise Potter and Rod Gell sharing the win. Congratulations to all members who have participated in this event, each month since the season began.



A beautiful sunny day in Nagambie on Sunday 14 April, at the Mixed Doubles Tournament saw teams travelling from Woodend, Avoca, Ballarat, Bendigo and from various clubs in Melbourne.

Our Chantal Moritz and Guy Mercier from the Camberwell club were runners up, coming second on the day. Congratulations to all who played!

The North and West Region Cup was held in April, and for the last few years won by, and played in, Hall's Gap. We sent ten players and David Shaw as an umpire to try and win the prestigious honour of hosting next year, but it was not to be. We had experienced players and new who played their best.

Mount Macedon won the Cup, so next year it will be played in the Macedon Ranges. Congratulations to all.

On April 27, we held our inaugural Doubles Tournament at the Old Racecourse in Woodend, with 26 teams travelling in, and winners from Melbourne taking home the first and second prizes.

An Italian theme to the day culminated in an Italian dinner, hosted by us in our club room after the play, with Shane Wellington's lasagna and Cassandra Simmons' tiramasu, both delicious. The prize for best-dressed Italian went to Mark Simmons! Dinner was followed by a fun night of trivia and prizes, with David Potter, son of Louise and Clive, as MC!

The last of the club tournaments was the Forster Cup in Maldon on May 5. Ten players from Woodend attended, with two of our teams in the top eight.

So we really don't rest from playing the game of pétanque, and if this all sounds a bit busy for you, but you would like to participate in the game, we would love to hear from you at any time.

Email: president@petanqueattherock.com.au

SUBMITTED BY LOUISE POTTER

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Woodend Bowling Club championship results update



More Club Championship events have now been completed, and it is great to see the finals shared amongst club members.

Mike and Anne win Club Mixed Pairs

The Mixed Pairs Championship was held over 16 ends, with Chris Gillman and Tony Lennie taking on Anne and Mike Dornau in the Final.

It was a long and close battle, with Anne and Mike taking an early lead before Chris and Tony fought back to make it 4-4 after four ends.

It was then 7-7 after seven ends, 11-11 after thirteen ends and 13-13 after fifteen ends. Anne and Mike then won the final end to win with a final score of 17-13.

Anne added the win to this year's Women's Singles, while Mike recently finished runner-up in the O'Brien Pairs and is also in the final of the Men's Pairs. Chris has had a great year, also winning the Ladies Pairs. Tony has a chance at revenge as he will play Mike in the final of the Mens Pairs and is also in the final of the 21 UP and 100 UP events to be decided soon.

Tony wins 21 UP

Tony Lennie played Dennis Priede in the final of the Club 21 UP, with the winner being the first to reach 21 points. Tony started well and led 7-3 after five ends, with Dennis fighting back to 8-6 after eight. Tony then won six ends in a row to lead 16-6 after fourteen and then 19-7 after eighteen. Dennis then won four in a row to be 19-14 after twenty-two. Tony then won the last end by three to win 22-14. Thanks to Rob Smithies for marking the match and for the photos. He said that the match was actually much closer than the scores indicated, with Tony having to save a couple of multiples.

Congratulations to all players.

Check out our website and Facebook page

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

SUBMITTED BY MIKE DORNAU, PRESIDENT WOODEND BOWLS CLUB



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Macedon clubs helping boost participation for women and girls

Two Woodend sport clubs were among the seven local sports clubs to receive a state government grant to help increase opportunities for women and girls.

Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas congratulated the clubs, including Woodend Golf Club and the Woodend Tennis Club for securing funding in the 2023-24 Change Our Game Community Activation Grants Program.

The program offers grants of up to \$10,000 to eligible organisations to provide more opportunities for women and girls to take part in community sport.

Woodend Golf Club Inc will use their grant of \$5,000 to extend its successful 'Women get into Golf' program, to help a further 25 women learn to play golf and integrate into its golfing community in a well-supported manner. The tailored program will consist of professional coaching, a buddy system, significantly discounted membership, and designated tee-off times to allow women to develop their skills in a safe and welcoming environment.

Woodend Tennis Club's \$5,000 grant will provide for a coach-facilitated girls/women cardio session, aimed at attracting past juniors, women looking to get fit or a social hit, or those looking to try tennis for the first time. This, club leadership hopes, will encourage participation by women in a fun, social, non-competitive environment, and help fund membership.

Of the program, Macedon MP Mary-Anne Thomas said, "Our local clubs are an integral part of the community and a great place make changes for the better."

Since the Program was established in 2018, 580 grants have been provided to support community sport and recreation organisations to host initiatives ranging from participation days to community forums and educational sessions.

For more information about the Change Our Game programs visit changeourgame.vic.gov.au.

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

Woodend Hawks Junior Football and Netball Club News



Hello from the Junior Nest! What a bumper start to the season we've had! Woodend Hawks JFNC is thriving with excitement and activity. Here's a quick roundup of our latest updates:

Stellar start to the season: With the sun shining down on our home ground, our teams have kicked off the season with gusto. The beautiful autumn weather has provided the perfect backdrop for thrilling matches and spirited competition, and we commend all our players on the way they've taken to this season. We have many players who have challenged themselves by playing in upper age groups weekly and this is hugely appreciated.

A heartfelt thank you: Behind every successful club are dedicated volunteers, and ours are no exception. This season we're trialling the use of an online sign-up system for volunteer roles for each home game- there's lots of opportunities for everyone and you don't need

experience, just enthusiasm! Please reach out to your Team Manager or any of the committee if you're able to help on Game Days.

Auskick flourishing: It's fantastic to see strong numbers in our Auskick program on Saturday mornings at Buffalo oval. If your little one is still interested in joining, it's not too late; please reach out to Chelsey auskick@woodendhawks.com.au. See left for dates.

Hungry parents and players can look forward to Saturday morning Auskick barbeques over the coming weeks as our

Week	Date	Notes
Week 3	May 4th	
Week 4	May 11th	Mothers day largest kick competition
Week 5	May 18th	Bring a friend week
Week 6	May 25th	Auskick half time game at Gilbert Gordon
JUNE		
Week 7	June 1st	
Week 8	June 8th	Kings Birthday BYE
Week 9	June 15th	
Week 10	June 22nd	End of season celebration

9:30AM Saturday Buffalo Sports Oval

U15 and U17 football teams fundraise for their end-of-season activity day. Coupled with the coffee van, this means your Saturday lunches are sorted!

Mother's Day celebration: Our players took a moment to honour their incredible mothers and special people, presenting delicious biscuits made by Nicole Chappell from Brash Biscuits to their mothers at the end of each netball and football game.



Interleague excitement: Our Interleague football and netball players have been preparing for upcoming games. We're eager to see their skills shine on the field and we hope they're enjoying the extra training and challenge that being in a rep team brings.

Scoreboard initiative: A small group of members from all local sports groups that utilise Gilbert Gordon are collaborating to secure grants for a new scoreboard. This initiative will enhance the game-day experience for players and spectators alike and provide a much needed upgrade to the existing scoreboard. If any local businesses would like to make a financial contribution then please get in touch with the club. Stay tuned!

Netball: We have six teams playing across four age groups this season (U11s, U13s, U15s and U17s). Our biggest number of teams at the Hawks! Already in Round 5, there have been some early successes, with two teams already being moved up into higher grades. Thank you to our amazing coaches for their time and commitment. We are especially lucky this season to have two players from the Senior club (Mel and Hannah) coaching our U17s teams. This is a great way for our junior netballers to benefit from the skills and experience of the senior players and to strengthen pathways to the senior club. We are still looking for new or badged umpires, and we are able to provide mentoring and support. Please contact us on netball@woodendhawks.com.au if you are interested.

Call for Players: It's not too late to join the Nest and become a Woodend Hawks footy player. We are an inclusive club where all players have the opportunity to develop their skills under exemplary coaches. We are especially on the lookout for any U9 and U15 football players. It's not too late to get involved – sign up today and be part of the action! If you're unsure, come and try a training session and see if you like it! Email registrar@woodendhawks.com.au for more information.

SUBMITTED BY JODIE WARNER

Funeral Directors

Caring for the Woodend community

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TJ SCOTT & SON

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

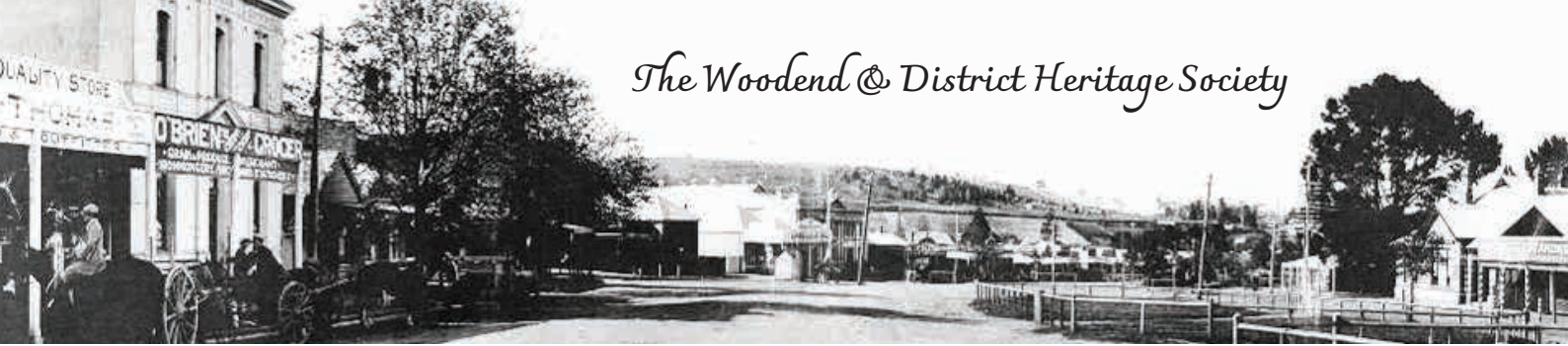


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He Went to War

Private Edwin Dobinson was one of four soldiers welcomed home from service in World War One at a celebration in Upper Campaspe on 17 July 1919. Each was given a gold medal in appreciation of their service. Their names had been added to the honour board, which was made to look like a shield made from fiddle back blackwood. Speeches were made, supper was served and dancing and a 'sing song' enlivened the event. The honour board was hung at the Upper Campaspe State school, later called the Ashbourne State school, and now hangs in the Woodend RSL.

Edwin enlisted in the AIF on 9 August 1915, aged 31, after spending six years with the 1st Volunteers. He was assigned as a driver to 1st Reinforcements for the 4th Artillery Brigade and sailed from Melbourne in November, arriving in Suez a month later. In March 1916, he was transferred to Marseilles in France to join the British Expeditionary Force.

Following bouts of rheumatism and influenza in November that year, he was sent to England in January 1917 to recuperate. In September 1917 he returned to France, where he served as a driver during the campaigns in the Somme and Belgium, before finally returning to England to await shipment home in April 1919.

Edwin is remembered at tree number 36 west in the Avenue of Honour, on the Clock Tower and the shire and Campaspe honour rolls and was awarded the 1914-15 Star, a British War Medal, and a Victory Medal. He is just one of 370 men and four women from the Newham and Woodend district who served their country in World War One. Their stories are recorded in *They Went to War* by Sylvia Boxshall, published by the Woodend & District Heritage Society.

SUBMITTED BY JANE HOLTH



Photo 2080: Edwin Dobinson; taken in France in World War One



Photo 2081: Edwin Dobinson before heading overseas, with his wife Myrtle (nee Cameron), daughters Catherine and Mary and son Norman. Another daughter, Myrtle, was born after he left Australia.

Coffee Catch-Ups

Share coffee and a chat with Village Connect

These one-hour Village Connect coffee gatherings for those over 55, welcomes new residents, individuals living alone, or those navigating life changes who are looking to strengthen connections with other like-minded individuals in our community.

Macedon Ranges
Shire Council

Bookings are essential, to find out more; Visit: mrsc.vic.gov.au/village-connect
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More images from this year's RSL ANZAC Day service in Woodend

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Backing Victorian renters when they need it most

Victorian renters experiencing rental stress will be supported under a new package. Minister for Consumer Affairs Gabrielle Williams recently launched the \$7.8 million Rental Stress Support Package, which will support organisations across the state to deliver a range of services to renters experiencing rental stress.

Around 5 per cent of Victorian households are facing serious rental stress, with demand increasing for organisations that provide information and advice, financial counselling, advocacy and legal assistance to Victorian renters.

The Rental Stress Support Package will help families stay in their homes and prevent homelessness and builds on the Housing Statement commitment to back the critical work of community organisations addressing the high demand for rental assistance we know is being seen across Victoria.

Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas MP said, "Our Rental Stress Support Package will provide extra help to renters living in Macedon experiencing rental stress, building on the more than 130 rental reforms we've already delivered to strengthen renters' rights and further work to come through our Housing Statement."

The package builds on a \$4.74 million investment to support Consumer Affairs Victoria's tenancy programs, including the Tenancy and Retirement Housing Assistance and Advocacy Programs.

These programs helped more than 8,800 Victorian renters last financial year with information and advice, negotiation support and assistance with VCAT hearings.

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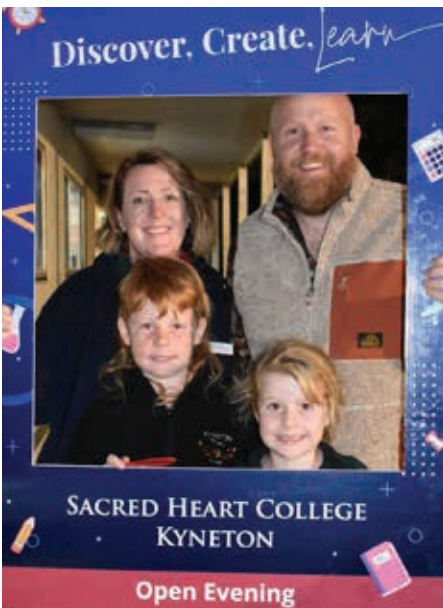
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All the Fun of Open Evening

On April 22, the College enjoyed beautiful late autumn weather as we welcomed more than 600 people from 190 families for the annual Sacred Heart College Open Day. Prospective students from a range of primary school levels were engaged in a variety of hands-on subject-based and co-curricular activities, gradually filling their show bags as they moved around the school. The atmosphere was fantastic, with families enjoying the opportunity to cuddle the furry residents of Animal Studies, make a surfboard key ring in Design Technology and have their tastebuds tantalised by the gastronomic offerings of the roaming Hospitality students. A big thank you to all those who came along to share in this wonderful night of discovery.



Makarrata Assembly

On Thursday 9 May we celebrated our annual Makarrata Assembly. Makarrata is a Yolngu word that means "coming together after a struggle". The call for a national Makarrata Commission is a central theme of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, and as a Mercy community we join in this call for truth telling and healing. The two aims of our Makarrata Assembly are to face our history with honesty, and to celebrate the many achievements and contributions of contemporary First Nations Australians.

This year we had the special honour of having Uncle Mick Harding present with us for the occasion. Uncle Mick is a Taungurung Elder, whose heritage on this landscape spans back over countless generations. Uncle Mick offered us a Welcome to Country and a smoking ceremony to begin our assembly, each of which assisted us to become more keenly aware of the land beneath our feet, and the country that our

school is built upon. On this day, and all days, we remember that we come to school on the lands of the Taungurung People, and that we border the lands of the Dja Dja Wurrung People on the opposite banks of the Campaspe River.

SUBMITTED BY JENNIFER BALDWIN



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Enrolments for Year 7, 2026 close on 26 July, 2024.

Don't miss the next College Tours: Wednesday 17 July (Principal's Tour) and Tuesday 13 August.

Visit the College website for tour bookings or contact the Registrar for enrolment information.



Scan for tour bookings